

National Convention 2025 on Circular Economy: Challenges & Opportunities

7th March 2025 | NEDFi Hall | Guwahati, Assam

The All India Plastics Manufacturers' Association (AIPMA), with the support of the Ministry of MSME, Government of India, organized the ***National Convention 2025 on Circular Economy: Challenges & Opportunities*** at NEDFi Hall in Guwahati, Assam. This prestigious event aimed to bring together industry leaders, government authorities, subject matter experts, and key players from across the plastic sector to engage in fruitful discussions on the challenges and opportunities related to the circular economy, plastic waste management, and recycling.

The core objectives of the convention were to facilitate dialogue on the latest developments in circular economy practices, understand the growing importance of sustainable models, and share insights into overcoming the challenges faced by the industry. The event aimed to sensitize stakeholders across the value chain, including material providers, converters, brand owners, and others. Additionally, it provided a platform to share best practices, explore innovative technologies, and highlight the role of waste creation in driving sustainable solutions.

The convention was inaugurated with the lighting of the lamp, performed by distinguished guests such as **Mr. Manoj R. Shah**, President of AIPMA, **Dr. Arup Kumar Misra**, Chairman, Pollution Control Board, Assam, **Mr. Surya Pratim Pal**, DGM – Chem, Bramhaputra Cracker & Polymer Ltd. (BCPL), **Mr. Ravi Sureka**, President, Laghu Udyog Bharti Purvottar Prant and other esteemed dignitaries. Following the Lamp Lighting which set up the positive spirit, **Mr. Siddharth Shah**, Co-Chairman, GCPRS 2025, moderated the inaugural session and introduced the distinguished guests on the dais. The AIPMA delegation, led by President **Mr. Manoj R. Shah**, then felicitated the honorable dignitaries on the dais.



Hon'ble Chief Guest, **Dr. Arup Kumar Misra**, Chairman, Pollution Control Board, Assam addressed the audience and participants. Dr. Misra, also shared his thoughts on the importance of circular economy models for both industry and the environment. The inaugural was followed by the Vote of Thanks, delivered by **Mr. Haren Sanghavi**, Co-Chairman of Global Conclave on Plastics Recycling and Sustainability (GCPRS) 2025

AIPMA wholeheartedly thanked all the guests and dignitaries on the dais for sparing their valuable time and attending the National Convention 2025. Their contributions and expertise were vital in driving meaningful discussions for the betterment of the plastics sector. The convention brought together distinguished speakers from the industry, including international experts from Nepal, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, and Russia, who shared their valuable case studies and insights. The event provided a platform for rich discussions on the challenges and opportunities in adopting a circular economy for plastics, with a focus on innovations in recycling technologies, sustainable product design, and biodegradable alternatives. The conference also addressed policy frameworks and regulations to support the transition to a circular economy. Furthermore, it offered entrepreneurs, experts, and stakeholders the opportunity to explore new business prospects and livelihoods in the plastics sector, while contributing to efforts to tackle plastic pollution and support India's environmental goals. The event featured insightful discussions across various sessions, with speakers and panelists from both industry and government.



The first session was chaired by **Mr. Haren Sanghavi**, Co-Chairman of GCPRS 2025 focused on *Innovations in Plastic Recycling & Advanced Sorting Technologies*, highlighted key topics like Plastic Waste Management for sustainability, the latest trends in plastic circularity, and new models for industry expansion. Speakers included **Mr. Varun Boralkar**, Vice President of Blue Planet Environmental Solution, and **Dr. Vimal Katiyar**, Professor of Chemical Engineering at IIT Guwahati, who provided valuable insights into the global challenges and opportunities in plastic recycling.



The second session, chaired by **Dr. Vimal Katiyar**, Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, IIT Guwahati, was on **Global Practices for Plastic Waste Management and Innovative Techniques in Recycling**. It offered perspectives on plastic waste management and recycling practices from different countries, such as **Tanzania, Russia, Nepal, and Sri Lanka**. Speakers like **Mr. Henry Kazula**, National Coordinator of the Tanzania Recyclers Association, and **Mr. Stanislav Borisovsky**, Chief Marketing & Procurement Officer at NOVLINE LLC, Russia, **Mr. Vivek Tater**, President of PlastNepal Foundation (PNF), Nepal, and **Mr. Chaminda Perera**, Director General of the Plastics & Rubber Institute of Sri Lanka (PRISL), Sri Lanka, shared their countries' experiences and the innovative techniques they've employed in their efforts to achieve sustainability and a circular economy.



Following a networking lunch break, the event resumed with discussions on **Sustainable Product Design** in Session 3. Industry leaders presented on topics such as sustainable packaging, the recycling landscape in Northeast India, and innovations in PET bottle collection. Speakers included **Mr. Manas Kumar Bhunia**, GM - Packaging Development, Emami Ltd; **Mr. Vanshay Goenka**, Director, Cool Caps Industries; **Mr. Indroneel Goho**, President & CEO, Magpet Polymers; and **Dr. Harekrishna Deka**, Sr. Technical Officer & In-Charge, CIPET: CSTS. The session was chaired by **Mr. Sandip Singh**, CEO of Ishitva Robotic Systems, who also presented on automation and cost-effective segregation in plastic sorting.



The final session of the day, the **Partner State Session on Policy Frameworks & Regulatory Support by the Assam State Government**, focused on the regulatory frameworks and policies that support plastic waste management and recycling in Assam. This session featured insights from **Mr. Anukul Pathak** from the Pollution Control Board of Assam (PCBA). His presentation highlighted the role of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regulations and the challenges the industry faces in implementing them.

The event also featured an engaging Q&A session after each session, which allowed delegates to ask questions and discuss the practical challenges of implementing circular economy models. The interactive discussions were well received by the audience, and the delegates gained valuable insights into addressing the challenges of circular economy, plastic waste management and recycling.

A networking lunch provided an opportunity for delegates to connect, share ideas, and explore business opportunities, creating a conducive environment for collaboration.

The National Convention 2025 was skilfully moderated by **Mr. Siddharth Shah**, Co-Chairman, GCPRS 2025 and concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by **Mr. Ashok Agarwal**, Vice President – East Zone, AIPMA. He expressed gratitude to Ministry of MSME, Government of India and all the speakers, delegates, partners, supporting associations for their participation and contribution to making the event a grand success.

The event saw an impressive turnout of over 140 delegates from various segments of the plastics industry. The event served as a key platform for discussing critical issues and finding sustainable solutions for plastic waste management, recycling & circular economy. With an emphasis on circular economy and innovative solutions, the National Convention 2025 played a significant role in advancing the dialogue on sustainable practices in the plastic industry and environmental sustainability.