

## Central Pollution Control Board prohibits certain single-use plastic items w.e.f. 1 July 2022

**What is Single-use plastic (SUP)?** It refers to plastic objects that are thrown away after use. One of the largest percentages of plastic produced and used is SUP, which includes food packaging, polythene bags, face masks, coffee cups, cling film, garbage bags, and bottles of shampoo, soap, and cosmetics.

### The Law

The Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 forbid the use of plastic in any way for sachets used to store, package, or market pan masala, gutkha, or tobacco products. Plastic Waste Management (Amended) Rules, 2021 prohibit the production, importation, stocking, distribution, sale, and use of carry bags made of virgin or recycled plastic that are less than 75 microns in thickness, as opposed to the 50 microns that were previously advised under Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016.

On 18 June 2022, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) announced a list of SUP items which have a high potential for littering that will be banned from 1 July 2022. Thus, from 1 July 2022, the following SUP goods that have been designated as having little utility and a high potential for littering are no longer allowed to be manufactured, imported, stocked, distributed, sold, or used:

1. Plastic balloon sticks, plastic flags, candy sticks, ice-cream sticks, and polystyrene (thermocool) for decorating are all examples of items with plastic sticks in them.
2. Plates, cups, glasses, cutlery as such forks, spoons, and knives, straws, trays, packaging film around candy boxes, invitation cards, and cigarette packets, stirrers, plastic/PVC banners smaller than 100 microns.

State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees have been given instructions to modify or revoke the consent to operate granted under the Air and Water Act to organisations engaged in the production of banned SUP. The Customs authority has been asked to stop the import of prohibited SUPs. Local authorities have been instructed to issue new commercial licenses with the stipulation that SUP items shall not be sold at the licensee's premises and the existing commercial licenses shall be revoked if entities are found selling the prohibited SUP items.

**Weblink** <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1835009>

## Therefore

CPCB Chairman recently announced India at 75 should be a model of sustainable development and for that, each citizen must ensure to 'reduce, reuse, recycle, and recover' the basics of our lifestyle. This mission aligns with the recent initiatives of CPCB such as

- i. Issue of one-time certificates to around 200 manufacturers of compostable plastic
- ii. Organising workshops for MSMEs across the country to transition to alternatives to SUP
- iii. Directions to e-commerce companies, leading SUP sellers/users, and plastic raw material manufacturers for phasing out of identified SUP items
- iv. Launch of SUP Compliance Monitoring Portal for compliance of SUP
- v. Launch of SUP-CPCB App for lodging complaints against the use of SUP