

MEETING ON IMPLEMENTATION OF ORDERS OF NGT BANNING USE OF SYNTHETIC / CHINESE MANJHA IN KITE FLYING.



4TH JANUARY, 2019

What's wrong with Synthetic Manjha?

- Chinese manjha (nylon thread) and glass-coated manjha are used for kite-flying during Sankranthi.
- However, such manjha poses a serious threat to the well-being of animals and humans alike.
- Every year, glass coated Nylon manjha has injured innumerable birds, caused them to suffer severe injuries and/or slow, painful deaths.
- Many humans, including young children, have also suffered impairment or lost their lives because of such manjha
- Since such manjha is made of non-biodegradable materials, it remains in the environment for a long time as a toxic pollutant.

- Improperly discarded manjha is known to cut the fingers, hands, throats of Kite flyers motorcyclists with equal ease.
- The Manjha continues to cause injuries to birds long after the festival season is over when they unwittingly get caught in these sharp, thin strings.
- The sale and use of Nylon and glass-coated manjha has resulted in the loss of livelihoods of innumerable traditional cotton manjha craftsmen.

Why should you shun Chinese Manjha?

- The National Green Tribunal in Order dt.11.07.2017 in O.A. No. 384 of 2016 and O.A. No. 442 of 2016 ordered a total ban on Manjha or tread for kite flying which is made of Nylon and any synthetic material and / or is coated with synthetic substance and is non-biodegradable.
- The Hon'ble NGT further directed to prohibit the manufacture, sale, store, purchase and use of synthetic Manjha / Nylon thread and all other similar synthetic thread use for kite flying.
- The Government of Telangana, in exercise of its powers under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has imposed a complete ban vide G.M. No. 5030/For.III/A2/2016, EFS&T, dt. 09.09.2017 on the procurement, stocking, sale and use of nylon- thread commonly called 'Chinese Dor' or other synthetic (non-biodegradable) thread coated with glass or other harmful substances used for kite flying, with effect from 13 January 2016.

PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS

- As per section 15 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 any person found to be in violation of the orders or directions under the Act is liable to be punished with imprisonment up to 5 years or with a fine up to one lakh rupees or with both.
- Causing injury to Wild animals and Birds or death with synthetic manjha amounts to hunting which is punishable under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 with imprisonment of 3 to 7 years and fine not less than Rs.10,000/-.
- Causing injury or death to domestic animals attracts provision of Prevention of Cruelty to animals Act 1961.
- Such cases may be reported to Telangana State Forest Department on helpline No. 18004255364 or 040-23231440

ACTION TAKEN BY FOREST DEPT. TO IMPLEMENT BAN ORDERS

- From the time interim orders were issued by NGT, the Telangana State Forest Dept., has been conducting checks on dealers, whole sellers and shops selling the Synthetic Manjha in coordination with NGOs and Wildlife Enthusiasts.
- During 2016-17 season, 566Kgs of Synthetic Manjha was seized at 37 locations.
- During 2017-18, 105Kgs. Were seized from 38 locations.
- During 2018-19, till date 37kgs have been seized from 25 locations.

RESCUE OF BIRDS AFTER SANKRANTHI FESTIVAL

- The Synthetic Manjha used in kite flying gets entangled on trees, electrical lines, roof tops in the form of a mesh.
- Several Birds while perching, nesting and roosting on trees and poles get entangled in the nylon thread and cannot escape.
- The Anti-Poaching Squad has rescued large number of Birds post kite flying festival in and around Hyderabad as below:

2015-16 - 42 Birds

2016-17 - 55 Birds

2017-18 - 26 Birds

2018-19 - 19 Birds

(Till December, 2018)



PLAN OF ACTION TO IMPLEMENT BAN ORDERS

- It is proposed to organize teams consisting of NGOs / Wildlife Enthusiast and Forest Dept., staff with vehicles, area wise to visit kite shops selling synthetic manjha to educate the sellers and buyers of this manjha not to use them.
- The teams will carry posters in English and Telugu and ensure that they are displayed in every shop selling manjha.
- In case synthetic / Chinese Manjha is found, the same shall be seized.
- The teams will take help of the Police wherever required in enforcing the ban.

PROPOSED PLAN OF ACTION

- The teams shall communicate any information of importance to Forest Dept., 24 x 7 helpline No. 18004255364 or 040-23231440.
- Suggestions and inputs are solicited from participants of the meeting for better implementation NGT order.