



Winds of Change in the Composites Way

The recent increase in the cost of steel, cement and other construction materials gives a golden opportunity for composites, particularly glass fibre reinforced plastics to compete with traditional materials on an equal footing. If the price of glass fibre and resins remain stable for some time and with efficient manufacturing and quality production, the composites industry can consolidate the gains arising from this cost competitiveness.

Plastics have all along been considered as a villain of the environment. This label has come to plastics mainly because of the haphazard way plastics have been used for packaging like plastic bags. About 20 % of the plastics and the composites based on these plastics that we use today certainly play a positive role in enhancing the quality of our lives. A summary of a recent Hamilton report says that plastics will be going to preserve the environment, help to conserve water and to help generation of power. By 2030, plastics will be "grown in trees" which means that lots of plastics based on natural vegetation will come into use.

FRP Today has introduced a guest column in this issue with a presentation of Mr. Sundaram a prominent expert in glass fibre production and composites development. We welcome many more experts in this field to come forward and give their opinion about anything related to composites in this column. I am sure this will certainly help to boost the composites industrial scene.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N.G. Nair'.

Dr. N.G. NAIR
Honorary Editor