

Press Release

Must leverage AI and enzyme-based technology to reduce the environmental footprint: Ashok Chaturvedi

Delhi/Mumbai, August 31, 2023: At a keynote address at the 10th Speciality Films & Flexible Packaging Global Summit 2023, Mr. Ashok Chaturvedi, Founder, Chairman and Managing Director, UFlex Group, highlighted how technologies like artificial intelligence, machine learning, and enzymatic processing can accelerate sustainable innovation in flexible packaging.

The Elite Global Summit, being held at the prestigious Reliance Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai, India, began today and features discussions on the Indian economic landscape, current trends in the FMCG sector, and the impact on packaging.



UFlex Group Chairman and Managing Director, Mr. Ashok Chaturvedi, delivered a thought-provoking keynote address at the inaugural session.

He reflected on the evolution of the plastics industry, stating, "Back in the 1960s, when chemical companies were developing large-scale plastic production facilities, they coined the slogan: If you want to save the planet, use plastic. We truly believe that today, if producers can reach consumers globally, it is possible only because of flexible packaging. Historically, when chemical companies were producing plastic in the 60s, they had to struggle with their selling proposition, and the production size used to be 1500 tons per year. Today, the production size has increased to a million tons per year. MLP (multi-layer plastic) as opposed to mono-material packaging, coupled with a robust recycling ecosystem and bio-enzyme technology will propel the industry to the next phase of growth".

"Today, whatever we are producing needs to be recycled. At UFlex, we have made significant investments in industrial and MLP (multi-layer mixed plastic) waste recycling facilities across our global locations and very recently, in enzyme-based delamination and recycling technology for aseptic



packaging. We should continue to focus on mechanical recycling. Chemical recycling may not be happening today but will happen in the future”, he added.

Mr. Chaturvedi reiterated the need to use machinery and AI to collect and sort waste rather than allowing waste workers to do that manually. “That is not the most effective or sustainable way of creating employment for the marginalized waste workers”, he emphasized. “Waste collection and adequate access to post-consumer waste is one of the biggest problems that we face in India. It is critical to recognize that it is not the process of recycling that presents the most significant hurdle in addressing plastic pollution. Rather, it is the efficient and holistic collection and management of plastic waste that emerges as the cornerstone of our battle”, he concluded.

The event features specialized sessions dedicated to sustainability with panel discussions on the critical issues facing the industry with eminent speakers from the Central Pollution Control Board of India (CPCB), the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF), and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) of the Government of India.

The 10th Speciality Films & Flexible Packaging Global Summit 2023 included keynote addresses by Mr. Ashok Chaturvedi, Founder, Chairman & Managing Director, UFlex Group, Mr. Nilesh Shah, Group President & MD, Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Co. Ltd., Mr. Prabh Das, Managing Director & CEO, HPCL-Mittal Energy Ltd., Ms. Prabha Narasimhan, Managing Director & CEO, Colgate-Palmolive (India) Ltd., and Mr. Harsh Mariwala, Founder and Chairman, Marico Ltd. It also showcases more than 100 exhibitors and a strong presence of most brand owners.

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About UFlex:

UFlex is India's largest multinational flexible packaging and solutions company. Since its inception in 1985, UFlex has grown from strength to strength and has built a strong presence across all verticals of the packaging value chain—packaging films, chemicals, aseptic liquid packaging, holography, flexible packaging, printing cylinders, and engineering.

With a 10,000+ strong multicultural workforce across global regions that work toward developing innovative, value-added, and sustainable packaging solutions, the company has earned an irreproachable reputation for defining the contours of the Packaging Industry in India and overseas. It provides end-to-end solutions to numerous Fortune 500 clients across various sectors such as FMCG, consumer product goods, pharmaceuticals, building materials, automobiles, and more, in more than 150 countries. Headquartered in Noida, National Capital Region, India, UFlex enjoys a global reach with advanced manufacturing facilities in India, UAE, Mexico, Egypt, USA, Poland, Russia, Nigeria, and Hungary.

A winner of various marquee global awards for product excellence, innovation, and sustainability, 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. For more details, please visit: www.uflexltd.com