

Manufacturing Today

DECISIVE TOOL FOR MANUFACTURING EXCELLENCE

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POST EVENT REPORT

12th ANNIVERSARY
SPECIAL

AGENTS OF CHANGE

THE 12TH ANNIVERSARY
EDITION OF MANUFACTURING
TODAY CELEBRATES THE
CHANGE AGENTS OF
MANUFACTURING



SHRIKANT WALE

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, DELIVERY, PRAJ INDUSTRIES



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As the campaign for Race to Zero catches steam post COP 26 Glasgow summit, harnessing the bioeconomy has emerged as a promising solution to achieve carbon neutrality. India’s bioeconomy thrives on the back of a strong energy transition using green technologies. Shrikant Wale, the executive vice president of Praj Industries, India’s most accomplished industrial biotechnology company, is driven by innovation, integration and delivery capabilities. “There is an increasing awareness of the positive impact bioeconomy has on inclusive growth, energy security and environmental conservation. Industrial Biotechnology, one of the mainstays of bioeconomy, is experiencing fast-paced growth led by technological innovations.”

He further explains, “Bioeconomy incorporates 11 out of 17 Global Sustainable Development Goals

(SDGs) and fulfils the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). At Praj, we firmly believe that Bioeconomy can help India achieve a temperature rise below 2 degrees as promised in COP21 Paris Agreement and attain a vision of Net Carbon Zero by 2070 as committed in COP26.”

Among the top trends in the Bioeconomy includes the transition from a Hydrocarbon-based economy to a Carbohydrate-based economy. Presently, there might be a slow adoption of bio-based alternatives over fossil-fuel derivatives, but it will soon see the dawn of wide acceptance from society. Accelerating Energy Transition is a sustainable climate action to combat the evils of climate change. Embracing the Bioeconomy to accelerate the energy transition is another fast-catching trend.

Post the ban on single-use plastic, there has been a demand for eco-friendly and bio-degradable alternatives to plastic. Though there might be many bio-degradable and eco-friendly alternatives to plastic, plant-based Bioplastic is among the most promising and sustainable solutions. Praj’s BioPrism™ portfolio of technologies provides renewable chemicals and materials that provide bio-based alternatives for fossil fuel derivatives.

What about the recent trends, such as Industry 4.0 and Smart Manufacturing? “We believe the discrete engineering industry has gained pace in exploring and migrating to Industry 4.0 techniques to maximise their competitiveness. Cost-effective mechanisation & automation coupled with digital aids will certainly enable us to take a quantum leap in productivity and quality through de-skilled, foolproof and smart manufacturing,” says Shrikant.

While rapidly developing the capacity & capability of its delivery ecosystem, Praj has deployed the technology enablers to a great extent. Praj has swiftly adopted digital systems on the shop floor for real-time data capturing and analysis. Its homegrown digital Quality Management System helps customers monitor quality records and project progress in real-time. This unique feature proved to be a significant fillip during the Covid era. Praj has also created a ‘Remote-Bridge’ software tool to monitor, analyse and control the performance of its customer sites from a remote location.

“We firmly believe that industry 5.0 enhanced version that harnesses cobots and bioeconomy to strike a fine balance between people, planet and profit is the future,” concludes Shrikant. 