India Glycols Limited Takes A Major Step Towards Second Generation Green PET: Commissions India's First 2G-Alcohol Plant

India's first Second Generation (2G) Alcohol demonstration plant was inaugurated on 22nd April 2016 by Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences. The plant has built by India Glycols Lt. at their Kashipur site. This is a major step for the company that is till date the world's only supplier of 'green' alcohol based Mono-Ethylene Glycol (Bio-MEG) ,the 30% component of polyethylene terephthalate or PET as popularly known. The demonstration plant has been built on the indigenous and unique DBT-ICT 2G-Alcohol Technology developed by the DBT-ICT Centre for Energy Biosciences at Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai. The Centre is the country's first bioenergy dedicated Centre of Excellence set up in 2008 at the Institute of Chemical Technology (ICT), Mumbai by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) under the Ministry of Science and Technology.

The demonstration plant built and operated by India Glycols Limited at their Kashipur site in Uttarakhand, is a modern day example of successful translation of an Indian technology developed in a university research centre and may well grow into a significant step towards India's three-pronged mission of 'Make in India', 'Swachha Bharat', and 'Start-up India'. The DBT-ICT 2G-Ethanol technology produces fermentable sugars as intermediates that can be used for production of not only fuel grade ethanol but also a variety of 'green' chemicals & materials as well as food and feed supplements from agricultural residues.

The 30% 'green' PET today used by major companies like Coca Cola and Dannon is made up from 'the 'green' MEG sourced entirely from India Glycols Ltd. As early as 2007, India Glycols began its quest for 2G-ethanol as a product that does not impact food-chain being derived from surplus agricultural waste and a known carbon-friendly product.

With the MEG made from 2G-ethanol India Glycols Ltd is set to become one of the world's first and India's first 2G-green MEG producer. To make sure that the story does not end, the company has also funded a major project with the DBT-ICT Centre for Energy Biosciences to create a 2G-Green PTA based on 2G-sugars derived from lignocellulosic agri-waste, and is likely to set up one of the world's first 2G-Green PTA-equivalent plant by 2017.