



Mexico's Prickly Pear Cactus

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Recently, researchers have found **Mexico's prickly pear cactus**, that can play a new and innovative role in the production of **biodegradable plastics**.

- The pulp for the cactus is strained to obtain a juice and is then mixed with non-toxic additives to produce sheets that can be used to form different types of packaging.
- It can provide a solution to one of the world's biggest pollution conundrums i.e., **Plastic pollution**.
- UN is committed to significantly reduce single-use plastics over the next decade. In pursuance of this India also seeks to ban single-use plastics.

Single-use plastics are disposable plastic items that are commonly used for packaging and include items intended to be used only once before they are thrown away or recycled.

Source: TH