NOTIFICATION

Sub: Plastics ban in beaches and tourist spots in Kerala

Ref: Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 notified vide G.S.320 (E) dated 18.03.2016 and amended vide amendment Notification No. E.S.R.285(E) dated 27.03.2018

Whereas the State of Kerala, better known as God’s own country, is a well known tourist destination with its emerald back waters, palm fringed sandy beaches, majestic western ghats, beautiful waterfalls, places of religious importance and abode to mesmerizing artforms and ayurvedic rejuvenation systems;

Whereas Kerala is blessed with plenty of natural water resources and lengthy seashore which need to be preserved in view of its rich biodiversity and its proximity to religious and cultural activities apart from its environmental significance which is of prime importance;

Whereas it is seen that the tourist activities pose a risk to environmental degradation of such places on account of prolific use of plastic products including carry bags and one time use plastic items and the like;

Whereas the littering and irrational disposal of plastic impair the natural beauty of a place and would impact the ecosystem;
Whereas it is observed that plastics are disposed off unscientifically in tourist destinations in the State;

Whereas such illegal and insensitive acts of disposing plastic in the open and without any environmental concern, is dangerous and can also lead to clogging of gutters, drains and hampering natural drainage of the area and will ultimately result in pollution of soil, water and air and hence such practices need to be curbed immediately;

Whereas the use of natural alternatives would enhance the tourist appeal of the State and will help to preserve its cultural magnificence;

Whereas the use of beautiful and clean natural destination would attract more tourists;

Whereas the religious places throng with people from various places and there are huge disposal of plastic items associated with the activity;

Whereas most of the religious places are also located in ecologically and environmentally sensitive areas and needs to be protected;

Whereas the one time use disposable plastic items are a threat to the ecology of the tourist area;

Whereas it is highly essential to preserve the scenic beauty and purity of the tourist destinations and beaches;

Whereas the waste disposal at religious places like Sabarimala and tourist centres like Kovalam call for more focused activity for preserving the wholesome of the area by reducing the non-biodegradable waste load from tourist activities;

Whereas nothing is preventing littering of plastic waste at tourist destinations though huge amounts are expended by the State Government in providing for collection, segregation and disposal of plastic wastes;

And Whereas it necessary to prevent littering of plastic waste in all the beaches to curb plastic pollution of the marine environment.
Therefore in exercise of powers conferred under section (5) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, vide notification No. S.O. 23 (E) dated 08.01.1997 of the Ministry of Environment and Forest, the Chairman, Kerala State Pollution Control Board issues the following directions imposing ban on supply, store, transport, sale/distribution and use of

i) Plastic carry bags, non-woven carry bags, plastic flex/banners, plastic bunting, plastic plates, plastic cups, plastic straws, plastic spoons, plastic bottles, plastic pouches, plastic flags, plastic sheets for covering purposes, plastic cling films, all one time use plastics, plastic beads and plastic decorative in all tourist destinations and beaches and its immediate premises.

ii) The ban is also applicable for all the above items made of Thermocol / Styrofoam/Polypropylene (Non woven).

iii) There shall not be any littering of waste in beaches and tourist destinations. The use of plastic, if found, in violation of the above shall be confiscated and fine levied by the Local Authority as per the Plastic Waste (Management) Rules, 2016 for which necessary provisions shall be included in the byelaws of local bodies.

This ban is not Applicable to

i) In case of milk pouch/ food grade and thickness 50 microns and above and for plastics used for packaging of medicine.

ii) Plastic bags used for agriculture, horticulture, plant nurseries with thickness 50 microns and above.

iii) Rain coats, tarpaulin sheets, pens.

The responsibility of implementation of / promoting the decision in this notification will vest with the Tourism Department, Local Self Government
Institution / Body concerned, District Collectors, Police Department, Forest Department (Wherever applicable) and the Kerala State Pollution Control Board. The list of tourist destinations reported by the Tourism Department is enclosed. The notification will come into force from November 01, 2018.

K. SAJEEVAN
CHAIRMAN

To
1. The Tourism Department
2. The Environment Department
3. All District Collectors
4. The Police Department
5. The Forest Department
6. Local Self Government Department
7. Govt. Press for printing 500 copies of the notification

Copy to
1. The Chief Environmental Engineer
   Regional Office Thiruvananthapuram /Ernakulam/Kozhikode
2. All District Offices
3. All Technical Staff, Head Office
4. IT Cell for uploading in Board’s Website
5. CA to Chairman and CA to Member Secretary
6. Stock file
Explanation
(This does not form part of the Notification but is intended to describe the general purpose)

The Kerala State Pollution Control Board has considered in detail the possible environmental impacts that can ensue in tourist destinations and beaches in the State due to accumulation of plastics especially in the light of its tourist promotion activities and hence this notification.)
Tourist Destinations

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29. ക്ഷണിക
30. കര
31. പാതി
32. പിക്കി
33. കുറച്ചിക്കൊരുക്കുന്ന (അജ്ഞാനിക്കൊരുക്കുന്ന)
34. അറാച്ചി പ്രവൃത്തിയില്ല
35. അഭയകമ്പ
36. കാലാനിസ്സിം-തുടകയിൽ-അനാരിമാത്രവരുവാൻ
37. അയാളി-ശിക്ഷയിത്ര
38. അഘോധനി-ശിക്ഷയിത്ര
39. അഘോധനി
40. അഘോധനി-അണ്ടി
41. അഘോധനി
42. അഘോധനി
43. അരുമാനായി
44. അരുമാനാണ
45. അരുമാനായി
46. അഘോധനിസുരാധിക്കുന്ന അണും
ശിക്ഷാ
47. മികച്ചി
48. മികച്ചി
49. മികച്ചിവാദി
50. മികച്ചി
51. മികച്ചി
52. മികച്ചി
53. അഘോധനി
ശിക്ഷാ
54. അഘോധനി
(പ്രായ)
55. അഘോധനി
ശിക്ഷാ
56. അഘോധനി
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61. അഘോധനി
62. മരണംപ്രബലത താഴ്വര നേതാവ്

63. മരണം

64. മൃഗാക്രമം

65. ഭൂപ്രകാശം- അനുഭവ

66. പ്രകൃതിശാസ്ത്രം

67. മാതൃക വിവിധത്വത്തിന് പ്രാധാന്യം

68. അയല്പംറുന്നവൻ

69. യുവകാവാളി

70. യുവാവാളി