

Team EMC and Ekonnnect wishes its readers, a very  
**Happy Plastic Free July**

Be a part of Plastic Free July by refraining from  
single-use plastics | **#saynotoplastic**

Hello from Team EMC and Ekonnnect! Hope you are keeping healthy and safe!

Thank you for sharing your positive feedback with us on our very first issue last month! It was really encouraging. In this issue we bring to you some more insights and announcements while we celebrate the Plastic Free July.

## The Plastic Conundrum

There is an increased pressure on hygiene due to the COVID-19 pandemic. States such as Delhi, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala have relaxed restrictions on single use plastic (SUP). Further, the rise in production of medical plastic and piling up of plastic disposables has added to the strain on the already inadequate common biomedical waste management infrastructure. The GHG emissions are expected to increase.

An estimate by the Polytechnic of Turin says that when production and social activities will be gradually restarted, 1 billion masks and half a billion gloves per month will be needed. Considering the weight of each mask is about 4 grams this would entail the dispersion of over 40 thousand kg of plastic in nature.

So it's a difficult choice to make when it comes to deciding on plastic— is it hygiene & safety? or the protection of environment?

## ThoughtWorks Social Hackathon 2020 co-powered by Ekonnnect and LetsEndorse Development

ThoughtWorks partnered with [Ekonnnect Knowledge Foundation](#) and [LetsEndorse Development](#), an online ecosystem of social innovators, NGOs and communities to conduct **ThoughtWorks Social Hackathon 2020**. The hackathon aimed at inviting practicable socially conscious ideas from the student community across India. The hackathon launched 4 social challenge statements focusing on early epidemic detection, boosting organic farming, generating livelihoods from waste and promoting road safety, respectively.

Several student teams from over 60 academic institutions across India, submitted hundreds of ideas in response to the challenge statements. These submissions were reviewed by subject-matter experts from renowned institutions. Five teams under each of the four challenge statements were identified for the final round of the hackathon. They underwent a virtual mentoring session to refine the proposals. The mentoring sessions covered themes like impact incubation, pitching business plans and social innovation.

A virtual finale, on 27 June 2020, saw teams from Birla Institute of Technology & Science (BITS Pilani), Jaypee Institute of Information Technology (JIIT), Shri Ram College Of Commerce (SRCC), Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Technology (MAIT) and Guru Tegh Bahadur Institute of Technology (GTBIT) emerge as winners. The runners-up were teams from Hansraj College, Shri G. S. Institute of Technology (SGSITS), BITS Pilani and Indian Institute of Technology (BHU) Varanasi. These teams will receive a grant that will help them develop their winning solutions.

## EMC Team Blog!

This month in our blog post, we talk about recycling. Read this blog on 'Is it worth recycling' by Dr. Prasad Modak [here](#). Visit [emcentre.com/emcblogs/](http://emcentre.com/emcblogs/) to subscribe to EMC Team Blog

## Speaking Engagements across Various Online Events

- Dr. Prasad Modak was a speaker at the Envirocare Green Awards 2020 organized by Envirocare Labs on June 25. Dr. Modak presented on the subject of Environmental Governance post COVID19. You can watch the awards [here](#).
- The GICEA Ahmedabad jointly with the Institute of Town Planners India (ITPI) – Gujarat Regional Chapter organized a webinar on topic: **'Does Environmental Planning matter in Indian cities?'** Dr. Modak participated in the event as a speaker on July 3. Keynote address was delivered by Mr. N. K. Patel – Chairman, ITPI – Gujarat Regional Chapter and the session was moderated by Dr. Saswat Bandyopadhyay – Professor, Faculty of Planning, CEPT University. You can watch the session [here](#).
- Society for Indoor Environment (SIE) Webinar Series **"Environment and Covid-19- Air in pandemic times"** webinar took place on June 13. Prof. Paolo Carrer, Director, Occupational and Environmental Health, University of Milan, Italy shared his real-life experiences of dealing with COVID 19 and SIE Patron Dr. Prasad Modak, talked about the journey of air pollution before, during and after COVID 19.
- PHD Chamber of Commerce along with Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) organized an interactive session on **'Covid-19: Challenges and Opportunities associated with Waste Management in India'** on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020. Dr. Modak was a speaker at the event. Shri Durga Shankar Mishra, Secretary – Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Gol and Dr. Prashant Gargave – Member secretary, CPCB were the chief guest and guest of honour respectively at the event.
- All India Plastic Manufacturers Association organized an online event on the subject of **'How do we build a Circular Economy Model for Plastics in India?'**. More than 500 participants attended the session. The webinar was moderated by Mr. Shailendra Singh, Member, Environment Committee, AIPMA. Ms. Adrienna Zsakay, CEO, Circular Economy Asia & Dr. Prasad Modak, Director, Ekonnnect Knowledge Foundation were the expert panellists for the day. You can access the event video, report and presentations, [here](#)

## News and Updates

- Recently Ekonnnect signed up several important MoUs. Learn about these MoUs [here](#)
- Ekonnnect is proud to announce that it is now a Member of [The Incubation Network \(TIN\)](#) - a community that catalyses solutions to prevent ocean plastic pollution and advance inclusive circular economies in South and Southeast Asia!

## FEEDBACK ON ISSUE 1

Hello Dr Modak, Thanks for adding me to EMC's newsletter. Reading the intern tracer study took me back in time. Great to see that EMC is going global with global associates and e-interns.

Dear Sir, So happy to see the Newsletter. Also went through the Tracer study for our internship program. Super happy! Its so nice to see the vibrant EMCians. This Newsletter also helps us to stay connected and know what's going on. Nice idea.

Join us on our journey. For latest news and updates, follow us on our social media



You can access the previous issue of our newsletter, [here](#)

Thank you for your time! For suggestions and queries regarding the newsletter, please write to us [emcblogs@emcentre.com](mailto:emcblogs@emcentre.com)