

# THE PACKMAN

India's Premier Magazine for Modern Packaging



## MONOCARTON PACKAGING IN INDIA A DECADE OF GROWTH, CHALLENGES AND ROAD AHEAD



Flexo Synergy event  
showcases innovation through  
collaboration in Chandigarh



Epson India unveils digital  
label press solution center in  
New Delhi



Innovations driving  
transparency and trust in egg  
packaging

ENABLES BRANDS TO MEET EPR COMPLIANCE

# UFlex introduces FSSAI-compliant single-pellet solution for food packaging

**U**Flex, India's largest multinational flexible packaging and solutions company, has announced the launch of its latest innovation, an FSSAI-compliant single-pellet solution for the use of recycled PET in food and beverage packaging. The innovative product integrates recycled PET with virgin PET in a single pellet of high purity and mechanical and thermal stability. The packages produced from this resin are of high clarity, strength, and lower acetaldehyde content. Importantly, this resin solution is compatible with existing PET manufacturing lines, enabling a seamless transition to rPET without investing in any new infrastructure.

Aligned with the recent FSSAI guidelines that support the Government of India's Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework, UFlex's single-pellet solution offers a fully compliant, ready-to-implement option for FMCG companies striving to meet their sustainability commitments. Effective 1 April 2025, the new rules mandate that brands using Category-1 rigid plastic packaging, such as PET bottles, incorporate at least 30% recycled content by FY26. The innovation complies with FSSAI's definition of Food Contact Material-recycled PET (FCM-rPET), which requires a validated decontamination process to ensure the material is safe for direct food contact. UFlex's solution meets both national and international safety standards, including approval from the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA).

Ashish Saxena, joint president – Packaging Films Business, UFlex, said, "Since our inception, we have always been committed to pioneering sustainable packaging solutions. We are pleased to offer our latest innovation – the single-pellet solution, which will be a game-changer for food and beverage brands striving to meet EPR compliance under the new FSSAI guidelines. Our recent announcement of INR 317 crore investment in two new recycling plants in Noida is a strong reaffirmation of our commitment to India's plastic waste management vision. As regulations



**Ashish Saxena, joint president – Packaging Films Business, UFlex**

become more robust, we aim to set the benchmark for responsible production and scalable, sustainable packaging solutions in India and beyond."

UFlex is the first and only Indian company to receive

USFDA approval for its technology and capacity to recycle all three materials: recycled polyethylene terephthalate (rPET), recycled polyethylene (rPE), and recycled polypropylene (rPP) for use in food packaging.

With a global recycling capacity of 72,300 metric tonnes per annum (MTPA), and an additional 39,600 MTPA set to be commissioned soon, UFlex has established one of the most robust recycling ecosystems in the industry. To date, the company has recycled over 5 billion post-consumer PET bottles, converting them into high-quality raw materials for sustainable packaging solutions. In FY25 alone, UFlex recycled 8,200 metric tonnes of mixed flexible waste, advancing its circular economy goals. It has established recycling plants across India, Poland, Egypt, and Mexico, processing a wide range of post-consumer plastic waste. It is the only Indian company working on innovative solutions for mixed flexible waste and PCR applications both in India and globally. ■



**Resins with 30% recycled PET**



ENABLING CIRCULARITY IN FOOD PACKAGING

# PPRDC releases study on safe food-grade packaging from recycled polypropylene

**T**he 6th Plastic Packaging Research and Development Centre (PPRDC) Summit was on 16 June 2025 in New Delhi, bringing together policymakers, industry leaders and experts to deliberate on the future of food-grade recycled materials in India. The event served as a powerful platform for collaboration, with participation from government bodies, brand owners, producers, and recyclers, demonstrating a shared commitment to advancing sustainable packaging. Senior representatives from Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, BIS, FSSAI, Reliance Industries, Tata Consumer Products, Dabur India, Nestlé India, Jubilant FoodWorks, Coca-Cola India, PepsiCo India Holdings, Tops, Mars India and UFlex, among others, came together to share insights, address challenges, and align on the way forward.

The summit also marked the official launch of a landmark study report titled 'Recycling of Post-Consumer Food-grade Polypropylene (PPs) Waste: Sustainable Valorization of Recycled PP Material', developed by PPRDC. The report presents a scientific and regulatory

roadmap for safely incorporating recycled polypropylene (rPP) into food-grade packaging materials – a critical step toward achieving India's circular economy goals. It highlights how brand owners can benefit from adopting rPP in their packaging by aligning with consumer values, reducing their carbon footprint and waste, and strengthening brand equity in a market increasingly driven by sustainable choices.

Polypropylene (PP), despite being the second-most widely produced plastic globally, sees a dismally low recycling rate of just 3–5%. The report presents a comprehensive solution, utilising advanced multi-point decontamination and double-filtration technologies to safely incorporate up to 60% post-consumer recycled polypropylene (PP) into the core layer of multi-layered flexible packaging for food contact materials (FCMs), without compromising on food safety or packaging performance.

Deepak Mishra, joint secretary, Department of Chemicals and Petro-Chemicals, Government of India, said, "As a regulatory authority, we recognise the significant

progress the industry has made in enhancing recycling capacities, particularly for PET, to align with the objectives of the EPR framework. The recent policy facilitation, including exemptions in cases of technical non-feasibility, has been introduced to support a balanced and pragmatic transition. However, it is equally important for the industry to proactively advance standards and processes for recycling other materials like PE and PP."

Prabh Das, managing director and chief executive officer, HPCL-Mittal Energy (HMEL), said, "We urge the industry stakeholders to lead the development of a clear framework for materials and practices that currently fall outside the scope of existing government guidelines. Such an initiative will help bring greater clarity and confidence, while accelerating our collective journey toward a more circular and sustainable packaging ecosystem."

Jacob Duer, president and CEO, Alliance to End Plastic Waste, said, "As the world grapples with the growing



challenge of plastic waste, no single entity can solve this issue alone. What we need is a collective, committed effort across governments, the private sector, financial institutions, and communities.”

Ashok Chaturvedi, chairman and managing director, UFlex, said, “It is time we stop waiting for regulations to push us into action. I humbly urge all brand owners, producers, recyclers, and packaging converters to stand together, not out of obligation but toward a common good and shared responsibility. Let us begin with small but steady steps to support the safe and wider use of recycled materials in packaging. What we need now is commitment and courage. We must stop viewing sustainability as a regulatory burden and start embracing it as a business imperative. The government is doing its part by providing policies and guidance. Now, it is up to us as an industry to respond with sincerity and purpose. We don't have to wait for rules to force our hand; we can choose to do

what is right simply because it matters. Let us move forward with openness and intention, supporting one another and learning along the way. This is a call from within, from one industry leader to all others: let us be remembered not for our packaging, but for the legacy of responsibility we leave behind.”

Jeevaraj Gopal Pillai, trustee – PPRDC; director – sustainability and president – flexible packaging and new product development, UFlex, added, “As India sharpens its focus on Extended Producer Responsibility and circularity targets, the need for scalable, food-safe recycling technologies is more urgent than ever. The challenge of integrating recycled content into food packaging cannot be solved by regulations alone, it requires robust technical solutions developed by industry and scientists together. At UFlex, we've made significant strides in using rPE and rPP in the core layer of the co-extrusion process, which ensures that recycled material remains safely away from food

contact layers. This innovation, along with AI-enabled sorting and advanced decontamination processes, positions us to meet India's EPR requirements while maintaining the highest standards of food safety. We believe this collaborative, science-led approach is essential for building a truly circular economy for flexible packaging in India.”

Mihir Banerji, secretary general, PPRDC, concluded, “While there are currently no specific guidelines governing the use of recycled polypropylene (rPP) in food packaging, this presents a tremendous opportunity for India to lead with a progressive, science-backed regulatory framework. We are in active discussions with the government to help shape policies that ensure both safety and sustainability. With the right guidance in place, India can unlock the full potential of food-grade rPP, enabling innovation, reducing dependency on virgin plastics, and supporting the nation's circular economy and environmental goals.” ■