



**Government of Goa**  
**Department of Environment & Climate Change**  
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No. 3-108-2005/STE-DIR/PART/10

Date: 06 / 04 / 2026

**DIRECTIONS UNDER SECTION 5 OF THE ENVIRONMENT (PROTECTION)**  
**ACT, 1986 (CENTRAL ACT, 29 OF 1986).**

*Whereas*, it has been brought to the notice of the Government of Goa, that several Plaster of Paris (PoP) idols are being imported from neighboring states for sale in Goa during the annual Ganesh Chaturthi festival.

*Whereas*, such PoP idols are put up for display and sale in various permanent establishments and other temporary establishments / “Chitrashallas” across the state during the annual Ganesh Chaturthi festival.

*Whereas*, such PoP idols are made from hemi hydrated calcium sulphate manufactured by calcination process and such PoP idols when immersed in water do not dissolve or disintegrate fast, thereby causing irreversible environmental effects on the riverine / coastal ecology or the eco-system of any water body, which in turn causes adverse environmental effects.

*Whereas*, the chemical paints, colours and dyes applied for such PoP idols contain poisonous chemicals / elements like Mercury, Zinc Oxide, Chromium, Lead, Cadmium etc. which causes harmful effects to marine / aquatic life, which when consumed by humans, leads to the cause of formation of cancer and other diseases including respiratory ailments, skin infections etc. The PoP also contains chemicals / elements like Gypsum, Sulphur, Potassium and Magnesium which cause harmful effects to aquatic and marine life (flora & fauna) and in turn causes harmful health effects, if such aquatic / marine life is consumed by human beings;

*Whereas*, Government of Goa, taking into consideration the public health and the likely effects on the environment of the State of Goa, is of the view that such PoP idols should not be sold or used in any part in the State of Goa.

*Whereas*, it is expedient and in public interest, that Government of Goa issues such directions to ban the manufacture, import and sale of such PoP idols in the State of Goa.

Whereas, the Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB) vide their letter No 2026/GSPCB/Letter/ Tech/26031 dated 27/02/2026 has after carrying out analysis concluded that Chikan mati / Clay / Shadu mati idols having POP content up to 20% can be permitted and idols should be painted using eco-friendly water based, biodegradable and non-toxic natural dyes for paints.

*And whereas*, it would be appropriate to issue such directions to various Departments, District Level Authorities and Local Authorities, to take such measures as listed, to ensure that manufacture, import and sale of PoP idols in the State is stopped forth with;

*Now therefore*, by virtue of the powers conferred under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; vide Notification No. S. O. 881 (E) dated 22 / 09 / 1988, by the Ministry of Environment Forests & Climate Change (MoEF & CC), Government of India; the Government of Goa hereby directs

- (a) The GSPCB to develop and maintain a portal for registration of vendors intending to sell Ganesh Idols for the year 2026 and thereafter. Only those vendors who have registered on the GSPCB portal on or before **15<sup>th</sup> July** of the year concerned will be allowed to sell and /or import Ganesh idols in the State of Goa for the year 2026 and thereafter. The information on the vendors registered under GSPCB will be made accessible to all the Authorities and General Public.
- (b) The vendor will upload the details such as name of the authorized person carrying out sale, location of sale with complete address, email id, mobile number, details of the source from which the idols are procured , number of idols proposed to be procured, the expected date of import or arrival at the Goa Border, and a duly signed undertaking that the said idols are made of Chikan mati / Clay / Shadu mati and are not having POP content of more than 20 % and any other information sought by the GSPCB on the portal including information on the number of idols unsold after the Ganesh Festival and the proposed method of storage or disposal of the same .
- (c) Commissioner (Excise) to check the entry of vehicles / Goods carriers entering the State carrying such PoP idols as its cargo, prevent the entry of the vehicle and divert the same back to the source, failing which to attach the vehicle / goods carrier and hand it over to the Police Authorities at the nearest Police Check Post / Police Station and allow only those idols where the vendors have registered on the GSPCB Portal.
- (d) Director (Transport) to check the entry of vehicles / Goods carriers entering the State carrying such PoP idols as its cargo, prevent the entry of the vehicle and divert the same back to the source, failing which to attach the vehicle / goods carrier and hand it over to the Police Authorities at the nearest Police Check Post / Police Station and allow only those idols where the vendors have registered on the GSPCB Portal.

- (e) Director General of Police, to issue relevant directions to the Police Officers at the Police Check Post / Police Station, to take appropriate action against the offenders reported by the officials of Excise Department and Transport Department. Also, in case of transport of such PoP idols by rail, the Police Officers should check the cargo on arrival and ensure that the same is not allowed to exit from the Railway Station and allow only those idols where the vendors have registered on the GSPCB Portal.
- (f) Commissioner (State Taxes) to ensure that all permanent and temporary registered establishments in the State do not conduct any sale of PoP idols during Ganesh Chaturthi festival, failing which the registration of such establishments shall be cancelled forthwith and allow only those idols where the vendors have registered on the GSPCB Portal.
- (g) Director (Municipal Administration) & Director (Panchayats) to provide details of all the immersion/visarjan sites within their jurisdiction with GPS Co-ordinates, name of wards, type of water body etc. on the GSPCB Portal on or before 30<sup>th</sup> May of the concerned year.
- (h) Director (Municipal Administration) & Director (Panchayats) to issue relevant directions to all Municipal Councils / Corporation and Village Panchayats, directing them to
- (i) Inform all the vendors / Chitrashalas to register on the GSPCB portal on or before 30<sup>th</sup> May of the year and not grant any licenses to such establishments / "Chitrashalla's" who are not registered on the GSPCB portal.
  - (ii) Not to grant licenses / permissions to vendors / Chitrashalas for display and sale of PoP idols, during Ganesh Chaturthi festival season and allow only those vendors who have registered on the GSPCB Portal to display idols of Chikan mati / Clay / Shadu mati idols having POP content up to 20% and painted using eco-friendly water based, biodegradable and non-toxic natural dyes for paints.
  - (iii) Obtain an undertaking from each such establishments / "Chitrashalla's" that they shall not display or sell such PoP idols failing which the Chief Officers of the Municipal Council / Commissioner of the Municipal Corporation / Secretary of Village Panchayat, shall forthwith cancel the license granted for the said establishment / "Chitrashalla's" and arrange for its immediate closure.
  - (iv) All Chief Officers of the Municipal Councils / Commissioner CCP, Secretaries of the Village Panchayats will provide the list of all Chitrashalla's with address, the name of the owner of Chitrashalla's and Contact Numbers to the Goa Handicrafts Rural and Small-Scale Industries, GSPCB and the office of the concerned Deputy Collector on or before the 30<sup>th</sup> of April of the year concerned.
  - (v) GSPCB shall issue necessary advertisements in the local dailies, electronic media, and social media on the subject to create awareness.

- (vi) The GSPCB shall jointly conduct inspections of the Chitrashalas starting one month prior to Ganesh Chaturthi, along with GHRSSIDC and a representative from the Deputy Collector's Office.
- (vii) In case any violations are observed, the following actions shall be taken:

- a. Non-compliance with registration:

If a Chitrashala is found operating without the required registration, the premises shall be sealed, and the vendor shall be directed to complete the registration process by paying a late fee of ₹3,000. GSPCB will also collect samples from the said premise and send it for analysis. If the samples are found to be positive for PoP higher than the permissible limits, then action mentioned in point b will be initiated. If the samples contain PoP within the prescribed limits, then the premises shall be desealed only after confirmation of registration and receipt of the late fee.

- b. Presence of PoP beyond the permissible limit:

Samples shall be collected from the Chitrashalas and submitted to the laboratory of the GSPCB for analysis. In the event that any idols are found to be in contravention of the prescribed limits of PoP content, the vendor shall be liable to pay a penalty of INR 25,000.

Any idols determined to be non-compliant shall be, at the sole cost and responsibility of the vendor, transported to and disposed of at an authorized common hazardous waste disposal facility. The vendor shall, within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of such disposal, submit a duly issued disposal compliance certificate to the Goa State Pollution Control Board. Failure to comply with the aforesaid requirement shall render the vendor liable to an additional penalty of INR 50,000.


The premises shall remain sealed, and any temporary de-sealing shall be permitted solely for the purpose of facilitating the disposal of the non-compliant idols. Upon completion of such disposal, the premises shall be re-sealed and shall not be de-sealed thereafter except upon verification by the GSPCB that the vendor has fully complied with the prescribed disposal procedures.

In the event of any subsequent violation, the registration of the vendor shall be liable to be cancelled, and the vendor may be

prohibited from manufacturing, selling, or otherwise dealing in idols within the State of Goa

- (i) District Collectors and Additional Collectors of the **three Districts** to enforce the above directions by issuing relevant instructions to Dy. Collectors / Mamlatdars for monitoring and enforcement of the directions and to file such complaint against any such violator before the appropriate Court under relevant provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and any other Act / rules as applicable. They are also required to conduct inspections and order closure of such establishments / Chitrashalla's who continue to conduct display and sale of such PoP idols.
- (j) Director (Industries, Trade & Commerce) to issue relevant directions to all industries / manufacturing units registered in the State to stop manufacture of PoP idols / products, failing which to cancel the registration of such Industry / Unit.
- (k) Member Secretary, GSPCB to inspect and verify the various industries / units registered in the State and issue directions to stop manufacture of PoP idols/products in State of Goa, leading to withdrawal of consent to operate and issue appropriate closure directions.
- (l) The respective Incharge of Police Station/Police Inspector's or any other Police Officer not below the rank of Police Sub Inspector, within his jurisdiction, upon being informed by any of the Authorities mentioned herein above from **(c) to (k)** or suo motu, about the manufacturing, procurement, stocking, display, sale and transportation of PoP idols within the jurisdiction of the Police Station; shall confiscate such PoP idols and seal such premises used to manufacture, stock, display or sale of PoP idols, attach the vehicle used for transportation and further take action to prosecute the violators in terms of section 15 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

By Order and in the name of the  
Governor of Goa

  
Director / Ex-Officio Jt. Secy.  
(Env. & CC)

To,

**The Government Printing Press, Government of Goa, Panaji, Goa.....** with a request to publish the above notification in Official Gazette, Government of Goa and intimate this office.

Copy to:

- 1) **The District Collector (North)**, Collectorate of North Goa, Panaji-Goa.

- 2) **The District Collector (South)**, Collectorate of South Goa, Margao-Goa.
- 3) **The District Collector (Kushawati)**, Collectorate of Kushawati, Quepem-Goa.
- 4) **The Additional Collector (North)**, Collectorate of North Goa, Panaji-Goa.
- 5) **The Additional Collector (South)**, Collectorate of South Goa, Margao-Goa.
- 6) **The Additional Collector (Kushawati)**, Collectorate of Kushawati, Quepem-Goa.
- 7) **The Director General of Police**, Police Headquarters, Panaji – Goa.
- 8) **The Commissioner (Excise)**, Excise Department, Panaji – Goa.
- 9) **The Superintendent of Police**, North-Goa
- 10) **The Superintendent of Police**, South-Goa
- 11) **The Commissioner (Commercial Taxes), Department of Commercial Taxes**, Altinho, Panaji – Goa.
- 12) **The Director (Industries, Trade & Commerce), Directorate of Industries, Trade & Commerce**, Panaji – Goa.
- 13) **The Director (Transport), Directorate of Transport**, Junta House, Panaji – Goa.
- 14) **The Director, Department of Urban Development (Municipal Administration)**, Panaji-Goa.
- 15) **The Director (Panchayats)**, Directorate of Panchayats, Panaji-Goa.
- 16) **The Member Secretary, Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB)**, Saligao, Bardez-Goa
- 17) **The Principal Chief Engineer, Public Works Department**, Altinho, Panaji – Goa.
- 18) **The Chief Engineer, Water Resources Department, Porvorim-Goa.**
- 19) **OSD to Hon'ble Minister for Environment & CC/ Hon'ble Chief Minister**, Secretariat, Alto-Porvorim, Goa..... *for information.*
- 20) **P.S. to Chief Secretary**, Secretariat, Alto-Porvorim, Goa..... *for information.*
- 21) **P.A. to Secretary (Environment & CC)**, Secretariat, Alto-Porvorim, Goa..... *for information.*
- 22) **P.A. to Secretary (Transport)**, Secretariat, Alto-Porvorim, Goa..... *for information.*
- 23) **P.A. to Secretary (Revenue)**, Secretariat, Alto-Porvorim, Goa..... *for information.*
- 24) **P.A. to Secretary (Urban Development)**, Secretariat, Alto-Porvorim, Goa..... *for information.*
- 25) **P.A. to Secretary (Panchayats)**, Secretariat, Alto-Porvorim, Goa..... *for information.*

- 26) **P.A. to Secretary (Industries)**, Secretariat, Alto-Porvorim, Goa..... *for information.*
- 27) **P.A. to Secretary (Home)**, Secretariat, Alto-Porvorim, Goa..... *for information.*