

PETITION

We, undersigned, locals and **tourists of Gokarna, MOST OF WHOM COME TO GOKARNA FOR YOGA AND HEALING**, are expressing discontent and resentment over:

1. the dreadful practice of several cafés, restaurants, shacks & guesthouses, as well as of Gram Panchayat workers and general public, on THE MAIN BEACHES and other places where DIFFERENT TYPES OF PLASTIC AND OTHER RUBBISH ARE DUMPED AND BURNED.

It is now well established that a wide range of poisonous substances, capable of causing different diseases, including cancer, arise from open burning such as furans, dioxins, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polychlorinated naphthalenes, chlorinated benzenes, polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), Halogenated Phenols, Brominated and Mixed Halogenated Dioxins, Polychlorinated dibenzothiophenes (PCDBTs), Polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins (PCDDs) and polychlorinated dibenzofurans (PCDFs), numerous volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and heavy metals including lead, cadmium and mercury.

Many of these chemicals are known to be persistent (very resistant to degradation in the environment), bio accumulative (build up in the tissues of living organisms) and toxic.

These three properties make them arguably the most problematic chemicals to which natural systems can be exposed. Some of the emitted chemicals are carcinogenic and some are endocrine disruptors.

Others such as sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) as well as fine particulate matter, have been associated with adverse impacts on respiratory health.¹

Mostly, burning occurs late in the night, so during that period people have to **inhale poisonous air with the disgusting burning smell instead of the fresh marine air.**

THEREFORE, THE GUESTS AND VISITORS OF GOKARNA (AS WELL AS THE LOCAL POPULATION) RECEIVE POISONOUS AIR AND POTENTIALLY THE DISEASES INSTEAD OF HEALINGNESS OR HOLINESS!!!

Because local authorities do not remove rubbish from where it gets accumulated, nor notify people for the compliance of the waste management rules, rubbish is burned *in situ*,

Because also local authority fails to impose penalties on the criminals of such violation,

We, undersigned, request that the local authorities:

1. take immediate action against those who burn rubbish
2. provide means to take the rubbish in due manner ensuring that part of it is given to recycling.
3. organize and commission some legal body to control and impose strict fines on those who dump and burn any kind of rubbish.

We rest our hopes upon your prudence and looking forward to living and healing in clean and holly Gokarna with pure air.

Note - The State might lose an important revenue from tourism due to its negligence.

To spread the word about Gokarna pollution on the web does not take much effort and the impact may be economically disastrous.

¹ "Incineration and human health. State of Knowledge of the Impacts of Waste Incinerators on Human Health.", Michelle Allsopp, Pat Costner and Paul Johnston, Greenpeace Research Laboratories, University of Exeter, UK, 2000.

<http://www.greenpeace.org/norway/Global/norway/p2/other/report/2001/incineration-and-human-health.pdf>