BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, AT CHENNAI
Original Application No.135 of 2023

Hariharan
Chennai.

…Applicant

-Vs-

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

...Respondents

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

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COMPLIANCE REPORT FILED ON BEHALF OF THE THIRTY NINETH RESPONDENT – TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

I, K.Nalini, Daughter of Thiru.K.Krishnasamy, aged about 59 years, having office at No.76, Mount Salai, Guindy, Chennai 600 032, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

1. 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-nineth respondent, (TNPCB) and as such I am well acquainted with the facts of the case available from our office records.

2. It is respectfully submitted that on 24.1.2024, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone has disposed the OA No.135 of 2023 with the following directions:-

   "..... 18. Considering the conspectus of the issue, the Tribunal issues the following directions:-

   i. *The revised guidelines issued by the CPCB dated 12.05.2020 should be implemented in its letter and spirit.*

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ii. *The committee constituted by this Tribunal shall convene a meeting at least six months before the Vinayagar Chaturthi festival every year so that through proper consultation and education, artificial tanks can be created, water bodies can be notified well in advance, manufacture of idols with POP can be prevented, etc.*

iii. *The committee constituted by this Tribunal shall fix the upfront fees to be collected from the parties/persons who seek permission for immersion of idols in the designated water bodies, before the scheduled Vinayagar Chaturthi festival.*

iv. *The committee shall determine the fee for such immersion depending on the size of the idol to be immersed, etc.*

v. *The scale of penalties for immersion of idols in unnotified water bodies may also be widely Page 16 of 16 advertised two to three months prior to the Vinayagar Chaturthi festival.*

vi. *The District Level Authorities should launch a sensitization campaign on the need for responsible immersion of idols worshipped during the Vinayagar Chaturthi festival.*

vii. *The amounts collected for immersion of idols may be usefully spent on the maintenance of the designated water bodies".*

3. It is respectfully submitted that in this OA NO.135 of 2023, the Committee has been constituted by the Hon'ble Tribunal (SZ), Chennai on 12.9.2023, comprising of

   "(i). Secretary to Government – Public Department.,

   (ii) Additional Chief Secretary/Commissioner –Revenue Administration, and (iii) Chairman – Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board under the Chairmanship of the Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forests to simplify the guidelines in consonance with the CPCB Guidelines and enforce the same in all the Districts".

4. It is respectfully submitted that to comply the Order of NGT(SZ) dated 24.1.2024, TNPCB has taken the following actions for the eco-friendly

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celebration of Vinayagar Chaturthi festival which was approved by the Committee members:-

a. TNPCB has addressed a letter dated 22/8/2024 to the Home, Prohibition & Excise Department and Public (Law &Order.B) Department to instruct all the District Collectors and Police Officials to take action for the eco-friendly celebration of the Vinayakar Chaturthi Festival as per the guidelines issued by the Government of Tamil Nadu vide GO Ms No. 598 dated 9/8/2018 for installation, worship of Vinayakar idols and immersion thereof and the guidelines issued dated 12/5/2020 by CPCB for idol immersion.(Enclosed as Annexure – 1).
b. All the District Collectors have been addressed vide TNPCB Letter dated 22/8/2024 to take necessary action for the safe immersion of Vinayagar Idols in water bodies without affecting the environment in the specified locations,following the guidelines issued by CPCB for idol immersion and also the guidelines issued by the Government of Tamil Nadu vide GO Ms No. 598 dated 9/8/2018 for installation, worship of Vinayakar idols and immersion thereof.(Enclosed as Annexure – 2).
c. A Letter dated 22/8/2024 has been addressed to the Commissioner, Hindu Religious Charitable & Endowment Department to take action to create awareness among the public regarding the traditional making of Vinayakaridols well in advance of the festival as per the guidelines of CPCB to avoid water pollution due to immersion of the idols. (Enclosed as Annexure – 3)
d. An instruction has been issued vide TNPCB Circular dated 22/8/2024 to all the District Environmental Engineers of TNPCB to inspect idol manufacturing sites to ensure idol making with eco friendly materials and create awareness among the public regarding eco friendly celebration of Vinayakar Chaturthi festival (Enclosed as Annexure – 4)
e. Press releases have been issued in English and Tamil newspapers by District Collectors in co-ordination with District Environmental

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Engineers of TNPCB on eco-friendly celebration of Vinayagar Chathurthi festival in all districts of Tamil Nadu.(Enclosed as Annexure – 5)

f. Awareness being created in the social media of TNPCB [face book, Instagram etc] for the eco-friendly celebration of the Vinayakar Chaturthi Festival.

5. It is submitted that Law and order meeting was conducted by Chief Secretary on 28.08.2024 and instructions were issued to all stakeholders for close follow up of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal directions for the prohibited materials of Vinayagar idols and to ensure compliance of directions.

6. It is submitted that in the mean-time strict vigil is maintained with respect to monitoring of the water bodies before and after the immersion of idols. It is submitted that the designated departments as referred above are ready to take immediate measures and steps to combat the situation if there is any incident of pollutants let out during the celebration of the festival.

7. It is submitted that every effort is made for eco-friendly celebration which are monitored. A systematic procedure has already been laid down with instructions to the District Authorities, Police personnel and DEEs of the TNPCB. It is submitted that there has been crack down of the illegal manufacturers and permissions are granted only if the idols are meeting the criteria as laid down.

8. Therefore, it is submitted that sincere effort is made with respect to compliance of the judgment of this Hon'ble Tribunal dt. 24.01.2024. It is submitted that the revised guidelines of the CPCB dt. 12.05.2020, are being implemented in every way possible. Further, the committee has taken sincere efforts to execute all possible steps for the celebrations in the ensuing week.

9. It is submitted that, with respect to some of the other directions especially determining the fee for immersion of idols and penalties for violations, the enforcement of the same requires a statutory process as it involves the public right of religion and public sentiments.

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10. Therefore, it is submitted that given the sensitive nature of the issue involving the right to religion of the public at large, while strictly continuing to ensure monitoring of pollution norms, several other aspects are being continued to be implemented with an approach of cooperation from the public and no tolerance for pollution.

Under the above circumstances, 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.

JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
No.76, MOUNT SALAI, GUINDY,
CHENNAI-600 032.

VERIFICATION

I, K.Nalini, Daughter of Thiru.K.Krishnasamy, 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.

JOINT CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
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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

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May 12, 2020

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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 prayachchati 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"

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.

(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 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.

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

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 plat form 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 composing 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 p*ooja 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

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 earthern 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, atleat 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

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.

(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 e 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

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 3 rd, 5 th and 7 th and 9 th 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.

-- OO –

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/

Annexure – 2

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.

...2

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 :

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The Accountant General, Chennai-9 / 18.
The Pay & Accounts Officer, Chennai-9 /18.
The Resident Audit Officer, Chennai-9.
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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.

...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.

...5

(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.

...6

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.

...7

-217-

-171-

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

...8

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

-219-

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.

...10

(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
9.8.08

Annexure – 3

TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

From
Dr. Jayanthi. M. I.F.S.,
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/ 2024-4 Dated: 22.08.2024

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.

****

I invite kind attention to the references cited. Vinayagar Chathurthi is one of the important festivals celebrated in Tamil Nadu. The ancient practice was immersion of small clay idols in water bodies, once pooja (religious rituals) is performed. Vinayagar Chathurthi for the year 2024 falls on 07.09.2024. After performing the religious rituals the idols are taken in a procession and immersed in the sea and other water bodies. It is mandatory to create awareness in their respective jurisdiction on the eco friendly celebration of Vinayagar Chathurthi this year, also as done in early in every year.

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

Also, the Central Pollution Control Board has published revised guidelines entitled "Revised Guidelines for Idol immersion" dated 12.05.2020 and formulated a comprehensive set of Guidelines on the practice of idol immersion in lakes, rivers and seas and requested all the SPCBs and PCCs to ensure effective implementation of the said guidelines (copy enclosed).

Hence, I am to 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 to avoid water pollution due to immersion of the idols.

Encl: As stated above

For Chairperson

22/08/2024

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

ABSTRACT

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PUBLIC (LAW & ORDER.B) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No.598 Dated : 09.08.2018.

Vilambhi, Aadi-24,
Thiruvalluvar Aandu-2049.

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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.

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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.
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9.8.18

...3

ANNEXURE

Guidelines regarding Installation and worship of Vinayakar Idols and also immersion thereof

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ii) The Station House Officer concerned (including Sound Amplifier License / Permit);

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

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(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.

...6

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.

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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

...8

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.

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(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
9.8.14

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

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 prayachchati 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"

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.

(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 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.

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

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 plat form 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 composing 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 p*ooja 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

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 earthern 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, atleat 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

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.

(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 e 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

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 3 rd, 5 th and 7 th and 9 th 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.

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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/

Annexure – 4

TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

CIRCULAR MEMO: T3/TNPCB / SWM / 22943 / 2024 Dated: 22.08.2024

Sub: TNPCB – Celebration of Vinayaka Chathurthi 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.

All District Environmental Engineers of Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board are hereby informed that Vinayaga Chathurthi festival is celebrated on 07.09.2024 this year. After performing the religious rituals the idols are taken in a procession and immersed in the sea and other water bodies, in this regard, it is hereby instructed 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 places of immersion of clay made Vinayaka idols in the locations identified already in the respective jurisdiction as given below, may also be announced after confirming with Revenue and Police departments and the public may be requested to immerse the clay made idols only in the notified locations.

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Places identified for immersion of idols
1.	Chennai	• Sreenivasapuram at Pattinapakkam • Fishing harbour at Kasimedu • Behind popular weighbridge at Thiruvottiyur • Behind the unit of Universal Carborandum at Thiruvottiyur • Palkalai Nagar at Neelankarai • Ramakrishna Nagar at Ennore.
2.	Coimbatore & Tiruppur	• Muthannan Kulam • Samalapuram Kulam • Bhavani river at Sirumugai, Elagampalayam, Mettupalayam Subramanian Kovil and Thekkampatti. • PAP canal, Andipalayam • PAP main canal, Pongalur • Ambarampalayam river

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		• Noyyal river • S.V. Puram Vaikkal • S.V. Puram PAP canal • Amaravathi river at Kaniyur • Gedimedu PAP Canal • Upparu • Nadumalai River.
3.	Vellore, Thirupatthur, Ranipet	• Oosur lake, Karugambattur lake • Thandalam lake and Puliyanthangal lake • Arcot lake and Veppor lake • Mangammapet Lake and Maveru lake • Nellorepet Lake • Santrorkuppam lakle • Palar and Ponneri lake
4.	Thiruvannamalai	• Thamaraikulam • Singarapettai lake • Konirayan Kulam • Iynthukan Varapathi and Poomachetti Kulam • Polur lake, Koor lake
5.	Virudhunagar	• Kalkidangu • Avudayapuram well • Theivanai Nagar Well • Maraneri • Madavarvilagam tank • Pandalgudi Big tank • Vadugavoorani • Theppam at Alangulam • Ramachandrapuram tank • Kunoor tank • Koomapatti Periyakulam tank • Aruppukottai Periya Kanmoi • Konagiri kulam
6.	Thoothukudi	• Muthaiapuram • Theraspuram • Tiruchendur • Kulasekarapattinam
7.	Tirunelveli, Tenkasi	• Tamaraparani river at Kurichi near Kokkarakulam • Vannarapettai • Peratchi amman koil • Manimutheeswaram
8.	Karur	• 57 locations, 500 m downstream in river Cauvery, river Amaravathi, river Nangachi

9.	Madurai	• Vagai, Kilthoppu, Othakadaikulam, Vadipatti, Kumaram tank, Melakkal, Iyyanar koil Oorani, Gundaru, Maravankulam tank, Mottai kulam, Softoor tank, Devankurichi Tank, Mankatti Theppakulam, Vaigai Thaikaal Palam, Thiruparankunram, Chevanthikulam Kanmai, Avaniapuram, Ayan Pappakkudi kanmai, Thirumangalam Sivarakkottai Kamandala nathi, Melur Kottampatti Sivan Koil Tank
10.	Sivagangai	• Sivagangai Theppakulam, • Manamadurai alangakulam, • Illankudi salaiamam tank, • Sivankoil Oorani, • Silambani Oorani, • Simgampoonari Oorani.
11.	Erode	• Erode Pallipalayam Bridge over river Cauvery. • Easwaran Koil at river Amaravathy • Thittuparai at Kil Bhavani • Kooduthurai, Seyyampalayam, Thadapalli Canal, Varasathi Vinayagar Temple at river Bhavani.
12.	Namakkal	• Down stream of bathing ghats at Komarapalayam, Pallipalayam, Mohanur, Paramathi Velur
13.	Thiruvallur	• MGR Nagar Eri, Coovam Eri, Thirumazhisai tank • Oothukottai tank, Chitheri, Kusasthalai river • Gandhi Road tank, Vannan kulam, Karim Beedi Kulam, Pandaravedu Kulam, Parasakthi Nagar kulam, Kanagammachathiram Kulam. • Ezhukan Palam, Buckingham Canal, Kakkalur lake
14.	Trichy	Trichy City - River cauvery flowing between Melachinthamani and Srirangam Road Somarasampettai--Uyyakondan Channel Manachanallur-Peruvala Vaikkal Ramji Nagar-Kattalai Vaikkal Lalgudi - Ayyan Vaikkal Thiruverumbur-Cauvery River (Vengur) Thuvakudy-Cauvery River (Vengur) Navelpattu-Cauvery River Siruganur-Cauvery River Samayapuram-Cauvery River Musiri-Cauvery River Thottiyam-Cauvery River Kattuputhur-Cauvery River Thatheiengarpet-Cauvery River (Musiri) Thuriyur-Cauvery River (Musiri) Uppiliyapuram-Puliyancholai Vaikkal & Cauvery River Manapparai-Mamundi River Vaiyampatti-Ponnaniyar River

		Thuvarankurichi-Boothanayagi Amman Kovilkulam
15.	Kancheepuram & Chengalpattu	• Sarvatheertha kulam, Ponneri Karai, Palkalai Nagar, Vadapattinam, Mahabalilpuram (On sea shores idols to be taken 500 m inside sea)
16.	Thanjavur	• Vadavaru, Grand Anaicut Canal, river Cauvery, Veeracholan river and sea
17.	Pudukottai	• Pudukulam, Sengaioorani, Chettikulam, Kambankadu, Therkuvudaiyarpuram Oorani., Pulichangadu kulam, Mookarai Pillaiyar Koil Oorani.
18.	Villupuram, Kallakuruchi	• East coast sea area in Villupuram District • Arakadanallur Athullualhnathaeswarar Tank • Sankarapuram Eri, Veedur Dam • Ullunthurpettai Eri, Thirunavallur Eri, • Gomuki Dam
19.	Udhagamandalam	• Law's Falls, Coonoor • Kamaraja Sagar Dam, Ooty • Irumbu palam river, Gudalur • Ponmani river, Pandalur and Hyathi falls, Kothagiri
20.	Dindigul	• Vaigai river, Kannapatti, Vatlagundu, Amaiyanaickanoor, Thalaikothu falls, Theradi Theppam, Kottaikulam, Ammankulam, Azhagapuri dam, Dobikanal, Kodaikanal
21.	Theni	• Vaigai River, Varaga Nathi, Mullai Periyar, Kottakudi River, Vaigai Dam
22.	Kanyakumari	• Kanniyakumari Beach, Chothavilai Beach • Chinnavilai Beach, Sanguthurai Beach • Pallikonam Dam, Vettumadai Beach • Midalam Beach, Thengapattinam Beach • Thirparappu falls and Thamirabarani river.
23.	Salem	• Ammapettai eri • Seelanaikenpatti eri
24	Perambalur & Ariyalur	• Perambalur area – River Cauvery at Trichy • Ariyalur area – Marudayaru river • Thirumanoor – Kollidam river • Jeyankondam – Kollidam river at Anaikarai
25	Nagapattinam, Mayiladuthurai & Cuddalore	• Vettar mouth • River Cauvery • New beach • Uppanaru, Sea Devanampatti, Kollidam, Vellar, river Cauvery
26	Thiruvarur	• Odambokkiyaru • Koraiyaru
27	Ramanathapuram	• Keetamanthal sea, Naripayur sea • Mahasalathipuram, Uppukadarkarai • Attankudi river • Karkavalasai kadal, Vaigai river and Sea

28.	Krishnagiri	• KRP dam, Kavaripattinam, Denkanikottai, Pettairayasamy tank, Thali tank, Gowramma tank, Panhapalli dam, Pachaikulam, Hosur
29.	Dharmapuri	• Vaniar Anai • Varattaru Anai • Echambadi Anai • Kesargulihaliah Anai • Thenpannaiyaru • Hogenakkal (Cauvery)

Further, the Hon'ble NGT in its order dated:12.09.2023 in O.A.No.135 of 2023 has directed the following among inter alia that,

"12.It is specifically directed that the eco sensitive water bodies like the one mentiones in this application viz.,Pulicat Lake,Rivers,Estuaries,Ramsar Wet landsetc., be consciously avoided."

In the above said order of the Hon'ble NGT Pulicat Lake and Ramsar wetlands have been specifically mentioned. In Tamil Nadu following Ramsar wetlands are declared,

S.No	District	Name of the wet land
1.	Nagapattinam & Thiruvarur	Point Calimere wild life and Bird sanctuary
2.	Ramanathapuram	Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere Reserve, Kanjirankulam Bird Sanctuary,Chitrangudi Bird Sanctuary
3.	Kanniyakumari	Vembannur wetland complex,Suchindram Theroor wetland complex
4.	Erode	Vellode Bird sanctuary
5.	Thiruvarur	Udhayamarthandapuram Bird Sanctuary,Vaduvur Bird sanctuary
6.	Chengalpattu	Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary,Karikili Bird Sanctuary,
7.	Tirunelveli	Koonthankulam Bird Sanctuary
8.	Cuddalore	Pichavaram Mangrove
9.	Ariyalur	Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary

10.	Chennai	Pallikaranai Marshland
11.	The Nilgris	Longwood shola Reserve Forest
12.	Tiruppur	Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary
13.	Villupuram	Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary

Hence, the DEEs whose jurisdiction falls in the above mentioned districts are requested to co-ordinate with the district administration to avoid/prohibit the activities of immersion of idols in the above waterbodies/wet lands and divert the same to the other alternative location which are approved by the Government.

The Tamilnadu Government vide G.O. Ms. No. 598 of Public (Law & Order.B) Department dated 09.08.2018 had issued guidelines regarding installation and worship of Vinayakar 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.

Also, the Central Pollution Control Board has published revised guidelines entitled "Revised Guidelines for Idol immersion" dated 12.05.2020 and formulated a comprehensive set of Guidelines on the practice of idol immersion in lakes, rivers and seas and requested all the SPCBs and PCCs to ensure effective implementation of the said guidelines (copy enclosed).

Hence, action may be initiated in consultation with the District Collectors and the press releases shall be made well in advance of the function. A report on the holding of awareness programme and celebration of the festival in a pollution free manner shall be sent by all District Environmental Engineers to the Corporate Office on or before 19.09.2024.

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

TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

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

Encl: As above

For Chairperson

22/08/2024

To
All District Environmental Engineers,
Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board.

Copy To
All Joint Chief Environmental Engineers (Monitoring),
Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board

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TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

PRESS RELEASE

GUIDELINES RELATING TO IMMERSION OF LORD VINAYAGAR IDOLS

Tamil Nadu has one of the finest traditions in the country towards protecting environment. It is the duty of every citizen to protect our environment and safeguard our water bodies (sea, lakes and river etc.,) in order to ensure that our drinking water sources are maintained pristine and pure. In this regard, the public are requested to celebrate Vinayagar Chathurthi festival by immersing the idols only in the places notified for each district by the District Administration and following the CPCB guidelines for idol immersion (available in the TNPCB website www.tnpcb.gov.in), to protect our water bodies.

Therefore the public are requested to follow the guidelines given below:

1. 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) shall alone permitted for safe immersion in water bodies.**
2. Only dried flower components, straw may be used for making ornaments of idols and natural resins of trees may be used as a shining material for making idols attractive.
3. **Use of single use plastic and thermocol materials shall not be permitted strictly** and eco-friendly materials like straw structure should be used in making idols or decoration of idols / pandals / tazias in order to prevent pollution in water bodies.
4. 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.
5. For beautification of idols, removable and washable decorative clothes made only with natural materials and natural dyes shall be used in place of disposable material containing paints and other toxic chemicals.

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6. It is requested to immerse the idols only in the places notified for each district by the District Administration and also by the guidelines issued by the Central Pollution Control Board.

The public are requested to celebrate Vinayagar Chathurthi festival in an eco friendly manner.

The District Collector, Superintendent of Police and the District Environmental Engineer, TNPC Board may be contacted for further details.

Sd/xxxx
Chairperson

For Chairperson
22/08/2024

TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

செய்தி வெளியீடு

விநாயகர் சிலைகளை நீர் நிலைகளில் கரைப்பதற்கான வழிமுறைகள்

சுற்றுச்சூழலை பாதுகாப்பதில் தொன்றுதொட்டு சிறந்த மாநிலமாக தமிழகம் விளங்கி வருகிறது. சுற்றுச்சூழல் பாதுகாப்பில் மக்களாகிய நமக்கு மிகப்பெரிய கடமை இருக்கிறது. நீர் நிலைகள் (கடல், ஆறு மற்றும் குளம்) நமக்கு குடிநீர் ஆதாரத்தை தருகிறது. நீர் நிலைகளை பாதுகாக்கும் வகையில் வருகிற விநாயகர் சதுர்த்தி விழாவினை கொண்டாடும்போது, விநாயகர் சிலைகளை நீர் நிலைகளில் கரைப்பதற்கான மத்திய மாசு கட்டுப்பாடு வாரிய வழிகாட்டுதல்களின்படி (www.tnpcb.gov.in என்ற இணையதளத்தில் உள்ளது) மாவட்ட நிர்வாகத்தினால் குறிப்பிடப்பட்டுள்ள இடங்களில் மட்டும் கரைத்து, சுற்றுச்சூழலை பாதுகாக்க ஒத்துழைப்பு வழங்குமாறு அன்புடன் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்.

எனவே, பொது மக்களுக்கு கீழ்க்கண்டவாறு வேண்டுகோள் விடப்படுகிறது.

1. **களிமண்ணால் செய்யப்பட்டதும் மற்றும் பிளாஸ்டர் ஆஃப்பாரிஸ் (PoP), பிளாஸ்டிக் மற்றும் தெர்மாகோல் (பாலிஸ்டிரின்) கலவையற்றதுமான,** சுற்றுச்சூழலை பாதிக்காத மூலப்பொருள்களால் மட்டுமே செய்யப்பட்டதுமான விநாயகர் சிலைகளை நீர்நிலைகளில் பாதுகாப்பான முறையில் கரைக்க அனுமதிக்கப்படுகிறது.
2. சிலைகளின் ஆபரணங்கள் தயாரிப்பதற்கு உலர்ந்த மலர் கூறுகள், வைக்கோல் போன்றவை பயன்படுத்தப்படலாம். மேலும், சிலைகளை பளபளப்பாக மாற்றுவதற்கு மரங்களின் இயற்கை பிசின்கள் பயன்படுத்தப்படலாம்.
3. **ஒரு முறை பயன்படுத்தும் பிளாஸ்டிக் மற்றும் தெர்மாக்கோல் பொருட்களை பயன்படுத்த கண்டிப்பாக அனுமதிக்கப்படாது.** நீர் நிலைகள் மாசு படுவதை தடுக்கும் பொருட்டு, வைக்கோல் போன்ற சுற்றுச்சூழலுக்கு உகந்த பொருட்கள் மட்டுமே சிலைகள் தயாரிக்க அல்லது சிலைகள்/பந்தல்கள்களை அலங்கரிக்க பயன்படுத்த வேண்டும்.

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4. சிலைகளுக்கு வர்ணம் பூசுவதற்கு நச்சு மற்றும் மக்காத இரசாயன சாயம்/எண்ணெய் வண்ணப்பூச்சுகளை கண்டிப்பாக பயன்படுத்தக்கூடாது. சிலைகளின் மீது எனாமல் மற்றும் செயற்கை சாயத்தை அடிப்படையாக கொண்ட வண்ணப்பூச்சுகளை பயன்படுத்தக்கூடாது, மாற்றாக சுற்றுச்சூழலுக்குகந்த நீர் சார்ந்த / மக்கக் கூடிய / நச்சு கலப்பற்ற இயற்கை சாயங்கள் மட்டுமே பயன்படுத்தப்பட வேண்டும்.
5. சிலைகளை அழகுபடுத்த வண்ணப்பூச்சுகள் மற்றும் பிற நச்சு இரசாயனங்கள் கொண்ட பொருட்களுக்கு பதிலாக, இயற்கை பொருட்கள் மற்றும் இயற்கை சாயங்களால் செய்யப்பட்ட அலங்கார ஆடைகள் மட்டுமே பயன்படுத்தப்படவேண்டும்.
6. விநாயகர் சிலைகளை மாவட்ட நிர்வாகத்தினால் குறிப்பிடப்பட்டுள்ள இடங்களில் மட்டும் மத்திய மாசு கட்டுப்பாடு வாரியத்தின் விதிமுறைகளின்படி கரைக்க அனுமதிக்கப்படும்.

விநாயக சதுர்த்தி விழாவினை சுற்றுச்சூழலை பாதிக்காதவாறு கொண்டாடும்படி பொதுமக்கள் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளப்படுகிறார்கள்.

மாவட்ட ஆட்சியர், காவல் துறை கண்காணிப்பாளர் மற்றும் மாவட்ட சுற்றுச்சூழல் பொறியாளர், தமிழ்நாடு மாசு கட்டுப்பாடு வாரியம் ஆகியோரை மேலும் விவரங்களுக்கு அணுகலாம்.

ஒம்/xxxx
தலைவர்

தலைவருக்காக

TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

LiFE Lifestyle for Environment

PRESS RELEASE

Tamil Nadu has a longstanding tradition towards conservation and protection of environment. Celebrate the Vinayagar Chathurthi festival in an eco-friendly manner and Immerse idols only in places notified for each district by the District Administration by following the CPCB guidelines (available in the TNPCB website www.tnpcb.gov.in).

Do's and Don'ts for Vinayagar Chathurthi

Do's	Don'ts
Use Eco-Friendly Ganesha Idols	Don't Use Plaster of Paris (PoP) Idols
Decoration of idols and pandals with eco-friendly Materials	Don't Use Harmful Chemicals, Single use plastic, Thermocol and Synthetic dyes in Decorations
Use eco-friendly water-based, bio-degradable, and non-toxic natural dyes for idol	Don't use toxic and non-bio degradable chemical dyes/oil paints for painting idol
Use Eco-Friendly Pooja material like flowers, leaves, clothes	Don't use Single use plastic and Thermocol materials for pooja material
Use washable and removable decorative clothes	Don't use disposable materials containing paints and other toxic chemicals
Use biodegradable/reusable plates and glasses for Prasadam distribution	Avoid using single-use plastics like disposable plates, cups, spoons, and straws during the festival
Segregate and Dispose of the Waste Responsibly	Don't Litter and dump waste
Idol immersion to be done in notified place	Don't Immerse Idols in undesignated Water Bodies
Opt for eco-friendly lighting options such as LED bulbs	Don't use Filament bulbs for decorative lighting
Store and reuse decorations for future celebrations as much as possible	Don't use single use decorative items

Sd/xxxx
Chairperson

For Chairperson
22/08/2024

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TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

செய்தி வெளியீடு

சுற்றுச்சூழலை பாதுகாப்பதில் தமிழகத்திற்கு நீண்ட கால பாரம்பரியம் உள்ளது. விநாயகர் சதுர்த்தி, தெய்வீகத்தின் கொண்டாட்டம் மட்டுமல்ல, நமது சுற்றுச்சூழலின் அழகையும் தூய்மையையும் பாதுகாப்பதற்கான நமது உறுதிப்பாட்டை நிரூபிக்க ஒரு வாய்ப்பாகும். நாம் விநாயகர் சதுர்த்தியின் புனிதமான தருணத்தை நெருங்கும் வேளையில், இந்த பண்டிகையை சுற்றுச்சூழலுக்கு உகந்த முறையில் கொண்டாடுவதற்கு எங்கள் மனமார்ந்த வாழ்த்துக்களைத் தெரிவிப்பதில் மகிழ்ச்சியடைகிறோம். மேலும் மாவட்ட நிர்வாகத்தால் ஒவ்வொரு மாவட்டத்திற்கும் அறிவிக்கப்பட்ட இடங்களில் மட்டும் மத்திய மாசு கட்டுப்பாடு வாரிய வழிகாட்டுதல்களைப் பின்பற்றி சிலைகளை கரைக்குமாறு அன்புடன் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறோம்

விநாயகர் சதுர்த்திக்கு விழா – செய்ய வேண்டியவை, செய்யக்கூடாதவை

செய்யவேண்டியவை	செய்யக்கூடாதவை
சுற்றுச்சூழலுக்கு உகந்த விநாயகர் சிலைகளைப் பயன்படுத்துங்கள்.	பிளாஸ்டர் ஆஃப் பாரிஸ் (PoP) சிலைகளைப் பயன்படுத்த வேண்டாம்
சுற்றுச்சூழலுக்கு உகந்த விநாயகர் சிலைகளைப் பயன்படுத்துங்கள்.	சிலைகளை அலங்கரிப்பதற்கு, சுற்றுசூழலுக்கு தீங்கு விளைவிக்கும், ஒருமுறை உபயோகித்து தூக்கியெறிப்படும் பிளாஸ்டிக், தெர்மாகோல் மற்றும் இரசாயனங்களை பொருட்கள் அல்லது சாயங்களை பயன்படுத்த வேண்டாம்.

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சிலைகளுக்கு சுற்றுச்சூழலுக்கு உகந்த நீர் சார்ந்த, இயற்கையாக மக்கக்கூடிய மற்றும் நச்சுத்தன்மையற்ற இயற்கை சாயங்களைப் பயன்படுத்துங்கள்.	சிலைகளின் மேல்பூசிற்கும் அலங்காரத்திற்கும் நச்சுத்தன்மையுள்ள மற்றும் மக்கும் திண்மையற்ற இரசாயன சாயங்கள் / எண்ணெய் வண்ணப்பூச்சுகளை பயன்படுத்த வேண்டாம்.
சுற்றுசூழலிற்கு உகந்த பூக்கள், இலைகள் மற்றும் துணிகளை பூஜை பொருட்களாக பயன்படுத்தவும்.	சுற்றுசூழலுக்கு தீங்கு விளைவிக்கும் , ஒருமுறை உபயோகித்து தூக்கியெறிப்படும் பிளாஸ்டிக் மற்றும் தெர்மாகோலாலான பொருட்களை பூஜை பொருட்களாக பயன்படுத்த வேண்டாம்.
அகற்றி துவைத்து மீண்டும் உபயோகிக்க கூடிய அலங்கார துணிகளையே அலங்காரத்திற்கு பயன்படுத்தவும்.	வண்ணப்பூச்சுகள் மற்றும் பிற நச்சு இரசாயனங்கள் கொண்ட ஒருமுறையே உபயோகித்து தூக்கியெறிய கூடிய அலங்கார பொருட்களை பயன்படுத்த வேண்டாம்.
பிரசாத விநியோகத்திற்கு மக்கும் / மீண்டும் பயன்படுத்தக்கூடிய தட்டுகள் மற்றும் கண்ணாடி கோப்பைகளை பயன்படுத்தவும்.	பண்டிகையின் போது ஒருமுறை பயன்படுத்தி தூக்கியெறிய கூடிய பிளாஸ்டிக் தட்டுகள், கோப்பைகள், கரண்டிகள் மற்றும் உறிஞ்சு குழாய்களை பயன்படுத்துவதை தவிர்க்கவும்.
பொறுப்புடன் குப்பைகளை பிரித்து அப்புறப்படுத்துங்கள்.	குப்பை மற்றும் கழிவுகளை பொறுப்பற்று கொட்ட வேண்டாம்.
அறிவிக்கப்பட்ட இடங்களில் மட்டுமே சிலைகளை கரைக்க வேண்டும்.	அனுமதி இல்லாத நீர்நிலைகளில் சிலைகளை கரைக்க வேண்டாம்.

TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

எல்.இ.டி. பல்புகள் போன்ற சுற்றுசூழலிற்கு உகந்த விளக்குகளை பயன்படுத்தவும்.	ஃபிலமென்ட் பல்புகளைப் விளக்குகளாக பயன்படுத்த வேண்டாம்.
அலங்கார பொருட்களை எதிர்கால பண்டிகைகளுக்கு சேமித்து பயன்படுத்தவும்.	ஒற்றை உபயோக அலங்கார பொருட்களை பயன்படுத்த வேண்டாம்.

ஒம்/xxxx
தலைவர்

தலைவருக்காக

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Annexure – 5

TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

LiFE Lifestyle for Environment

PRESS RELEASE

GUIDELINES RELATING TO IMMERSION OF LORD VINAYAGAR IDOLS

Tamil Nadu has one of the finest traditions in the country towards protecting environment. It is the duty of every citizen to protect our environment and safeguard our water bodies (sea, lakes and river etc.,) in order to ensure that our drinking water sources are maintained pristine and pure. In this regard, the public are requested to celebrate Vinayagar Chathurthi festival by immersing the idols only in the places notified for each district by the District Administration and following the CPCB guidelines for idol immersion (available in the TNPCB website www.tnpcb.gov.in), to protect our water bodies.

Therefore the public are requested to follow the guidelines given below:

1. 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) shall alone permitted for safe immersion in water bodies.**
2. Only dried flower components, straw may be used for making ornaments of idols and natural resins of trees may be used as a shining material for making idols attractive.
3. **Use of single use plastic and thermocol materials shall not be permitted strictly** and eco-friendly materials like straw structure should be used in making idols or decoration of idols / pandals / tazias in order to prevent pollution in water bodies.
4. 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.
5. For beautification of idols, removable and washable decorative clothes made only with natural materials and natural dyes shall be used in place of disposable material containing paints and other toxic chemicals.

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6. It is requested to immerse the idols only in the places notified for each district by the District Administration and also by the guidelines issued by the Central Pollution Control Board.

The public are requested to celebrate Vinayagar Chathurthi festival in an eco friendly manner.

The District Collector, Superintendent of Police and the District Environmental Engineer, TNPC Board may be contacted for further details.

Sd/xxxx
Chairperson

For Chairperson
22/08/2024

LiFE Lifestyle for Environment

TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

செய்தி வெளியீடு

விநாயகர் சிலைகளை நீர் நிலைகளில் கரைப்பதற்கான வழிமுறைகள்

சுற்றுச்சூழலை பாதுகாப்பதில் தொன்றுதொட்டு சிறந்த மாநிலமாக தமிழகம் விளங்கி வருகிறது. சுற்றுச்சூழல் பாதுகாப்பில் மக்களாகிய நமக்கு மிகப்பெரிய கடமை இருக்கிறது. நீர் நிலைகள் (கடல், ஆறு மற்றும் குளம்) நமக்கு குடிநீர் ஆதாரத்தை தருகிறது. நீர் நிலைகளை பாதுகாக்கும் வகையில் வருகிற விநாயகர் சதுர்த்தி விழாவினை கொண்டாடும்போது, விநாயகர் சிலைகளை நீர் நிலைகளில் கரைப்பதற்கான மத்திய மாசு கட்டுப்பாடு வாரிய வழிகாட்டுதல்களின்படி (www.tnpcb.gov.in என்ற இணையதளத்தில் உள்ளது) மாவட்ட நிர்வாகத்தினால் குறிப்பிடப்பட்டுள்ள இடங்களில் மட்டும் கரைத்து, சுற்றுச்சூழலை பாதுகாக்க ஒத்துழைப்பு வழங்குமாறு அன்புடன் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்.

எனவே, பொது மக்களுக்கு கீழ்க்கண்டவாறு வேண்டுகோள் விடப்படுகிறது.

1. **களிமண்ணால் செய்யப்பட்டதும் மற்றும் பிளாஸ்டர் ஆஃப்பாரிஸ் (PoP), பிளாஸ்டிக் மற்றும் தெர்மாகோல் (பாலிஸ்டிரின்) கலவையற்றதுமான,** சுற்றுச்சூழலை பாதிக்காத மூலப்பொருள்களால் மட்டுமே செய்யப்பட்டதுமான விநாயகர் சிலைகளை நீர்நிலைகளில் பாதுகாப்பான முறையில் கரைக்க அனுமதிக்கப்படுகிறது.
2. சிலைகளின் ஆபரணங்கள் தயாரிப்பதற்கு உலர்ந்த மலர் கூறுகள், வைக்கோல் போன்றவை பயன்படுத்தப்படலாம். மேலும், சிலைகளை பளபளப்பாக மாற்றுவதற்கு மரங்களின் இயற்கை பிசின்கள் பயன்படுத்தப்படலாம்.
3. **ஒரு முறை பயன்படுத்தும் பிளாஸ்டிக் மற்றும் தெர்மாக்கோல் பொருட்களை பயன்படுத்த கண்டிப்பாக அனுமதிக்கப்படாது.** நீர் நிலைகள் மாசு படுவதை தடுக்கும் பொருட்டு, வைக்கோல் போன்ற சுற்றுச்சூழலுக்கு உகந்த பொருட்கள் மட்டுமே சிலைகள் தயாரிக்க அல்லது சிலைகள்/பந்தல்கள்களை அலங்கரிக்க பயன்படுத்த வேண்டும்.

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4. சிலைகளுக்கு வர்ணம் பூசுவதற்கு நச்சு மற்றும் மக்காத இரசாயன சாயம்/எண்ணெய் வண்ணப்பூச்சுகளை கண்டிப்பாக பயன்படுத்தக்கூடாது. சிலைகளின் மீது எனாமல் மற்றும் செயற்கை சாயத்தை அடிப்படையாக கொண்ட வண்ணப்பூச்சுகளை பயன்படுத்தக்கூடாது, மாற்றாக சுற்றுச்சூழலுக்குகந்த நீர் சார்ந்த / மக்கக் கூடிய / நச்சு கலப்பற்ற இயற்கை சாயங்கள் மட்டுமே பயன்படுத்தப்பட வேண்டும்.
5. சிலைகளை அழகுபடுத்த வண்ணப்பூச்சுகள் மற்றும் பிற நச்சு இரசாயனங்கள் கொண்ட பொருட்களுக்கு பதிலாக, இயற்கை பொருட்கள் மற்றும் இயற்கை சாயங்களால் செய்யப்பட்ட அலங்கார ஆடைகள் மட்டுமே பயன்படுத்தப்படவேண்டும்.
6. விநாயகர் சிலைகளை மாவட்ட நிர்வாகத்தினால் குறிப்பிடப்பட்டுள்ள இடங்களில் மட்டும் மத்திய மாசு கட்டுப்பாடு வாரியத்தின் விதிமுறைகளின்படி கரைக்க அனுமதிக்கப்படும்.

விநாயக சதுர்த்தி விழாவினை சுற்றுச்சூழலை பாதிக்காதவாறு கொண்டாடும்படி பொதுமக்கள் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளப்படுகிறார்கள்.

மாவட்ட ஆட்சியர், காவல் துறை கண்காணிப்பாளர் மற்றும் மாவட்ட சுற்றுச்சூழல் பொறியாளர், தமிழ்நாடு மாசு கட்டுப்பாடு வாரியம் ஆகியோரை மேலும் விவரங்களுக்கு அணுகலாம்.

ஓம்/xxxx
தலைவர்

தலைவருக்காக
22/08/2024

TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

LiFE Lifestyle for Environment

PRESS RELEASE

Tamil Nadu has a longstanding tradition towards conservation and protection of environment. Celebrate the Vinayagar Chathurthi festival in an eco-friendly manner and Immerse idols only in places notified for each district by the District Administration by following the CPCB guidelines (available in the TNPCB website www.tnpcb.gov.in).

Do's and Don'ts for Vinayagar Chathurthi

Do's	Don'ts
Use Eco-Friendly Ganesha Idols	Don't Use Plaster of Paris (PoP) Idols
Decoration of idols and pandals with eco-friendly Materials	Don't Use Harmful Chemicals, Single use plastic, Thermocol and Synthetic dyes in Decorations
Use eco-friendly water-based, bio-degradable, and non-toxic natural dyes for idol	Don't use toxic and non-bio degradable chemical dyes/oil paints for painting idol
Use Eco-Friendly Pooja material like flowers, leaves, clothes	Don't use Single use plastic and Thermocol materials for pooja material
Use washable and removable decorative clothes	Don't use disposable materials containing paints and other toxic chemicals
Use biodegradable/reusable plates and glasses for Prasadam distribution	Avoid using single-use plastics like disposable plates, cups, spoons, and straws during the festival
Segregate and Dispose of the Waste Responsibly	Don't Litter and dump waste
Idol immersion to be done in notified place	Don't Immerse Idols in undesignated Water Bodies
Opt for eco-friendly lighting options such as LED bulbs	Don't use Filament bulbs for decorative lighting
Store and reuse decorations for future celebrations as much as possible	Don't use single use decorative items

Sd/xxxx
Chairperson

22-10-24
For Chairperson
22/08/2024

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தமிழ்நாடு

LiFE Lifestyle for Environment

TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

செய்தி வெளியீடு

சுற்றுச்சூழலை பாதுகாப்பதில் தமிழகத்திற்கு நீண்ட கால பாரம்பரியம் உள்ளது. விநாயகர் சதுர்த்தி, தெய்வீகத்தின் கொண்டாட்டம் மட்டுமல்ல, நமது சுற்றுச்சூழலின் அழகையும் தூய்மையையும் பாதுகாப்பதற்கான நமது உறுதிப்பாட்டை நிரூபிக்க ஒரு வாய்ப்பாகும். நாம் விநாயகர் சதுர்த்தியின் புனிதமான தருணத்தை நெருங்கும் வேளையில், இந்த பண்டிகையை சுற்றுச்சூழலுக்கு உகந்த முறையில் கொண்டாடுவதற்கு எங்கள் மனமார்ந்த வாழ்த்துக்களைத் தெரிவிப்பதில் மகிழ்ச்சியடைகிறோம். மேலும் மாவட்ட நிர்வாகத்தால் ஒவ்வொரு மாவட்டத்திற்கும் அறிவிக்கப்பட்ட இடங்களில் மட்டும் மத்திய மாசு கட்டுப்பாடு வாரிய வழிகாட்டுதல்களைப் பின்பற்றி சிலைகளை கரைக்குமாறு அன்புடன் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறோம்

விநாயகர் சதுர்த்திக்கு விழா – செய்ய வேண்டியவை, செய்யக்கூடாதவை

செய்யவேண்டியவை	செய்யக்கூடாதவை
சுற்றுச்சூழலுக்கு உகந்த விநாயகர் சிலைகளைப் பயன்படுத்துங்கள்.	பிளாஸ்டர் ஆஃப் பாரிஸ் (PoP) சிலைகளைப் பயன்படுத்த வேண்டாம்
சுற்றுச்சூழலுக்கு உகந்த விநாயகர் சிலைகளைப் பயன்படுத்துங்கள்.	சிலைகளை அலங்கரிப்பதற்கு, சுற்றுசூழலுக்கு தீங்கு விளைவிக்கும், ஒருமுறை உபயோகித்து தூக்கியெறிப்படும் பிளாஸ்டிக், தெர்மாகோல் மற்றும் இரசாயனங்களை பொருட்கள் அல்லது சாயங்களை பயன்படுத்த வேண்டாம்.

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சிலைகளுக்கு சுற்றுச்சூழலுக்கு உகந்த நீர் சார்ந்த, இயற்கையாக மக்கக்கூடிய மற்றும் நச்சுத்தன்மையற்ற இயற்கை சாயங்களைப் பயன்படுத்துங்கள்.	சிலைகளின் மேல்பூசிற்கும் அலங்காரத்திற்கும் நச்சுத்தன்மையுள்ள மற்றும் மக்கும் திண்மையற்ற இரசாயன சாயங்கள் / எண்ணெய் வண்ணப்பூச்சுகளை பயன்படுத்த வேண்டாம்.
சுற்றுசூழலிற்கு உகந்த பூக்கள், இலைகள் மற்றும் துணிகளை பூஜை பொருட்களாக பயன்படுத்தவும்.	சுற்றுசூழலுக்கு தீங்கு விளைவிக்கும் , ஒருமுறை உபயோகித்து தூக்கியெறிப்படும் பிளாஸ்டிக் மற்றும் தெர்மாகோலாலான பொருட்களை பூஜை பொருட்களாக பயன்படுத்த வேண்டாம்.
அகற்றி துவைத்து மீண்டும் உபயோகிக்க கூடிய அலங்கார துணிகளையே அலங்காரத்திற்கு பயன்படுத்தவும்.	வண்ணப்பூச்சுகள் மற்றும் பிற நச்சு இரசாயனங்கள் கொண்ட ஒருமுறையே உபயோகித்து தூக்கியெறிய கூடிய அலங்கார பொருட்களை பயன்படுத்த வேண்டாம்.
பிரசாத விநியோகத்திற்கு மக்கும் / மீண்டும் பயன்படுத்தக்கூடிய தட்டுகள் மற்றும் கண்ணாடி கோப்பைகளை பயன்படுத்தவும்.	பண்டிகையின் போது ஒருமுறை பயன்படுத்தி தூக்கியெறிய கூடிய பிளாஸ்டிக் தட்டுகள், கோப்பைகள், கரண்டிகள் மற்றும் உறிஞ்சு குழாய்களை பயன்படுத்துவதை தவிர்க்கவும்.
பொறுப்புடன் குப்பைகளை பிரித்து அப்புறப்படுத்துங்கள்.	குப்பை மற்றும் கழிவுகளை பொறுப்பற்று கொட்ட வேண்டாம்.
அறிவிக்கப்பட்ட இடங்களில் மட்டுமே சிலைகளை கரைக்க வேண்டும்.	அனுமதி இல்லாத நீர்நிலைகளில் சிலைகளை கரைக்க வேண்டாம்.

LiFE Lifestyle for Environment

TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

எல்.இ.டி. பல்புகள் போன்ற சுற்றுசூழலிற்கு உகந்த விளக்குகளை பயன்படுத்தவும்.	ஃபிலமென்ட் பல்புகளைப் விளக்குகளாக பயன்படுத்த வேண்டாம்.
அலங்கார பொருட்களை எதிர்கால பண்டிகைகளுக்கு சேமித்து பயன்படுத்தவும்.	ஒற்றை உபயோக அலங்கார பொருட்களை பயன்படுத்த வேண்டாம்.

ஓம்/xxxx
தலைவர்

தலைவருக்காக
ரா.ரா
22/08/2024

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BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL SOUTHERN ZONE, AT 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 REPONDENT – TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

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

Date: 05.09.2024

Date of hearing on: 05.09.2024