

The focus of Environment Information System (ENVIS) is to disseminate environmental information to decision makers, policy planners, scientists and researchers across the world.

The CERC-ENVIS Resource Partner focuses on 'Environment Literacy - Eco-labelling and Eco-friendly Products' This bi-monthly e-bulletin features latest news, developments and innovations in the field.

Eco product

Plastic Waste in Road Construction

Plastic is found to be an effective binder for bitumen mixes used in flexible pavements. The use of waste plastic for coating the aggregates of the bituminous mix found to improve its performance characteristics with better strength and longer life period. The addition of plastic waste enhances the various properties of an ordinary bituminous road. This efficient method helps the pavements to resist higher temperature by minimizing the formation of cracks and reducing rainwater infiltration which otherwise leads to the development of potholes. These pavements have shown improved crushing and abrasion values and reduced water seepage. The use of waste plastics in road construction will reduce the volume of plastic waste to be disposed of by incineration and land filling. It will not only add value to plastic waste but will develop a technology, which is eco-friendly. In India, Plastic waste has been used in constructing one lakh km of road in 11 states & GOI is planning to double the figure.



<https://bit.ly/325Z7Mo> , <https://bit.ly/31df5oM>

Role of Plastics in Pandemic

Huge requirement and consumption of medical textile (non-woven) products like a face mask, apron, coverall suit, surgical cap, hand gloves, shoe cover, hospital bed sheet, etc. and other products like, goggles, bin bags, sanitizer packaging, medical equipment, etc. feels like plastic is a boon in this pandemic. All of the products are manufactured from petrochemical-derived polymers. Moreover, to maintain hygiene, plastic packaging is crucial in food packaging, hospitals, public places, restaurants, hotels, etc. There is no denying that single-use plastic has been a lifesaver in the fight against COVID-19, especially for frontline health workers. It has also facilitated adherence to social-distancing rules, by enabling home delivery of basic goods, especially food. And it may have helped to curb transmission, by replacing reusable coffee cups and shopping bags in many cities over fears that the virus could stick to them. But, in meeting these imperatives, we cannot lose sight of the other – perhaps greater – long-term challenges facing humanity, including the environmental and public-health risks generated by excessive plastic waste. The proliferation of plastic waste into the environment during the pandemic is surging. Due to poor working of waste management services and some not working to its full capacity, has resulted in the expansion of plastics. This will pose a long term threat to environment and put public health at higher risks.



India has held off imposing a blanket ban on single-use plastics to combat pollution, a measure seen as too disruptive for industry at a time when it is coping with an economic slowdown. 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.

Source : <https://reut.rs/30Cypvn> , <https://bit.ly/3kd1vZU> , <https://bit.ly/3fzAFYn>
<https://bit.ly/3a639rW>

Green Issue

Plastics: The saviour of billion human lives from Covid-19



Protective garments used by health workers such as mask, caps, goggles and gowns are generally made from plastics and are used by health professionals in such outbreaks to reduce the risk of infection as it work as a barrier from bacteria and virus. Intravenous therapy (IV) bags and tubing, IV Canula and Disposable Syringes used for infusion of IV fluids are all made from medical grade plastics to avoid any Contagion going

through the blood stream. The disposable plastic syringes have completely replaced alternative options. So far no alternative material has proven at par with the ease of utility and economics of all these varieties of medical grade plastics. With increasing use of plastics in healthcare industry, the government and regulators should enforce right disposal & recycling practices to avoid contamination and spread of COVID-19 infection.

The use of disposable masks, gloves, gowns, goggles etc. are proving to be the bigtime saviours of human lives by preventing the transmission of disease from one person to another.

Source: <https://bit.ly/2XvEZSn>

Plastics: From environmental villain to pandemic hero

A recent U.S. national poll found bottled water is one of the most important items to have on hand when it comes to disaster preparedness. 70 percent of families said bottled water is among the top three most important items - second only to canned food at 71%. (And nearly double the preference, by the way, of toilet paper). The coronavirus pandemic has been no exception, as 61% of families bought bottled water when self-quarantining started in their states - a number that jumped to 75% among 18-34-year olds.



The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has even deemed workers who produce single-use plastics for packaging as "essential critical infrastructure" during the COVID-19 response for their part in preventing the contamination or supporting the "continued manufacture of food, water, medicine, and other essential products."

Source: <https://bit.ly/2DeECF4>

Reduce, Reuse & Recycle !

Plastic can't be bad because it is inanimate, it is what we do with it that's bad.

Eco tip

Visit CERC-ENVIS website www.cercenvnis.nic.in and <https://www.facebook.com/EcoProductsEcoLabeling> to know more about our activities.

Consumer Education and Research Centre

"Suraksha Sankool", S. G. Highway, Thaltej, Ahmedabad – 380 054. Tel : 079-27489945/46, 27450528, 27438752/3/4 Email : cerc-env@nic.in, cerc@cercindia.org