



# STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD, ODISHA

[DEPARTMENT OF FOREST, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE, GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA]

Parivesh Bhawan, A/ 118, Nilaknatha Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751012

APPEAL TO OBSERVE POLLUTION FREE GANESH PUJA, KHUDURUKUNI PUJA, BISWAKARMA PUJA, DURGA PUJA, KALI PUJA, GAJALAXMI PUJA AND SARASWATI PUJA

## Puja Committees/ Organisers

VISC (LEM) Proj-64/24-25

No. 15151

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- Use natural clay for making of idols instead of baked clay, plaster of paris etc.
- Use water soluble and nontoxic natural dyes for painting of idols instead of toxic non-biodegradable chemical dyes.
- Height of the super structure of the idol shall be limited to 40ft and of the idol shall be limited to 20ft in height.
- Immerse Idols only at the identified immersion sites constructed by the District authorities or Local bodies.
- Remove worship materials like flowers, decorating materials before immersion of idols and to be disposed of in municipal dump site and make sure that they are not burnt near the immersion site.
- Do not use single use plastic or thermocol materials for decoration purpose and Prasad sevan or distribution.

## District Authorities or Local bodies

- Aware the public regarding water pollution caused by idol immersion.
- Aware the public to purchase eco-friendly idols made up of natural clay and coloured with natural dyes.
- Identify adequate number of designated immersion sites and inform the Puja Committee authorities well in advance.
- In case of immersion of idols in rivers and lakes, arrangements may be made for construction of temporary confined ponds with earthen bunds and removable synthetic liner for the purpose of immersion of idols. Identify the immersion sites at the points where the flow in stream is naturally available.
- Within 24 hours of the immersion, the left over materials from the immersion site shall be removed for disposal at designated municipal dump site and the supernatant water may be allowed to flow into the river after adding lime to clear the water.

## Individual Households

- Individual households are encouraged to use only eco-friendly idols made of natural clay and bio-degradable materials as decorative and puja materials.
- Immerse the idols at their homes in eco-friendly manner or immerse the idols in the designated on-land temporary artificial ponds or tanks located nearby or artificial movable tanks arranged by the Local Bodies.
- Do not throw puja left overs tied in polythene bags into the river or any waterbody, rather dispose in designated immersion sites.

## Penal Provision

- As per the **Odisha Prevention and Control of Water Pollution (Procedure for Immersion of Idol after Pujas) Rules, 2021**, for violation of Rule 3 by idol makers, they may be prohibited from idol making for 2 (two) years by the concerned local bodies; and deposition of the idol manufacturers towards registration fees shall be forfeited by the respective local body in addition to the prohibition of idol making for 2 (two) years.
- Further, violation of Rules 5 and 6 by the Puja Committee Organisers, the concerned local bodies may impose penalty on Puja Committee Organisers as below.
  - in case the Puja Committee is located in the area of Panchayat, Rs. 3,000/-;
  - in case the Puja Committee is located in the area of Municipality or Notified Area Councils, Rs. 5,000/-;
  - in case the Puja Committee is located in the area of Municipal Corporation, Rs. 7,000/-

LET US TAKE A PLEDGE TO OBSERVE A POLLUTION FREE PUJA.

MEMBER SECRETARY

Note : The Odisha Prevention and Control of Water Pollution (Procedure for Immersion of Idol after Pujas) Rules, 2021 in this regard can be downloaded from SPCB website.

( Weblink : <http://ospcbboard.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/1741-F-E-Idol-Immersion-Rule-by-Odisha.pdf>)

