

CM flags off awareness vehicle to explain ill effects of plastics

CHENNAI: Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami on Monday flagged off an awareness vehicle to emphasise the effects of plastic ahead of the ban that is take effect from Jan 2019.

"For effective implementation of plastic ban from January 1, an awareness vehicle was flagged off. The vehicle will carry the message on harmful effects of plastic and will travel throughout the state," said Palaniswami, after flagging off the awareness vehicle.

State government passed a Government Order (GO) on June 25 this year, banning the production, sale and use of single use plastic from January 1, and the banned list included plastic plates, plastic sheets, plastic tea cups and tumblers, plastic carry bags, plastic straws, plastic ropes, plastic plates, plastic coated plates, thermocol tumblers, thermocol plates and so on.

According to Palaniswami, the idea to ban single use plastic stemmed from late Chief

Minister, J Jayalithsa, who formed an expert committee to study the adverse effects of single use plastics. To present a plastic-pollution free society for future generations, the State government passed a resolution in the State assembly on June 6, under section 110 of Tamil Nadu Assembly Rules.

Based on the resolution and the GO, a 10-member steering committee was formed under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary and along with the steering committee, coordinators for three zones were also appointed to co-ordinate work with state pollution control board officials for better implementation of the plastic ban.

Following the setting up of steering committee, Palaniswami, on August 23, launched a website, www.plasticpollutionfree.org and an Android app 'Plastic Pollution Free Tamil Nadu' to spread awareness of adverse effects of plastics. Documentary movies to avoid plastics and the alternatives available were also listed in the website and application.

The awareness vehicle will show the documentary movies on plastic eradication in the large screen along with the videos and folk artists will also enact shows to spread awareness on eradication of plastics.



The awareness vehicle that began its journey from Secretariat on Monday

Plastic manufacturers to go on strike on December 13

CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu Plastic Manufacturers Association (TAPMA) has announced a protest in the city on December 13, against the upcoming ban on single use plastics by the State Government from January 1.

Calling on the blanket ban of single use plastics discriminatory, the association's office bearers addressing the media on Monday, here, said that around 2 lakh people in the State would be affected by the proposed ban. "The plastics are 100 per cent recyclable and we must take this message to the

consumers rather than calling for a complete ban," said B Swaminathan, chairman, environment committee, TAPMA.

Stressing that the current solid waste management plan being implemented by the government left many anticipated, he said that only about 6 per cent of the waste generated contains plastic and even that wastage was dominated by packaging material in the fast-moving consumer goods.

"However, these packaging materials are not banned. There are plastics used in many government departments that are not banned. Though, the same

usage is banned for general or public use," he said referring to GO 110. Talking about the adverse impact of the ban, they said, the government will lose GST of Rs 1800 crore annually, and that the 5,000 plastic small and medium enterprises will be forced to shut down. Loans of Rs 4000 crore will become non-performing assets. The association has also sought an expert committee to look into the impact of the ban.

Around 10,000 people from the industry are expected to participate in the protest that will be staged at Chepauk on December 13.

1,352 calls to women's helpline in 8 hours

CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami inaugurated the women's helpline 181 on Monday.

At least, 1352 calls were received on the helpline in eight hours and the calls had begun from women from across the State, even before the official launch, according to sources at the Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme Department.

The 181 helpline, a 24*7 helpline, will look at offering a slew of rescue and information services for women. It will offer medical services, legal aid, police assistance in tandem with the One Stop Centre (OSC). Two one stop centres—the new building in Chennai and the new centre in Rancheperum were also inaugurated on the same day.

CM lays foundation stone for PWD projects

Chief Minister, Edappadi K Palaniswami, on Monday, laid foundation stone, through video conferencing, for various projects attached to Public Works Department (PWD), which will be constructed at the cost of Rs 121.42 crores.

The major project for which foundation stone was laid was for the construction of the groynes between Ennoor and Ernavur kuppam, at the cost of Rs 38.29 crore. The groins will

26 Forest dept staff honoured

CHENNAI: Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami on Monday, distributed 'Chief Minister' award for 26 officials and employees of forest department. The award was given to foresters those who have worked for conserving forests, wildlife and to those preventing man-animal conflict. Certificates and medals apart from cash prize were also given. The cash prize would vary according to the different positions held by the officials in the State.

prevent soil erosion and will protect the livelihood of the fishermen in the area.

To protect the water sources and irrigation channels, a check dam would be constructed across South Pennar river, between Thalavannur village in Villupuram district, to Emdhirimangalam village in Cuddalore district. The dam would be constructed at the height of 3.10 meters and with the length of 295.6 meters. Once the dam is constructed 87 wells would be recharged and 2,114 acres of farm lands would be irrigated, said Palaniswami. He also laid foundation stone for another check dam across Veiluru river.

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