

Ban on single-use plastic by Indian Railways

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Ministry of Railways has directed all Railway units to enforce the ban on single-use **plastic material, with less than 50-micron thickness from 2nd October 2019**. Emphasis is on making necessary arrangements to minimize the generation of plastic waste and its eco- friendly disposal.

In this regard, the Ministry of Railways has issued a circular stating the following instructions are to be enforced: w.e.f. 02.10.2019:

- Ban on single-use plastic material
- All railway vendors to avoid the use of **plastic carry bags**
- Staff should reduce, reuse and refuse plastic products and to use inexpensive reusable bags to reduce plastic footprint.
- IRCTC to implement the return of plastic drinking water bottles as part of **Extended Producer Responsibility**.
- **Plastic Bottle crushing machines to be provided expeditiously.**

Strict enforcement of these instructions is to be from 2nd October 2019, to give enough time to all concerned to prepare for **"Plastic Free Railway"**.

Ministry of Railways has also instructed its Railway units that a pledge can be administered on 2nd October 2019 to cut the use of plastics. Also, Information, Education & Communication (IEC) measures are to be adapted to create awareness among railway users.