

State cabinet approves ban on plastic carry bags

₹25,000 Fine, Jail For Both Users & Manufacturers

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The state cabinet on Thursday approved the environment department's proposal to ban plastic carry bags and certain other items in Maharashtra. TOI was the first to report that the move was on the cards. The ban was earlier set to come into effect on Gudi Padwa, but now it looks like it will be enforced by the month-end with the issue of a notification. The ban covers disposable plastic cups, plates, spoons and flex, but excludes garbage bin liners and PET bottles.

WHAT'S BANNED

- > Plastic carry bags of any thickness
- > One-time use plastic (even thermocol) cups, plates, spoons and flex items

WHAT'S NOT BANNED

- > PET bottles and jars
- > Garbage bags



Ban is likely to be enforced by this month-end

The highlight of the ban is that both manufacturers and users will be penalized. The punishment is a fine ranging from Rs 5,000 to Rs 25,000 and a jail term of three months.

The changes will be brought in with amendments to the Solid Waste Manage-

93% of all bottled water has plastic

At least 93% of bottled water worldwide, including India, contains tiny pieces of plastic, a study by scientists from the State University of New York has found, raising concerns about the long-term implications on public health. Samples in India were drawn from Delhi, Mumbai & Chennai, and Aquafina, Evian and Bisleri were among brands tested. **P 2**

ment Act 2016 and the Plastic Carry Bags (Manufacture and Usage) Rules 2006.

Implementation will be the responsibility of local bodies and the state pollution control board (MPCB).

► Detailed graphic, P 2

CONSUMERS TOO TO BE HELD RESPONSIBLE

The Maharashtra government has banned plastic carry bags and plastic items of temporary use in the state. The onus is not only on manufacturers, but also consumers, reports Bhavika Jain



PRODUCTS BANNED

- 1** All types of plastic carry bags regardless of thickness
- 2** One-time use plastic items, including cups, plates, spoons
- 3** All such items made of thermocol and flex

PUNISHMENT

Jail term
3 months

Fine
₹5,000 to 25,000

DON'T STICK TO PLASTIC

HIGHLIGHT OF BAN

Not only manufacturers, but also users will be punished. The quantum of jail term and fine are the same for both

“To make the ban a success, we need to control both sides of the chain. So, for the first time, a penalty has been proposed on users — State govt official

The plastic carry bag ban doesn't include bin liners

GOVT'S U-TURN ON WATER BOTTLES

The government had planned to ban PET (polyethylene terephthalate) bottles used for packaged drinking water, but has put it on hold because of pressure from PET bottle manufacturers, a source said. The original plan was to ban PET bottles from starred hotels, government offices and educational institutes

WHAT ABOUT DISPOSAL OF EXISTING PLASTIC STOCK?

➤ The challenge for the government is to ensure that the huge quantities of plastic carry bags lying at homes and manufacturing units are disposed of in a phased manner

➤ Disposal points in every city of the state will be announced once details of the ban are finalized, the environment

department said. The state will ask civic bodies to set up the points for the benefit of citizens

➤ Ample time will be given to people to dispose of banned plastic items they possess, an official said



GOVT MUST RE-THINK BAN, SAY MANUFACTURERS

“This is not a workable ban. We will engage with the government to seek a re-think. Thousands of manufacturing units will be affected by the ban and this will have a cascading effect on other industries as well — Hiten Bheda | PRESIDENT, ALL-INDIA PLASTIC MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION



20 million tons of plastic used every day in state

MANUFACTURE

50,000 units engaged in manufacture of items
40 lakh people depend on plastic manufacturing industry for livelihood

RECYCLING

2,000 units engaged in recycling plastic
4 lakh people depend on plastic recycling industry for livelihood