

BEFORE THE HON"BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

Original Application No.135 of 2023

Hariharan
Chennai.

...Applicant

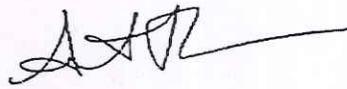
-Vs-

The District Collector,
First Floor,
Collectorate,
Thiruvallur and 39 Others.

...Respondents

INDEX

S.No	Description	Page No.
1.	COMPLIANCE REPORT FILED ON BEHALF OF THE THIRTY NINETH REPENDENT - TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD.	1 - 4
2.	Annexures	5 - 44



Advocate
Thiru.S. Sai Sathya Jith,
Advocate, Chennai.

BEFORE THE HON"BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

Original Application No.135 of 2023

Hariharan
Chennai.

...Applicant

-Vs-

The District Collector,
First Floor,
Collectorate,
Thiruvallur and 39 Others.

...Respondents

**COMPLIANCE REPORT FILED ON BEHALF OF THE THIRTY
NINTH REPENDENT-TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**

I, Mr. S. Bharathidasan, son of Thiru M.Selvaraj, aged about 59 years having office at No.76, Mount Salai, Guindy, Chennai 600 032, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

2. I submit that I am working as the Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai and I am authorized to file this Compliance report on behalf of the Thirty - Ninth respondent, (TNPCB) and as such I am well acquainted with the facts of the case available from our office records.

3. It is respectfully submitted that Vinayagar Chaturthi is one of the important festivals celebrated in India. During the festival, beautifully crafted idols of Ganesha are installed in homes and public places. Devotees perform rituals, offers sweets and chant Vedic hymns to those idols. After performing the religious rituals, the idols are taken in a procession and immersed in the sea and other water bodies

[Signature] 29/7/2025
JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
No.76, MOUNT SALAI, CHENNAI-600 032

4. It is respectfully submitted that this year Vinayagar Chaturthi falls on 27.08.2025. The Hon'ble NGT (SZ) in its order dated: 17.06.2025 in O.A.No.135 of 2023 has directed the following,

"In view of the upcoming Ganesh Chaturthi festival on 27.08.2025, it is high time for the authorities to commence awareness campaigns and widely publicize the relevant rules and regulations to prevent water pollution.

We direct the authorities to give wide publicity through newspapers regarding the dos and don'ts of the festival and also announce the penalties for any violations"

5. It is respectfully submitted that the Tamil Nadu Government vide G.O. Ms. No. 598 of Public (Law & Order. B) Department dated 09.08.2018 has issued guidelines regarding installation and worship of Vinayagar idols and also immersion thereof with a view to maintain public peace, tranquillity, public safety, regulation of traffic and control of pollution. (Copy of G.O No.598 dt 9.8.2018 is enclosed as Annexure - I)

6. It is respectfully submitted that the Central Pollution Control Board has published guidelines entitled "Revised Guidelines for Idol immersion" dated 12.05.2020 with a comprehensive set of Guidelines on the practice of idol immersion in lakes, rivers and seas. (Copy of CPCB guidelines is enclosed as Annexure - II)

7. It is respectfully submitted that TNPC Board vide letter dated: 20.06.2025 has addressed the Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Environment, Climate Change & Forests Department requesting to conducting the state committee meeting regarding the eco friendly celebration of Vinayagar Chaturthi festival for the year, 2025.

29/7/2025
JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
No.76, MOUNT SALAI

8. It is respectfully submitted that TNPCB is taking action to issue press release in English and Tamil Newspaper regarding the guidelines relating to immersion of Idioms along with "Do's and Don't's" during the Vinayagar Chaturthi festival.

9. It is respectfully submitted that TNPC Board vide letter dated: 27.06.2025 has addressed all the District Collectors to take necessary action for the safe immersion of Vinayagar idols in the already specified locations during previous years and as per the guidelines laid down by the Public Department, Government of Tamil Nadu & CPCB guidelines. (Copy is enclosed as Annexure - III).

10. It is respectfully submitted that all the District Environmental Engineers, TNPCB are instructed to take necessary action for the safe immersion of Vinayagar idols in the already specified locations during previous years after confirming with Revenue and Police departments, to conduct water quality assessment of the water bodies, at three stages i.e Pre immersion, during immersion vide Circular Memo dated 27.6.2025. (Copy is enclosed as Annexure -IV) and post immersion through the TNPCB lab.

11. It is respectfully submitted that TNPC Board vide letter dated: 27.06.2025 has addressed the Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Home, and Prohibition & Excise Department so as to instruct all the District Collectors and Police Officials to take necessary action for the safe immersion of Vinayagar idols in the specified locations and as per the guidelines laid down by the Public Department, Government of Tamil Nadu & CPCB guidelines. (Copy is enclosed as Annexure - V).

A. S. S. S.
29/7/2025
JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD,
No.76, MOUNT SALAI, CHENNAI-600 032.

12. It is respectfully submitted that TNPC Board vide letter dated: 27.06.2025 has addressed the Commissioner, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, so as to take necessary action for the safe immersion of Vinayagar idols in the specified locations and as per the guidelines laid down by the Public Department, Government of Tamil Nadu & CPCB guidelines.(Copy is enclosed as Annexure - VI)

13. It is respectfully submitted that TNPC Board vide letter dated: 27.06.2025 has addressed the Secretary to Government, Public [Law & Order B] Department regarding the precautionary actions taken by TNPCB for eco friendly celebration of Vinayagar Chathurthi festival for the year 2025. (Copy is enclosed as Annexure - VII)

14. It is respectfully submitted that TNPC Board is taking measures to create awareness for the public regarding the eco-friendly celebration of Vinayagar Chathurthi festival for the year 2025

Therefore, it is humbly prayed that this Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (Southern Zone) may be pleased to pass such further or other orders as this Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of this case and thus render justice.

Asst 29/7/2025
JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD,
No.76, MOUNT SALAI, CHENNAI-600 032.

VERIFICATION

I, Mr. S. Bharathidasan, son of Thiru M.Selvaraj, aged about 59 years, having office at No.76, Mount Salai, Guindy, Chennai 600 032, do hereby verify that the contents of above Compliance report are true to the best of my knowledge through records.

Asst 29/7/2025
JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD,
No.76, MOUNT SALAI, CHENNAI-600 032.

To be published in an
Extra-ordinary issue of
Tamil Nadu Government Gazette,
Dated : 09.08.2018.



ABSTRACT

LAW & ORDER – Guidelines for installation and worship of Vinayakar idols and also immersion thereof– Notified.

PUBLIC (LAW & ORDER.B) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No.598

Dated : 09.08.2018.

Vilambhi, Aadi-24,
Thiruvalluvar Aandu-2049.

Read :

1. Orders of Hon'ble High Court, Chennai, dated 23.08.2017 in W.P.No.21953/2017 and 22240/2017.
2. From the Commissioner of Police, Greater Chennai, Letter No.753/S.B.XII/2017, dated 23.09.2017.
3. From the Commissioner, Corporation of Chennai, Letter No. WDC /2210/2017, dated 23.04.2018.

ORDER :

Proposals have been received from the Commissioner of Police, Greater Chennai and the Commissioner, Corporation of Chennai regarding formation of guidelines / rules for temporary installation and worship of idols on public land, duly taking into account the observations made by the Hon'ble High Court in a batch of Writ Petitions on the issue.

2. The Government examined the issue in detail. With a view to maintain public peace, tranquility, public safety, regulation of traffic and control of pollution, the Government, after careful consideration, issue the Guidelines regarding the installation and worship of Vinayakar idols and also immersion thereof, as in the Annexure to this Government Order and notify the same for the State of Tamil Nadu.

3. The officials concerned are hereby instructed to give wide publicity to the above guidelines and ensure strict implementation of the same with immediate effect.

-6-

-121-

4. This order issues with the concurrence of Environment and Forests Department vide its U.O. dated 03.08.2018 and Home Department, vide its U.O. No.1, dated 03.08.2018.

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

P. SENTHILKUMAR,
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT (FAC).

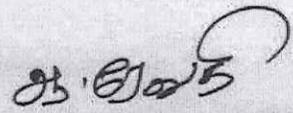
To

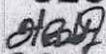
All Secretaries to Government, Secretariat, Chennai-9.
All District Collectors.
All Commissioners of Police.
All Superintendents of Police.
The Director General of Police, Chennai-4.
The Commissioner of Police, Greater Chennai, Chennai-7.
The Additional Director General of Police (Law & Order), Chennai-4.
The Inspector General of Police, Intelligence, Chennai-4.
The Commissioner, Corporation of Chennai, Chennai-3.
The Director of Stationery and Printing, Chennai-2.
The Works Manager, Government Central Press, Chennai-79.
(Two copies – for publication of the Notification in an Extra-ordinary issue of Tamil Nadu Government Gazette, dated 09.08.2018)
The Secretary to Governor, Raj Bhavan, Chennai-22.
The Secretary (III) to Chief Minister, Chennai-9.
The Director of Information & Public Relations, Chennai-9.
The Registrar General, High Court, Chennai-104.
The Advocate General of Tamil Nadu, High Court, Chennai-104.
The Government Pleader, High Court, Chennai-104.

Copy to :

The Home / Environment & Forests / Municipal Administration & Water Supply / Rural Development & Panchayat Raj / Energy / Highways & Minor Ports / Law Department, Chennai-9.
The Accountant General, Chennai-9 / 18.
The Pay & Accounts Officer, Chennai-9 / 18.
The Resident Audit Officer, Chennai-9.
Stock File / Spare Copies.

/ Forwarded // By order /


SECTION OFFICER


9.9.18

...3

ANNEXURE

**Guidelines regarding installation and worship of Vinayakar idols
and also immersion thereof**

With a view to maintain public peace, tranquility, public safety, regulation of traffic and control of pollution, the following guidelines are issued for the State of Tamil Nadu :-

(1) Any organiser intending to install Vinayakar idol should apply in a prescribed format (as in Form-I) to the Assistant Commissioners of Police concerned, where there are Police Commissionerates, and RDO / Sub Collector in all other cases, at least a month in advance along with No Objection Certificates (NOCs) obtained from

- i) Land owner concerned. If the proposed land is a public land, NOC from the Local Bodies concerned / Highways or the Department concerned should be obtained;
- ii) The Station House Officer concerned (including Sound Amplifier License / Permit);
- iii) Fire and Rescue Services to the effect that temporary structures erected adhere to the fire safety standards;

and

- (i) A letter indicating source of power supply and proof of temporary supply of electricity from TANGEDCO.

Necessary permission will be issued by the Assistant Commissioner of Police in Police Commissionerates, and RDO / Sub-Collector in other cases in Form-II annexed to the guidelines.

- (2) The idols proposed to be installed should be made of pure clay and should not be made of any polluting materials such as Plaster of Paris or painted with prohibited polluting chemicals and as stipulated by Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and Central Pollution Control Board from time to time. In case idols are to be painted, water soluble and non-toxic natural dyes alone should be used. Use of toxic and non-biodegradable chemical dyes for painting idols is strictly prohibited.
- (3) The organisers should avoid using inflammable materials for construction of temporary structures and should provide entry and exit, which are wide enough for smooth and easy ingress into and exit out of 'Pandhals' and / or structures in a regulated manner.

8-

-/4/-

- (4) The organisers should ensure that adequate first aid and emergency medical facilities are made available and no inflammable materials are stored in and around the worship areas.
- (5) The height of the idol proposed to be installed should not exceed 10 feet including the base and the dais.
- (6) Installation of idols near other religious places / hospitals / educational institutions should be avoided.
- (7) Sound Amplifier (Mike) License would be granted only for two hours in the morning and two hours in the evening, during Pooja. Cone type speakers are prohibited and only box type speakers should be used. Public Address System should not exceed the prescribed noise decibel limit and in the event any music is played, the music should not exceed the prescribed noise decibel limit.
- (8) The organisers should ensure that no illegal activities take place under the garb of Vinayakar worship including unauthorized tapping and / or pilferage of electricity.
- (9) No flex boards in support of any political party or communal leader shall be erected at the premises of the programme.
- (10) Organisers should depute two volunteers round the clock for safety of the idol. The installation places of idol should be properly illuminated. Generator set may be provided in case of power failure.
- (11) Shouting of slogans inciting communal hatred and affecting the sentiments of other religions shall not be permitted at any cost.
- (12) The organisers should strictly follow any other conditions laid down by the Revenue / Police / Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board authorities in the interest of maintaining public peace, public safety and communal harmony.
- (13) The Fire and Rescue Services should ensure that fire safety norms and rules are strictly complied with and the 'Pandhals' including the electrical installations thereof are inspected and approved by the fire authorities concerned.
- (14) The District Collectors concerned shall annually finalise the list of idol immersion points in their districts in consultation with the Police Department, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Local Bodies and related Departments. Idols should be immersed only in the designated "Idol Immersion Points" identified by the authorities concerned.
- (15) Vinayakar idols installed in the public places for worship should be taken out for immersion within five days from the date of installation.

- (16) Vinayakar idol immersion procession should be taken out before 1200 hours on the specified day in the approved routes prescribed by the Police through vehicles and immersed in the designated places in an orderly manner. Wherever possible, the procession should be taken out through the routes by-passing the mosques / churches, as stipulated by the Police authorities.
- (17) Four wheelers, (i.e.), mini lorry / tractor should only be used for carrying the idols. Bullock cart / fish cart / three wheelers would not be permitted.
- (18) Capacity of participants travelling in the vehicle carrying Vinayakar idol should be in accordance with the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988.
- (19) Bursting of crackers at the Vinayakar idol installation places / immersion points / procession routes should not be allowed.
- (20) Worship materials like flowers, clothes, decorating material (made of paper and plastic), etc., should be removed before immersion of idols. Bio-degradable materials should be collected separately for recycling or composting. Non-biodegradable materials should be collected separately for disposal in sanitary landfills.
- (21) The 'Idol Immersion Points' shall be cordoned off and barricaded. Synthetic liner may be placed in the bottom, well in advance. The said liner shall be removed on completion of immersion ceremony so that the remains of idols would be brought to the bank. Bamboo and wooden logs, if any, would be reused. Clay, etc., may be taken to sanitary landfill for disposal.
- (22) Within 48 hours of the immersion of idols, the left over material at the idol immersion points on the banks of rivers, lakes, beaches, etc., should be collected by the local bodies for disposal.
- (23) Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board should conduct water quality assessment of the water body, preferably in Municipal Corporations at three stages, (i.e.), pre-immersion, during immersion and post immersion. Considering the size of water body, appropriate number of sampling locations may be determined in order to get a fairly representative assessment of water quality. For ascertaining water quality, physico-chemical parameters such as pH, DO, BOD, COD, Conductivity, Turbidity, TDS, Total Solids and Metals (Chromium, Lead, Zinc and Copper) may be analysed.
- (24) The appeal against the order of permission issuing authority lies with the Commissioner of Police in Police Commissionerates and District Collector in other cases.

- 10 -
- 161 -

FORM - I

Application for permission to install idol and to take out processions

From

(Name and address with contact details of the convenor who intends to install idols and to take out procession).

To

The Sub-Collector (or) The Revenue Divisional Officer (or)
The Assistant Commissioner of Police
(as the case may be)

Sir,

I hereby apply for permission to install idol (not exceeding ----- feet) at
.....
..... situated within Police
limits in Taluk of District.

I forward herewith the following particulars in duplicate, duly signed by me :-

- (a) NOC from the Land owner concerned. If the proposed land is a public land, NOC from the Local Bodies / Highways or the Department concerned;
- (b) NOC from the Station House Officer concerned (including Sound Amplifier License / Permit);
- (c) NOC from Fire and Rescue Services to the effect that temporary structures erected adhere to the fire safety standards;

and

- (i) A letter indicating source of power supply and proof of temporary supply of electricity from TANGEDCO.

UNDERTAKING

- (1) I agree to install idol made of biodegradable material such as clay and use only natural dyes and will not use chemical colours.
- (2) I agree to proceed with installation of the idol only with prior permission.
- (3) I agree to use the amplifiers and loudspeakers within the permissible limits in the specified timing.
- (4) I agree to refrain from bursting of crackers.
- (5) I agree that I will not tap electricity illegally.
- (6) I agree that no flex boards in support of any political party or communal leader will be erected.
- (7) I agree that the idol immersion procession will be taken out with Police permission at the route and time specified by the Police and the idols will be immersed at the notified immersion points as per the conditions laid down.
- (8) I agree that I will abide by any other conditions put forth for permission.

Signature of the Convenor
who intends to install
idols and take out procession

-12-

-18/-

FORM - II

Permission to install the idols and permission for procession

From

The Sub-Collector (or) The Revenue Divisional Officer (or)
The Assistant Commissioner of Police
(as the case may be)

To

(Name and address of the convenor
who intends to install idols and
and to take out procession).

Sir / Madam,

Permission is hereby accorded for installation of idol (not exceeding
10 feet) from to at
..... within
..... Police limits in Taluk of
..... District, subject to the conditions attached herewith.

Sub-Collector (or) Revenue Divisional Officer (or)
Assistant Commissioner of Police

Date:

Place:

Copy to :

1. The

Permission is issued subject to the following conditions :-

- (a) The idols proposed to be installed should be made of pure clay and should not be made of any polluting materials such as Plaster of Paris or painted with prohibited polluting chemicals and as stipulated by Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and Central Pollution Control Board from time to time. In case idols are to be painted, water soluble and non-toxic natural dyes alone should be used. Use of toxic and non-biodegradable chemical dyes for painting idols is strictly prohibited.
- (b) The organisers should avoid using inflammable materials for construction of temporary structures and should provide entry and exit, which are wide enough for smooth and easy ingress into and exit out of 'Pandhals' and / or structures in a regulated manner.
- (c) The organisers should ensure that adequate first aid and emergency medical facilities are made available and no inflammable materials are stored in and around the worship areas.
- (d) The height of the idol proposed to be installed should not exceed 10 feet including the base and the dais.
- (e) Installation of idols near other religious places / hospitals / educational institutions should be avoided.
- (f) Sound Amplifier (Mike) License would be granted only for two hours in the morning and two hours in the evening, during Pooja. Cone type speakers are prohibited and only box type speakers should be used. Public Address System should not exceed the prescribed noise decibel limit and in the event any music is played, the music should not exceed the prescribed noise decibel limit.
- (g) The organisers should ensure that no illegal activities take place under the garb of Vinayakar worship including unauthorized tapping and / or pilferage of electricity.
- (h) No flex boards in support of any political party or communal leader shall be erected at the premises of the programme.
- (i) Organisers should depute two volunteers round the clock for safety of the idol. The installation places of idol should be properly illuminated. Generator set may be provided in case of power failure.
- (j) Shouting of slogans inciting communal hatred and affecting the sentiments of other religions shall not be permitted at any cost.

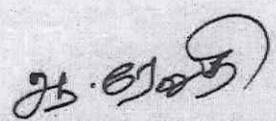
14

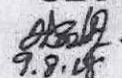
-1101-

- (k) The organisers should strictly follow any other conditions laid down by the Revenue / Police Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board authorities in the interest of maintaining public peace, public safety and communal harmony.
- (l) Vinayakar idols installed in the public places for worship should be taken out for immersion within five days from the date of installation.
- (m) Vinayakar idol immersion procession should be taken out before 1200 hours on the specified day in the approved routes prescribed by the Police through vehicles and immersed in the designated places in an orderly manner. Wherever possible, the procession should be taken out through the routes by-passing the mosques / churches, as stipulated by the Police authorities.
- (n) Four wheelers, (i.e.), mini lorry / tractor should only be used for carrying the idols. Bullock cart / fish cart / three wheelers would not be permitted.
- (o) Capacity of participants travelling in the vehicle carrying Vinayakar idol should be in accordance with the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988.
- (p) Bursting of crackers at the Vinayakar idol installation places / immersion points / procession routes should not be allowed.
- (q) Worship materials like flowers, clothes, decorating material (made of paper and plastic), etc., should be removed before immersion of idols.
- (r) In case of appeal against the order of permission issuing authority, it lies with the Commissioner of Police in Police Commissionerates and District Collector in other cases.

P. SENTHILKUMAR,
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT (FAC).

// TRUE COPY //


SECTION OFFICER


9.8.18

Revised Guidelines for Idol Immersion

Programme Objective Series:
PROBES/-....-/2020

REVISED GUIDELINES FOR IDOL IMMERSION



CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

(Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change)

'Parivesh Bhawan', East Arjun Nagar,

Delhi - 110032

Website: cpcb.nic.in, e-mail: cpcb@nic.in

May 12, 2020

CONTENTS

Sl. No.	TITLE	PAGE NUMBER
1.0	Introduction	1
2.0	Guidelines for Idol Makers-Craftsman or Artisans	2
3.0	Guidelines for Pooja Organizing Committees	4
4.0	Role and Responsibilities of the Local and Urban Authorities	4
5.0	Guidelines for Idol Immersion in Rivers, Lakes and Ponds	10
6.0	Guidelines for Idol Immersion in Sea	11
7.0	Guidelines for Idol Immersion by Households	11
8.0	Role of State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) in States and Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) in Union Territories	12
	Annexure-I: Major Types of Natural Dyes and Their Origin	14

1.0 INTRODUCTION

To worship God and Goddess generally natural things like Milk, Curd, Ghee, Coconut, Betel leaves and river water are used. Generally, Idols are made with clay or locally available materials and then coloured with natural materials like Chandan, Turmeric etc. The religious scripts, mythology and religious rituals have attempted to drive the importance of preserving nature by adoring it through the centuries. Bhagavadgita (9.26) states:

“Patram Pushpam phalam toyam, yo mey bhaktya prayachhati Tadaham bhakt yupahrutam asnaami prayataatmanaha” which means

“If one offers me in pure consciousness with love and devotion a fruit, a flower, a leaf or even water, I delightfully partake of that offered article”

भावार्थ : जो कोई भक्त मेरे लिए प्रेम से पत्र, पुष्प, फल, जल आदि अर्पण करता है, उस शुद्धबुद्धि निष्काम प्रेमी भक्त का प्रेमपूर्वक अर्पण किया हुआ वह पत्र-पुष्पादि मैं सगुणरूप से प्रकट होकर प्रीतिसहित खाता हूँ॥

Traditionally, clay is used to make Ganesh idols. Over the years however, plaster of Paris (POP), which is lighter and cheaper, has become the favoured material to mould idols. POP contains chemicals such as gypsum, sulphur, phosphorus, and magnesium. The dyes used to colour these idols may also contain mercury, cadmium, arsenic, lead, and carbon. Plastic and thermocol accessories are used to decorate these idols. Such materials are not biodegradable, hence are toxic when immersed in water bodies. Hence, need was felt to develop guidelines for idol immersion.

In the matter of Public Interest Litigation (PIL) / W.P.(C) No. 1325/2003 in the matter of Janhit Manch Vs. The State of Maharashtra & Ors., Hon'ble High Court of Mumbai in its order dated 22/07/2008 has given the following directions to the Central Government:-

“We expect that the Central Govt. will consider laying down of guidelines for immersion of idols and would also consider related matters with regard to pollution of water bodies. Both the Union Government as well as the State Government shall consider it expeditiously because the time lost involving the pollution might prove dangerous for environment of the country in long run”

Revised Guidelines for Idol Immersion

In pursuance to the directions of Hon'ble High Court, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board, vide order No. A-22011/1/90-Mon, dated February 10, 2009. In the year 2009. The constituted Committee held meetings with the concerned stakeholders and discussed the issues including designated identification of places for idol immersion in the river stretch, use of natural materials in "Pooja", mass awareness programmes to be initiated every year before commencement of all activities of worship and idol immersion. Subsequently, based on the recommendations of the Committee, in the year 2010, CPCB has finalized "Guidelines for Idol Immersion" and circulated to all the stakeholders for ensuring its implementation. These guidelines have been prepared with a view to ensure environmental friendly idol immersion without affecting the quality of water bodies while ensuring religious observance. These guidelines emphasize the need for restriction on single use plastic materials for making idols, use of naturally occurring colors for coloring idols, imposing restrictions on size of the idol, construction of temporary synthetic lined ponds of adequate capacity, etc.

During the last few years, there has been some developments in terms of substitutes for various materials used for idols making as well as disposal of idol immersions in temporary artificial designated ponds/tanks, earlier guidelines circulated by CPCB in the year 2010 has been revised after taking views of stakeholders specially emphasizing use of naturally occurring clay, colors in place of synthetic paints and chemicals for coloring idols, arrangement for the provision of temporary confined ponds or tanks for immersion of idols, imposing spot fine for violation of guidelines, safe disposal of solid wastes generated during visarjan/immersion activities, development of market system whereby manufacturers or craftsman or artisans themselves can buy back the idols for reuse and other aspects have been considered and incorporated appropriately as felt necessary. The revised guidelines for idol immersion are detailed in subsequent paras: -

2.0 GUIDELINES FOR IDOL MAKERS-CRAFTSMANS OR ARTISANS

- (i) Idols made up of only natural, bio-degradable, eco-friendly raw materials without any toxic, inorganic raw materials [such as traditional virtuous clay and mud as well as free from Plaster of Paris (PoP), plastic and thermocol (polystyrene)] should be encouraged, allowed and promoted and Idols made up of Plaster of Paris (PoP) shall be banned.

Revised Guidelines for Idol Immersion

- (ii) Only dried flower components, straw etc. for making ornaments of idols and natural resins of trees may be used as a shining material for making idols attractive.
- (iii) Use of Single use plastic and thermocol materials shall not be permitted strictly and only eco-friendly materials as straw structure should be used in making idols or decoration of idols/pandals/tazias in order to prevent pollution in recipient water bodies.
- (iv) Use of toxic and non-biodegradable chemical dyes/oil paints for painting idols should be strictly prohibited. Enamel and synthetic dye based paints on idols should be discouraged instead eco-friendly water-based, bio-degradable and non-toxic natural dyes should be used.
- (v) For beautification of idols, removable and washable decorative clothes made only with natural materials and dyes shall be used in place of disposable material containing paints and other toxic chemicals. Only naturally occurring colors from plants (flowers, barks, stamens, leaves, roots, seeds, whole fruits), feathers of different birds, mineral or colored rocks shall be used for coloring.
- (vi) Craftsmen or artisans or manufacturer involved in making idols should be registered with the civic bodies, and should involve in making eco-friendly idols in accordance with these guidelines. In case of Large Scale Idol manufacturers (at least involved in making more than 100 idols in a day) shall obtain registration from the concerned ULBs (registration fee along with a deposit as decided by the ULB depending on the idol making capacity) and failing to comply with these guidelines or any violation of registration conditions, the deposit shall be forfeited by the ULBs apart from prohibition of idol making at least for two years.
- (vii) In the interest of protection of the environment, the craftsman or artisans prefer to adopt innovative approaches (Eg., use of natural clay, pyramid of sugarcane sticks that represents the pandals, natural clay mixed with alum for making idols (on disintegration of idol made out of mud mixed with alum in water, then alum act as a coagulant) in consultation with the concerned State Pollution Control Board (SPCB)/Pollution Control Committee (PCC).

3.0 GUIDELINES FOR POOJA ORGANISING COMMITTEES

- (i) As far as possible, low height and eco-friendly idols (made with natural clay, idols stuffed with eco-friendly food materials such as corn, spinach, wheat and vegetable powder), idols decorated with biodegradable, organic colours such as turmeric, chandan and gerua etc., (list of natural, bio-degradable and non-toxic annexed as **Annexure-I**) only should be used for offering poojas to avoid impact on environment.
- (ii) Use of cleaned multi-use metallic or glass or plastic utensils is ideal choice, especially when such material is available from utensil banks. Only biodegradable plates such as Patravali or Pattal or Vistaraku or Vistar or Khali or trencher made with broad dried leaves such as Areca/Banana/Banyan/Sal leaves, biodegradable paper cups/plates and earthen pots may be used in place of single use plastic and polystyrene (Thermocol) for prasad distribution and other purposes.
- (iii) Worship material like flowers, Patri (leaves), *vastras* (clothes), decorating materials (made of paper and bio-degradable or compostable plastic but not single use plastic) etc. should be ensured to remove before immersion of idols and segregated in colour coded bins provided at the designated idol immersion areas/spots.
- (iv) In the interest of protection of the environment, Pooja Organizing Committees should procure eco-friendly idols only from the respective ULBs registered or authorised craftsman or artisans.
- (v) Pooja Organising Committees should seek prior permission from concerned ULB as the case may be by providing management plan and the required provisions (as per the format to be issued by the ULBs) for ensuring safe idol immersion during festival season well at least one month in advance for making necessary arrangements in consultation with the concerned departments.

4.0 ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LOCAL AND URBAN AUTHORITIES

- (i) Licenses/permits may be granted by the Local and Urban Bodies within the respective jurisdiction to only those Idol manufacturers or makers or craftsman or artisans who uses only eco-friendly natural clay materials (but not PoP or baked clay) in making idols, prior to festive times.

Revised Guidelines for Idol Immersion

Also, large scale manufacturers (involved in making idols more than 100 in a day) shall obtain registration from the concerned ULB along with the prescribed fee and a deposit (as decided by the ULB depending on the idol making capacity). Registered idol manufacturer or maker or craftsman or artisan failing to comply with these guidelines or any violation of registration or permission conditions, registration or permission granted shall be cancelled apart from prohibition of idol making manufacturer at least for two years and in case of idol manufacturer, the deposit shall be forfeited by the respective ULB.

- (ii) While granting licenses or permits to the idol makers a list of permitted and non-permitted substances to be used for making/coloring/decorating idols may be provided to the Idol makers or craftsman or artisans.
- (iii) Only registered or licensed idol maker or craftsmen or artisans should be strictly allowed to make idols within the jurisdiction of the respective Urban and Local Bodies as the case may be, in accordance with these guidelines.
- (iv) As far as possible, instead of immersion of idols in water bodies, all the resident welfare associations or individual households in a city or town should be encouraged to create temporary ponds/tanks of suitable size and adequate capacity with necessary provision for collection and storage of segregated waste prior to immersion, and public should be involved for immersion of idols in such temporary/artificial ponds/tanks made by the resident welfare association or individual household within their campus itself. The waste generated from designated idol immersion activity sites shall be collected and disposed of safely by the ULBs within 24 hours of completion of the idol immersion activity.
- (v) Arrangements for temporary artificial idol immersion ponds or tanks in close vicinity of the public or on the banks of water bodies with all necessary safety provisions and waste collection centres prior to idol immersion should be arranged for ensuring safe idol immersion during festive season, by the concerned ULBs in association with the other departments as well as Pooja Organizing Committees.
- (vi) The temporary Idol Immersion Ponds/Tanks with the liner made with well graded/highly impervious clay or eco synthetic liner should be arranged at suitable locations including on the banks of rivers or stagnant water

Revised Guidelines for Idol Immersion

bodies such as ponds or lakes shall be cordoned off and barricaded by ULBs and with all other necessary provisions keeping in view safety of the public (such as proper access, approach roads, sign boards, fire safety measure, barricades, designated space for keeping idols prior to immersion, suitable platform with crane provision for idol immersion).

- (vii) In the interest of protection of environment, Urban and Local bodies (ULBs) shall impose restrictions on height of the idol to the idol making agencies or manufacturer or craftsman or artisans (as lesser the size of the idol better would be the immersion process and less consumption of materials required for making idols) depending on the availability of water bodies, provisions made for idol immersions by the ULBs.
- (viii) Waste collection centre in the vicinity of the designated temporary/artificial idol immersion sites or locations should be arranged for ensuring collection of segregated materials (such as flowers, leaves, decorating materials etc.,) prior to idol immersion. All waste collection centres should have a provision of colour coded bins of adequate size for collection and storage of segregated materials.
- (ix) Also, all the collected and segregated materials should be transported and disposed of periodically or within 24 hours of completion of idol immersion in accordance with the prevailing provisions of Solid Waste Management Rules 2016, as amended notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (i.e., Reusable clothes may be sent to local orphan homes for reuse, bio-degradable materials for composting and non-biodegradable materials for ultimate disposal in sanitary landfills by the concerned Urban or Local Authorities, as the case may be).
- (x) After completion of the idol immersion ceremony, within 24 hours, the liner material shall be removed and the temporary pits or tanks should be filled with native soil and levelled properly. Other disposable materials shall be managed in accordance with these guidelines (i.e., Clay, Bamboo and wooden logs, if any may be reused). The straw structure materials recovered from designated temporary or artificial immersion areas or spots shall be retrieved and processed for converting into organic manure.
- (xi) Public should be educated on aspects relating to procurement of eco-friendly idols only from the licensed or permitted idol makers or craftsman or artisans, location details of idol makers, type of materials to be used for ill effects of immersion of idols/Tazias in the holy water bodies

- and the existing guidelines for idol immersion through mass awareness programme.
- (xii) Immersion of Tazia during Muharram should be performed in Eco- friendly manner.
 - (xiii) Local Bodies /Urban Bodies/District Authorities should make efforts to identify and arrange adequate number of designated temporary or artificial immersion ponds or tanks in consultation with River/Pond Authority, Port Authority, Water Supply Board, Irrigation Department and other concerned State/UT Departments, in the close vicinity of the public colonies (such as open grounds) to avoid overcrowding at the water bodies and also to reduce pollution load on receiving water bodies. In case, the designated temporary artificial ponds or tanks are required to be arranged on the bank of the river, in such a case, it should be arranged at suitable places where flow of river/ stream is not harmful to the public, does not inundate in case of increase in flow of river during idol immersion period and river is cordoned off and barricaded suitably to avoid any loss of life specially during immersion activities.
 - (xiv) A co-ordination Committee comprising local Police Department, Non-Government Organizations, Local Authorities, SPCB/PCC, representatives of *pooja organizing* committees and other concerned stakeholders may be set up for guiding the public in carrying out the immersion without affecting environmental damages to the water bodies.
 - (xv) To ensure safe immersion of idols during festive season, ULBs should deploy adequate number of staff at all the designated idol immersion spots under overall supervision of the nodal officer to be designated by the concerned ULBs. The Nodal Officers also should co-ordinate with the co-ordination committee constituted by the ULBs.
 - (xvi) Details regarding arranged designated temporary or artificial immersion spots or areas need to be notified and public as well as *pooja organizing* committees preferably at least one week in advance of idol immersion through electronic and local media in vernacular language.
 - (xvii) Sanitary workers shall also be deployed at all the temporary immersion sites for ensuring removal of bio-degradable items like flowers, leaves, clothes, ornaments etc. prior to idol immersion at the designated areas. ULBs shall provide separate colour coded bins for collection and

Revised Guidelines for Idol Immersion

segregation of biodegradable and non-biodegradable wastes at immersion spots.

- (xviii) Littering or burning of solid wastes comprising of used flowers, clothes, decorating materials, recovered material such as Bamboo and wooden logs, straw structures etc. so generated at the immersion sites or on the banks of water body should be prohibited strictly.
- (xix) In case of immersion of idols in rivers, lakes and ponds is inevitable, arrangement may be made for construction of adequate capacity temporary confined areas at designated places with earthen bunds for the purpose of immersion of idols atleast 50 m away from the waterbody. Temporary immersion ponds shall have a free board of at least 50 cm. Temporary ponds should be constructed with impervious liner (made with well graded/highly impervious clay or eco synthetic liner) with a provision of adequate landing platform for keeping the crane for idol immersion. Water in the temporary or artificial immersion ponds or tanks may be drawn from the nearby water body. After completion of immersion, only supernatant water may be allowed to flow into river/pond/lake, as the case may be, after checking for colour and turbidity as per BIS specification for Drinking Water IS 10500:2012. Natural coagulants shall be used for pre-treatment of wastewater mainly composed of polymers of natural origin extracted from plants, algae or animals. Among these are polysaccharides and water soluble substances that act as coagulation and / or flocculation agents. include microbial polysaccharides, starches, gelatin galactomannans, cellulose derivatives, chitosan, glues, and alginate.
- (xx) Concerned ULB Authorities also should consider option of construction of permanent cemented large sized artificial tanks for immersion of idols/Tazias at suitable places for a village or town or city to avoid direct immersion of idols into lakes/rivers/ ponds/sea.
- (xxi) Proper Sign Boards showing location of temporary idol immersion ponds/tanks, route charts to be provided at all salient points and also create awareness through local newspapers/electronic media in vernacular language, atleast one week in advance at all the salient points. by the ULBs.
- (xxii) The Pooja Organizing Committees/Local or Urban Bodies/ District Authorities be involved in organizing a public campaign on the ill effects of

Revised Guidelines for Idol Immersion

the toxic components of coloring materials, not only of the idols, but also other decorating materials used during the festive season, for immersing (visarjan) the idol or 'pratima' or tazias only in designated temporary artificial ponds or tanks. Specific leaflets and poster for mass awareness may be prepared in vernacular languages and displayed at salient points. Further, the *Pooja* committees/Local or Urban Bodies/ District Authorities also be persuaded to display such posters and distribute leaflets among worshippers involving Eco Clubs, NGOs, Education Institutes/Universities and Schools.

- (xxiii) Idol makers, pooja Committees may also be awarded for promotion of clay idols made with natural colors, consistent awareness for ensuring compliance to these rules. Imposing Spot fine for violation of these guidelines also be practiced by the Local and Urban Authorities.
- (xxiv) ULBs also shall make arrangements for movable artificial tanks to reach residential welfare societies where people can do idol immersion without crowding and polluting the water bodies to avoid uncontrolled crowd conditions at Ghats during idol immersion and also to avoid accidents that may likely to happen at the time of idol immersion in rivers, lakes and ponds.
- (xxv) Management of idol waste and treatment of polluted water from the designated temporary Idol Immersion ponds or tanks should be carried out as detailed below:-
- (a) Practices that would lead to some economic benefits like returning the visarjit idols to the idol maker or management of solid wastes generated during visarjan activities in different localities for household as well as large community festivals shall be ensured in accordance with the prevailing rules by the Local/Urban bodies. As far as possible, only non-recyclable/non-biodegradable/non-recoverable materials should be disposed of in sanitary landfills by the Local/Urban bodies.
- (b) Community festivals with large idols should be given permission by ULBs only when the organisers submits a detailed management plan prepared in line with the prevailing rules or by the guidelines issued from time to time on environmental management charge basis to be decided by the Local/Urban Bodies. The bamboo scaffolding/metal sub structure on which large idols are built shall be reused as far as possible and may be collected separately from the degradable remains.

Revised Guidelines for Idol Immersion

- (c) The charges of hiring/outsourcing agencies to clean-up the wastes from the designated idol immersion sites should be collected as 'visarjan charges' from every individual citizen or community. The visarjan charges collected should be utilized to clean-up the visarjan sites, to manage polluted water from the artificial temporary tank/ponds and for environmentally sound management of solid remains of idol, etc. The waste water collected from the designated temporary artificial ponds/tanks after ensuring on-site pre-treatment shall be discharged into or public sewers leading to the Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs)/ Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs).
- (d) Disintegrated material/Non-biodegradable materials shall be dealt as per provisions of the Solid Waste Management Rule 2016, as amended.

5.0 GUIDELINES FOR IDOL IMMERSION IN RIVERS, LAKES AND PONDS

- (i) As far as possible idol immersion in Rivers/Ponds/Lakes shall be encouraged only at specific designated artificial confined tanks/ponds with liner made with well graded/highly impervious clay or eco synthetic liner, on the banks shall be promoted.
- (ii) A temporary artificial tank or pond with liner made with well graded/highly impervious clay or eco synthetic liner (HDPE), and having earthen bunds on the bank of the river/lake/pond shall be created for Idol Immersion by the concerned ULBs. Temporary artificial tank or pond.

In case of immersion of idols in rivers, lakes or ponds is inevitable, a designated location (having proper approach, access, corner portion of a river/pond/lake, having shallow depth of water in river or lakes or ponds) should be identified and safety provision preferably steel or wooden barricades shall be made by concerned ULBs.

- (iii) All the flowers, leaves and artificial ornaments of idols should be removed prior to immersion of idols and only such idols may be immersed in a designated place provided with safety provisions.
- (iv) Lime or alum or any other equivalent coagulant should be added in designated temporary lined pond/tank as pre-treatment option for ensuring settling of solids. After completion of immersion, only

supernatant water may be allowed to flow into river/pond/lake, as the case may be, after checking for colour and turbidity as per BIS specification for Drinking Water IS 10500:2012.

- (v) Post immersion, with remains of idols and activities such as desludging of the designated area should be undertaken and ensured its disposal as per Solid Waste Management Rules 2016 as amended thereafter, within 24 hours by the concerned ULBs, as per these guidelines.

6.0 GUIDELINES FOR IDOL IMMERSION IN SEA

- (i) In case of Idol immersion in sea, immersion may be done between low tide line (LTL) and high tide line (HTL) (irrespective of its depth) and only at designated areas identified by the Coastal Zone Management Authorities in the States/UTs. The low-tide line and high tide lines may be identified and marked well in advance by the ULBs in consultation with the concerned authorities.
- (ii) Immersion of Idols in High Tide Line (HTL) & Low Tide Line (LTL) into the sea may be permitted only in Non-Eco-Sensitive Areas earmarked previously in consultation with all the concerned agencies approved by Govt. of India for demarcation of HTL, LTL, Eco-sensitive area etc.
- (iii) Concerned authorities in State Govt./UT Administration dealing with safety & security in coastal areas shall take care of the necessary arrangements such as Motor Boats with security personnel/home guards with adequate safety equipment be deployed to supervise idol immersion activities during festive season.

7.0 GUIDELINES FOR IDOL IMMERSION BY HOUSEHOLDS

- (i) Individual households should be encouraged to use only eco-friendly idols made of natural clay and bio-degradable materials as decorative and pooja materials.
- (ii) As far as possible, immersion of small idols should be done at their homes in eco-friendly manner i.e., in a bucket filled with water and idol be kept in immersed state until it dissolves completely. After settlement of settleable and colloidal solids (if required alum powder or any other equivalent coagulant may be mixed and stirred vigorously using a stick at least for 30 seconds and thereafter slow mixing at least for 30 seconds and

Revised Guidelines for Idol Immersion

then allowed to settle), the supernatant liquid may be used either in gardening or discharged in a drain. Settled mud can be dried and then reused further for future idol making or may be used in gardening as soil).

- (iii) In case, individual households intend to perform idol immersions, then idols should be immersed only in the designated on-land temporary artificial ponds or tanks located nearby or artificial movable tanks arranged by the ULBs.

8.0 ROLE OF STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARDS (SPCBs) IN STATES & POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEES (PCCs) IN UNION TERRITORIES

- (i) Concerned State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) in the State/Pollution Control Committee (PCC) in the Union Territory Administration should conduct water quality assessment of the water bodies, preferably in Class-I cities (having population more than one lac), at three stages i.e. Pre-immersion, during immersion and post-immersion. During post-festival, samples should be collected preferably after 3rd, 5th and 7th and 9th day of the festival.
- (ii) Considering the size of water body, appropriate number of sampling locations may be determined in order to get a fairly representative assessment of water quality during the afore-said periods. Sampling should be done at least 100 m away (downstream side in case of flowing water bodies-rivers) from the immersion site/location to avoid turbulence effect. For ascertaining water quality, Physico-chemical parameters such as pH, DO, Color, BOD, COD, Conductivity, Turbidity, TDS, Chloride, TSS, Hardness, Total Alkalinity and Metals (such as Chromium, Lead, Zinc, Copper, Cadmium, Mercury, Antimony, Barium, Cobalt, Manganese, Strontium) may be analyzed. Apart from the water samples, sediment samples also be collected during pre-immersion, during immersion and post-immersion and collected sediment samples be analysed for the metals (such as Chromium, Lead, Zinc, Copper, Cadmium, Mercury, Antimony, Barium, Cobalt, Manganese, Strontium)
- (iii) Detailed reports should be posted on the SPCBs/PCCs website in public domain and also shall be shared with Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF & CC), Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS) and CPCB, within two months of completion of last sampling conducted for a particular festival.

- (iv) SPCBs/PCCs shall help ULBs and District Administration in preparing material for creating mass awareness purposes as well as to assess innovative approaches for eco-friendly idol making by the idol makers or craftsman or artisans.

-- 00 --

Annexure-I

Major Types of Natural Dyes and Their Origin

Chemical class	Coloring matter	Origin	Color obtained
Vat dyes			
Indole	Indigotin	Woad, indigo	Blues
Quinone	Juglone	Walnut	Browns
Mordant dyes			
Anthraquinones	Alizarin	Madder roots	Reds, oranges, browns
	Pseudopurpurin	Madder roots	Reds, oranges, browns
	Munjistin	Munjeet stems	Reds, browns, maroons
	Laccaic acids	Lac insects	Reds, purples, Maroons
Flavoid tannins	Catachin	Cutch	Browns, grays
Saffron, Flavone	Luteolin	Weld	Yellows, khaki
Flavonol	Quercetin	50% of all plants	Yellows, khaki
Anthocyanins	Cyanidin	Elderberries	Purples
Neoflavanoidones	Haematoxylin	Logwood	Violets, blacks
	Brazilin	Brazilwood	Reds, purples
Isoflavanoid	Pterocarpin	Sanderswood	Oranges
Direct dyes			
Cartinoid	Curcurmin	Turmeric	Yellows
	Crocin	Saffron, gardenia	Yellows
Alkaloid	Berberine	Mahonia wood	Yellows
Orinol	Orcein	Orchil	Purples
Benzoquinone	Carthamine	Safflower	Pinks
Reactive dyes			
Depsides	Atranorin	Lichens	Fawns
Despidones	Salazinic acid	Lichens	Browns

Source:- Eco-friendly dyes and dyeing (<http://sciedtech.eu/journals/advmtenvsci/current-issue/>)



TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD



From

The Chairperson,
Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board,
76, Mount Salai, Guindy,
Chennai – 600032

To

All District Collectors,
Tamilnadu (As per list enclosed)

Lr. No: T5/TNPCB/SWM/22943/2025 – 1, Dated.27.06.2025

Sir,

Sub : TNPCB – Solid Waste Management – Vinayagar Chaturthi Festival 2025 - Immersion of Vinayagar idols in water bodies without affecting the environment – Action Requested – Reg.

Ref:

1. TN Government Notification, G.O. Ms. No. 598 of Public (Law & Order.B) Department dated: 09.08.2018 (Copy enclosed)
2. CPCB revised Guidelines for Idol Immersion dated: 12.05.2020 (Copy enclosed).
3. Orders of the Hon'ble NGT in O.A.No. 135 of 2023 dated: 12.09.2023 and 17.06.2025

I invite kind attention to the references cited. It is informed that Vinayagar Chaturthi is one of the important festivals celebrated in India. During the festival, beautifully crafted idols of Ganesha are installed in homes and public places. Devotees perform rituals, offers sweets and chant Vedic hymns to those idols. After performing the religious rituals the idols are taken in a procession and immersed in the sea and other water bodies.

This year Vinayagar Chaturthi falls on 27.08.2025. The Hon'ble NGT (SZ) in its order dated: 17.06.2025 in O.A.No.135 of 2023 has directed the following,

"In view of the upcoming Ganesh Chaturthi festival on 27.08.2025, it is high time for the authorities to commence awareness campaigns and widely publicize the relevant rules and regulations to prevent water pollution.

We direct the authorities to give wide publicity through newspapers regarding the dos and don'ts of the festival and also announce the penalties for any violations"

Based on the above directions, it is mandatory to create awareness on the eco friendly celebration of Vinayagar Chaturthi as done early in every year as per the following Government orders and guidelines,

- The Tamil Nadu Government vide G.O. Ms. No. 598 of Public (Law & Order.B) Department dated 09.08.2018 has issued guidelines regarding installation and worship of Vinayagar idols and also immersion thereof with a view to maintain public peace, tranquillity, public safety, regulation of traffic and control of pollution. Copy of Government Notification is enclosed herewith.
- The Central Pollution Control Board has published guidelines entitled "Revised Guidelines for Idol immersion" dated 12.05.2020 with a comprehensive set of Guidelines on the practice of idol immersion in lakes, rivers and seas. (Copy of CPCB guidelines is enclosed herewith)
- The Hon'ble NGT (SZ) in its order dated: 12.09.2023 in O.A.No.135 of 2023 has directed that the eco sensitive water bodies like the one mentioned in this application viz., Pulicat Lake, Rivers, Estuaries, Ramsar Wetlands etc., be consciously avoided." Therefore 20 sites which are declared as Ramsar wetlands as on June 2025 is attached as Annexure II in which the immersion of idols is prohibited.



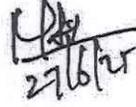
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD



Hence, I request you to kindly take necessary action for the safe immersion of Vinayagar idols in the specified locations identified already for immersion of idols (enclosed as Annexure I) and as per the guidelines laid down by the Public Department, Government of Tamil Nadu and CPCB revised guidelines & by complying the orders of the Hon'ble NGT (SZ) in O.A.No.135 of 2023 dated: 12.09.2023 and 17.06.2025.

Encl: As above.

G. Vaer 27.6.25
For Chairperson


27/6/25

Copy submitted to:

The Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Environment, Climate Change & Forests Department,
Secretariat,
Chennai - 600 009.

Copy to:

File Copy

1911

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE
OF THE NEW YORK OFFICE
ON THE MATTER OF THE
INTERNAL SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES
IN CONNECTION WITH THE
ACTIVITIES OF THE
COMMUNIST PARTY, U.S.A.

CONFIDENTIAL



Copy furnished to
the National Security Council
Department of Justice
Department of State
Department of War
Department of Navy
Department of Education
Department of the Interior
Department of Agriculture
Department of Commerce
Department of Labor
Department of Health, Education and Welfare
Department of Housing and Urban Development
Department of Transportation
Department of Defense
Department of Energy
Department of the Environment
Department of Social Services
Department of Public Health
Department of Mental Health
Department of Corrections
Department of Probation
Department of Parole
Department of Child Welfare
Department of Family Services
Department of Social Work
Department of Public Welfare
Department of Public Health
Department of Health
Department of Education
Department of Labor
Department of Commerce
Department of Agriculture
Department of the Interior
Department of the Navy
Department of the Army
Department of the Air Force
Department of the Coast and Geodetic Survey
Department of the Marine Corps
Department of the Army Medical Department
Department of the Army Dental Corps
Department of the Army Veterinary Corps
Department of the Army Chaplain Corps
Department of the Army Nurse Corps
Department of the Army Medical Corps
Department of the Army Dental Corps
Department of the Army Veterinary Corps
Department of the Army Chaplain Corps
Department of the Army Nurse Corps
Department of the Army Medical Corps

CONFIDENTIAL

Annexure
District Collectors of Tamilnadu

S. No.	List of the District Collectors
1.	The District Collector, Collectorate, Ariyalur - 621704
2.	The District Collector, Collectorate, Karur - 639007
3.	The District Collector, Collectorate, Krishnagiri - 635001
4.	The District Collector, Collectorate, Madurai - 625001
5.	The District Collector, Collectorate, Nagapattinam - 611001
6.	The District Collector, Collectorate, Namakkal - 637003
7.	The District Collector, Collectorate, Perambalur - 621212
8.	The District Collector, Collectorate, Pudukottai - 622001
9.	The District Collector, Collectorate, Ramanathapuram - 623501
10.	The District Collector, Collectorate, Salem - 636001
11.	The District Collector, Collectorate, Sivagangai - 630562
12.	The District Collector, Collectorate, Chennai - 600001
13.	The District Collector, Collectorate, Thanjavur - 613001

14.	The District Collector, Collectorate, The Nilgiris - 643001
15.	The District Collector, Collectorate, Theni - 625531
16.	The District Collector, Collectorate, Thiruvallur - 602001
17.	The District Collector, Collectorate, Tiruvannamalai -606604
18.	The District Collector, Collectorate, Thiruvarur - 610001
19.	The District Collector, Collectorate, Thirunelveli - 627009
20.	The District Collector, Collectorate, Trichirappalli - 620001
21.	The District Collector, Collectorate, Tiruppur - 641604
22.	The District Collector, Collectorate, Tuticorin - 628001
23.	The District Collector, Collectorate, Coimbatore - 641018
24.	The District Collector, Collectorate, Vellore - 632009
25.	The District Collector, Collectorate, Viluppuram - 605602
26.	The District Collector, Collectorate, Virudhunagar - 626002
27.	The District Collector, Collectorate, Tenkasi -627811

28.	The District Collector, Collectorate, Kallakurichi -606202
29.	The District Collector, Collectorate, Chengalpet -603001
30.	The District Collector, Collectorate, Tirupathur -635601
31.	The District Collector, Collectorate, Ranipet -632401
32.	The District Collector, Collectorate, Mayiladuthurai - 609001
33.	The District Collector, Collectorate, Cuddalore - 607001
34.	The District Collector, Collectorate, Dharmapuri - 636705
35.	The District Collector, Collectorate, Dindigul - 624004
36.	The District Collector, Collectorate, Erode - 638011
37.	The District Collector, Collectorate, Kancheepuram - 631501
38.	The District Collector, Kanyakumari District Collectorate, Nagercoil - 629001



TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD



CIRCULAR MEMO: T3/TNPCB / SWM / 22943 / 2025 Dated: 27.06.2025

Sub: TNPCB – Celebration of Vinayaka Chaturthi Festival– Certain instructions issued – Reg.

Ref: 1. TN Government Notification, G.O. Ms. No. 598 of Public (Law & Order.B) Department dated 09.08.2018
 2. CPCB revised Guidelines for Idol Immersion dated 12.05.2020.
 3. Orders of the Hon'ble NGT in O.A.No.135 of 2023 dated: 12.09.2023 and 17.06.2025

All District Environmental Engineers of Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board are hereby informed that Vinayagar Chaturthi festival falls on 27.08.2025 this year.

The Hon'ble NGT (SZ) in its order dated: 17.06.2025 in O.A.No.135 of 2023 has directed the following,

"In view of the upcoming Ganesh Chaturthi festival on 27.08.2025, it is high time for the authorities to commence awareness campaigns and widely publicize the relevant rules and regulations to prevent water pollution.

We direct the authorities to give wide publicity through newspapers regarding the dos and don'ts of the festival and also announce the penalties for any violations

Based on the above directions, it is mandatory to create awareness on the eco friendly celebration of Vinayagar Chaturthi as done early in every year as per the following Government orders and guidelines,

- The Tamil Nadu Government vide G.O. Ms. No. 598 of Public (Law & Order.B) Department dated 09.08.2018 has issued guidelines regarding installation and worship of Vinayagar idols and also immersion thereof with a view to maintain public peace, tranquillity, public safety, regulation of traffic and control of pollution. Copy of Government Notification is enclosed herewith.

No. 76, MOUNT SALAI, GUINDY, CHENNAI - 600 032.

Tel : 044-22353134 - 139 Fax : 044-22353068

Email : tnpceb-chn@gov.in Web : tnpceb.gov.in

- The Central Pollution Control Board has published guidelines entitled "Revised Guidelines for Idol immersion" dated 12.05.2020 with a comprehensive set of Guidelines on the practice of idol immersion in lakes, rivers and seas. (Copy of CPCB guidelines is enclosed herewith)

In this regard, all DEE's are instructed to comply the following,

- To create awareness in their respective jurisdiction on the eco friendly celebration of Vinayaka Chathurthi this year.
- A press release enclosed in Tamil and English may be published in the local dailies.
- The Hon'ble NGT (SZ) in its order dated: 12.09.2023 in O.A.No.135 of 2023 has directed that the eco sensitive water bodies like the one mentioned in this application viz., Pulicat Lake, Rivers, Estuaries, Ramsar Wetlands etc., be consciously avoided." Therefore 20 sites which are declared as Ramsar wetlands as on June 2025 is attached as Annexure II in which the immersion of idols is prohibited.
- The places of immersion of clay made Vinayaga idols in the locations identified already (enclosed herewith as Annexure I) may also be announced after confirming with Revenue and Police departments so that the public may immerse the clay made idols only in the notified locations
- Hence, the DEEs whose jurisdiction falls in the districts (Listed in Annexure II) are requested to co-ordinate with the district administration to avoid/prohibit the activities of immersion of idols in the above water bodies/wet lands and divert the same to the other alternative location which are approved by the Government.

Hence, action may be initiated in consultation with the District Collectors and the press releases shall be made well in advance of the festival.

In addition to the above, you are also requested to carry out the following:

- i) To inform all the local bodies in their jurisdiction for the arrangement of proper sanitation facility and to ensure that the left over material at idol immersion points

39



TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD



on the banks of rivers, lakes, beaches, etc. shall be collected by the local bodies for proper disposal expeditiously during the occasion.

- ii) To conduct Pre-immersion, during immersion and post immersion water quality monitoring of water bodies and provide action taken report.

Further, DEE's are requested to furnish the report on the holding of awareness programme and celebration of the festival in a pollution free manner to the Corporate Office on or before **15.09.2025**.

Encl: As above

G. Var 27.6.25
For Chairperson

To

All District Environmental Engineers,
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board.

Copy To

All Joint Chief Environmental Engineers (Monitoring),
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board

L.P.
27/6/25

No. 76, MOUNT SALAI, GUINDY, CHENNAI - 600 032.

Tel : 044-22353134 - 139 Fax : 044-22353068

Email : tnpcc-chn@gov.in Web : tnpcc.gov.in



TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD



From

The Chairperson,
Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board,
76, Mount Salai, Guindy,
Chennai – 600032

To

The Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition & Excise Department,
Secretariat,
Chennai – 600 009.

Lr. No: T3 /TNPCB / SWM / 25368 /2025 – 3 Dated: 27.06.2025.

Sir,

Sub: TNPCB – Solid Waste Management – Vinayagar Chaturthi Festival 2025 - Immersion of Vinayagar idols in water bodies without affecting the environment – Action requested – Reg.

Ref: 1. TN Government Notification, G.O. Ms. No. 598 of Public (Law & Order.B) Department dated :09.08.2018
2. CPCB revised Guidelines for Idol Immersion dated: 12.05.2020.
3. Orders of the Hon'ble NGT in O.A.No.135 of 2023 dated:12.09.2023 and 17.06.2025.

I invite kind attention to the references cited. It is informed that Vinayagar Chaturthi is one of the important festivals celebrated in India. During the festival, beautifully crafted idols of Ganesha are installed in homes and public places. Devotees perform rituals, offers sweets and chant Vedic hymns to those idols. After performing the religious rituals the idols are taken in a procession and immersed in the sea and other water bodies.

This year Vinayagar Chaturthi falls on 27.08.2025. The Hon'ble NGT (SZ) in its order dated: 17.06.2025 in O.A.No.135 of 2023 has directed the following,

"In view of the upcoming Ganesh Chaturthi festival on 27.08.2025, it is high time for the authorities to commence awareness campaigns and widely publicize the relevant rules and regulations to prevent water pollution.

We direct the authorities to give wide publicity through newspapers regarding the dos and don'ts of the festival and also announce the penalties for any violations"

Based on the above directions, it is mandatory to create awareness on the eco friendly celebration of Vinayagar Chaturthi as done early in every year as per the following Government orders and guidelines,

No. 76, MOUNT SALAI, GUINDY, CHENNAI - 600 032.
Tel : 044-22353134 - 139 Fax : 044-22353068
Email : tnpceb-chn@gov.in Web : tnpceb.gov.in

41

- The Tamil Nadu Government vide G.O. Ms. No. 598 of Public (Law & Order.B) Department dated 09.08.2018 has issued guidelines regarding installation and worship of Vinayagar idols and also immersion thereof with a view to maintain public peace, tranquillity, public safety, regulation of traffic and control of pollution. Copy of Government Notification is enclosed herewith.
- The Central Pollution Control Board has published guidelines entitled "Revised Guidelines for Idol-immersion" dated 12.05.2020 with a comprehensive set of Guidelines on the practice of idol immersion in lakes, rivers and seas. (Copy of CPCB guidelines is enclosed herewith)
- The Hon'ble NGT (SZ) in its order dated: 12.09.2023 in O.A.No.135 of 2023 has directed that the eco sensitive water bodies like the one mentioned in this application viz., Pulicat Lake, Rivers, Estuaries, Ramsar Wetlands etc., be consciously avoided." Therefore 20 sites which are declared as Ramsar wetlands as on June 2025 is attached as Annexure II in which the immersion of idols is prohibited.

Hence, I request you to kindly instruct all the District Collectors and Police Officials to take necessary action for the safe immersion of Vinayaka idols in the specified locations (List enclosed) as per the above guidelines & order

Encl: As above.

Copy submitted to:
The Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Environment, Climate Change & Forests Department,
Secretariat,
Chennai – 600 009.

Copy to:
File Copy

S. Vaan
27.6.25
For Chairperson

H. H.
27/6/25



TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD



From
The Chairperson,
Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board,
76, Mount Salai, Guindy,
Chennai – 600032

To
The Commissioner,
Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments
Department,
No.119,Uthamar Gandhi Salai,
Nungambakkam,
Chennai – 600 009.

Lr. No: T3/TNPCB / SWM / 22943/ 2025 - 4 Dated. 27.06.2025

Sir,

Sub : TNPCB – Solid Waste Management – Immersion of Vinayaka idols in water bodies without affecting the environment – Action requested – Reg.

Ref : 1. TN Government Notification, G.O. Ms. No. 598 of Public (Law & Order.B) Department dated :09.08.2018
2. CPCB revised Guidelines for Idol Immersion dated: 12.05.2020.
3. Orders of the Hon'ble NGT in O.A.No. 135 of 2023 dated: 12.09.2023 and 17.06.2025

I invite kind attention to the references cited. It is informed that Vinayagar Chaturthi is one of the important festivals celebrated in India. During the festival, beautifully crafted idols of Ganesha are installed in homes and public places. Devotees perform rituals, offers sweets and chant Vedic hymns to those idols. After performing the religious rituals the idols are taken in a procession and immersed in the sea and other water bodies.

This year Vinayagar Chaturthi falls on 27.08.2025. The Hon'ble NGT (SZ) in its order dated: 17.06.2025 in O.A.No.135 of 2023 has directed the following,

"In view of the upcoming Ganesh Chaturthi festival on 27.08.2025, it is high time for the authorities to commence awareness campaigns and widely publicize the relevant rules and regulations to prevent water pollution.

We direct the authorities to give wide publicity through newspapers regarding the dos and don'ts of the festival and also announce the penalties for any violations"

No. 76, MOUNT SALAI, GUINDY, CHENNAI - 600 032.

Tel : 044-22353134 - 139 Fax : 044-22353068

Email : tnpceb-chn@gov.in Web : tnpceb.gov.in

43

Based on the above directions, it is mandatory to create awareness on the eco friendly celebration of Vinayagar Chathurthi as done early in every year as per the following Government orders and guidelines,

- The Tamil Nadu Government vide G.O. Ms. No. 598 of Public (Law & Order.B) Department dated 09.08.2018 has issued guidelines regarding installation and worship of Vinayagar idols and also immersion thereof with a view to maintain public peace, tranquillity, public safety, regulation of traffic and control of pollution. Copy of Government Notification is enclosed herewith.
- The Central Pollution Control Board has published guidelines entitled "Revised Guidelines for Idol immersion" dated 12.05.2020 with a comprehensive set of Guidelines on the practice of idol immersion in lakes, rivers and seas. (Copy of CPCB guidelines is enclosed herewith)
- The Hon'ble NGT (SZ) in its order dated: 12.09.2023 in O.A.No.135 of 2023 has directed that the eco sensitive water bodies like the one mentioned in this application viz., Pulicat Lake, Rivers, Estuaries, Ramsar Wetlands etc., be consciously avoided." Therefore 20 sites which are declared as Ramsar wetlands as on June 2025 is attached as Annexure II in which the immersion of idols is prohibited.

Hence, I request you to take necessary action to create awareness amongst the public regarding the traditional making of Vinayagar idols well in advance of the festival as per the guidelines of Central Pollution Control Board & Government G.O.598 dated: 09.08.2018 to avoid water pollution due to immersion of the idols.

Encl: As stated above

Copy submitted to:

The Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Environment, Climate Change & Forests Department,
Secretariat, Chennai – 600 009.

Copy to:

File Copy

S. Vaer_{27.6.25}
For Chairperson

MA
21/6/25



TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD



From
The Chairperson,
Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board,
76, Mount Salai,
Guindy, Chennai-32

To
The Secretary to Government,
Public (Law & Order. B) Department,
Secretariat,
Chennai – 600 009

Letter No: T3/TNPCB/SWM/22943/2025-2 dated: 27.06.2025

Sir,

Sub: TNPC Board – Vinayagar Chaturthi Celebrations 2025 – Action taken by Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board – Reg.

Ref: 1. TN Government Notification, G.O. Ms. No. 598 of Public (Law & Order.B) Department dated.09.08.2018
2. CPCB revised Guidelines for Idol Immersion dated 12.05.2020.
3. Orders of the Hon'ble NGT in O.A.No. 135 of 2023 dated: 12.09.2023 and 17.06.2025

I invite kind attention to the references cited, wherein Public (Law & Order.B) Department, Government of Tamil Nadu had issued the guidelines for installation and worship of Vinayagar idols and also immersion thereof. In this regard, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board has proposed to issue press release in Tamil and English dailies all over the State regarding the celebration of Vinayagar Chaturthi festival in an environmentally safe manner. The copy of the press releases both in English and Tamil are enclosed.

Further letters have been addressed to Home Department to instruct all the District Collectors and Police officials to take necessary action for the safe immersion of Lord Vinayaka idols in the already specified locations and as per the guidelines laid down by Public Department, Government of Tamil Nadu & CPCB guidelines.

This is for kind information Please.

Encl: As above.

Copy submitted to:

The Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Environment, Climate Change & Forests Department,
Secretariat,
Chennai – 600 009.

Copy to:

File Copy

G. Varad 27.6.25
For Chairperson

M. K. S. S.
27/6/25

No. 76, MOUNT SALAI, GUINDY, CHENNAI - 600 032.

Tel : 044-22353134 - 139 Fax : 044-22353068

Email : tnpceb-chn@gov.in Web : tnpceb.gov.in

**BEFORE THE HON"BLE NATIONAL
GREEN TRIBUNAL,
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI**

Original Application No.135 of 2023

Hariharan
Chennai.

...Applicant

-Vs-

The District Collector,
First Floor,
Collectorate,
Thiruvallur and 39 Others.

...Respondents

**COMPLIANCE REPORT FILED ON
BEHALF OF THE THIRTY NINETH
REPENDENT - TAMIL NADU
POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD.**

**Advocate for Respondent: TNPCB
Thiru.Sai Sathya Jith,
Advocate, Chennai.**

Date:29.07.2025

Date of Hearing on:30.07.2025