

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



SUSTAINABLE CLOTHING AND TEXTILE RECYCLING CONFERENCE THIRD EDITION

August 10 | 08:00 - 19:00 | The Residency Towers, Coimbatore

POST-SHOW REPORT

ORGANIZED BY





Urdhva Management under the brand Recommerce enables Circular Economy vision among industries in India. Recommerce is a category-defining company dedicated to building a sustainable reverse commerce ecosystem in India. Recommerce provides superior customer experiences in reverse commerce markets, by extending our services that will help you learn, engage, innovate, and grow while creating a positive impact on the environment. Through the organization of exhibitions, conferences, training workshops, and awareness programs, we bring together people from various industries under one roof to address global issues and chart out solutions.

Recommerce was introduced by our founder Mr. Venkat Patil in Jan 2018, with a boldly rational vision to build an entire ecosystem to aptly manage scrap generated by industries. Our journey began with our flagship event Recommerce Expo in 2019, now an annual B2B exhibition and conference for e-waste management and refurbished electronics. The expo received immense support from major governing bodies and public and private companies, and successfully served as a platform for interaction to buyers and sellers from 60+ companies. Recommerce Expo today is the biggest platform in India to learn about developments in the electronics reuse industry, find e-waste solutions for your business, gain insights into best practices, and source refurbished products for sustainable living.

Having completed more than **12 events** successfully in the last 3 years across different sectors such as textile recycling, battery recycling, automotive recycling, food waste management, renewable energy, ecotourism, reverse logistics, heavy machinery reuse etc. The Recommerce objective is to develop a sustainable ecosystem for all the recycling businesses

Kianna Media Ventures Private Limited is a startup media initiative based out of Goa. The company has its associate offices in Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru and Chennai in India. Kianna Media Ventures Private Limited is recognized startup by Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DIPP) as a startup working as media and entertainment industry and digital media news sector.



















Greenwave provides reliable Environmental solutions. A company that is dedicated to minimizing electronic waste along with the promotion of efficient waste management, proper education through implementation, and conservation.

Green Waves works mainly on Ewaste management and Zero Waste Management in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Goa. They are also Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board Authorized Recyclers.





GCL international is associating with us as our exhibitor. It is a based in the United Kingdom and provides international accredited certification across 5 continents. They are experts in this field with over 26 years of experience. Serving in more than 50 countries across 5 continents over 25 years. GCL offer assessment and certification to a range of internationally recognized standards, such as: ISO 9001, ISO 14001, Higg FEM Index, SLCP, ISO 22000, FSSC 22000, ISO 27001, ISO 45001 (and OHSAS 18001) and more

SSOCIATON PARTNERS





































CHIEF GUEST



SHRI. PIYUSH GOYAL

HON'BLE MINISTER OF TEXTILES COMMERCE & INDUSTRY,
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION. **GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

GUEST OF HONOR



SMT. PRAJAKTA VERMA, IAS

JOINT SECRETARY MINISTRY OF TEXTILES **GOVT. OF INDIA**



SMT. K NALINI
JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER

TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

SPEAKERS & PANELISTS



Mr. Anil Chowdary Managing Director Greenwaves Environmental Solutions



Mr. Ashok Chakravarthi Owner, Palyam Textiles



Mr. Dileep Singh Yadav DGM (B & O) State Bank of India



Dr. Harleen Sahni Associate Professor Department of Fashion Management Studies, NIFT, Gandhinagar



Mr. Ramanuj Mitra Senior Program Officer at the Centre for Responsible Business (CRB)



Ms. Renjini Liza Varghese CEO WriteCanvas



Ms. Ruchita Chhabra Country Programs Manager (India, Pakistan) at The Sourcery



Mr. Saikat MitraVP, Creative Director
Van Huesen
Aditya Birla Fashion Retail Ltd.



Mr. Savio Rodrigues CEO & Founder, Kianna Media Ventures



Mr.Sudersan Rajagopalan Managing Partner Splendour Medicare Technologies



Mr. Sudhakaran Kalidas Vice chairman / Technical Director- Veerapandi Common Effluent Treatment Plant Limited



Mr. Vas Shenoy President, Associazione Sākshi



Mr. Vishnu M Senior Manager, Guidance Tamil Nadu Government of Tamil Nadu

Urdhva Management Pvt. Ltd., under the brand Recommerce in association with Kianna Media Ventures, successfully organised the third edition of "Sustainable Clothing and Textile Recycling Conference"- at The Residency Towers, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India, on the 10th August 2022. The Conference was organised professionally, with more than 100 distinguished delegates from all over the country attending the event. Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Digital India, Greene, and Tamil Nadu State Pollution Control Board officially supported the event.

The Conference received an overwhelming response. There was good interaction between participants, who posed many questions to panel members and were answered very promptly by the panel members. All the sessions of panel discussions were exciting and memorable. The delegates were intensely involved till the last Session to take advantage of the panel discussion.

The Conference covered the entire spectrum of the textile recycling industry, from Policies to Indian efforts to building a Sustainable textile market. Recommerce gave the excellent opportunity to the leading textile manufacturers, experts in waste management, up cyclers and recyclers, Research centers, Policymakers, and industry stakeholders to come under one roof to provide a good platform for mutual advantage and commercial interaction.

The Conference was organised in the Senator hall at Residency Tower in Coimbatore. The Chief Guest of the event Hon'ble union minister Shri. Piyush Goyal addressed the gathering at 6 pm virtually. The Guest of Honour were Smt. Prajakta L Verma, IAS, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, who connected virtually and delivered the keynote address & Smt. K Nalini, Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu State Pollution Control Board.

Mr. Venkatreddy Patil, Founder and Managing director, Urdhva Management Pvt Ltd, and Mr. Savio Rodrigues, Founder and CEO, Kianna Media Ventures, welcomed the Guest of Honour Smt. K Nalini, and with blessings from the almighty, the Conference was inaugurated with the lighting of a lamp.

Mr. Patil welcomed the gathering and said that Urdhva Management was happy to organise the Sustainable Clothing and Textile Recycling conference in Coimbatore, which is known as one of the biggest centres of textile manufacturing located in the southern state of Tamil Nadu. He also welcomed all the Speakers, Invitees & Delegates to the Conference and expressed that the company works in various ways on recycling and is open to collaboration in the field.

Smt. K Nalini, the Guest of Honour for the Conference, said, "Due to the overconsumption by the people, waste is increasing at a high rate, hence the need for textile recycling. **Textile recycling is the need of the hour**. Greenhouse emissions and water pollution are increasing due to improper disposal of textile waste. There is a lot of business potential in textile recycling. I feel this is a strategic conference to bring out the solutions for most sustainable development goals like good life for the land, sustainable production and good sanitation in India and across the world."

In his speech, **Mr. Savio Rodrigues**, shared the status of the Yamuna river and said that every year half a million kg of plastics are thrown into the ocean as wastage and emphasised having a pollution-free world. He said, "**Don't be an observer – be a preserver**".

We aim to create an ecosystem of community members from various fields to address the critical discussions that can act as a bridge to revamp the industry

In all, there were eight technical papers presented at the Conference.

Smt. Prajakta L Verma IAS, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, expressed her views on "Textile Recycling Practices and Circular Economy Challenges".

She gave insights into the drastic change in clothing pattern consumption and disposal and how the production process can be mapped and digitalised for upgradation. By intensifying technological advancements in the field, it can assist the development. "**Textile industry is ancient, but our consumption patterns have changed**. We are generating about 7,793 kilo tons of waste. Though we are reusing it, most of it does not find a place in the supply value chain because of a lack of awareness. Most of us are working in a disintegrated, unorganised fashion. We must start thinking very seriously about how we try to bring a circular and self-sufficient approach to this industry. The circular approach is a take, make and source model that increases the value as much as possible at the system's root and tries to retain the value by using, reusing, and recycling the waste generated. We should incentivise the mechanical and chemical cycling technology." she said.

Key Highlights

- *We are working to incentivise chemical and mechanical recycling, implementing sustainable technology, processes and practices, and resource efficiency practices from the traditional approach of subsiding and incentivising machinery, land etc. Moreover, embracing and boosting such initiatives drives more excellent value for the ecosystem.
- *We invite the stakeholders to submit your interest to be part of resource efficiency and work in a group formulated under the Ministry of Textile team, which is working to create a framework.
- Government is keen to understand the bottlenecks and what we can do to reduce the waste generated at the different levels of the entire value chain to create the best and most effective circular practices.
- *Create transparent visibility and traceability of the origin and the process followed in making every textile, which will help create greater consumer awareness and build conscious consumption patterns, the primary advocacy by GoI and the Ministry to drive behavioural changes.

In her session, Prajakta Verma IAS praised the conference organisers for their initiative and urged the delegates to express their concerns, questions, and suggestions for the government to develop policies to encourage the sustainable clothing and textile recycling industry in India. Mr. Sudhakaran Kalidas, Vice Chairman / Technical Director, Veerapandi Common Effluent Treatment Plant Limited, spoke on "Textile Effluent Monitoring in India: Mandates and Compliance."

He gave an overall view of the textile industry and the lifecycle of textiles. Then, he explained about **ZLD** (**Zero Liquid Discharge**), the norms issued by CPCB for ZLD systems, and the standards for effluent discharge.

He expressed that the units following recycling of wastages should be incentivised and rewarded, "The 11 R System can be followed by any industry for sustainable practice. The 11 R's are Reject, Reduce, Recover, Recycle, Reuse, Recharge, Record/Register, Regroup/Recognise, Reward/Redeem, Regulate, and Research."

Mr Sudarsan Rajagopalan, Managing Partner, Splendour Medicare Technologies, presented the paper on the "Viable System Model for Textile Sustainability India as A Global Contributor".

He gave insights into centralised objectives and decentralised objectives. He explained correctly using the resources to achieve sustainability and making the best market use. He said, "When we talk about sustainability, there are two components of sustainability. One is an organisational structure, and the other is communication. If you don't have a structural operation, the system collapses, and if you don't communicate, there will be many errors – you can hear it but can't understand it. For example, we have an excess of pollution. Fifty per cent of dioxin from plastic is created by nature, and the remaining 50 per cent is manufactured. Excess of anything is poison. We have excessive brains, excessive money, and excessive oxygen. The excessive amruth is a poison."

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Mr. Saikat Mitra, Creative Director, Van Heusen SVP Design, ABFRL, made the Presentation on "Design Thinking For Sustainable Fashion".

He introduced design thinking, the steps in the design thinking process, the role of the designer, and the design philosophy.

A sustainable fashion designing process includes preconception, concept, design and merchandise, and communication.

"I wish to talk about desirability. Even if you make a great product, the consumer eventually has to buy it, which is a big challenge. There is a huge problem in terms of inventory that we already have in the world; apart from that, the price is not going up for a very long time. So, you need to effectively create demand properly and then create a product and maximise the value. The easier part is always to make a demand." He added.

He briefly presented his perspective on:-

- * Desirability, viability, and feasibility sustainable fashion
- * How to use creative thinking and solve issues.
- * Sustainability A continuing economic process
- * Fashion Impact
- * What is the role of the Super designer in sustainability?
- * Importance of design Sustainable fashion

After an eventful first half, the first Session began with Panel Discussion, moderated by Mr. Savio Rodrigues, Founder and Kianna Media Ventures. The topic for the Session was "Textile Policy: A Detailed Overview". The Panel Discussion drew much more attraction and enthusiasm during the Conference. There was a substantial presence of the participants for this Session.

The panel comprised Mr. Vishnu M, Senior Manager, Guidance Tamil Nadu, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Mr. Dileep Singh Yadav, Deputy General Manager, State Bank Of India - Coimbatore Module, Mr. Venkat Reddy Patil, Founder & CEO, Urdhva Management And Recommerce.

There was good interaction between participants, who posed many questions to panel members, and the panel members answered very promptly. It was an exciting and memorable session.

Few conclusions emerged from the discussions are:

- *Banking procedures for investments and loans should be abridged and amenable for the parties for a win-win situation.
- Incentives related to technology and innovative idea for the manufacturer will invoke them to stretch their limit. But, on the other hand, initiates from the government in terms of technology and policies can be wonders for manufacturers engaged in sustainability practices.
- *Textile Industry must have a regulatory body coordinating with all government bodies so that banks can extend loans without hesitation.
- *Even though policies are needed, behavioural changes in people are necessary.
- The government of Tamil Nadu is soon coming up with an economic scheme which will clear the hurdles. Added Mr Vishnu

The second-panel Session was moderated by Mr. Ashok Chakravarthi, Owner of Palyam Textiles. The panelist for the Session was Mr. Anil Chowdary, Managing Director, Greenwave's Environmental Solutions, Ms. Renjini Liza Varghese, Senior Journalist, CEO WriteCanvas, Mr. Sudarsan Rajagopalan, Managing Partner, Splendour Medicare Technologies. The panel members gave their impressions of the Conference and highlighted some critical factors to achieving excellence in the competitive world. The members shared their valuable inputs during the brief discussion on the "Indian Textile Recycling Market: Trends, Facts, Figures, Growth, Employment, Challenges, Opportunities."

The conclusions from the discussions were:

- *Creating the bond with the clothes in a way wherein we can stretch the wardrobe life than clothes.
- *The recycling market must be upscale, and products must be available in urban areas.
- *Industry players should send their suggestions to the ministry, as it is only then that it will be helpful for the policymakers to move towards perfect change. In addition, the government should give incentives to those working in the recycling market.
- Re-invention is needed now, and unless we invest our time and speak out about the problems to the government jointly, the recycling segment will remain stagnant only.

Mr. Vas Shenoy, President of Associazione, Sākshi, who joined the Conference virtually from Italy, proposed How Textile Manufacturers and Italian Designers Can Collaborate via Joint Initiatives.

He said, "China is well organised than India, but India has a large brand potential. Sustainable production and Fair Trade are present in Western countries. If we manage to get young designers, there will be people to manufacture, and this will be helpful for the future generation wishing to play in the textile industry".

The final panel session discussing the Indian efforts to deliver a sustainable textile and fashion industry to the world was an interactive session with the panel member sharing their inputs on India's role in creating a sustainable global market. The panel objective was to produce a comprehensive strategy to build a sustainable textile industry through in-depth study, innovation, and advancement

Dr. Harleen Sahni, Associate Professor, NIFT; Ms. Ruchita Chabbra, Country Programs Manager (India, Pakistan) – The Sourcery; and Mr. Ramanuj Mitra, Senior Programme Officer – Centre for Responsible Business were the panelists, while Mr. Ashok Chakravarthi, Owner, Palyam Textiles was the moderator.

Labour Laws should be modified for smooth functioning, students should be taught about recycling and its importance, and the government can support sustainable purchases; transforming India be more than just a manufacturing market into a recycling market where consumers can easily approach the shop for upcycling their clothes as a trend. Or they can put up their clothes in a facilitative place where the people interested in reusing the clothes can buy or pick them up like in western cultures.

—were the conclusions that emerged from the panel discussion.

Shri. Piyush Goyal, Minister of Textiles – Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, who addressed the gathering virtually, suggested five pathways for the textile industry. These are:

- * The best utilisation of the natural resources
- *Increasing the usage of raw materials which are sustainable in the long run,
- *Responsible handling of chemicals in processes like dyeing and coating,
- * Zero Liquid Discharge for reprocessing wastewater,
- *Adherence to guidelines to eliminate health risk of workers as well as consumers.

"By increasing the value of local production and materials lifecycles, sustainable textiles will create a flourishing ecosystem and benefit our local communities. It will also help in reducing the amount of waste and cultivating green consumers. It is encouraging to see that certain manufacturers have taken sustainability certifications such as the Global Organic Textile Standard, The Green Guard, and others. I would like to urge all units in the textile industry to get those sustainability certifications,"

"Many foreign buyers insist that our exports from India include recycled textiles. Tamil Nadu produces one-third of all textile output in India, accounting for a considerable proportion of the country's production. The textile sector has been contributing significantly to job creation and expanding India's economic output. It is helping the process of transformation of India in a significant way. The sector has also attracted significant foreign direct investment, earning significant foreign exchange for the country."

"Our textile exports last year were at a record of \$44 billion, but we are hoping and aspiring for a much larger \$100 billion by 2025. The textile industry is the most critical industry for Aatmanirbharbharat, given its export, job generation, and economic growth potential. India has significant competitive strength in the field of textiles. However, the prevailing competitive business environment worldwide demands recalibrating existing strategies. As humanity faces the challenges of climate change, there is a pressing need for sustainable means of production. The need of the hour is using production and consumption models that prolongs sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing, and recycling existing materials and products.

"The use of sustainable textiles in hospitality, tourism, construction, automobiles, sports goods, home décor, footwear, medical and therapeutic care, and other areas is increasing, He added. Today, the global textile recycling market is between 6 and 8 million metric tonnes.

The textile sector recycles 12 to 14 per cent of the total global waste. However, only 1 per cent to 2 per cent of the clothing materials are recycled into new garments. Today's recycling industry is pre-dominant in the US, European Union, and China. It is time for India to push significantly to promote this sector."

"The waste generated in India does not get properly used and ends up in landfills. Therefore, I suggest we work together on textile recycling, upcycling, and sustainable fashion products for a sustainable future. In addition, microplastics, as well as chemicals and their toxicity, should be managed in the environment," Goyal said.

Mr. Savio Rodrigues appealed to the Union Minister to encourage the government offices to use eco-friendly products to promote sustainable products and services companies to focus on eco-friendly products. He opined that it serves no purpose for the government if the government talks about sustainability but does itself procure or promote eco-friendly products in its offices or institutions.

Over 100 participants attended the One-day Conference, which was a grand success.

Mr. Venkatreddy Patil, Founder, and Managing director, Urdhva Management Pvt Ltd, proposed a vote of thanks.

Mr. Patil expressed, "It was a pleasure hosting Hon'ble Union Minister Shri. Piyush Goyal for the Sustainable Clothing and Textile Recycling Conference. Shri Goyal shared his insights on developing a holistic vision for Research, innovation, and development toward building a new sustainable India. I hope his inspiring and encouraging words and anecdotes will help the participants envision a future roadmap for the country. "Any event or platform enhances reach, influences consumer behavioural patterns, perceptions formed by the textile industries, and consumer behaviour. The entire system is what we're attempting to teach. To have a greater impact, it is hoped that the Centre will also begin using eco-friendly items."

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Rebates, subsidies, and relaxation in duty fees will allow manufacturers to save on extra costs incurred in the organisation sheets, which can be applied to improve the quality of their products.
- *Compressing manufacturers through the ZRLD process could prevent water bodies from becoming polluted or depleting the soil.
- * Just like textile and water recycling, chemical recycling should also be the vision of the manufacturers.
- *Symbolising the recycled and non-recycled products we have in a food product (red and green colour) allows consumers to differentiate between them.
- *Coordination between the policymakers and the manufacturing unit is a must. However, implementation is still troubled due to an unbridged gap between the two. Therefore, manufacturers should be tagged along in the policy development to provide suggestions based on the situation and the needs.
- *Encourage students to have hands-on technology experiences and go through the textile units' process. In addition, they can gain extensive knowledge through internships, visits, and projects that will help them revolutionise future needs.
- Need for a certification agency in India and defining the process with Indian standards which are globally accepted instead of explaining the process as per the Brand and taking multiple certificates as per the need of different brands, which leads to numerous validations and time and money consuming.
- *Incentivising the access to a reduction on exercise/excess duty for the yarns and fabrics made in a sustainable way
- * Inclusion of academia in building circular ecosystems.

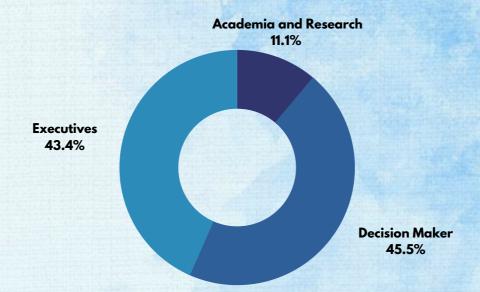
RECOMMENDATIONS

- *Branding or making standards with the help of BIS to symbolise different products
- Though we have 195+ Mechanical recycling plants in different clusters, there is a High need to promote the chemical recycling plants in India to increase efficiency; this is only possible through Government intervention and support.
- RBI/Technology development board/ NITI Aayog/ MoT or the concerned ministry should build an "Assessment model" of assessing projects that can forecast Impact on economics, employment or other social-economics environment.
- There has to be a mechanism to gauge a project on IRR basis rather than simple Payback for entrepreneurs. Of course, entreprises have auditors, accountants who can write DPR while entrepreneurs are not aware on such models.
- Most of the Waste recycle is talked in terms of cut waste which needs to be grouped into hazardous and non-hazardous waste. These waste are mostly mixed up into MSW and again these waste are segregated at the MSW site. It is very expensive to segregate and the primary reason why MSW company are under immense pressure for profitability.
- Gov should set process to collect segregated waste and find their recycle or reuse.
- The Mechanically or Chemically conversions will go a long way to prolong its final destruction. Gov should also find that after few cycles it anyways has to be discarded and that would be either by the simple principal of thermodynamics Incineration, gasification or pyrolysis
- *Banning plastic may not be an ultimate solution. However, plastics produce dioxins. Usually Chlorine rich additives or chlorine which combines with Phenol to form grades of Dioxin. These chlorine stay mundane in the product but become rogue when burnt. Gov can set chlorine free plastic manufacturing to avoid Dioxin.











MEDIA COVERAGE

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THANK YOU