

## ❖ Recommendations for Plastics Waste Management

1. Plastics bags /films are “non-biodegradable”, but recyclable to certain extent, as after every thermal treatment vis-a vis recycling, degradation of plastic ingredient takes place.
2. As envisaged that plastic bags & packaging films are collected properly, is not true, besides they are neither collected properly nor disposed-off scientifically; hence, they may lead to following **environmental and health hazards**;
  - (i) Make land in-fertile due to impervious nature;
  - (ii) Choke the open drains;
  - (iii) On ingestion by cattles it may lead death; and
  - (iv) Coloured recycled bags on dumping may leach & contaminate soil & underground water.
3. Further, all types of plastic packagings are not recyclable such as multilayer and metallized pouches & packets which are used in packing of gutkha, namkeen, wafers, shampoo, biscuits etc.,
4. It is noteworthy to mention that the plastics waste including carry bags are not collected by any authorised agencies though ragpickers are informal sector and are not regulated under any law. The ragpickers collect only value added waste plastics.
5. A proper collection mechanism shall be developed by local bodies in association with manufacturers, shopkeepers so that plastics waste can be reused or recycled for better purposes.
6. One time effort shall be made to collect all the littered plastics from dumpsites, parks, open lands, railway tracks etc to make cities plastic free.

7. A panel provision shall be made for throwing/ littering of used plastics bags and pouches on public places.
8. The manufacturers and sellers of small and thin size (sub-standard) plastics carry bags (< 8 X12 inches & 20  $\mu$ ) shall be prosecuted.
9. Manufacturers of multilayered and metallized films/pouches shall make provision for buy back the empty pouches with some incentives because it is not recyclable
10. Recycling units located in non-conforming areas should be properly sited in the conforming areas to avoid environmental and health hazards..
11. Mass awareness programmes should be launched regularly to discourage littering of plastics.