Title: PLASTICS 2020 AT CROSSROADS, WHERE AND HOW DO WE GO FROM HERE……?



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The first step in plastic waste management is changing the mindset of India's citizens to littering .

This is easier than done. The other is the attitude of various stake holders. In spite of the fact that land is fast running out in urban India, the urgency for effective and long term sustainable solution for MSW disposal in our cities is not there. One needs fresh thinking to find solutions. India is likely to produce over 500 million tpa of urban waste by 2050; and 80 % of this will come from cities

Plastics are the workhorse material of the modern economy. Their popularity has kept the industry growing for 50 years, with global production surging from 15 million metric tons in 1964 to 311 million metric tons in 2014. If business proceeds as usual, this number is projected to double to more than 600 million metric tons in the next 20 years. Yet functional benefits come at a price.
Plastics are banned in many countries. There is talk of eliminating single use plastics, in the years to come. What we need is to understand the issues and take a holisitic view. Not to ban but to plan, have a roadmap and come out with a roadmap to manage plastic waste

Today, only 2% of global plastic production is bio-based, according to the American Lux Research. But experts caution that bioplastics, while useful, are no panacea for pollution. This is because the key culprit today is the lack of awareness among people, who don't segregate their waste. A large amount of the

discarded plastic today wouldn't be an environmental hazard in the first place, if it were properly recycled.

Each of the stake holder has recognized that something or the other has to be done for managing packaging, finding alternatives. Biodegradable plastics, compostable plastics have slowly started in India

Biography

SAMEER JOSHI, has completed his fellowship equivalent to Phd, from Pune, India and is working extensively in plastic waste management, he is a mentor to many start ups in plastic waste management, published more than 20 papers and has been a speaker on several forums on plastic waste management. He is on the editorial board of many organizations in India, and is Guinness World record Holder, for the World's largest T shirt made from Plastic waste. He has travelled the entire country of India for plastic waste management issues. He has been on many committees for framing guidelines for plastic waste management issues. He has worked with Eric Solheim, former UN environment Chief , in India for clean beaches

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