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**The State Government of Andhra Pradesh
Bans the Use of Plastic Flexi Banners**

On 22nd September 2022, the Environment, Forests, Science & Technology Department, under the authorisation of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, issued Notification No. 1320, through the exercise of powers conferred in Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (Central Act 29 of 1986) to be read with the "Government of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests Notification S.O. 152 (E)", issued on 10th February 1988.

The Notification was in regard to the ban of Plastic Flexi Banners in the State of Andhra Pradesh which is deemed to be effective from 01st November 2022, issuing specific directions as mentioned below -

- Banning Plastic Flexi Banners in the State where no one is further permitted to manufacture, print, use, transport, import, or display any Plastic Flexi Materials in the State.
- The enforcing authorities are under the authorisation of the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board, which is represented by the Member Secretary, Concerned Unit Head, Zonal Officer, and Regional Officer responsible for ensuring the enforcement of the ban on manufacturing and importing of the Plastic Flexi Banners along with the printing of Plastic Flexi Banners within their jurisdiction. Whereas the responsibility of ensuring the enforcement of using, transporting or displaying any type of Plastic Flexi Banners in Urban Areas if the State is under the jurisdiction of the Municipal Commissioners of the Urban Local Bodies including the Health Officers, Secretary Inspectors, Sanitary and Environment Secretary of the Ward Secretariat. For Rural Areas, the responsibility of ensuring the enforcement of using, transporting or displaying any type of Plastic Flexi Banners is authorised to the District Collector and the Officers empowered by the District Collector, which includes the Zilla Prasad, District Parishad Development Officer, Divisional Level Panchayat Officer, Mandal Parishad Development Officer, Panchayat Secretariat.
- The Authorised Personnel are empowered to levy and collect the penalty of INR 100/- per sq. ft. in case of any violations of any of the rules mentioned above.
- The Authorised Personnel are further authorised to seize the Plastic Flexi Banners from the violators and send them for scientific disposal.
- The violators of the Rules, as mentioned above, are to be prosecuted under the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986.
- Other departments such as Revenue, Police, Transport and GST Authorities are directed to assist the enforcing authorities in effectively enforcing the ban of Plastic Flexi Banners.
- The Industrial Authorities and the Commerce Department are directed to assist the required enterprises by ensuring the availability of "Cotton Banner Material".



Sushree Dash
Legal Researcher