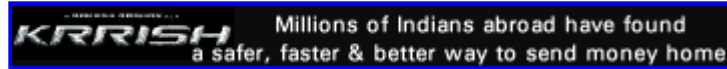


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Plastics banned in Hogenakkal

S. Prasad

Restriction on products including bottles, shampoos, bags and packaged drinking water

Dharmapuri: The district administration has banned use of plastics in Hogenakkal to protect environment and to attract more tourists. The ban will cover all plastic products, including bottles, shampoos, bags and packaged drinking water.

Billboards providing information on the ban on plastics have been displayed from Pennagaram to Hogenakkal, said the Collector, M. Chandrasekaran, here on Saturday.

Though Hogenakkal is a major tourist spot in the State, indiscriminate dumping of plastics along the banks of River Cauvery was spoiling its beauty and posing threat to the environment. Along with this, food packets were also being dumped by tourists at all places in Hogenakkal. To prevent this, SHGs have been entrusted with collection and disposal of garbage in Hogenakkal. The door-to-door collection and segregation of garbage will begin from next week. An awareness campaign highlighting the danger in using plastics has also been launched among the locals in association with the forest department and local bodies. The ongoing development works in Hogenakkal, including landscaping, construction of an open gallery, improvement to falls, drinking water supply and sanitation and protective cover for tourists, would be completed before the end of June, Mr Chandrasekaran said. Sale of fried fish and chicken has already been streamlined. Along with this, an artificial falls and bathing ghat to accommodate over 200 tourists has been constructed near the main falls. Construction of an open gallery with granite benches near the old bus stand is nearing completion. The works would provide an impetus to tourism and allied industries in Hogenakkal, Mr. Chandrasekaran added.

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