

**APPEAL OF THE DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT TO AVOID USING  
PLASTIC MADE NATIONAL FLAGS ON INDEPENDENCE DAY (15<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2018)**

Ahead of the Independence Day, 2018, the Ministry of Home Affairs has issued an Advisory to the Administrators of all State Governments / UT Administrations, Departments of Govt. of India to ensure strict compliance of the provisions contained in the 'Flag Code of India, 2002' and 'The Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971'.

Further, the Ministry of Home Affairs has advised to use paper flags instead of plastic during important events like Independence Day etc. Since plastics are not biodegradable and cannot be decomposed for a long time, paper flags shall be used for any important events.

It is also informed that the Government of Tamil Nadu has announced that the use of plastic items, including non-biodegradable bags, will be banned in Tamil Nadu from January 2019 onwards to protect the environment and to “**gift a plastic-free**” state for future generations. In this connection, **it is requested that all the Educational District Environmental Coordinators to ensure that all the NGC schools shall participate in the Independence Day with paper made National Flags only instead of plastic and also ensure to avoid other plastic items during the Independence Day celebration.**

Director of Environment