

Mysuru: Just within very short period of five years plastic recovery has increased from 6.2 million tones to 17.9 million tones, environmentalist can take note of this and feel sigh of relief said VTU VC Karisiddappa.

Speaking after inaugurating two day Polycon 2017, 7th national conference on 'Novel Polymeric Materials' organised by Department of Polymer Science and Technology, SJCE in association with Indian Rubber Institute, Karnataka branch at SJCE premise here on Thursday, he said "It is difficult to do away with polymers products in our life today. They have become integral part of our everyday life. I think synthetic polymers not only improved the usage and acceptance in the society they have also improved the lifestyle of citizen. The consumption is on rising trend and when we go for newer materials definitely there will be some environmental issues the best way to address the impact is to have solutions to usage of these kinds of polymers recycle and reuse them."

If plastics were not available, people would have been put to difficult as they were forced to give more on any products. Apart from this plastic can save energy and are environment friendly. Lot of agricultural equipments can be made by quality polymer products which will also reduce the burden on cutting trees. Whenever we think about a product we should also think about a common man which will go a long way" added Karisiddappa.

He also mentioned that the usage of plastics has increased worldwide. Manufacturing of plastics increased from 1.5 million tons in 1950 to 322 million tons in 2015. So therefore recycling of plastics is encouraging. In Europe, nine countries have managed to reuse its 95 percent of used plastics. "This is highly interdisciplinary field and therefore it needs integration with several branch of science and technology which will help in developing useful products" said Karisiddappa.

R Mukhopadhyay, Director (R and D), JK Tyre and Industries, Ashok Menon, Global Technology Leader, SABIC, Bengaluru, TN Nagabhushan, Principal, SJCE, BG Sangameshwara, Vice Chancellor, JSS Science and Technology University and GM Shashidara, chairman of the conference were present.

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**REVISION OF CURRICULUM:** To meet the present demand especially the industrial demand, VTU is also set to revise its curriculum. "First four semesters' students can relax a bit but the last four semesters they should go all out in their effort. The holidays after four semesters should be learning holidays which should be something behind curriculum. The holidays must be innovative in learning technology" added Karisiddappa.

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**SKILL UNIVERSITY AT BENGALURU:** For higher education we are spending just .2percent of our total GDP: SA Kori, Executive Director, Karnataka State Higher Education Council said "America which is not having too much of population spends 4 percent of their total GDP while we in India spend just .2 percent of our GDP. Russia is No 1 in the world in skill training; 68 percent of students are skill trainers while in India just 3 percent of our students are skill trainers."

Government has formed committee for setting up Skill University in Bengaluru. Here skill will be imparted even for those who have not passed SSLC. In India between 15 to 29 years, 30 percent of that age group are not employed or not in school or do not have any skill. Once the university becomes reality this will not only help such people but also industries who are facing shortage of quality hands, said Kori.