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# OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT OF GOA GAZETTE



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## EXTRAORDINARY No. 2

### GOVERNMENT OF GOA

Department of Environment

#### Notification

102-10-2014/STE-DIR/1763

Sub.: Declaration of Chorla Ghat area in Madei Wildlife Sanctuary as a "Plastic Free Zone".

Whereas, the Chorla Ghat area located in Madei Wildlife Sanctuary, which is known for its scenic beauty is also an area of high biodiversity and habitat of rare species of wildlife. This place is visited by tourists from all over India and other parts of the world being a eco-tourism destination.

And Whereas, the Government of Goa after considering the adverse effect of plastic carry bags on the environment and local ecology has noted that plastic carry bags are littered about irresponsibly and have detrimental effect on the environment. It is also observed that the plastic carry bags cause blockage of gutters, sewerage system and drains thereby resulting in unhygienic environment and public health problems to both humans and livestock.

And Whereas, the Government of Goa has considered the fact that indiscriminate use and littering of plastic bags, plastic cups, and

other plastic items such as plastic coated paper plates, plastic spoons and plastic forks in the jurisdiction of Chorla Ghat area are detrimental to environment and health of people as well as animals. It is also observed that tourists visiting the Chorla Ghat area also carry these plastic items which are thereby being dumped in this area thereby not only disturbing local ecology but also effects scenic beauty of the region.

Now Therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986), the Government of Goa issues this Notification to impose a complete ban on the import, storing, transport, sale, distribution and use of all kinds of plastic carry bags, plastic cups, plastic coated paper plates, plastic forks and plastic spoons in the territorial jurisdiction of Goa State of entire Chorla Ghat area in Madei Wildlife Sanctuary. In this context, the Government of Goa hereby issues the following directions namely:—

1. No persons including a shopkeeper, vendor, wholesaler, retailer, trader, hawker or fehriwala shall import or sell or store or use or distribute or transport or carry or handle any kind of plastic carry bags, plastic cups, plastic coated paper plates, plastic forks and plastic spoons, for storing or dispensing of any eatable or non-eatable goods or materials or for any purpose.

2. No person shall manufacture, import, store, distribute, use, sell or transport any kind of plastic carry bags (including that of Poly Propylene, Non-woven fabric type carry bags), plastic coated paper plates, plastic forks and spoons in the territorial jurisdiction of Goa State in entire Chorla Ghat area in Madei Wildlife Sanctuary.

*Exception.*— (i) The direction issued under this notification shall not affect the use of plastic carry bags as specified under the Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998, as amended to date.

(ii) Further the directions shall not be applicable for use of PET water bottles.

(iii) These directions shall not specifically affect the transportation or carrying or use of plastic carry bags, plastic cups, plastic coated paper plates, plastic forks/spoons carried in vehicles plying through the area. However, the aforementioned directions shall be applicable to the person no sooner he/she alights from the vehicle with the plastic items mentioned.

(iv) These directions shall not affect the territorial jurisdiction outside the Chorla Ghat area of Goa State.

*Explanation.*— ‘Carry bags’ means bags made from any plastic material, used for the purpose of carrying or dispensing commodities but do not include bags that constitute or form an integral part of the packing in which goods are sealed prior to use. Containers used for packaging food material, milk and raising plants in nurseries are not carry bags.

*Authorized Officers.*— The following officers are hereby authorized to implement this Notification in their respective jurisdiction, namely:—

Dy. Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife Division, Forest Department, Panaji-Goa or any Official(s) nominated by him.

*Monitoring.*— The Dy. Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife Division, Forest Department, Government of Goa shall ensure monitoring and implementation of these directions. All the Authorized Officers mentioned in foregoing para within their respective area/ jurisdiction, are authorized to file complaint under section 19 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and under the Goa Non-Biodegradable Garbage (Control) Act, 1996, as amended in case of violation of these directions. They are further authorised to confiscate and seal the plastic carry bags, plastic cups, plastic coated paper plates, plastic spoons/forks found, if any during the monitoring and shall hand over to the local bodies/Solid Waste Monitoring Cell for its safe and scientific disposal.

Further, the Forest Department, Government of Goa shall erect sufficient number of warning boards at the prominent places in the area including other relevant information thereby giving wide publicity for information of public and tourist visiting in the area. The Forest Department shall also provide sufficient number of bins in the area for proper collection of dry waste and wet waste and devise mechanism for its safe and scientific disposal.

*Enforcement.*— This Notification shall come into force with immediate effect from the date of publication in Official Gazette.

By order and in the name of the Governor of Goa.

*Srinet Kothwale*, Director & ex officio Joint Secretary (Env.).

Saligao, 16th March, 2015.

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