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A BT CareEdge Study

INDIA'S MOST SUSTAINABLE COMPANIES





UFlex Reaffirms EPR Readiness with Expanded rPET Capacity

Offers USFDA and FSSAI Approved Recycled Content for Food Packaging

UFlex's packaging films plant in Mexico that houses a mixed flexible waste and PET recycling facility—part of the company's global recycling infrastructure spanning India, Poland and Egypt



As the Director of Sustainability and President of Flexible Packaging and New Product Development, Jeevaraj Gopal Pillai, highlights how UFlex stands at the forefront of innovation and environmental stewardship in the packaging industry. The company has been instrumental in developing solutions that balance performance with responsibility. Here, he shares insights from his journey, the evolving trends in flexible packaging, and the critical role of sustainability in driving the future of the industry. Excerpts:

Jeevaraj Gopal Pillai,
Director - Sustainability, President - Flexible Packaging and New Product Development, UFlex Limited

How is UFlex positioning itself as a leader in sustainable packaging?

UFlex has developed one of the most comprehensive recycling ecosystems in the packaging sector. Currently, we have a global recycling capacity exceeding 72,300 metric tonnes per annum (MTPA), with an additional 39,600 MTPA scheduled to be commissioned in FY26. To date, we have recycled more than 5 billion post-consumer PET bottles, transforming post-consumer waste into sustainable packaging solutions.

Over the last four decades, we have actively expanded our portfolio of sustainable packaging products and solutions. Our strategy centers on innovations that deliver both environmental and commercial value, aligning closely with global sustainability expectations. One of the examples of our sustainable product range is Asclepius™, a barrier BOPET film made with up to 100% post-consumer recycled content, which helps reduce reliance on virgin plastic.

We have introduced water-based inks that help reduce the environmental footprint of packaging production while enhancing recyclability. We manufacture flexible tubes for the beauty and cosmetics industry using post-

consumer recycled materials. Our aseptic packaging brand, Asepto, incorporates 5% certified recycled polymers.

What innovative technologies has UFlex developed for difficult-to-recycle materials like multi-layer aseptic packaging (MLAP)?

We have invested in advanced technologies like enzymatic delamination for aseptic packaging recycling. UFlex's enzyme-based Enzymatic Delamination Technology revolutionizes recycling of—traditionally considered non-recyclable due to its composite layers of paper, polyethylene, and aluminum foil. This innovation enables recovery of high-quality paper pulp for printable paper and aluminum foil for products like metalized roof sheets, partition boards, and more. These recovered materials offer durable, cost-effective, and energy-efficient alternatives in construction, showcasing a successful waste-to-resource model beyond packaging.

What efforts has UFlex made in recycling mixed flexible waste?

Innovation and sustainability have always been at the



Mr. Anantshree Chaturvedi, Vice Chairman, Flex Films International; Mr. Apoorvshree Chaturvedi, Director – Global Operations, UFlex Group, and Mr. Jeevaraj Pillai, Director - Sustainability, UFlex Limited, at the Alliance to End Plastic Waste (AEPW) Board Meeting in New York



UFlex's Advanced Enzymatic Delamination Technology Enables Recycling of Multi-Layer Aseptic Packaging

heart of our journey. Three decades ago, when recycling was still an emerging concept, we envisioned a future where waste could be transformed into value. Our early investments in recycling mixed flexible waste, once thought to be impossible to recycle, proved that innovation could drive meaningful change. We are the first company in the world to develop the capability to recycle mixed flexible waste with inks, adhesives, and metallised layer, polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polypropylene (PP), and polyethylene (PE). In FY25 alone, we recycled 8,200 MTPA of mixed flexible waste, reinforcing our sustainability goals.

At present, UFlex has recycling plants in India, Poland, Egypt, and Mexico, processing post-consumer mixed flexible waste, multi-layer aseptic packaging (MLAP), and polyethylene terephthalate (PET) waste.

How is UFlex supporting India's Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework?

In line with our commitment to support the Government of India's Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation, we have recently announced a significant investment of INR 317 crore to strengthen our recycling capabilities. This includes the establishment of two new recycling plants in Noida. The Indian government has set ambitious targets for the collection, recycling, reuse, and use of recycled content in plastic packaging to promote sustainable packaging. Our enhanced recycling operations will empower brand owners to meet their EPR commitments and set a global benchmark for sustainable packaging. This expansion aims to address India's growing demand for certified recycled polyethylene terephthalate (rPET), estimated at around 124,000 tonnes annually.

What food-grade recycling certifications does UFlex hold?

UFlex produces U.S. FDA and FSSAI-approved food-



UFlex's packaging solution made with post-consumer recycled content (PCR)

contact-grade recycled PET (rPET) films. It is also the first Indian company to secure U.S. FDA approval for food-contact recycled polyethylene (rPE) and recycled polypropylene (rPP). It stands as the only Indian packaging company certified for food-grade recycling across PET, PE, and PP. UFlex's recycling process is

categorized as super-clean recycling, with the ability to de-ink postconsumer recycled (PCR) materials by more than 95%, making it one of the most advanced processes worldwide.

What is the "single-pellet solution" offered by UFlex and why is it significant?

The single-pellet solution combines 30% or more rPET with virgin PET to produce food-grade packaging that maintains clarity, strength, and reduced acetaldehyde content. It works seamlessly with existing PET manufacturing lines, enabling cost-effective adoption of circular packaging without the need for new infrastructure. This solution significantly reduces the carbon footprint of PET packaging by lowering reliance on virgin plastic materials, contributing directly to our sustainability goals and the global push for a circular economy.

How does UFlex ensure traceability and transparency in recycled content use?

UFlex invests in Plastic Material Passports (PMPs), blockchain traceability platforms, and digital watermarking to track recycled content, and reuse cycles. These tools ensure regulatory compliance and build trust with consumers and brands—mitigating greenwashing concerns.

What global recognition has UFlex received for its sustainability efforts?

UFlex is the first company in the world to earn recognition at the Davos Recycle Forum in 1995 for conceptualising the recycling of mixed plastic waste. UFlex has received an official membership certificate from the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC). This underlines the company's commitment to Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles and its alignment with sustainable global business practices.



UFlex recognized as a "Times Now Sustainable Organization 2024" for its commitment to environmental responsibility and investments in sustainable growth.