



Plastics in Our Lives

Imagine Life Without Plastics!

Use Wisely, Dispose of Correctly!

Indian Centre for Plastics in the Environment

www.icpenviro.org

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PLASTIC-TAR ROADS: SALEM TOWN SHOWS THE WAY TO HANDLE PLASTIC WASTE

Salem, an industrial town in Tamil Nadu, is the first to lay a plastic-tar road in the country. The city Mayor R Suresh Kumar announced recently that the plastic-tar technology would be adopted widely by the Corporation to mitigate the menace of plastic wastes.

Speaking at the inaugural function of the laying of a 350-metre road on experimental basis using plastic tar technology here, the Mayor said the problem of plastic wastes management posed a major challenge to the City Managers.

Hence the Corporation had decided to adopt the polymer-tar technology developed by Dr R Vasudevan, Chemistry Professor, Thyagarajar College of Engineering, Madurai. The technology is such that the plastic waste management finds a ready solution. The bitumen and gravel mix used for laying roads is combined with flakes or granules made from domestic plastic wastes like carry bags, teacups and variety of domestic plastics.

Public can sell their domestic plastic wastes instead of discarding them into the dust-bin. The Salem Manufacturers Association has shown keen interest in recycling domestic wastes and the Salem Exenora club has already taken steps to promote the concept, the Mayor said.

Speaking about his technology, Dr R Vasudevan said the bitumen mixed with plastic flakes made from domestic wastes displays better hardness, better resistance to water penetration and hence lasts longer. Domestic wastes falling into categories such as polyethylene, polypropylene and polystyrene can be converted into flakes or granules and be mixed with the aggregate. Alternatively the plastic can be mixed with heated tar and later mixed with the gravel. Polyethylene can be used up to 5 per cent and polystyrene 20 per cent and so on, the professor said.

This project is a combined effort of the Salem Municipal Corporation, Corporators, the Exenora Club, an NGO and the plastic manufacturers. The Kovilpatti Municipality, near Madurai, too has adopted the technology and expressed satisfaction.

There is a lesson for Municipal Corporations of all the major cities like Chennai, Bangalore, Delhi and Mumbai that are generating thousands of tonnes of garbage every day.

ICPE HELPS MATHERAN HILL STATION BREATHE AGAIN

Less than 2 months of sincere efforts by all concerned parties has resulted in Matheran, an unique hill station 3 hours away from Mumbai regain its lost natural beauty. Matheran, the only hill station in the country where even today to protect the natural beauty no automobiles, scooters or cycles are allowed to ply in the town.

In the month of August, the Municipal Council of Matheran approached an NGO, the Matheran Bachao Samiti in despair to find ways of combating the litter and solid waste nuisance, which had ruined the eco sensitive hill station with mounting burdens of accumulating garbage and waste. ICPE was invited by the NGO and asked for a practical solution to the waste nuisance.

By interacting with all the Municipal counselors, the 100 odd hotel owners and vendors, Mr. Vijay Merchant, an Executive Committee member of ICPE studied all the details. He designed a model plan based on inputs from local residents, the NGO and municipal officials. All the parties were explained that solid waste could be collected, segregated and much of it can be recycled. Enforcing anti-litter rules, bin culture and systematic segregated waste collection can restore natural beauty. The plastic industry representatives helped the municipal council think and act positively and gave an assurance that recyclers would be brought in to dispose off collected waste, which had gathered for years.

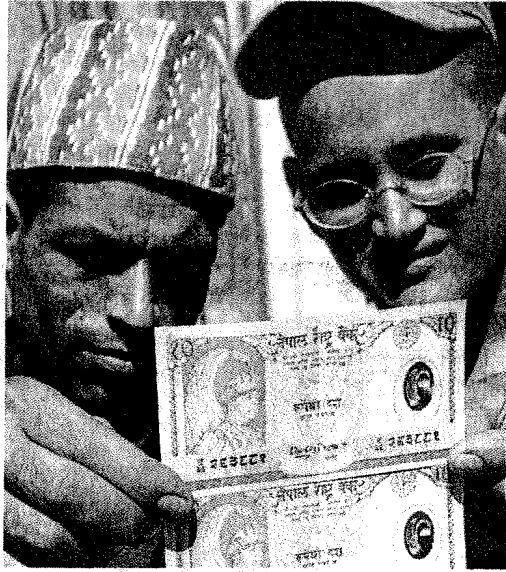
The chief officer of the Municipality Mr. Sampatrao Shinde started the clean up campaign in September and is now confident that with the help of ICPE and hotel owners and vendors solid waste can be collected, empty plastic bottles compressed, wet garbage composted and plastic waste taken away from the hill station to the ground level at Nerul or Karjat for recycling. All the Counselors, hotel owners & vendors have seen the resolve of the authorities and accepted their role in contributing to better waste management and enforcement of anti-litter and segregated waste collection. It has resulted in a win-win situation for all.

Mr. Samir Mehta of Matheran Bachao Samiti who has been striving to restore the natural beauty of Matheran since long is amazed at the success achieved so quickly this year. He has complimented the cooperative effort by the Municipal Council, the commercial establishments and ICPE that have made such remarkable transformation possible.

The NGO which is striving to bring back Matheran's natural beauty & restore its cleanliness for tourists to enjoy is now convinced that it is not the material that is good or bad for eco sensitive areas. The Samiti has agreed that the waste disposal arrangements, in keeping with modern times, need to be put in place by well thought out cooperative efforts to keep Matheran clean and restore the past glory of the hill station as one of the sought after tourists' centers.

नेपाल में अब प्लास्टिक के नोट चलेंगे

इतिहास गवाह है कि समय-समय पर के उद्देश्य से राज्यों की मुद्राओं में फेर बदल राजा महाराजाओं ने अपनी अमिट छाप छोड़ने किए हैं। मो. तुगलक ने तो अपने राज में धातु



10 रुपए के नए पॉलिमर नोटों को देखते दो नेपाली युवक

की मुद्राओं के स्थान पर चमड़े की मुद्राएं चला दी थीं। अब नेपाल नरेश ज्ञानेंद्र ने भी 1 अक्टूबर से प्लास्टिक से बने नोट चलाए हैं। राजा द्वारा ये पॉलिमर नोट अपने सिंहासनारूढ़ होने के एक वर्ष पूरा होने के उपलक्ष्य में जारी किए गए हैं।

इन नोटों से एक ओर जहां कागज की यानी पेड़ों की भी बचत होगी, वहीं दूसरी ओर प्राकृतिक ढंग से नष्ट न हो पाने वाले प्लास्टिक का यह अच्छा प्रयोग सिद्ध हो सकता है। कागज के नोटों की अपेक्षा इसकी उम्र तो लम्बी होगी ही।

PET: IDEAL PHARMA PACKAGING MATERIAL

Researchers worldwide have given a new dimension to pharmaceutical packaging in the form of polyethylene terephthalate or PET, which along with all positive attributes of glass and also scores over its drawbacks, say experts at Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani, Rajasthan.

PET, previously associated with packaging of beverages and mineral water has come up a long way in the eyes of pharma industry. The companies are changing over to PET as packaging material as the bottles and enclosures are made of purely synthetic material and are subjected to high temperatures which minimize chances of microbial contamination of bottles.

As PET is an inert substance, chances are minimal for them to react with drugs and pharmaceuticals inside. Many drugs are photosensitive and thus require amber coloured bottles to minimize the effect of light. This again scores for PET, as it is easier to manufacture these bottles in PET rather than in glass.

According to World Health Organisation (WHO), norms for pharma packaging are containers should protect the drug from water vapour, gases or light; any reaction between container and drug should remain below a level that adversely affects the safety, efficacy or stability of drugs. PET appears a clear choice over glass due to its superior physical and chemical properties.

– Excerpts from Express Pharma Pulse

ICPE in Brief

The Indian Centre for Plastics in the Environment (ICPE), set up in 1999, is a nodal agency recognized by the Government of India to handle all issues related to plastics and environment in the country. It works to create awareness on the importance of acting responsibly in the disposal of plastics because life without plastics is unimaginable. ICPE works closely with Central and State and local governments to ensure the responsible and safe disposal—in matters of legislation, creating the infrastructure and facilitating ways and means of protecting the environment. It also develops and encourages standards/specifications/guidelines for recycling of plastic waste and for applications in various products.

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