

SHRI RAM COLLEGE OF COMMERCE

ISSN: 2581-4931 (Print)

# STRIDES - A STUDENTS' JOURNAL OF SHRI RAM COLLEGE OF COMMERCE

VOLUME 5 – ISSUE1 & 2

JULY 2020 - JUNE 2021

## ***Effects of Globalization on The Indian Health Sector***

Vidhi Sethi

## ***Will America Sustain The Wave of Automation?***

Anmol Bhagat

## ***Recycling Hoax***

Ashish Kumar

## ***The Role of Corporate Social Responsibility towards Sustainable Education with reference to the FMCG Companies***

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## ***The Nexus Between Economic Growth and Public Outlays and Deficits in India: An Econometric Analysis***

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*Printed and published by Prof. Simrit Kaur (Principal, Shri Ram College of Commerce) on behalf of 'Shri Ram College of Commerce' and printed at Sudha Printing Press, B-21/3, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-II, New Delhi-110020 and published at Shri Ram College of Commerce, University of Delhi, Maurice Nagar, Delhi-110007, India.*

***Editor - Dr. Rajeev Kumar***

**License No. – DCP / LIC No. F. 2 (S / 37) Press / 2017**

**Registration No. DELENG / 2018 / 75093**

**ISSN 2581- 4931 (Print)**

**(Published in November, 2021)**

All correspondence relating to publication of the journal should be addressed to :

The Principal  
Shri Ram College of Commerce  
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**STRIDES - A STUDENTS' JOURNAL OF SHRI RAM COLLEGE OF COMMERCE**

**DELENG/2018/75093**

अंग्रेजी ENGLISH

अर्ध वार्षिक HALF YEARLY

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SIMRIT KAUR

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T-7, NEW TEACHERS FLAT, SHRI RAM COLLEGE OF COMMERCE, UNIVERSITY OF DELHI, MAURICE NAGAR, DELHI-110007

M/S SUDHA PRINTING PRESS

B-21/3, OKHLA INDUSTRIAL AREA, PHASE-II, NEW DELHI-110020. (2) M/S POONAM PRINTERS, C-145, BACKSIDE NARAINA INDUSTRIAL AREA, PHASE-I, NEW DELHI.

SHRI RAM COLLEGE OF COMMERCE, UNIVERSITY OF DELHI, MAURICE NAGAR, DELHI-110007

दिनांक /Date: 4/5/2018

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## **STRIDES - A STUDENTS' JOURNAL OF SHRI RAM COLLEGE OF COMMERCE**

### **ISSN 2581-4931 (Print)**

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### **ABOUT THE JOURNAL**

It is a double blind reviewed bi-annual Journal launched exclusively to encourage students to pursue research on the contemporary topics and issues in the area of commerce, economics, management, governance, polices etc. The journal provides an opportunity to the students and faculty of Shri Ram College of Commerce to publish their academic research work.

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Endnotes should be serially arranged at the end of the article well before the references and after conclusion.

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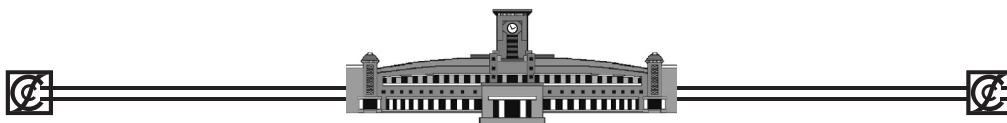
To achieve and promote excellence in research and publish quality academic as well as educational resources as guided by the Mission Statement of the College, Shri Ram College of Commerce had launched a Journal, "Strides- A Students' Journal of Shri Ram College of Commerce" on the occasion of 91st Annual Day of the College held on 13th April, 2017. The Journal was released by then the Hon'ble Union Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri Prakash Javadekar. The Journal publishes the research papers and articles written by students of the College under the mentorship of Faculty Members which go through an intense review mechanism before getting published.

Through the Journal, students get an excellent platform to enhance their research calibre, display their academic perspective, and practically apply their classroom learnings to real-world situations. The present Issue includes several multi-disciplinary and contemporary topics such as "Effects of Globalization on the Indian Health Sector", "Will America Sustain the Wave of Automation?", "Recycling Hoax", "The Role of Corporate Social Responsibility towards Sustainable Education with reference to the FMCG Companies", "COVID-19 and Mental Health of Adolescents", "Cryptocurrency-The Rise of Tokens", and "Discussion of the Link Between Air Pollution and Economic Growth in Indian States".

I wholeheartedly congratulate the Editor, Strides, Dr. Rajeev Kumar and students whose research papers got published in Volume 5 Issue 1 and 2 of the Journal. Simultaneously, I encourage more students to contribute their research papers for the successive Issues.

My best wishes for your future endeavours!

**Prof. Simrit Kaur**  
**Principal**





## Editor's Message

Shri Ram College of Commerce is well known for its academic excellence and dedicated approach towards dissemination of knowledge in the academic world. The College acknowledges and values the role of research in education and is firmly committed to develop and encourage an inclination towards research in both faculty and students. To reaffirm this ethos, the College has taken the initiative to launch a new Journal named 'Strides - A Students' Journal of Shri Ram College of Commerce' to encourage students to pursue research under the guidance of the faculty of Shri Ram College of Commerce.

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In order to maintain high standards of publication, COPE (Committee on Publication Ethics) has been constituted. The COPE is the apex authority which authorises over all the decisions related to publication of research papers and articles in Strides. The recommendations and decision of COPE is final and binding.

To maintain high academic standards, academic ethics and academic integrity, a rigorous process of double-blind review of research papers is followed along with screening of plagiarism of each manuscript received by the COPE for

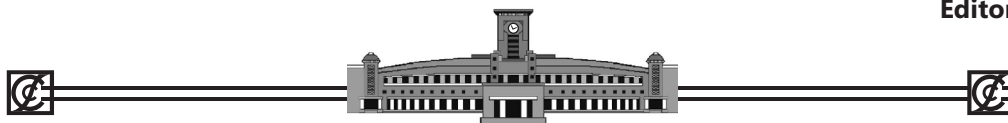


publication. The research work published in Strides is absolutely original and not published or presented in any form at any other public forum.

The foundation issue of the Journal "Strides - A Students' Journal of Shri Ram College of Commerce, Volume 1, Issue 1, 2016-17" was successfully released on 91st Annual Day of SRCC held on 13th April, 2017 by Shri Prakash Javadekar, Honb'le Union Minister of Human Resource Development, Government of India. The successive issues of 'Strides - A Students' Journal of Shri Ram College of Commerce' have been released bi-annually. However, due to the COVID19 pandemic and ensuing lockdowns the current issue has been delayed.

I congratulate all the students whose research papers are published in this issue of Strides and express my sincere thanks to their mentors and referees.

**Dr. Rajeev Kumar**  
Editor



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**STRIDES - A STUDENTS' JOURNAL OF SHRI RAM COLLEGE OF COMMERCE**

Volume 5

Issue 1 &amp; 2

July 2020 - June 2021

ISSN: 2581-4931 (Print)

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Ashish Kumar  
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SRCC, DU

# Recycling Hoax

## Abstract

*Plastics are the best invention of human history. Plastics are the worst invention of human history. From cars to airplanes, electronics to medical equipment, furniture, and food packaging, plastic permeates every aspect of our lives. Its production skyrocketed – from just 2.3 million tonnes in 1950 to 162 million tonnes in 1993, which more than doubled to 448 million tonnes by 2015, and half of all plastics ever made have been produced since 2005. The sheer volume of plastic has overwhelmed the waste-management systems all across the world, they have simply reached their saturation point. Today, plastic is present on almost every surface of the planet – from the deepest abysses to the highest mountains and remotest islands – causing an unprecedented crisis for wildlife. It is the durability of plastics that makes them an industry choice for packaging but also makes them a nightmare for the planet. They have become infamous for choking, ensnaring, and poisoning everything from plankton to porpoises. A staggering 79% of whatever plastic is produced in the last 50 years has been directly thrown into landfills or open landfills. The question which arises is how did we end up here? This paper is a comprehensive study about how the plastics and petrochemicals industry of the 1970s and 1980s knew that the world was heading into a global waste crisis and remained*

### **Mentor:**

Mr. Soumitra Kumar Choudhary  
Associate Professor,  
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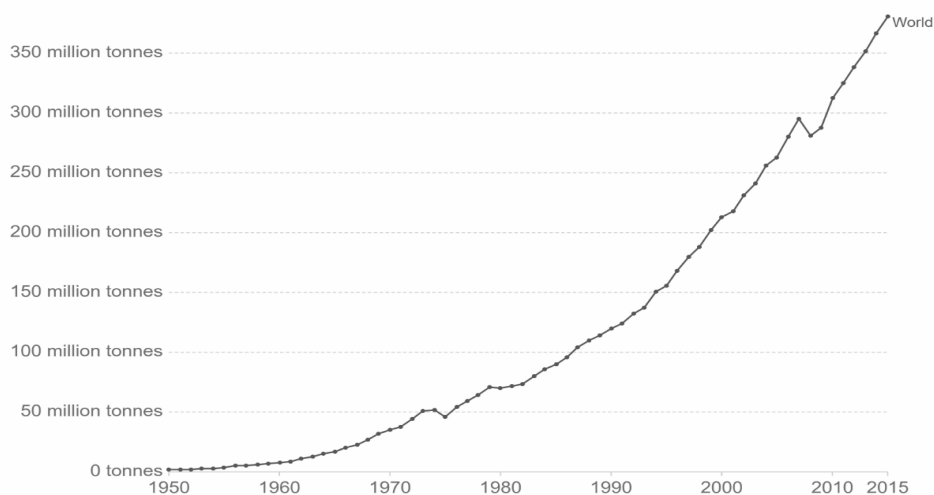
*quiet and promoted plastics recycling as a solution to this growing problem. In the other half of the paper, we observe a timeline of actions taken by two of the world's biggest economies China and India and see how they have approached their share of this crisis.*

**Keywords:** Recycling, Plastics, False Advertising, Corporate Lobbying.

From cars to airplanes, electronics to medical equipment, furniture, and food packaging, plastic permeates every aspect of our lives. Plastic production skyrocketed – from just 2.3 million tonnes in 1950 to 162 million tonnes in 1993, which more than doubled to 448 million tonnes by 2015 (Parker, 2018) – and half of all plastics ever made have been produced since 2005. The sheer volume of plastic has overwhelmed the waste-management systems all across the world. These were designed to contain it, but with a supply of 300 million tonnes of plastic trash a year, nearly equivalent to the weight of the entire human population (United Nations Environment Program, 2018), they have simply reached their saturation point. Right now, plastic is present on almost every surface of the planet – from the deepest abysses to the highest mountains and remotest islands – causing an unprecedented crisis for wildlife (X. Peng, 2018). It is the durability of plastics that makes them an industry choice for packaging but also makes them a nightmare for the planet. They have become infamous for choking, ensnaring, and poisoning everything from plankton to porpoises. Images of dead whales stuffed with plastic bags, seals garroted by netting, turtles' noses impaled by straws, and huge islands of trash afloat in the open oceans and other plastic detritus are published daily (Changing Markets Foundation, 2020). About 79% of whatever plastic is produced in the last 50 years has been directly thrown into landfills or open landfills (Puskar, 2017).

**Figure 1: Global Plastics Production 1950-2015****Global plastics production, 1950 to 2015**

Annual global polymer resin and fiber production (plastic production), measured in metric tonnes per year.



Today plastic is being produced at a much higher rate than ever before where countries are running out of landfill space to accommodate this increasing waste.

The crisis raises the question of that how did we end up here? Could we predict this crisis coming? And most importantly is there any way out of this? We ponder upon all the three questions bit by bit. This paper is a comprehensive study about how the plastics and petrochemicals industry of the 1970s and 1980s knew that the world was heading into a global waste crisis and remained quiet and promoted plastics recycling as a solution to this growing problem. In the other half of the paper, we observe a timeline of actions taken by two of the world's biggest economies China and India, and see how do they approach this.

## 1. Methodology

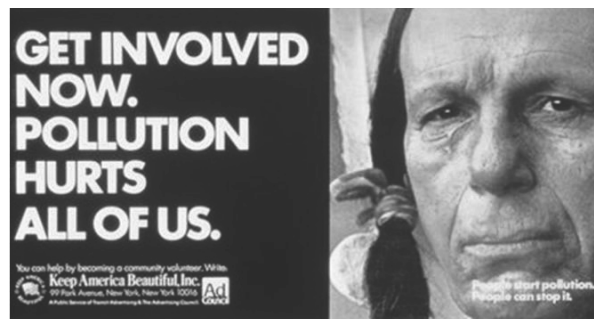
Due to the lack of availability of pure quantitative data this research paper has mainly followed qualitative research backed by pieces of quantitative evidence, whatever was available. This was done to establish cause-and-effect relationships between the various steps taken by the plastics industry, respective governments of the countries studied and their ultimate

repercussions on the planet. An investigative approach was used to study the various stakeholder like the Keeping America Beautiful Inc. and other plastic corporations created formed by various countries. Majority of the paper is based on a timeline where the facts backed by credible and public sources are presented in chronological order to pain a true picture of how the crisis unfolded, and is still unfolding, and what was/is the alleged reaction of the various stakeholders involved. The paper acknowledges the well know plastics crisis that the world is in right now, and presents facts on how did we end up here, how the very bodies which were created to make legislations to stop prevent this crisis failed at its job and how the countries are dealing with the crisis in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## 2. Accountability Crisis

By 1970, America and its recently founded plastics industry witnessed the first of its find environmental awakening of its citizens. Earth Day protest of April 22nd, 1970 was one of the biggest environmental mass protests in history with nearly 20million protestors on the streets of the United States (Yeo, 2020). It was an awakening of people towards how we live on a finite planet. The protest was also a result of the trend that was happening creating a shift towards a more throwaway, disposable lifestyle introduced after the mainstream use of plastics(Young, 2020).

**Figure 2: 1971 Advertisement issued in the public interest by Keeping America Beautiful Inc.**



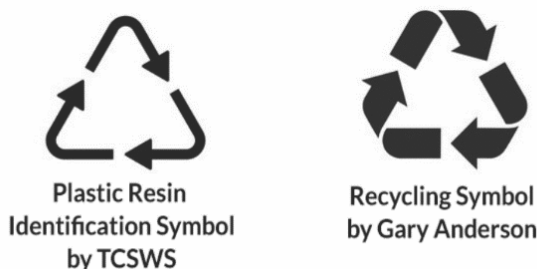
In 1971, Keeping America Beautiful Inc. in response to this new awakening of the consumers came up with their famous crying Indian commercial and

captivated the collective consciences of the viewers (Totterman, 2020). The message: "People start pollution, people can stop it" advocating how it was the people who use the plastics are the ones who start the pollution and at the end of the day have to be the ones who have to stop it. The Industry with this campaign as its face was countering the increased backlash of the plastic problem by simply shifting the blame towards the consumers and on their side kept increasing the production of plastics.

These efforts to change consumer behavior did help in influencing the consumers and clean up the more visible litter. The industry did very little to address the root cause of this problem, the unchecked growth of the plastics industry.

In the 1980s many new plastic industry leaders such as Amoco Chemical Company, Du Pont, Phillips, and about 29 more came together and created The Council for Solid Waste Solutions. The council claimed to be working towards the promotion of the recycling of plastic products. And also towards finding ways to reduce the nations' (USA's) reliance on landfills (Barrett, 2020). The council noticed this new trend in the marketplace that if the product can't be recycled then the public started avoided buying it. As a counter move to this, the industry giants started funding small recycling pilot projects. "The industry attitude was, we'll set this up and get it going, but if the public wants it, they are going to have to pay for it" – Ronald Liesemer, head of Council for Waste Solutions (Young, 2020).

**Figure 3: Visual Similarity of The Resin Identification Code and Recycling Symbol**





The industry found another way to promote recycling. During that time, the environmentalists all around the USA were angry as there was no way to identify the type of resin used in the plastics. To counter this the industry found a creative way out to this problem and came up with a code to tell them apart. That code was a numbering system placed within the well-known existing recycling symbol; the chasing arrows symbol. This symbol was often even accompanied by texts like "Recyclable" or "100% recyclable". The symbol would give a false picture to the consumers that the packaging is recyclable creating an impression in the general public that the plastic they were buying can be recycled due to its visual similarity to the recycling symbol. Some even believed that the plastics they are buying are already made from recycled plastics. Environmentalists like Coy Smith, Director of the Recycling Program in the city of San Diego started facing a new problem "Customers would bring it in and not only say it has the triangle, they would flat-out say "It says it's recyclable right on it". And I'd be, like, "I can tell you I can't give this away. There's no one that would even take it if I paid for them to take it. That's how unrecyclable it was." (Young, 2020)

There had always been serious doubts about whether recycling could even ever work or not on a large scale. Discussions over these were usually just avoided by the industry. The first serious discussion about the feasibility of recycling as a solution to the growing crisis by the industry professionals was done at the Society of Plastics Industry convention in January 1973. Many leaked documents from this meeting discuss how the industry was aware that the techniques of cleaning and separating mixed plastics in major kinds of resins had not been developed for large-scale application. There were questions that whether recycling could ever be made viable on an economic basis (Taddonio, 2020). Lewis Freeman, the former Vice President of the Society of the Plastics Industry in a 2020 PBS Documentary talks about how the people within the industry were divided, with some being skeptical that recycling could ever even work while the others were hopeful that they should start promoting recycling by investing in small pilot projects now [1980's] and be optimistic that the crisis will resolve over time. Larry Thomas, the head of the society addresses the executives from Exxon, Chevron, Amoco, DuPont, and a few more top plastics producers about how "The image of plastics is deteriorating at an alarming rate," he wrote. "We are approaching a point of no return." He told the executives they needed to act.

The "viability of the industry and the profitability of your company" are at stake in one of the leaked documents uncovered by the Public Broadcasting Service - America (Sullivan, 2020).

By the end of 1974, the plastics industry found itself again in this new crisis with yet another uprising against plastics and was looking for another creative way out of this problem. Freeman says "I remember this is one of those exchanges that sticks with me 35 years later or however long it's been ... and it was what we need to do is ... advertise our way out of it. That was the idea thrown out." (Sullivan, 2020). The industry decided to find its way out by again not addressing the core problem but by simply buying a way out through misleading advertising. Campaigns with taglines such as "Plastics make it possible" or simply showcasing all the wonderful things that plastics brought to us like how you didn't have to care about dropping glass bottles on the kitchen floor now because now they were made from plastics. To an extent, there was nothing wrong with these advertisements as they were just promoting the benefits of plastics. The only alarming trend that could be seen was that the industry had never really answered the question of the recyclability of plastics, or how were the plastics carefully sorted by the consumers and put into different color bins for 'recycling' being recycled.

In 1995, the American Plastics Council along with Garten Foundation unveiled an automatic state-of-the-art sorting machine in Oregon, USA, the first of its kind all over the world. At the time, costing about \$1 million in its erection. "They wanted us to sort plastics when people thought plastics might be starting to be a problem" Will Posegate, Chief Operations Officer, Garten Foundation, "Years later, we shut it down because there was no way to make money at it. And we sold that \$1.5 million machine for scrap" (Posegate, 2020).

This unchecked production of plastics with minimum to no efforts towards recycling coupled with an everlasting trend of pushing the blame on consumerism rather than holding the capitalists and capitalism within the industry accountable has covered the world in a layer of trash that now has simply become too thick to ignore. With a cumulative plastic waste amounting to more than 7.8 billion tonnes (as of 2015) – more than one tonne of plastic for every person alive today. With only 19.50% of it ever recorded to

be recycled, it points towards how the methods set up in the early 1980s for recycling, if there were any in the first place, have just completely failed.

### 3. China and India, the Plastic Leaders

This section of the paper takes a deeper look into two of the world's biggest economies and their approach to the same alarming crisis. We see how one takes one of the harshest international trade decisions while the other is trapped into a spiral of corporate lobbying and still trying to figure out a way out of it.

#### - China

In 2019, China managed to create about 25% of the total world's waste output, equating to 81.1 million tons of waste (Statista, 2020).

Till 2018, China was the trashcan of the world. In 2017, 95% of the plastics collected in the whole European Union (Katz, 2019) and 70% of the total waste collected in the USA (McVeigh, 2018) were shipped to China. This happened due to several reasons.

**Table 1: US-China Trade 2017**

#### 2017 : U.S. trade in goods with China

Month	Exports	Imports	Balance
January 2017	9,955.5	41,335.6	-31,380.0
February 2017	9,739.8	32,785.0	-23,045.1
March 2017	9,720.2	34,162.0	-24,441.8
April 2017	9,806.5	37,441.9	-27,635.4
May 2017	9,880.0	41,756.8	-31,876.8
June 2017	9,718.2	42,258.1	-32,539.9
July 2017	9,954.1	43,561.1	-33,607.0
August 2017	10,825.5	45,782.3	-34,956.9
September 2017	10,896.0	45,405.1	-34,509.1
October 2017	12,963.2	48,133.1	-35,169.9
November 2017	12,908.4	48,104.8	-35,196.4
December 2017	13,629.9	44,439.4	-30,809.5
<b>TOTAL 2017</b>	<b>129,997.2</b>	<b>505,165.1</b>	<b>-375,167.9</b>

NOTE: All figures are in millions of U.S. dollars on a nominal basis, not seasonally adjusted unless otherwise specified. Details may not equal totals due to rounding. Table reflects only those months for which there was trade.

(United States Census Bureau, 2017)

Firstly, as can be seen in the table above due to a significant trade deficit with the developed nations. America being the world's biggest economy spends

much more than any country in the world to fuel its ever-growing demand. This when put against the second-biggest economy China, also known as the world's factory (Gifford, 2020) opens up room for a relationship where countries like America and other western countries buy much more from China than China ever does from them. This puts a significant strain on the shipping industries where loaded ships regularly leave from Chinese ports but have to come back empty. This creates a trade deficit towards China in countries like the USA (Office of the United States Trade Representative, 2019) and other European superpowers. So, in such a situation it becomes very easy for Americans and other Western Countries to ship their waste to China for next to nothing as compared to what it will cost them to recycle it in their inhouse facilities.

Another reason why China accepted this unsorted waste was that China has always needed resources to fuel its industries. With the availability of quite literally the world's largest labor force standing at around 811.04 million (Textor, 2021) and with one of the cheapest and most exploited labor. A huge number of private companies specialized in handling and sorting this imported waste came up in the last two decades. Anything which could be of value was scavenged from this trash, brought down to its simplest form by processes like refining and melting, then just transported to some other corner of the country where it was in demand. This all was done on a very thin margin of profit, but there was a profit. Whatever was left of this 'valueless trash' was just simply dumped around in the oceans and landfills (Productions, 2020).

For the last couple of decades this system of collecting valueless plastic trash and shipping it to China, which had cheap labor and especially a good demand for this trash, seemed to work well.

However, this system came to an end with a two-page notification sent to the World Trade Organisation's Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2017 by Chinese state officials. This document simply stated that China, by the end of 2017 China was effectively banning the import of twenty-four products enlisted in the notification via their HS Codes (China, 2017). The list included five notable products that broke the world's recycling these were "Other Waste, Pairings of Polymers of Ethylene", "Of Polymers of Styrene," "Of

Polymers of Vinyl Chloride," "Of Polyethylene Glycol Terephthalate," " , and of Plastics". With the ban on these, they effectively banned almost all plastic imports in the country. As a result, plastic imports in China dropped 99.1% from 2017 to 2018 (Staub, 2019). This massive global industry came to an end overnight.

The explanation that the Chinese government gave for this ban was that this import was proving to be a health hazard. This was true as the healthcare system in China is owned and run by the state. So, ultimately the cost of numerous health complications caused by the enormous imports and constant exposure during activities like sorting and refining, of plastics was being borne by the state itself. This made the government officials realize that this expense on healthcare was much more than the thin margin of profits to which these waste recycling units were contributing. This along with the fact that the world was shifting its focus to China had now started blaming China for trash in the ocean and the miserable health conditions of its citizens due to its plastics import. The only way out was to ban the imports of plastics, which China ultimately did. This again connects China to a worldwide pattern of the modern-day hoax termed recycling. This ultimately proves that recycling plastics was never a viable option, to begin with in the first place. China realized that processing and sorting plastic trash may be beneficial for a company but it is not for a country.

This ban was the end of a whole industry in China, but other nearby countries like Malaysia ever since China banned plastics import tripled its plastics import between 2017 and 2018 (Reed, 2018). However, Malaysia soon realized that what they looked upon as an economic opportunity isn't one, to begin with, and found itself in the same crisis as China. Ultimately Malaysia following China's footsteps banned the majority of its plastics imports (Lee, 2019).

### **- India**

According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), 60 major Indian cities generate 25,940 tons of plastics, of this around 60% is recycled and the rest, about 9400 tons end up in the environment (Shrivastav, 2019). India's leading plastic industry body, Plastics India Foundation, has estimated annual consumption of 16.5 million tons (2017-2018) of plastics amongst which a

staggering 43% or 7 million tons of this is just single-use plastics that have no recyclability (Banerjee, 2019).

Multi-Layered Packaging (MLP) plays a huge role in the sector. MLP having a variety of plastics, majorly Polyethylene (PE), Polypropylene (PP), Polyvinylchloride (PVC), and PET. This complex mixture of plastics makes MLP cheap and flexible especially for the packaging, thus making MLP the industry's choice. But the very quality that makes MLP good for the industry which is its complex structure also makes it bad for the environment. The complex composition poses a significant challenge in its recycling and disposal. Another significant issue with the use of MLP in the Indian markets has been that due to its economic and easy to mass-produce characteristics, the industry has been pushing them into the markets for several decades now (Changing Markets Foundation, 2020). This has been done to a point where the earlier much more environmentally friendly reuse and refill systems have been completely dismantled and abolished from the Indian markets.

### **Confused Lawmakers and Legislations**

The industry giants not only use some rather unconventional methods to exercise their influence on the lawmakers and the law-making process itself but they also seem to use the well-established tactics to distract, delay and derail unfavorable legislation of the plastics industries in the west.

India's first legal action against the plastic problem was implemented in the form of The Plastics Manufacture, Sale and Usage Rules, 1999 by the Ministry of Environment and Forests on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1999. This legislation aimed to restrict the growing use of plastic bags and preventing the packing of food in recycled plastics. This was done by limiting the thickness of plastic bags to 20 microns or less (Ministry of Environment and Forests, 1999).

In 2003, the legislature passed in 1999 was amended, and the restriction on the size and thickness of the plastic bags was scraped off effectively promoting the use of plastic bags and now the bags could be thicker thus be more widely used in the markets (Ministry of Environment and Forests, 2003).

With the plastics crisis moving beyond control, the government decided to

take its most ambitious legislation yet aiming at regulating and effectively eliminating the use of multi-layered plastics packaging. This legislation first made its appearance in the first draft of the Plastics (Manufacture, Usage and Waste Management) Rules of 2009. (Ministry of Environment and Forests , 2009).

However, when the final draft of the aforementioned law was brought under the expert committee review in 2011, the clause which restricted multi-layered plastics in the markets was deleted from the draft and the final law (Ministry of Environment and Forests , 2009). This was done following the representation from the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and the Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP).

The Indian Institute of Packaging though being an autonomous body under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is still not free from corporate lobbying as it gives out membership to private companies within the country after paying a membership fee. In 2010, its member's list comprised of big FMCG manufacturers such as Hindustan Unilever Ltd., Marico Industries, Saap Packaging Pvt Ltd., and many more. (Indian Institute of Packaging, 2010)

In 2016, the government introduced its next version of laws to continue its "battle" against the rising plastic crisis in the country. The Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rules, 2016 were introduced as a replacement of the existing Plastic Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 2011. The main focus of this new legislature was its emphasis on identifying the responsibility and accountability of the manufactures. This was accompanied by an ambitious deadline to phase out all multi-layered packaging from the market by 2018. The main phrase of the law being clause 9(3) which stated; "*manufacture and use of non-recyclable multi-layered plastic if any should be phased out in two years*". (Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, 2016)

However, the pattern of opposing the legislation as done with the previous iterations of the same law continued. This time, due to the intense and effective lobbying by the bodies such as the All India Plastic Manufacturers Association (AIPMA) and the PET Packaging Association for Clean Environment (PACE), the Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2018 were brought into effect. This amendment effectively changed clause



9(3) to *"non-recyclable multi-layered plastic if any' with 'multi-layered plastic which is non-recyclable or non-energy recoverable or with no alternate use"* rendering the previously passed legislation to stop the use of MLP incompetent in doing so.

Another key feature of the PWM Rules of 2016 was that it empowered the state governments and the local bodies that now they could initiate a ban on plastics in their respective boundaries. Since then, several states have passed a partial or complete ban on plastics. Amongst these states the state of Maharashtra passed one of the most comprehensive bans on plastic items, banning items like PET bottles of less than 200ml capacity, plastic bags, and also initiated a buyback culture as an extended producer responsibility (EPR) for thermocol used for wrapping (Departement of Environment Govt. of Maharashtra, 2019).

In March 2019, at the 4<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi, India again initiated an ambitious resolution to phase out single-use plastics from the environment by 2025, and a ban on single-use plastics by 2022 (Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, 2019). Both these announcements were diluted due to economic and political complications (Koshy, 2019).

The key takeaway from this long chain of efforts to ban MLP by the government and then constant amendments made to these laws by the autonomous bodies which are directly influenced by the main stakeholders that are the plastic producers of the country, is that at this point an average consumer may even start to question the lawmakers itself. That whether these laws were actually ever created to fight the plastics crisis in the first place or these were just created to win the confidence of the more environmentally woke general public in the short term before being amended and bringing back everything to what it was before these environmental laws.

## CONCLUSION

The paper concludes by proving the topic statement highlighted in the introduction which is to show that plastic recycling was never a viable

solution to the plastic crisis. Evidence as to how plastics recycling can never work can be seen throughout this paper whether it is the leaked documents, miss-directed marketing, or lack of confidence in the leaders of the very corporations created to control the plastics pollution. We see the approaches of two of the biggest economies of the world towards this crisis, discovering how one country found itself in a position where the cost of this waste becomes more than the profit of recycling it, while the other one still seems to be lost in methods to fight this crisis.

We find out how the whole plastics industry saw this crisis coming decades ago but still choose the direction of the capitalists and not the environmentalists and thus putting the production of this very poison that is killing our planet today, upfront.

The timelines presented in the paper prove how the crisis didn't happen overnight rather had almost half a century in its making and becoming one of the most alarming global crises.

Maybe far far ahead in the future after our civilization has collapsed, and maybe one after it has collapsed too and some then interstellar archaeologists dig up the earth and just find this layer of microplastics covering the whole planet. Chocking the literal life out of it and just wondering in awe that was it the attack of some other sentient being or is it just that it was our civilization that has brought us to our doom. Today plastics are a growing global crisis and the world needs to find a way out of it before we find ourselves covered in it.

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## HISTORY OF THE JOURNAL

The idea to launch this Journal was discussed in December 2016 by the former Officiating Principal, **Dr. R. P. Rustagi** with **Dr. Santosh Kumari**, the Editor of the Journal. Since the idea appealed to **Dr. Santosh Kumari**, she took the initiative to contribute to SRCC by creating this new academic research Journal and took the responsibility for its Creation, Registration, License and ISSN (International Standard Serial Number) etc. along with *Editorship*. Therefore, **Dr. Santosh Kumari, Assistant Professor in the Department of Commerce, Shri Ram College of Commerce** was appointed as the Editor of the Journal vide. Office Order – SRCC/AD-158/2017 dated March 14, 2017. She meticulously worked hard in creating the concept and developing the structure of the Journal. She introduced the concept of COPE (Committee On Publication Ethics) to maintain the high academic standards of publication.

On behalf of SRCC, **Dr. Santosh Kumari** made every effort in seeking License from Deputy Commissioner of Police (Licensing), Delhi to register the Journal at "The Registrar of Newspapers for India, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India". The paper work for seeking license started under the former Officiating Principal, **Dr. R.P. Rustagi** on March 27, 2017. The foundation Issue of the Journal "**Strides – A Students' Journal of Shri Ram College of Commerce, Volume 1, Issue 1, 2016-17**" was successfully released on the 91st Annual Day of SRCC held on April 13, 2017 by **Shri Prakash Javadekar, Honb'le Union Minister of Human Resource Development, Government of India**. The title of the Journal got verified and approved by the Registrar of Newspapers for India, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India on April 21, 2017. On September 1, 2017, **Prof. Simrit Kaur** joined SRCC as Principal and signed each and every legal document required for further processing and supported **Dr. Santosh Kumari**.

On December 18, 2017, the College got the license "**License No. - DCP / LIC No. F. 2 (S / 37) Press / 2017**" to publish 'Strides – A Students' Journal of Shri Ram College of Commerce'. Due to change of Printing Press, the License got updated on March 09, 2018. On April 26, 2018, the SRCC Staff Council unanimously appointed **Dr. Santosh Kumari as the 'Editor of Strides'** for the next two academic years.

On April 27, 2018 (The Foundation Day of the College), **Dr. Santosh Kumari** submitted the application for the registration of the Journal. On May 04, 2018, the SRCC received the '**Certificate of Registration**' for "**Strides – A Students' Journal of Shri Ram College of Commerce**" and got the **Registration No. DELENG/2018/75093** dated May 04, 2018. ***On behalf of Shri Ram College of Commerce, it was a moment of pride for Dr. Santosh Kumari to receive the 'Certificate of Registration' on May 04, 2018 at the Office of Registrar of Newspapers for India, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India (website - www.rni.nic.in).***

On May 07, 2018, **Dr. Santosh Kumari** submitted the application for seeking ISSN (International Standard Serial Number) at "ISSN National Centre – India, National Science Library, NISCAIR (National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources). Weblink - <http://nsl.niscair.res.in/ISSNPROCESS/issn.jsp>". Finally, the College received the International Standard Serial Number "**ISSN 2581-4931 (Print)**" on **June 01, 2018**.

We are proud that this journal is an add-on to the enriched catalogue of SRCC's publications and academic literature.

**STRIDES - A STUDENTS' JOURNAL OF SHRI RAM COLLEGE OF COMMERCE**  
**ISSN 2581-4931 (Print)**



**RELEASE OF FOUNDATION ISSUE OF STRIDES**



The foundation issue of the Journal "Strides - A Students' Journal of Shri Ram College of Commerce, Volume 1, Issue 1, 2016-17" was successfully released on 91st Annual Day of SRCC held on 13th April, 2017 by Shri Prakash Javadekar, Honb'le Union Minister of Human Resource Development, Government of India.



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