

Packaging

SOUTH ASIA

The Magazine for Modern Packaging



Operation flood 2.0 – the new revolution in milk packaging



New brands and varieties of cheese come to supermarket shelves



RESTAURANT-STYLE FLAVOUR HONESTLY ITALIAN CRAFTED BY CHEFS RESTAURANT-STYLE FLAVOUR



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Global tube manufacturer discloses 2025 sustainability targets

EPL releases its second sustainability report

EPL (formerly known as Essel Propack) has released its second sustainability report, which outlines the company's key initiatives and performance on sustainability. The report captures qualitative and quantitative information about 19 operational locations in the US, Mexico, Colombia, Poland, Germany, Egypt, Russia, China, the Philippines, and India. Disclosures in the report have been mapped with the United Sustainable Development Goals and the government of India's National Voluntary Guidelines for responsible business.

"It is my privilege to present EPL's second Annual Sustainability Report for FY 2020-21. This report highlights our progress towards becoming a more responsible corporate citizen through actions for combating climate change, driving inclusive growth, social equality, support to communities within which we operate, while driving sustainable development through innovation in packaging. We have disclosed our sustainability commitments and targets for 2025 in this report. The commitments adopted will help drive a circular economy via 3-R (Reduce, Reuse & Recycle) goals and reduce GHG emissions by 30% by 2025," said Anand Kripalu, managing director and chief executive officer.

Some other companies to release sustainability reports are Koehler, Tetra Pak, KHS, Stora Enso, etc. ■



Top: EPL's range of recyclable packaging with Recyclass certification. Photo PSA

Left: EPL's second annual sustainability report. Photo PSA

UFlex offers technical support to organizations and countries for plastic recycling

Ashok Chaturvedi speaks at Alliance to End Plastic Waste meeting in NY

Ashok Chaturvedi, chairman and managing director of UFlex, a global packaging company, recently shared his insights for building circularity in multi-layered plastics packaging at the Alliance to End Plastic Waste (AEPW) board meeting. The meeting was held on 30 November 2022 at the New York Stock Exchange in the United States. UFlex is India's largest multinational in flexible packaging materials and solutions and is credited as the first company in the world to recycle mixed plastic waste in 1995, from its recycling facilities in Noida, in the New Delhi NCR. It has been recognized for its plastic recycling efforts by the Davos Recycling Forum and by the Government of India.

At the AEPW board meeting in New York, Chaturvedi made a strong case for the continued and ubiquitous use of multi-layer mixed plastic that provides a barrier required for packaging a number of essential items including food products, enables high-speed packing, is cost-effective, and is 100% recyclable.

Chaturvedi's presentation to the AEPW Board included a virtual walkthrough of the UFlex recycling facilities at Noida, Poland, and Mexico to recycle and up-cycle post-consumer multi-layer mixed plastic waste into value-added household and industrial plastic products such as dust bins, outdoor furniture, and more. UFlex runs an advanced injection molding facility at its Noida site and this was established to recycle granules and to demonstrate various possibilities to the plastic molding industry. Today, decorative, functional, engineering parts, household and office products, and hundreds of other articles are being manufactured with recycled granules at UFlex's recycling facilities.

UFlex has recycled more than half a million tons of multi-layer mixed plastic waste (MLP) so far and has spent more than US\$ 20 million in the last financial year at its Poland and Mexico sites, ostensibly for this activity.

As an industry leader in building sustainable flexible packaging solutions, UFlex runs a global sustainability initiative called 'Project Plastic Fix.' This initiative is aligned with the company's sustainability approach of 4Rs to tackle the challenge of reducing stock and the flow of plastic waste in the environment. That is to Reduce plastic at source by manufacturing and using films made from PCR (post-consumer recyclates); Recycle via upcycling and down-cycling of MLP and PET containers, covers, other articles, and bottles; Reuse as source substitution via Pyrolysis; and, Return to the planet in the form of biomass, if the plastic waste remains uncollected.

Additionally, Chaturvedi volunteered to provide technical knowledge and related support to any organization or country that would like to replicate and scale its recycling infrastructure to pivot to a circular economy. He urged brand owners and civic bodies across regions and countries to collaborate and strengthen the recycling value chain. ■



Ashok Chaturvedi, chairman and managing director of UFlex.
Photo UFlex

– Naresh Khanna

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OHIO
GRAVURE TECHNOLOGIES

UFlex displays niche elastomer flexo plates

UFlex showcases flexo plates, gravure cylinders, holographic products at LabelExpo India 2022

Priyanka Tanwar

At the LabelExpo 2022, UFlex mainly displayed its flexo plates and specialized gravure cylinders used in flexo printing. The packaging major showcased anilox cylinders, special coating cylinders, and elastomer and polymer flexo plates. “We co-participated with our holographic division and they showcased holographic films, holographic stickers and holographic labels,” said Sachin Dahake, Sales head, UFlex cylinder division.

The gravure cylinders are manufactured with a circumference between 400 and 1200 millimeters and a face length of 500 – 2500 millimeters. They are used to add abstracts, natural textures and grains in large continuous forms to manufacturers of leather and leatherette, wall coverings, gift wraps, laminates, furniture, cabinets, coated metal sheets, floors, decking and several other specialized applications.

“We have the complete range of polymer plates made from DuPont, MacDermid as well as Kodak. There are two technologies available in the market at present, and we have both. We also have our elastomer flexo plates – nobody else is offering this product in India.

“This is our niche product. It has excellent ink transfer compared to conventional polymer plates. Dot gain is, again, very less as compared to the conventional polymer plates. They have very high resistance to solvents such as ethyl, ketone, MIBK, MEK. You can use them just like you use gravure printing cylinders, which are made of metal. You can use any harsh chemicals with them. Apart from that, we can give you jointless sleeves. Generally in flexo, after every repeat, a minimum joint comes; we can eliminate that with the help of sleeves,” he said. The polymer plates can be processed with a thickness of 1.14, 1.7, 2.54, 2.84, 3.9, 4.7, and 0.95 millimeters.

UFlex has clients such as Osho Flexibles and Lorven Flex in Hyderabad; and brands such as Patanjali and Reliance for CI Flexo. For labels, Priya Printers and C Flexo are its major clients. On the Indian label industry, Dahake said, “Labels is a growing field, with growth in double digits even during the Covid-19 pandemic. Holography and metallic labels are some of the upcoming trends.”

The firm received a good response at the event. “The response at LabelExpo was very good because the exhibition was held after four years. The footfall was very good and visitors were genuine buyers,” Dahake concluded. ■



Top: Sachin Dahake, Sales head, UFlex cylinder division at the company's stall at LabelExpo India 2022.

Bottom: The UFlex stand at the LabelExpo India 2022
Photos PSA