

PLASTICS INDIA

A journal for the growth and development of plastics trade & industry

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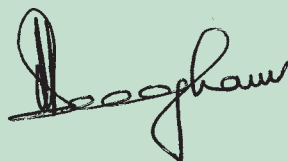
Dear Friends and Readers,

We had been keeping with up-to-date information on the developments that have bearing on our economic conditions, industrial scenario, health, wellbeing, our lives and livelihoods during these difficult times in India and abroad.

An encouraging information for plastic industry in this pandemic situation is the surge in use of single-use plastic by the government agencies and civic bodies overlooking the Covid19 control measures.

State governments are relaxing their own restrictions to ban plastic with fewer than 50-microns. The pressure on hygiene and paranoia over the spread of the novel coronavirus is slowly leading to a reversal of the central government's push to phase out single use plastic. The dependence on disposables such as plastic cutlery, cups, containers, low-micron count carry bags, garbage bags and higher consumption of packaged drinking water as a safety measure to avoid contracting covid-19 as well as packaging material in online purchases has set back efforts to ring in a "revolution" to phase out its use with the onset of covid-19, plans have been pushed back due to the lack of resources. The virus has led to a large increase in the use of single-use plastic but we are up against a challenge and do not have the resources to take up the issue right now. The authorities are already in a fix over face masks, shields, protective gear and other hazardous waste finding their way into regular piles of garbage that enhances the risk of spreading the virus. Piling up of plastic disposables has added to the strain on already inadequate garbage disposal and recycling infrastructure that is discarded on roads and drains or finds its way to landfills. Struggling to cope with the rising number of cases, state governments are relaxing their own restrictions to ban plastic with fewer than 50-microns. The state governments that had banned its use has since procured such material in large volumes to aid in relief work and distribution of free food through lakhs of community kitchens. Though restrictions on marriages, political rallies and other events have brought down demand for plastic cups and other disposables, producers say that plastic has played a vital role during the pandemic. Ironically, single use plastic has been used as part of relief efforts in all major cities, towns and villages to distribute essentials during the pandemic but is also contributing to a bigger problem of piling up disposables that often leads to clogged drains and polluting water bodies. We have got another chance to improve the ecosystem, garbage piling, wastage recycling, and at the same time to earn a good name for single use plastics, we should create an awareness by educating the society for USE AND DISPOSE PLASTICS RESPONSIBLY for making this planet , a better place to live.

Happy Reading,



Manish Singhania
Editor



Presidential Address

Dear IPFIans,

This has been a long time since I talked to you. The entire world is reeling under the impact of Corona pandemic. In order to contain the spread of this disease, country wide series of lockdowns were declared since 20th March till May end. We have been gradually preparing ourselves to combat this disease by adopting proper safety measures and testing facilities.

Despite all this, the number of cases are increasing everyday and have crossed 43 lacs. The silver lining is that patients are getting recovered fast.

It appears that this disease is here to stay for a longer time until proper vaccine is developed to combat this disease and slowly we all are realising that we shall have to lead our life with it taking all precautions.

Social distancing, wearing of masks and sanitising our hands have become a normal practice which is followed by all. Work from home and online working has been accepted by all and people are getting used to this work culture.

So, this Corona disease has taught us many lessons and compelled us to adjust our life style under the present scenario.

For us, this pandemic has been blessing in disguise. This disease has redefined the role of plastics in our life. People have appreciated the role it has played during these testing times- right from food packaging and distribution to medical and safety facilities like PPE kits, face masks and shields, hand gloves, sanitisers etc

Plastics have come to the rescue of the large population of our country ensuring the uninterrupted supply chain during and after lockdown and providing safety and timely treatment facilities to the Corona affected patients so that they recover fast.

So, our industry has delivered what was expected of it and have provided the much needed relief to the society.

Due to the positive role it has played, many countries have lifted the ban on SUPs and Carry Bags to save the lives of people. Our country has developed manufacturing of world class PPE kits in a very short time and now it is ranked 2nd in its production.

Indians are known to be fighters and we come out with our full potential during testing times.

We must act responsibly and contribute our best to the society and see that our industry continues to play its important role during these testing times.

Due to massive use of masks, gloves and sanitisers and also the medical equipments, we have to take care of proper disposal and reuse of plastic wastes which are causing health and environmental hazards and proper waste management is the only solution to come out of this menace.

Last but not the least, I request you all to stay safe and take all possible safety measures to prevent the spread of this disease and extend all sorts of help and assistance to the weaker section of our society which have been worst affected due to the spread of this disease.

Thank you all and wish you all a happy Navaratri and Durga Puja in advance.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ramesh Kr. Rateria'. The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Ramesh Kr. Rateria

President

Dear Members,

For the last over five months we have not been able to keep in touch with each other through this magazine due to the LOCKDOWN caused by the coronavirus pandemic. After UNLOCKING has started from June 1, 2020, life is gradually coming back to normalcy. But the manner the pandemic is spreading after UNLOCKING, the future seems to be even more challenging. We had, therefore, started to think how we can reach our members and was trying to avoid the print issue temporarily since receipt of print magazine by members is uncertain as the post office personnel may not risk their lives for delivery of the magazine. Furthermore, many of our members have their addresses in areas marked as containment zones and hence, the question of post men entering those areas is out of the question. We were, therefore, thinking of a web version of the magazine but after much effort and loss of time, we were given to understand, since IPF has RNI Registration it is obligatory for us to issue a print magazine and hence the delay. Members are, however, requested to help curb spread of the pandemic by going out of their residences only when urgently required. They are also requested to cooperate with the administration by wearing masks, sanitizing / washing with soap their hands and maintaining a physical distance of 6 feet from the next person. Since the Federation was closed for three months and after opening attendance is low due to the coronavirus, we have decided to club six months issue in one issue i.e. from April to September 2020.



During the LOCKDOWN AND UNLOCK phases we had made representations to the Union and State Governments to understand the hardship faced by industry and grant us some relief for survival. A representation on the pertinent issues and challenges impacting businesses was sent by IPF to our Honourable Finance Minister which stated the current scenario with certain points that could benefit the manufacturing sector which, if redressed, will aid running of establishments / Industry thereby preventing defaults and closure of businesses. The Union Government seems to have taken note of it and is implementing some of our recommendations in a way convenient to them.

LOCKDOWN did not mean that your Federation was sleeping. We were fully aware of our social responsibility and undertook various activities to help the administration during the lockdown. I am happy to inform you that many of our members were frontline workers – CORONA WARRIORS. Some of our activities are given below:

Corona Safety Measure programmes were organised by IPF in four markets of Kolkata and Salt Lake to educate the shopkeepers and shoppers to maintain Hygiene and Safe Distancing. T Shirts and Poster with information and precautions from Covid 19 were distributed along with Face Masks and sanitizers. Lessons and guidelines on Safe Distancing was shared. Our Federation arranged for complete sanitization of these markets thru professional Pest Control Companies. Face Masks, Hand Gloves, Sanitizers and PPE kits were distributed to the various government administration offices in Kolkata and Districts of West Bengal. 1400-1500 Cooked meal packets per day were distributed to the needy people by IPF where the members supported the cause wholeheartedly. Packed uncooked groceries and food grains were also distributed. IPF organised a blood donation camp in association with Lions Club, Kolkata.

IPF has been awarded a certificate of appreciation by the State Armed Force Police, 9th Battalion, Sandhya, Krishnanagar, Nadia for donating masks for policemen to contain the spread of Covid-19 menace.

All the above activities were carried out when citizens were keeping themselves locked in their homes, sanitisers, masks and PPE Kits were in acute shortage, our Corona Warriors Mr. Sisir Jalan, Mr Amit Kr Agarwal, Mr Saurabh Garodia, Mr Sudarshan Tawri, Mr Rajat Singhanian, Mr Lakhan Dhona, Mr Rajat Rateria, Mr Manish K Singhanian, and others were on the field to help the society.

The pandemic has also highlighted the usefulness of single use plastics. Due to spread of Covid19 - Corona Virus, it is very critical that healthcare workers have access to single use plastic products which can literally be the difference between life and death. Items such as IV bags and ventilator machines, which are of the utmost importance right now, have components made of plastics. The single-use hospital gowns, gloves, and masks that protect our healthcare workers every day are also made of plastics. Plastics also plays a vital role in many other areas such as easy packing and protecting our food and keeping it fresh, which reduces contamination and waste. Single-use plastic bags provide a sanitary and convenient way to carry our groceries home while protecting supermarket employees and customers from whatever is lurking on reusable bags. As the COVID-19 virus spreads across the country single-use plastics will only become more vital. We live longer, healthier and better because of single-use plastics. Our members are fully committed to meet all the demand and help required to protect our communities in the fight against Covid - 19.

With best wishes

Sisir Jalan

Hony. Secretary

ACTIVITIES OF IPF DURING COVID 19 LOCKDOWN

Field Activities:

Corona Safety Measure programmes were organised by Indian Plastics Federation (IPF) Team which took over BD and AB Block Markets - Salt Lake, Rani Rashmoni Market - Beliaghata and Maniktolla Market - Maniktolla in Kolkata to educate the shopkeepers and shoppers to maintain Hygiene and Safe Distancing. T Shirts and Poster with informations and precautions from Covid 19 were distributed alongwith Face Masks and sanitizers. Lessons and guidelines on Safe Distancing were shared. Our Federation arranged for complete sanitization of these markets thru professional Pest Control Companies.

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Other Activities:

IPF was invited for all the meetings called by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal Smt. Mamata Banerjee to discuss various matters concerning industry during the lockdown. IPF maintained close contact with the State Govt Secretariat for every possible support.

A representation on the pertinent issues and challenges impacting business were sent by IPF to our Honourable Finance Minister which stated the current scenario with certain points that could benefit the manufacturing sector as listed below, which if redressed will aid running of establishments/ Industry thereby preventing defaults and closure of businesses.

1. **GST**: Immediate reduction by 4 percent in GST slabs. Deferment of hearings of all pending cases of Central Excise & GST for a period of 6 months. The process of making refunds to be fast tracked and immediate refund against all refund applications be made. Allowance of 100% input credits as per invoices without need of credit matching as per GSTN portal.
2. **Income Tax**: Request for deferment of advance Income tax & Corporate Tax installment for the month of June & September by minimum 6 months. Deferment of hearings of all pending cases for a period of 6 months. The tax dispute settlement scheme – VIVAAD SE VISHWAS should be extended for a period of 6 months. The process of making refunds to be fast tracked and immediate refund against all refund applications is made.
3. **Banking**: Loan accounts which become NPAs during the period of this lockdown should not be considered as defaulters and be allowed a grace period to recover. Those accounts which have already become NPA should be reviewed with intent to restructure/ rehabilitate. MSMEs with existing loan / limits would require extra finances to face the liquidity crunch and meet the fixed expenses (such as payment of wages) during this period. RBI must issue guidelines to the lending banks /NBFCs to provide facility for temporary enhancement of limits/over-drafting for working capital requirement of MSMEs. Temporary over-drafting facility through current accounts should also be provided to MSMEs having no existing loan / limits accounts upto 25% of the current WC or CC limit without additional collateral needs to be provided to the industry. There should not be any interest payable to banks and the NBFCs for the loans raised by the industry or the entrepreneurs for at least during the period of lock down and three months thereafter.
4. The system of classifying industries into Small, Medium & Large should be on turnover basis rather than investment basis, being followed as on today.
5. All the Government institutions, Private & Public Sector Corporate Bodies should be advised for the fastest possible release of payments to the MSME suppliers, to ease the liquidity issue which they may face in current adverse situation.
6. Interest Subvention to MSME Sector in the form of an interest subsidy of 5% on term loans for 1 year linked to Capital Investment made should be provided to industries to sustain.
7. Immediate relief to MSME / Business Houses – Soft loan for MSME businesses for paying salaries / interest / Govt. dues for period of 1 year @ 6% p.a. The same can be considered for large industries wherein parameters can be set. This could also be Considered for companies already in losses upto Q3 due to low economy growth in FY 2019-20 without additional collateral.

ACTIVITIES OF IPF DURING COVID 19 LOCKDOWN (contd.)

8. Moratorium period: In view of disrupted cash flows of MSMEs of all industrial sectors a 3 to 6 months moratorium on LC payments, LC charges, BG charges, Limit renewal charges, interest on working capital, interest on term loan and EMI of car loans and unsecured loans. The same may then be recovered by banks and NBFCs over a 12 month period in equal installments. What RBI has granted so far is not resulting in any effective relief to the industry as such.
9. Salary & Wages to be paid during Lockdown Period: The government is asking all business houses to pay full wages during the Lockdown which is very difficult for the majority. As an alternate to this, we suggest the Government for giving employees the ESI benefit of medical leave for the duration of the lock down. As per the ESIC provisions any Insured Person under ESIC is liable to receive salary for the medical leave for his absent period on the basis of medical certificate issued by authorized Medical Practitioner registered with ESIC. We suggest for considering the absent period of employees due to COVID19 lock down period as "medical absent" and The medical leave salaries be paid to all the employees who are Insured Persons under ESIC until the production is started.
10. ESI Contribution: We request you to announce a compensation package on this. The full payment of ESI contribution of employees & employers to be reimbursed or compensated by Government for at least six months either out of distress fund or any other fund to save the industry.
11. Employees Provident Fund: We welcome and appreciate the step by your good self for making the payment of PF contribution of employees & employers with salary drawing limit of lesser than Rs.15000/-per month. However, we request withdrawal of the condition of having 100 employees in an establishment wherein 90% employees draw salary below Rs.15000/-per month. PF contribution for the month of March to be paid by Government & no penalty or interest to be levied on Feb 2020 delayed payment (if any). This benefit should be to the manufacturing industry on pro rata basis.
12. All port authorities, shipping companies, container terminal & storage companies should be advised for compulsory waiver of any port Detention charges, Demurrage, penalties for import as well as export containers.
13. There must be enhancement in all export incentives for protection of our export trade in present difficult situation. All port authorities should be advised for waiver of any port charges.
14. Hotline for Trade & Commerce Queries: Government needs to establish a hotline that can quickly address trade and commerce related issues in such crisis situations. Various shipments are stuck at ports, both in India and abroad. Shipments related to crisis response must be released quickly. If there is a hotline then such requests can be addressed quickly.
15. Expediting the release of pending tax excess & subsidies by the Central Government.

Due to spread of Covid19 - Corona Virus, it is very critical that healthcare workers have access to single use plastic products which can literally be the difference between life and death. Items such as IV bags and ventilator machines, which are of the utmost importance right now, have components made of plastics. The single-use hospital gowns, gloves, and masks that protect our healthcare workers every day are also made of plastic. Plastics also plays a vital role in many other areas such as easy packing and protecting our food and keeping it fresh, which reduces contamination and waste. Single-use plastic bags provide a sanitary and convenient way to carry our groceries home while protecting supermarket employees and customers from whatever is lurking on reusable bags. As the COVID-19 virus spreads across the country single-use plastics will only become more vital. We live longer, healthier and better because of single-use plastics. Our members are fully committed to meet all the demand and help required to protect our communities in the fight against Covid - 19.



ACTIVITIES OF IPF DURING COVID 19 LOCKDOWN (contd.)



Contribution of Plastics to Infrastructure Building.

1. Introduction

Building & Construction (B&C) is an integral part of human endeavor. Whether it is building homes/ residences, hospitals, hotels, schools/colleges, offices, malls or creating infrastructure such as Roads, Bridges, Ports , Airports , etc. A nations' progress or development is measured by the adequacy and quality of building and construction/infrastructure that it has created and provided to its people.

2. Global and Indian Usage of Plastics:

Plastics have been put to effective use by all the Developed and Advanced nations. From building houses to conveying raw and potable water, from providing safe packaging to making mark in healthcare, plastics have now become all pervading.

3. Depleting Energy, Forest and Water Resources:

It is imperative that India as a country should try to look at Energy Conservation from Demand Side Management point of view. Replacing energy intensive metal pipes in Water and Sewerage sector will save a lot of energy which can be utilized for other core activities.

In energy starved country like ours, Energy saved is energy generated, which then can be put to better use for nation building. This also helps us to reduce CO₂ emissions thereby helping control global warming and generate foreign exchange on tradable Carbon Credits in the bargain.

Likewise Plastics need to replace wood to maintain our forest cover which in turn has a significant bearing on our weather and climatic patterns.

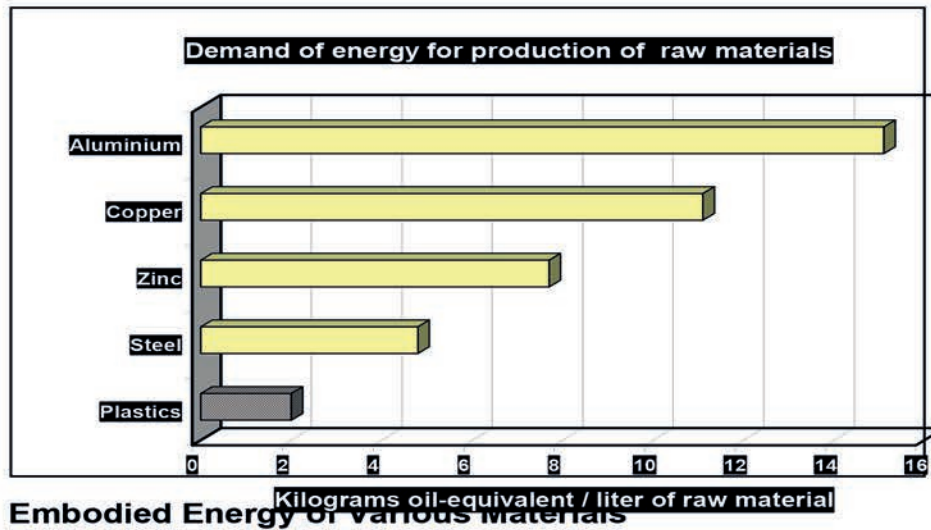
That plastics help in shoring up our depleting Water resources also needs to be registered. Plastics products are a means to Total Water Harvesting by means of Roof Top Rainwater harvesting, Storage in Plastics Tanks or recharging ground water through plastics pipes. Any surface run-off could be collected in Plastic Film lined ponds for future usage.

4. Plastics - Saving precious energy in an Energy Hungry World

Plastics such as Polypropylene, Polyethylenes, Polyvinyl Chloride are value added by-products obtained from a fraction of Crude refining process. Globally, about 4% of the petroleum hydrocarbon is consumed to produce the Plastics raw-material as mentioned above, the balance being used to fulfill the fuel and energy needs. Consequently, concerns about sustainability of plastic materials are somewhat exaggerated.

Through out their useful life, right from raw-material stage to the in-use Plastic product, Plastics save energy leading to reduced GHG emissions. Their production and usage in place of energy intensive materials, therefore, leads to slowing down of Global Warming or Green House effect.

Embodied Energy: It is the amount of energy that a raw-material consumes to be made from its basic feedstock (such as crude , bauxite , iron-ore, etc.) Plastics are the most energy efficient materials on this parameter as is shown in the graph below (Fig. 1).



Processing Energy: Raw materials do not serve any purpose unless they are converted into products of use by the modern day society. The energy required to convert raw-materials into useful products is known as Processing energy.

Plastics products stand-out on this parameter as well since they consume far less energy while getting converted to useful products as compared to other materials such as Aluminium, Cast/Ductile Iron, Steels, Cement, Paper, Glass, etc. Only wood is an exception to this but with hardly any forest cover left, it is not in the interest of human race to cut trees considering the adverse impact of deforestation on Global Environment and Climate.

Energy Calculations		
	Unit	
Ore to Metal	Giga Cal/MT	7.28*
	KWH/MT	8467
Naptha to PE Resin	Giga Jules /MT	32.80 #
	KWH/MT	9112
Difference	KWH/MT	645
Replacement ratio between Metal and PE pipe. (see Foot Note)		2.93:1
Energy Saving with use of every MT of PE Pipe	KWH	15696

Note :

8" metal(Ductile Iron) K7 Pipe weight: ~26 MT/KM

200mm(8") Polyethylene PN 10 Pipe weight : ~9 MT/KM

Source: * Report "Visakhapatnam steel plant-Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited Vishakapatnam year 2003"
Report" Energy use & energy intensity of the U.S. chemical Industry 2000"

5. Why Plastics Products in Building and Construction:

Plastics have a number of important characteristics which exploited alone or together make a significant contribution to our building and construction needs.

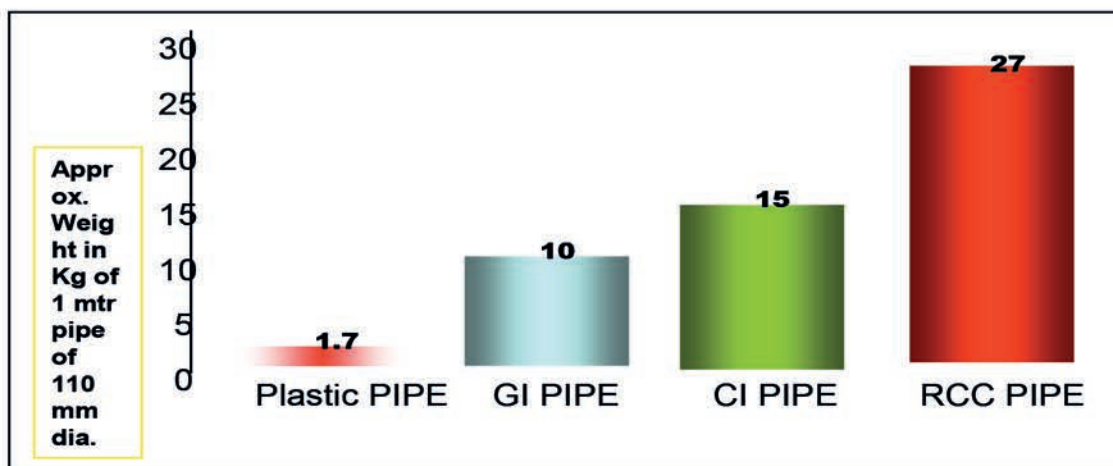
Strong and durable – Plastics have an excellent strength to weight ratio and thus are able to meet many technical requirements fulfilled by heavy traditional materials. Their durability makes them ideal for long life applications and their resistance to corrosion and many chemicals reduces the wear and tear, further increasing the longevity.

Maintenance free - Do not need painting or protective coating etc.

Light weight - Due to their light weight, plastics products contribute in saving man hours and energy during transportation, handling and installation.

Plastics Products are light weight (Fig. 3 gives Weight of Pipe made from various materials). Plastics pipes therefore entail lower transportation cost for ferrying to locations where needed. Same applies to Milk which was earlier packed in Glass bottles as against in pouches now.

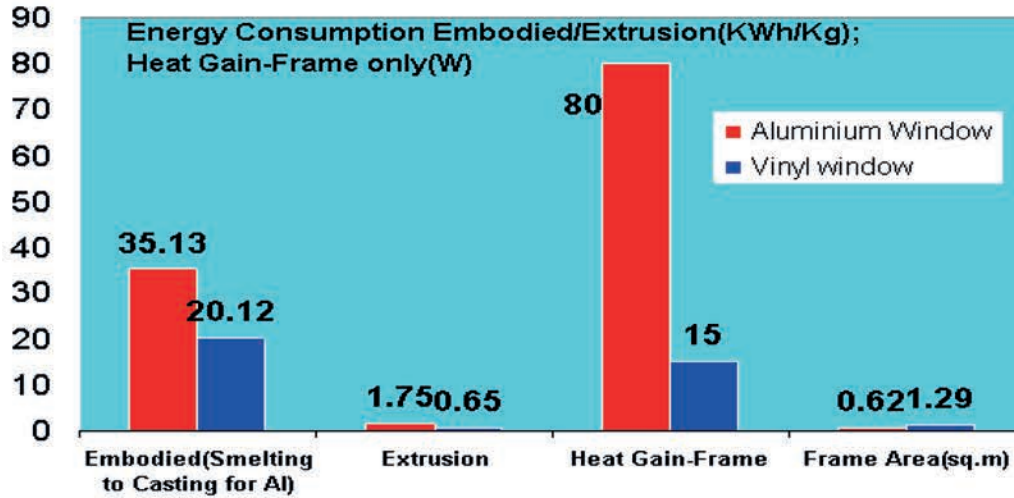
Further Plastics Pipes being lighter get installed faster as compared to heavier metallic pipes.



Energy saving during transportation using Plastic Pipes

Insulation – Plastics provide effective insulation for cold and heat, sound and electricity, thus helping in saving energy and reducing noise pollution.

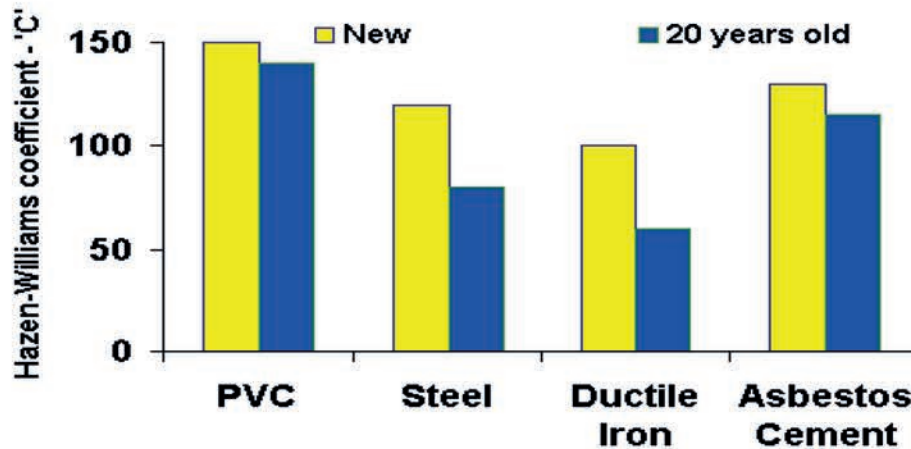
PVC Framed Windows are also a prime example of an Energy Saving Product; these windows have high insulating values thereby leading to lower cooling/heating costs as compared to the conventional Windows.



Energy saving Windows

Energy & Resource efficient - Plastics building materials are effective in conserving energy in all the three phases of their life-cycle, viz. Raw-Material, Processing and Usage stages. In a study conducted for one full year in U.S. Plastics building and construction materials saved 467.2 trillion Btu of energy over traditional materials – enough to meet the average energy needs of 4.6 million U.S. households.

Usage Phase: The Plastic Pipes have highest 'C' value(Hazen Williams Coefficient) of all the piping materials. This leads to lower coefficient of friction , thereby directly translating into savings in Pumping Costs over the service life of the Pipe.



Energy saving in usage phase through plastic pipes

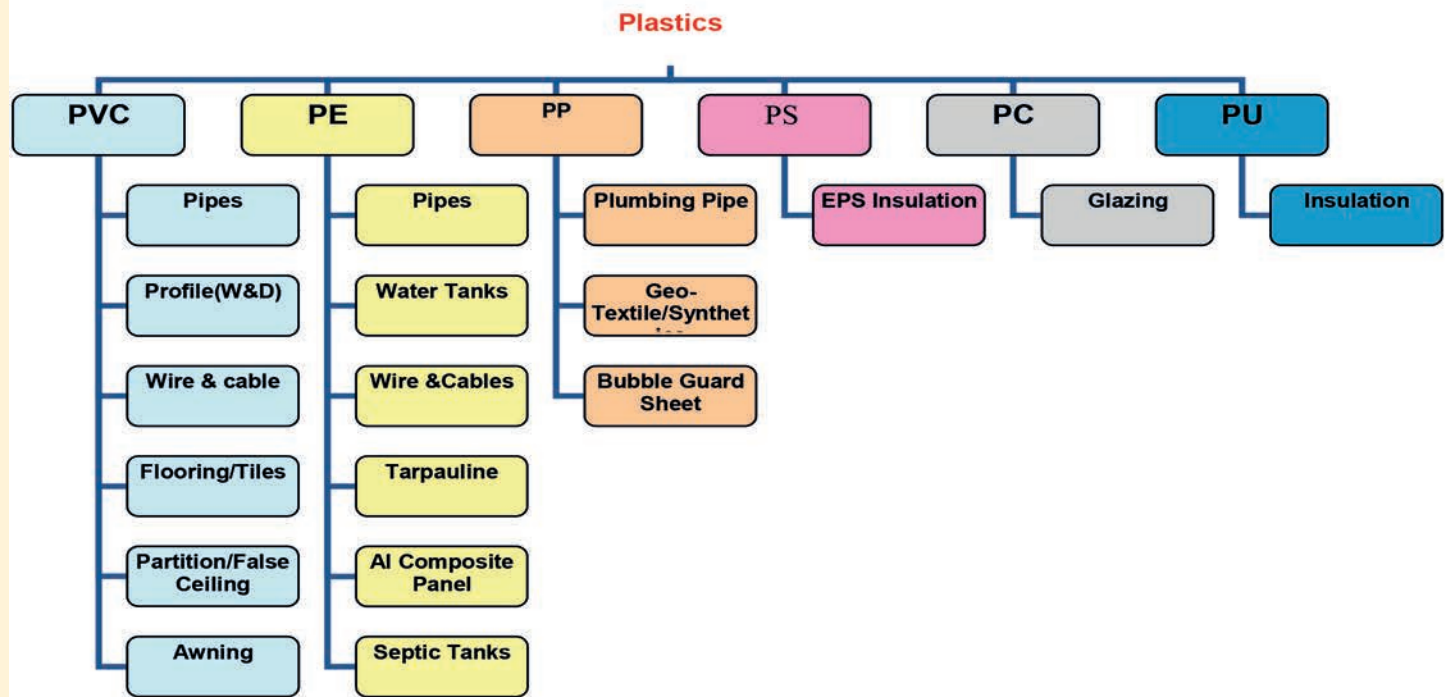
Hygienic – The products stored, transported through plastics systems are always safe and hygienic and hence the systems are safely used for food contact and medical applications.

Ease of processing - Manufacturing of plastics products is easier and less energy consuming as compared to most of the traditional materials used in this sector.

Cost effective - Combined effect of all the above properties make the plastics products a cost effective solution to practically all the sectors of application.

Environment friendly - Specific properties of plastics products help in conservation of natural resources such as Wood obtained from forests. Besides, these products can be reused, recycled or turned into source of energy, thus overall proving them to be environment friendly materials.

Plastics In Building and Construction-Indian Applications



6. Plastics Products for B&C – An Indian Perspective:

As against the world average of 22% plastics in B&C, India lags behind at 10% . The Plastics Products that are/can be used in B&C are as follows:

6a. Plastics Pipes & Fittings (PVC,PE,PP):

While as Plastics Pipes are popularly used for Irrigation, SWR(Soil-Waste & Rain Water), Cable Ducting, RWH & Electrical conduits , plastics pipes have just scraped the potable water and sewerage sectors. Plastics pipes will help in providing cost-effective solutions to the problems faced by utility bodies in these sectors. Further , plastics pipes can also be effectively used for storm water drainage, sub-surface drainage and City Gas Distribution(CGD) networks.





PE Pipes



PPR Pipes

PVC Pipes

6b. PE Water & Septic Tanks:

Plastic Tanks are one of the most popular applications in India. Plastics can also be used for Septic Tanks to provide low-cost access to sanitation for all.

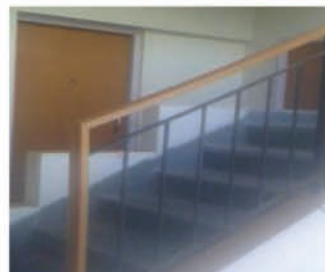


6c. PVC Windows & Doors:

Taking cue from Global practice, Wood and energy inefficient metals need to be replaced by PVC Windows , which also provide additional bonus features of cutting air-conditioning and heating costs in offices, homes, Hotels, etc. and providing dust and noise free indoors in hospitals , medical centers and places close to noise generating locations such as air-ports, railway stations, etc.



Windows & Doors

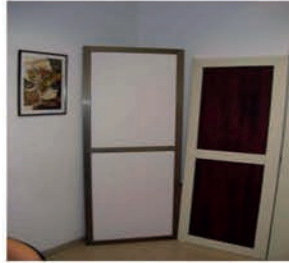


Handrail



Shaft Shutter

6d. PVC Profiles for false ceiling, partitions, kitchen cabinets, door panelling, shuttering, porta cabins, stair-case/balcony handrail : Replacing scarce wood.



6e. PVC & PP Fencing:

For decorative and boundary fencing purpose as replacement to wood and barbed-wire, etc.



6f. Furniture : For schools, public places such as parks, stadia, etc.



6g. Landscaping products:

Artificial Grass and plants, planters, turf for sports arenas, artificial rocks, waterfalls, bollards, lamp-posts, garden fencing, etc.





6h. Playground Equipment :

Slides, rock climbing and other equipment for schools, parks, etc.



6i. Traffic Management Equipment :

Speed Breakers, Traffic Cones and Road Dividers, Sign boards, etc.



6j. PP Geo-Synthetics :

Provide road reinforcement thereby increasing life of road network



Easy way to provide sub-soil drainage in soft soils and to reclaim water-logged land.



Geogabions

6q. PP Gabions:

Drainage wall suitable for sea-shore and river-bank protection.

9.. Conclusion:

- All Developed countries and aspiring developed countries have used Plastics to their advantage in building up their Infrastructure
- Plastics contribute significantly to Nation Building and can help us leaping up the developmental path
- Plastics industry generates direct and indirect employment on a large scale
- Plastics help in improving Quality of Life of all by ensuring Health, Hygiene & Safety
- Plastics help in Conserving precious scarce resources like Water, Forests, Soil , etc.
- Plastics provide cost-effective solutions in place of energy-inefficient metals
- Plastics Products help in saving energy during manufacturing, installation and usage phases.

CIRCULAR NO. 64/2020

20th September 2020

IPF WELCOMES TO NEW MEMBERS TO ITS FAMILY APPROVED IN THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16/09/2020

SL. NO.	NAME OF THE COMPANY	CLASS OF MEMBRSHIP	MEMBERSHIP NO.
1	LUCKY TRADERS & MANUFACTURERS	LIFE MANUFACTURER MEMBER	LM-417
2.	ATISHAYA POLY PETT PVT. LTD.	LIFE MANUFACTURER MEMBER	LM-419
3.	PRIDE PLASTICS	LIFE MANUFACTURER MEMBER	LM-418
4.	MUKIM IMPEX	MANUFACTURER MEMBER	M - 323
5.	BDG POLYSTEEL LTD.	MANUFACTURER MEMBER	M - 324
6.	SOFTROSE PETROCHEMICALS PVT. LTD.	LIFE DEALER MEMBER	LDR-117

INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION CEO TESTIFIES IN CONGRESS ON PLASTIC'S LIFE- SAVING ROLE DURING PANDEMIC

Tony Radoszewski, President and CEO of the Plastics Industry Association (PLASTICS), testified on July 7 at a Congress briefing titled, "Plastic Production, Pollution and Waste in the Time of COVID-19: The Life-Threatening Impact of Single-Use Plastic on Human Health." Radoszewski refuted attacks on a material and an industry that have played a critical role in the U.S. response to the novel coronavirus.

"The idea that single-use plastic medical products . . . are 'life-threatening' contradicts the advice of this subcommittee, which recently urged the President to use all his power to increase production and distribution of masks, face shields, surgical gowns, isolation gowns, goggles, disposable caps, disposable shoe covers, and disposable gloves," Radoszewski told the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee's Subcommittee on the Environment.

As the only witness to highlight the importance of plastics, Radoszewski thanked Ranking Member Fred Keller (R-PA) for giving him the opportunity to describe the plastics industry's effort to meet unprecedented demand for personal protection equipment (PPE), as well as components for ventilators and other medical equipment.

Congressman Keller noted, "As the Covid-19 pandemic began to spread in the United States, one thing became abundantly clear: The frontline workers of America would need access to personal protective equipment at a rate never seen before. The plastics industry kicked production of these life-saving products into high gear."

As COVID-19 began to spread, the federal government and states designated plastics companies and their employees as essential businesses and workers.

"Plastic is one of the most advanced and useful materials humanity ever created, contributing to longer, healthier lives for people across the globe. Without it, disease and hunger would be more common, not less," Radoszewski told the subcommittee, emphasizing the importance of single-use plastics and underscoring the conflict between environmental groups seeking to ban hygienic single-use items and public health officials recommending them to help Americans protect themselves.

Radoszewski also defended plastics in addressing environmental concerns, explaining that "all materials require energy and other resources in their manufacture, and all produce waste. However, over the entire lifecycle in most applications, plastic requires less energy and conserves more resources than glass, paper, or aluminum, saving fuel, energy, and money, especially for busy working families."

PLASTICS supports the Recover Act, which would modernize US recycling infrastructure for the 21st century, preventing plastics from entering the environment and providing plastics companies with recycled materials to create new products.

Source : Plastics Today

PLASTICS MEDICAL PRODUCTS SAVE LIVES CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Plastics are playing a key role in protecting healthcare workers and members of society during the coronavirus pandemic.

Many government bodies, including in the U.S. states of New York and Maine, have stopped plans to implement bans on single-use plastics such as retail shopping bags, as they are less likely to spread germs than

frequently reused fabric carriers. Others have un-banned expanded polystyrene food containers, as they are unquestionably effective as packages for take-out and home-delivery food from restaurants.

There is a spike in demand for plastic-intensive products like housings and parts for medical gear such as respirators and ventilators, as well as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for healthcare workers such as masks, gowns, and goggles. Other standard plastic medical products continue to help the fight – from polycarbonate syringes and intravenous components, to polyvinyl chloride medical tubing and blood bags.

3D printing has also helped develop critical components. Recently, an Italian 3D printing start-up called Issinova, reverse-engineered a valve for a ventilator machine, and within hours was able to produce replacements for out-of-stock valves that helped to save the lives of several people in a hospital in Brescia. The company several Fused Deposition Modeling (FDM) machines to 3D print a plastic valve at a cost of about \$1 per part. The original part costs about \$11,000, according to the report. 3D printed plastic parts will help meet demand of medical components in short supply.

Carefully formulated plastic compounds are also helping the cause. Patented oxidised copper when compounded with different types of resins, yields a material that can kill bacteria. Press-moulded solid surface countertops and tables have been proven to dramatically reduce the incidence of Hospital-Acquired Infections (HAIs), such as staph infections. Testing is on to impregnate the plastic-copper additive in fabrics (such as bed linens, hospital gowns or face masks) to confirm its effectiveness against the Covid-19 virus.

Others have long been incorporating antimicrobial additives into plastic compounds to reduce the transmission of various diseases.

Source : Medical Plastics News

FINANCIAL LESSONS FROM SATYABHAMA

Dr. Devdutt Pattanaik

Krishna was raised by cowherds and then he moved from Vrindavan to Mathura and thence to Dwarka, where he married many women, often princesses from surrounding kingdoms. But his status in the Yadava clan was ensured by his marriage to Satyabhama, daughter of the richest Yadava clan lord, Satrajit. Her stories often give us insights into financial prudence.

Satyabhama was the daughter of a Yadava chieftain, Satrajit. He had a sacred jewel called Syamantaka. This jewel gave him a lot of prosperity. Krishna felt this jewel should belong to the entire tribe. He believed everyone should have prosperity. However, Satrajit refused to part with the jewel. One day Satrajit's brother, Prasenjit, went out hunting, wearing the jewel on his body. In the jungle, a lion killed him. A bear, in turn, killed the lion, claimed the jewel and took it to his cave. When the news of Prasenjit's death reached Dwarka, everyone accused Krishna of murder. Krishna investigated the scene of the death and surmised it was not a murder. It was a hunting accident. Krishna found the jewel in the bear's cave and returned it to Satrajit.

Satrajit was very ashamed of falsely accusing Krishna. He not only begged Krishna to accept the jewel but also offered his daughter's hand in marriage to him. Krishna refused to keep the jewel but became his son-in-law. This is how Satyabhama became Krishna's wife. However, some men, who were angry that Satrajit gave Satyabhama to Krishna in marriage. They murdered Satrajit, and stole Syamantaka. Krishna punished the killers and brought back the jewel, but there was no way to reverse the tragedy. The jewel that could have brought prosperity to the entire country was restricted to one's man house, where it brought prosperity but also envy and misfortune.



The men who wanted to marry Satyabhama really wanted to marry her to get the jewel in dowry.

Another story associated with Satyabhama speaks about financial transactions. It's about how people are eager to take a favour without wanting to return it. Indra, the king of Swarga needs Krishna's help to defeat the demon king, Naraka. Krishna does do this successfully. He's accompanied into battle by his wife, Satyabhama, who feels that her husband deserves a reward. She asks Indra for the Parijat tree which she can plant in her garden. Indra refuses to part with it, leading to a battle between

him and Krishna, which he loses. Indra, who seeks help from Krishna in battle, is not willing to part with the Parijat tree, in return for the help. This reminds us of people who are constantly seeking help, but are not willing to reward those who help them. When Krishna's friend, Sudama comes to Dwarka for help, Krishna in his love, offers all his fortune in exchange for the puffed rice, he is given by his friend. It is Satyabhama who warns Krishna to keep a portion of

the wealth for the family and not give all of it away to his friend. Thus, she is the prudent wife; the one who reminds him of the importance of worldly wealth and power. Satyabhama is a demanding wife and Krishna knows her value. It is by marrying her, he becomes a part of the Yaduvamsa clan. All his other wives belong to other tribes; she alone is from the Yadava family. This gives him the status of a nobleman. Otherwise, he would be just the child of a cowherd. The final story associated with Satyabhama and wealth is when Narada ask Krishna's wives for something equal to Krishna's weight. Taking the meaning literally, Satyabhama offers Narada all her gold. Rukmini offers him a sprig of tulsi as the symbol of her love. The symbol of love outweighs all the gold in Satyabhama's treasury.

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