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Government of Goa
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No. 3-108-2005/STE-DIR/PART/704

Date: 11/8/2026

**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;

- (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 30th 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 30 days prior to the commencement of the Ganesh Chaturthi festival 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

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't. & CC)

To,

- 1) The District Collector (North), Collectorate of North Goa, Panaji-Goa.
- 2) The District Collector (South), Collectorate of South Goa, Margao-Goa.

8) P.A. to Secretary (Industries), Secretariat, Alto-Porvorim, Goa..... for information.

9) P.A. to Secretary (Home), Secretariat, Alto-Porvorim, Goa..... for information.