



KHUSHI PARISARA APPEAL TO TOURISM DEPARTMENT

REMEMORANDUM

Coastal tourism is being endorsed by all coastal states, including Karnataka, as a way to promote sustainable development and to exploit the coastal ecosystem resources for recreational purposes. However, the adverse effects of mass tourism on coastal ecology is leaving a heavy detrimental footprint.

The building of recreational resorts, hotels, lodges, restaurants, etc, on CRZ well demarcated areas, is destroying coastal habitats [sand dunes, coastal vegetation, mangroves, etc.], heavily contaminating water bodies, disturbing coastal and marine life.

If “the tourism department's new policy for 2020-25 is expected to attract 5,000 investors, and generate over 10 lac jobs” how many tones of unmanaged solid waste will be dumped at the seashore, burnt or dumped at forest areas? How many liters of unmanaged liquid waste? As it can be easily noticed, the rampant flood of tourists and their connected activities, implementing outlawed activities deprived of proper planning and management, is also leading to inflated generation of solid and liquid wastes along the seashore.

It is crucial the development of byelaws by Local Bodies to manage the coastal degradation, along with raising full awareness of the existing rules, requesting from the primary stakeholders broad and sustained action on the causes of waste mismanagement.

Participatory procedures of waste management should be emphasized through periodic cleaning drives, with the involvement of all identified stakeholders (cf. SWM Rules 2016).

Specific touristic waste collection fees should be levied from visitors and commercial establishments towards maintenance of clean seashore and surroundings.

It is from within our grass roots experience and work at the coastal area that we want to bring to your kind and attentive consideration the following requests

REQUESTS

0 – Creation of an interim BOARD to trigger the required **FOUNDATIONAL CHANGES** formed by the government decision-makers on the key areas to address Coastal Pollution

- **FEE (+KSCZMA)**
- **RDPR**
- **UD/DMA**
- **KSPCB**
- **Police**
- **Tourism Dept**

Each Department is to be supported by and strong environmental expert reflecting the need for heightening the skills of the involved officers on this front.

- a full deep and wide assessment of coastal pollution
- outline a time framed roadmap of remedial solutions
- trigger and monitor their implementation

1 – Tourism Department shall submit a District wise **Master Plan for Blue Tourism** targeting prevention and removal of marine waste devising economic tools to hold coastal tourist spots clean

2 – Enforce **Solid & Plastic Waste disposal Plans** for all projects **promoting coastal eco-tourism** (as beaches with higher Tourism incidence are under GPs jurisdiction, lacking SWM Plans, facilities & technical guidance)

3 – Where Tourism Dept makes development infrastructure, **joint maintenance system of Local Body and Tourism Dept. should be strictly ensured** and annually validated by KSPCB on the environmental related features.

4 – Creation of a **FORUM**, a online platform, for public to exchange experiences and ratings on **good cleaning practices** adapted by traders at seashore (also riverbanks, catchment areas, ports and inland waterways), monitoring their performance and evaluating them based on ecofriendly alertness, waste management, customer care, etc.. Being publicly available on Internet, such evaluation will help all traders to be attentive, knowing that better performers are recognised and awarded.¹

5 – Instruct all Departments involved in tourism activities to accurately **plan the management of all wastes produced** and, based on established marks, certificate the best performers in a given stretch, publicly announcing them

6 – Label guest-houses and hoteliers according to their performance on Wastes Management offering bonds to incentivize them based on the public feedback system.²

7 – Since, as per government estimates, 60/70% of total domestic tourists fall under the “**spiritual tourism**” category, this sector has to be specially addressed, firstly,

- Identify sites with prominent Religious Tourism and their government stakeholders to handle it (LBs, TD, Police, Mizrai, etc.)

- Identify the local corporate stakeholders involved in the Religious Tourism (Temples, Pujaris, trusts, shops, hotels, etc.)

Then, adjust the **Master Plan for Blue Tourism** to the Religious Tourism and to its ritual practices involving disposal of *puja* items

8 – Along with Local Bodies

- Tally all Coastal Tourism Operators with identification of their licensed status
- Provide waste bins at visitors areas (tourist and pilgrim)
- Levy waste collection fees from coastal visitors and traders

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