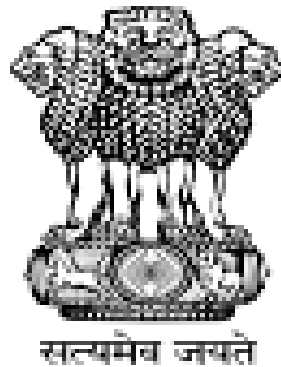


**COMPREHENSIVE ACTION PLAN
FOR
PHASING OUT OF SINGLE USE
PLASTIC IN TRIPURA**



**Science, Technology & Environment Department
Government of Tripura**

June, 2022

1.0 Introduction:

Single Use Plastics referred to as disposable plastics (use and throw items), are commonly used for plastic packaging and include items intended to be used only once before they are thrown away or recycled. These include, among other items, carry bags, food packaging, bottles, straws, containers, cups and cutlery.

Plastic waste, especially littering of single use plastic, pose severe environmental problems, moreover, there is frequent water logging of different areas due to blockage of drains and canals by plastic waste.

Over the years, the widespread concern over single use plastic litter has necessitated the need for a strategic approach for its sustainable management.

Plastic poses distinct risks to human health, arising from both exposures to plastic particles themselves and associated chemicals. Plastic persists and causes serious damage to environment during its complete life cycle, beginning from production to its usage, to its disposal process. Being composed of toxic chemicals and most importantly a non-biodegradable substance, plastic pollutes environment, especially air and water. The harmful effects of plastic on aquatic life are devastating and accelerating. Plastic also reduces soil fertility.

2.0 Background:

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India issued a notification on August 12, 2021 regarding ban on the manufacture, use, sale import and handling of Single Use Plastic items from July 1, 2022.

The manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of following single use plastic, including polystyrene and expanded polystyrene, commodities shall be prohibited with effect from the 1st July, 2022:

- (a) ear buds with plastic sticks, plastic sticks for balloons, plastic flags, candy sticks, ice-cream sticks, polystyrene [Thermocol] for decoration;
- (b) plates, cups, glasses, cutlery such as forks, spoons, knives, straw, trays, wrapping or packing films around sweet boxes, invitation cards, and cigarette packets, plastic or PVC banners less than 100 micron, stirrers.

An office memorandum F.No.17/6/2021-HSM dated 08/07/2021 has been received from Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change with reference to PRAGATI meeting held on 24/02/2021 on elimination of Single Use Plastic. The Special Task Force may prepare the Comprehensive Action Plan on prasing out of Single Use Plastic in Tripura and communicate the same to the Ministry.

3.0 Already Banned SUP Items:

In exercise of the powers conferred by the Section-5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the Government of Tripura had imposed a complete ban on the manufacture, import, storing, transport, sale and use of plastic carry bags in the whole State vide Notification No F.8(30)/DSTE/ENV/Pt-II/1679-97, dated – 10/03/2015 as follows:

- No person including a shopkeeper, vendor, wholesaler or retailer, trader, hawker or fehriwala (i.e., which shall include all kinds of hand pushed/pulled carts which are used to sell various commodities), shall sell or store or use any kind of plastic carry bags for storing or dispensing of any eatable or non-eatable goods or materials.
- No person shall manufacture, import, store, sell or transport any kinds of plastic carry bags (including that of Poly Propylene, Nonwoven fabric type carry bags) in the whole of State of Tripura.
- No person shall use any kind of plastic cover or plastic sheet or plastic film or plastic tube to pack or cover any book including magazine and invitation card or greeting card.

Subsequently, on 04/06/2018, a notification was issued by the State Government vide No. F.8(30)/DSTE/ENV/Pt-II/3890-3908 for realizing Pollution cost from the violators of the direction issued vide Notification mentioned in para 1 and the same was amended on 04/10/2019.

4.0 Actions Taken so far as per Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 as well as phasing out of Single Use Plastic:

- i) For monitoring, and effective implementation of Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, State Level Advisory Committee (SLAC) under the chairmanship of the Secretary, UDD and District Level Committee under the chairmanship of the DMs were constituted.
- ii) Meetings were organized with representatives of different bazar committees, representatives of different NGOs/ voluntary organizations/ SHGs in connection with implementation of the plastic carry bag ban order, penalty provisions for violations, and finding out alternatives of plastic carry bags.
- iii) Several awareness programmes have been organised throughout the state involving 1100 Eco Club Schools & NGOs for implementation of plastic carry

bag ban order. The School Education Department instructed for organizing awareness programme by school students.

- iv) Commissioner of Taxes & Excise has been requested to issue necessary instructions to Churaibari & Akhaura Check Posts not to allow import of any kind of plastic carry bag into the State. This requires strict implementation.
- v) A memorandum was issued on 13.11.2019 suggesting all government offices/sub ordinate offices etc. shall be declared as single use plastic free by banning single use plastic items/disposable plastic items.
- vi) Hon'ble Chief Minister chaired the meeting of AGRAGATI (Assuring Good and Responsive Governance with timely Implementation) on 21/09/2019 and 09.09.2020. One of the agenda of the said meeting was "Ban on single use plastic products".
- vii) 65 Nos. of Hoardings are being installed at railway stations, airports, markets, tourist places etc. highlighting issues of plastic wastes and cleanliness by TSPCB.
- viii) Survey works on inventorisation of Single Use Plastic wastes generation in all ULBs is being carried out by the TSPCB.
- ix) In compliance of the NGT order, an Action Plan has been prepared for the State of Tripura for implementation of Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 that is under implementation.
- x) For eliminating "Single Use Plastic" in a mission mode, the Government of Tripura vide notification even number dated 11.05.2021 has constituted a "Special Task Force (STF)" to prepare a comprehensive Action Plan for phasing out Single Use Plastics with focus on implementation of provisions of Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 and building strong public movement around this issue.
- xi) Moreover, to eliminate the "Single Use Plastic" in a mission mode, the Government of Tripura vide No.F.8(30)/DSTE/ENV/Pt-IV/3456-63 dated 24.05.2021 has designated Urban Development Department and Rural Development Department as nodal departments for urban and rural areas respectively. The above mentioned Departments are responsible for implementation of Action Plan prepared by Special Task Force.
- xii) An Essay competition on "Ill-effects of Single Use Plastics on environment & health" has been organized among the school students for creating awareness among the people as well students.

xiii) An Audit Team has been constituted by Tripura State Pollution Control Board to conduct regular visit in different Government offices to assess the present level of implementation on the direction issued regarding phasing out of Single Use Plastics.

5.0 Potential For Traders:

It is the good opportunity for the traders to imports alternatives items of single use plastics. The Industries & Commerce Department should encourage the trading community to introduce and import alternatives of single use plastics items.

6.0 Opportunity for Manufacturers:

Since single use plastic will be banned from 1st July, 2022, the Industries & Commerce Department, Rural Development Department and Skill Development Department should take necessary initiatives for entrepreneurship development for manufacture of alternatives of single use plastic items.

7.0 Relaxation on existing banning order of Plastic carry bags:

In exercise of the powers conferred by the Section-5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the Government of Tripura had imposed a complete ban on the manufacture, import, storing, transport, sale and use of plastic carry bags in the whole State vide Notification No F.8(30)/DSTE/ENV/Pt-II/1679-97, dated – 10/03/2015.

The Notification No F.8(30)/DSTE/ENV/Pt-II/1679-97, dated – 10/03/2015 issued by the Department of Science, Technology & Environment, Government of Tripura is hereby withdrawn. The plastic carry bags will be banned in the state as per the provisions mentioned in the Plastic waste Management Rules, 2016 and as amended till date

8.0 Measurement of Thickness of Plastic carry bags:

The thickness of plastic carry bags can be measured by using Vernier caliper or Digital Micrometre. The authorised officers for implementation of ban order of single use plastic should take necessary initiatives to purchase these devices to measure thickness of carry bags. The authorised officers should confirm the thickness of plastic carry bags while enforcement.

9.0 Proposed Alternatives of SUP :

The proposed alternative of SUP items are as follows:

Sl. No.	SUP items	Approx. Qty. of SUP items used per year	Proposed Alternatives of SUP items	Approx. Qty. of items to be produced per year as alternative
1	Ear buds with plastic sticks	12,000 nos.	Bamboo/ wooden sticks	12,000 nos.
2	Plastic sticks for balloons	5.5 lakhs nos.	Bamboo/ wooden sticks	5.5 lakhs nos.
3	Plastic flags	50,000 nos.	Paper/Cloth flags	50,000 nos.
4	Plastic candy sticks	4.6 lakhs nos.	Bamboo/ wooden sticks	4.6 lakhs nos.
5	Ice-cream sticks	9,000 Nos	Bamboo/ wooden sticks	9,000 Nos.
6	Polystyrene (thermocool) for decoration	10,000 kg	Paper/Cloth for decoration	10,000 kg
7	Plastic cup & plates	Plastic Cup=6 lakhs nos. Plastic Plates=Nil.	Paper/Mud cup, Plates made of banana, shawl, areca nut leafs	Paper/Mud cup =6 lakhs nos.
8	Plastic straws	41,000 nos.	Bamboo/Paper Straw	Bamboo/Paper Straw = 41,000 nos.
9	Plastic cutlery items such as forks, spoons, knives, trays	12 lakhs nos. cutlery items	Bamboo/ wooden forks, spoons, knives	12 lakhs nos. cutlery items
10	Plastic stirrers	5000 nos.	Bamboo/ wooden stirrers	5000 nos.
11	Plastic carry bags	70 tons	Paper bags, clothes bags, jute bags, crochet bags, muslin bags, Bio degradable plastic bags, plastic bags above 120 micron	70 tons

10.0 Comprehensive Action Plan for Phasing out of Identified Single Use Plastic :

The Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India has circulated standard guidelines for single use plastic including indicative action plan which suggests different set of actions that the States/UTs may take to minimize production and use of single use plastic. The indicative Thematic Areas have been covered under the Action plan are given below :

- Policy and regularity framework
- Institutional mechanism
- Management of littered single use plastic items
- Plastic waste management including single use plastics items
- Enforcement of ban imposed on the use of identified single use plastic items at District/ULB/GP level.
- Plastic recycling infrastructure and end of life disposal facilities
- Development and promotion of alternatives to prohibited single use plastic items and promoting innovation
- Data collection and monitoring mechanism
- Awareness generation and capacity building

The suggestive activities under each theme for phasing out of Single Use of Plastic throughout the State of Tripura are as follows:

Sl. No.	Activity/Sub-activity	Nature of activity	Timeline	Responsible Department / Organization
1.0	Policy and Regulatory Framework			
1.1	A Notification to be issued imposing ban on the identified Single Use Plastic items for the state with the provision of monitory penalty for the whole state of Tripura in accordance with the notification dated 12.08.2021 issued by the MoEFCC in this regard.	Short Term	June, 2022	Science, Technology & Environment
1.2	A circular may to be issued for procuring alternative items of banned SUP items by the Government Offices to be used in the Government Office/Meetings/Programmes with a priority to local manufacturers.	Short Term	June, 2022	Science, Technology & Environment

Sl. No.	Activity/Sub-activity	Nature of activity	Timeline	Responsible Department / Organization
2.0	Institutional Mechanism			
2.1	Constitution of District, Sub-division and Block Level Task Forces for effective enforcement of the implementation ban order of identified Single Use Plastic with the specific Term of Reference	Short Term	June, 2022	Science, Technology & Environment
3.0	Enforcement of ban imposed on the use Identified Single Use Plastic Items			
3.1	Regular enforcement drives and impose monetary penalty against the manufactures, dealers, stockiest and sellers only.	Continuous Activity	Continuous Activity	District /Sub Divisional / Block Level Task Force
4.0	Plastic Recycling Infrastructure			
4.1	Entrepreneurship Development for setting up more plastic waste recycling facilities including plastic product like paver blocks etc manufacturing from plastic waste to minimize plastic wastes with an incentive scheme.	Continuous Activity	Continuous Activity	Industries & Commerce, CIPET- Agartala
4.2	Development of policy for use of plastic wastes in road construction works /carpeting works.	Short Term	June, 2022	PWD (R & B)
5.0	Development, Manufacture and Promotion of Alternatives of Single Use Plastic Items and Promoting New Innovative Ideas			
5.1	Development of new technology which will provide adequate alternatives of SUP and also to popularize them among the entrepreneurs.	Continuous Activity	Continuous Activity	Science, Technology & Environment
5.2	Initiatives may be taken to design and make the alternatives of SUP items such as glass, cup, sticks etc. made of bamboo and other suitable materials in consultation with BCDI & NECTAR.	Continuous Activity	Continuous Activity	Science, Technology & Environment
5.3	Providing necessary assistance in setting up of manufacturing units of alternative items of SUP like bags made of jute, cloth & compostable plastics and other compostable items, utensils made of bamboo, areca nut leafs etc. Attention of the entrepreneurs may be drawn through	Continuous Activity	Continuous Activity	Industries & Commerce

Sl. No.	Activity/Sub-activity	Nature of activity	Timeline	Responsible Department / Organization
	huge publicity.			
5.4	Entrepreneurs may be encouraged to set up industrial unit for making bio degradable plastic carry bags, plastic paver blocks from plastic waste and other suitable alternative products of SUP. Public notice may be issued in this regard. Interested entrepreneurs may be facilitated with financial incentive under various schemes and also necessary Technical support.	Continuous Activity.	Continuous Activity	Industries & Commerce / Information & Cultural Affairs / CIPET- Agartala
5.5	SHGs may be encouraged for manufacturing of alternative items of banned SUP such as cup, plates, pots, bags, thonga of different sizes using paper and leaf of areca nut under TRLM scheme. The products may be popularize and promoted for marketing.	Continuous Activity.	Continuous Activity	Rural Development Department/ Urban Development Department /Tripura Rural Livelihood Mission
5.6	At least one SHG may be identified and trained in each ULBs providing financial incentive to start manufacturing alternative items to SUP items in first phase, which may be replicate further.	Continuous Activity.	Continuous Activity	Industries & Commerce /All Urban Local Bodies
5.7	Capacity building for the entrepreneurs encouraging making alternatives of SUP Items.	Continuous Activity.	Continuous Activity	Skill Development
5.8	A FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)on various issues related the banning order of SUP and its alternatives may be developed and kept in public domain	Short Term	June, 2022	Science, Technology & Environment /Tripura SPCB
6.0	Data Collection and Monitoring Mechanism			
6.1	Online public grievance/complaints portal related to SUP issues	Continuous Activity.	Continuous Activity	Rural Development Department/ Urban Development Department

Sl. No.	Activity/Sub-activity	Nature of activity	Timeline	Responsible Department / Organization
6.2	The Science, Technology & Environment Department will look after the entire mission of phasing out of the Single Use Plastic as Nodal Department in terms of policy making, monitoring of implementation, explore the scope/ or develop new technology which will provide adequate alternatives of SUP and also to popularize them among the entrepreneurs.	Continuos activity	Continuos activity	Science, Technology & Environment
7.0	Awareness Generation and Capacity Building			
7.1	Development of following IEC materials on banning of SUP as well as promotion of suitable alternative items and ill effects of SUP and display of these materials to generate awareness among the people through social media, print and electronic media etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaflet : 50,000 nos. • Posters : 20,000 nos. • Radio Jingles : 10 nos. • PVC Board : 3000 nos. • Script for drama : 10 nos. 	Continuous Activity.	Continuous Activity	Information & Cultural Affairs / TSPCB/ All Urban Local Bodies
7.2	Mass sensitization on hazards of Single Use Plastics (SUP) highlighting actionable points in the campaign through electronic / print media/leaflets/ short video /radio jingles/ distribution of cloth bags in the market area/posters/ video competition among the youths/social media campaign/ marathon for awareness against Single Use Plastic / involving eminent personalities as ambassadors. Alternatives of plastic carry bags like bio-degradable plastic/paper/cloth/jute bags may be distributed free of cost / at nominal cost at market places to discourage Single use Plastics and showcase the alternatives. The specific action are as follows:	Continuous Activity.	Continuous Activity	Information & Cultural Affairs / TSPCB/ All Urban Local Bodies

Sl. No.	Activity/Sub-activity	Nature of activity	Timeline	Responsible Department / Organization
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radio Jingles: 2 nos. per month • Short Video: 2 nos. in local language • Distribution of cloth Bags: 5000 Nos. in the State • Marathon : 1 nos. in each District. • Bio Degradable bag distribution in markets: 100 Kgs in all districts. 			
7.3	<p>Awareness campaign on ban on Single Use Plastic as well as its ill effects and also promotion of alternatives of SUP in educational institutions involving Eco Clubs, youth organizations such as NCC, NSS, NYK and other voluntary organizations. All Eco clubs, NCC, NSS, NYK shall organize at least one campaign every month on the following event :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay writing competition • Speech competition • Seminar • Street Drama • Door To Door Campaign • Rally • Leaflet Distribution 	Continuous Activity.	Continuous Activity	Education (School) / Education (Higher) / Sports & Youth/TSPCB
7.4	<p>The Public awareness and road show may be organized through civic volunteers or NGOs to demonstrate the banned and permitted SUP items in terms of materials or thickness in micron unit with a frequency of one programme per month in each subdivision.</p>	Continuous Activity	Continuous Activity	Science, Technology & Environment / Information & Cultural Affairs / TSPCB
7.5	<p>Mass sensitization on ban on Single Use Plastic as well as its ill effects and also promotion of alternatives of SUP in various markets, shopping malls, rail station, bus station etc. involving NGOs/voluntary organizations at least one programme per month on the</p>	Continuous Activity	Continuous Activity	Information & Cultural Affairs / All Urban Local Bodies / TSPCB

Sl. No.	Activity/Sub-activity	Nature of activity	Timeline	Responsible Department / Organization
	following event: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Street Corner • Miking • Door To Door Campaign • Leaflet Distribution 			
7.6	Targeted campaign at littering hotspots such as tourist spots, places of religious and cultural importance, weekly markets, urban sprawls against littering and promoting alternate materials in terms of postering, display board	Continuous Activity	Continuous Activity	Forests / Tourism / All Urban Local Bodies
7.7	Display of message/videos /posters on ban of SUP, its ill effects and promotion of alternative of SUP engaging eminent public personality and also to serve as brand ambassador in this campaign on regular basis	Continuous Activity	Continuous Activity	Information & Cultural Affairs / TSPCB/ All Urban Local Bodies