

Ban on Single Use Plastic in India: Step towards Clean India, Green India

(Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change)

July 1, 2022

Introduction

According to a report on Plastic Waste Management released by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, the global average of plastic per capita consumption is 28 kg and India has a per capita plastic consumption of 11 kg. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) Report (2019-20) states that 3.5 million metric tonnes of plastic waste are generated in India annually. CPCB in its report on “Impact of Plastic Waste Disposal on Soil and Water Quality at Lucknow Dumpsites” had found that dumping of plastic waste can deteriorate soil and underground water quality due to leaching of additives, colourants, stabilizers and fillers present in the different categories of plastic products.ⁱ



Plastic Waste Management (PWM) - Global Scenario

- Globally, plastic pollution has emerged as a serious menace in the absence of streamlined PWM focusing on reuse, reduction and recycling of plastic waste.
- The **global recycling percentage is low, only 9 per cent**, and this calls for immediate and integrated actions to manage plastic globally and focus on recycling or upcycling.
- All developed and developing countries are individually taking actions to manage plastic waste, but the onus is mainly on developing countries.
- **In the 4th United Nations Environment Assembly held in 2019**, India had piloted a resolution on addressing single-use plastic products pollution, recognizing the urgent need for the global community to focus on this very important issue.ⁱⁱ

Plastic Waste Management in India

The Plastic Waste Management Rules (PWMR), 2016, provides the statutory framework for plastic waste management in an environmentally sound manner throughout the country. The [Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021, on August 12, 2021, prohibiting identified single use plastic items from July 1, 2022](#). The [Ministry also notified the Guidelines on the Extended](#)

Producer Responsibility for plastic packaging vide Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2022, on February 16, 2022.

Steps taken to strengthen implementation of PWM Rules, 2016

- Thirty-two States/UTs constituted the Special Task Force under the chairpersonship of the Chief Secretary/Administrator for elimination of identified single use plastic items.
- The State /UT Governments and concerned Central Ministries/Departments have been requested to develop a comprehensive action plan and implement it in a time bound manner.
- Under Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0, additional Central Assistance is provided to States and Union territories for solid waste management including plastic waste management.
- CPCB issued directions to all State Pollution Control Boards / Pollution Control Committees to utilize the power under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for setting up of institutional mechanism for enforcement of provisions of PWMR, 2016.
- CPCB issued directions to E-commerce companies, leading single use plastic sellers/users and plastic raw material manufacturers with respect to phasing out of identified single use plastic items.ⁱⁱⁱ To read more, click [here](#).



Adverse Impacts of Single Use Plastics

Environmental Impact

- The single use plastic is believed to **take thousands of years to decompose, which leads to soil and water contamination and can pose hazards for land, water and wildlife.** In some cases, the existence of single use plastic in water or food is leading to presence of plastics in human body and health issues.

Economic Impact

- The **littering of plastic is visually unattractive and has potential to impact gross domestic product (GDP) of countries dependent on tourism.** The plastic pollution in oceans has **economic impact across tourism, shipping and fishing industries.** Other than this sustainable plastic waste management can **move plastic from 'waste' to a 'renewable resource.'** Plastic pollution costs **13 billion dollar per year as economic damage to marine ecosystem.**

Health & Social Impact

- Instances of **open burning of plastic waste lead to air pollution.** In some developing countries, **plastic is burnt for cooking or heating purposes causing health issues in vulnerable groups such as women, children and the elderly.** The littering at open spaces such as parks lead to welfare losses which accounts as indirect social cost of plastic pollution.

Ban on identified Single Use Plastic Items from 1st July 2022

India has banned manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of identified single use plastic items, which have low utility and high littering potential, all across the country from July 1, 2022.

Identified single use items which are banned include:

- Ear buds with plastic sticks
- Plastic sticks for balloons
- Plastic flags
- Candy sticks
- Ice-cream sticks
- Polystyrene (Thermocol) for decoration
- Plastic plates
- Cups, glasses, cutlery such as forks, spoons, knives, straw & trays
- Wrapping or packing films around sweet boxes
- Invitation cards
- Cigarette packets
- Plastic or PVC banners less than 100 micron, stirrers

The Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules also prohibit manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of plastic carry bags having thickness less than seventy five microns with effect from September 30, 2021, and having thickness less than one hundred and twenty microns with effect from the December 31, 2022.

Plastic Waste Management Rules in India - Snapshot of policies in the last two decades

- To address the challenge of the mounting waste crisis in the country, **India started setting up its regulatory framework on waste management almost two decades ago.**
- **In 2000, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change notified the first-ever law on waste management in the form of the Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules.**
- Since then, the country's waste management regulations have developed in several aspects and undergone a massive transformation.

Ban on Single Use Plastic From 1st July 2022
Step Towards Clean India, Green India!

Ban on plastic carry bags having thickness less than 75 microns with effect from 30th September, 2021, and having thickness less than 120 microns with effect from the 31st December, 2022

National & State level control rooms for checking effective implementation

1/2

Ban on Single Use Plastic From 1st July 2022
Step Towards Clean India, Green India!

India put a ban on manufacturing, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of identified single use plastic items with low utility and high littering potential.

List of Banned Items:

- Ear buds & balloons with plastic sticks
- Plastic flags
- Candy sticks & ice-cream sticks
- Polystyrene (Thermocol) for decoration
- Plastic cutlery, plates, cups, glasses & trays

1/2

Ban on Single Use Plastic From 1st July 2022
Step Towards Clean India, Green India!

India put a ban on manufacturing, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of identified single use plastic items with low utility and high littering potential.

List of Banned Items:

- Wrapping films for sweet boxes
- Invitation cards
- Cigarette packets
- Plastic or PVC banners less than 100 micron
- Stirrers

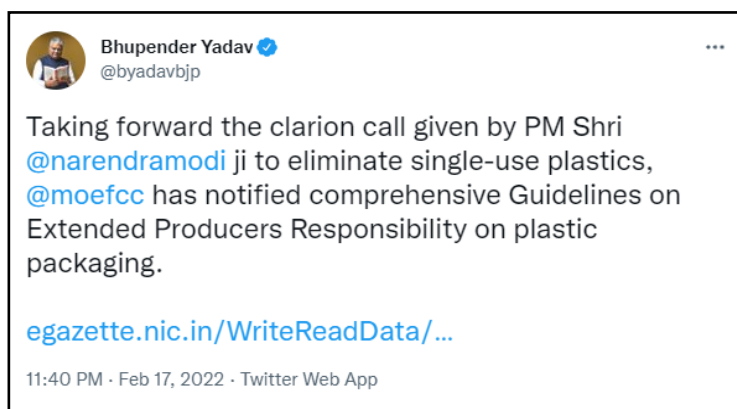
2/2

S.N.	Rules	Link to access
1.	Municipal Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016	https://cpcb.nic.in/uploads/MSW/SWM_2016.pdf
2.	Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 and 2018	https://static.pib.gov.in/WriteReadData/userfiles/PWMnotification%201%20001.pdf
3.	Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2022	https://egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2022/233568.pdf

Guidelines on Extended Producers Responsibility

Taking forward the clarion call given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to eliminate single-use plastics, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change notified comprehensive guidelines on **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) in February 2022**.

Announcing the notification of the new Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2022, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change said that the guidelines provide a framework to strengthen the circular economy of plastic packaging waste and promote alternatives to plastic.^{iv}



Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is responsibility of a producer for the environmentally sound management of the product until the end of its life. The Guidelines will provide framework to strengthen circular economy of plastic packaging waste, promote development of new alternatives to plastic packaging and provide next steps for moving towards sustainable plastic packaging by businesses.

The guidelines on extended producer responsibility coupled with prohibition of identified single use plastic items, which have low utility and high littering potential, with effect from July 1, 2022, are important steps for reducing pollution caused due to littered plastic waste in the country.^v

EPR

WHAT IS EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY?

EPR refers to the responsibility of producers and brand owners to manage the disposal of products post use. It is a kind of reverse collection system ensuring recycling for end of life, post-consumer waste. It is based on the famous and important international environmental law principle of Polluter Pays, which implies that the one who pollutes must pay for keeping the environment clean and intact.

Recent Initiatives by Government of India to get rid of Single Use Plastic (SUP)

Guided by the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to eliminate single-use plastics, States/UTs and Urban Local Bodies across India have swung into campaign mode, in a bid to make the country free of Single Use Plastic (SUP), as well as contribute to improving the

environment, under the overarching campaign of “**Clean and Green.**” This comes on the heels of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s 89th Mann Ki Baat address to the nation on May 29, 2022, where he exhorted citizens to join together and make some efforts for cleanliness and tree plantation on the occasion of World Environment Day.^{vi}

- To fulfil India’s commitment to eliminate single-use plastic by June 30, 2022, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has issued a detailed advisory to States and UTs to take up a range of activities to fulfil these mandates.^{vii}
- These include **large scale cleaning and plogging drives, with special emphasis on plastic waste collection, as well as large scale tree plantation drives, with participation of all citizens – students, voluntary organisations, self-help groups, local NGOs/CSOs, NSS and NCC cadets, RWAs, market associations, corporate entities, etc.**



- The advisory for enforcing the committed nation-wide SUP ban encompasses a plethora of suggested initiatives. Under the Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban 2.0, currently being implemented by MoHUA, plastic waste management, including elimination of SUP - is a crucial area of focus.
- **Under the Mission, every ULB is required to adopt 100% source segregation of waste, and have access to a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) for sorting the dry waste (including plastic waste) into further fractions for recycling and/ or processing into value added products, thereby reducing to a minimum the amount of plastic and dry waste ending up in dumpsites or waterbodies.**



- While 2,591 ULBs (out of 4,704) have already reported notification SUP ban as per the directions of Central Pollution Control Board and MoEF&CC, States/ UTs will need to ensure that the remaining 2,100-plus ULBs notify the same by 30th June, 2022.
- ULBs will need to **identify SUP ‘hotspots’ and eliminate them**, while parallelly leveraging the support of State Pollution Control Boards and forming special enforcement squads, conducting surprise inspections and imposing heavy fines and penalties on defaulters, for enforcing SUP bans.

Plastic waste has emerged as a threat in recent years and needs different models for sustainable PWM. The adoption of a circular economy in PWM will not only support the sustainable utilization of natural resources but will also give a boost to the Indian economy.

Twitter References

- https://twitter.com/PMOIndia/status/1178189299050696704?s=20&t=TtbmJILDjOnc2yDkZ_AIWw
- <https://twitter.com/DDNewslive/status/1426132924609359875?s=20&t=O9sr6CuBrXTE0J1WZEXlqQ>
- <https://twitter.com/NITIAayog/status/1372899152984641536?s=20&t=qBES69Rj7MBrihEwgzt8zQ>
- <https://twitter.com/byadavbjp/status/1494373727571570689?s=20&t=RAOprtpJVeHMMmwZZ-09PQ>
- <https://twitter.com/airnewsalerts/status/1426134923342090241?s=20&t=LX8ECZoS9taOo7VCDKi9RQ>
- https://twitter.com/PIB_India/status/1506925167330881539?s=20&t=LX8ECZoS9taOo7VCDKi9RQ

References:

- https://www.niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2021-10/Final_Handbook_PWM_10112021.pdf
- PIB Press Release on [Centre writes to States to phase out Single Use Plastic](#) dated June 4, 2022.
- PIB Press Release on [Policy on plastic waste handling](#) dated March 24, 2022.
- PIB Press Release on [Government notifies Guidelines on Extended Producers Responsibility on plastic packaging under Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016](#) dated February 18, 2022.
- PIB Press Release on [Closure of Plastic Manufacturing Units](#) dated December 20, 2021.
- PIB Press Release on [Guidelines for Extended Producer Responsibility given legal force](#) dated August 13, 2021.
- <https://cpcb.nic.in/overview-of-plastic-waste/>

AG/HP/RC/RN/JA

ⁱ https://www.niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2021-10/Final_Handbook_PWM_10112021.pdf

ⁱⁱ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1745433>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1809125>

^{iv} <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/ministry-notifies-guidelines-on-epr-for-plastic-packaging/article65060582.ece>

^v <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1799170>

^{vi} <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1831098>

^{vii} <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1831098>