

Subject: Directions u/s 33 A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended to date for the effective implementation of guidelines for immersion of idols on the festive occasion of Ganeshotsav-2022 and Durga Pooja etc. in accordance with the revised guidelines of CPCB issued in May 2020.

Whereas, on festive occasions such as Ganeshotsav, Durga Pooja, etc., it has been a tradition to immerse idols in water bodies like rivers, lakes, ponds, wells etc. Consequent pollution of such water bodies has been a matter of concern. In addition to silting, toxic chemicals used in making idols tend to leach out and pose serious problems of water pollution. Studies carried out to assess deterioration in water quality due to idol immersion reveal deterioration of water quality in respect to conductivity, bio-chemical oxygen demand and heavy metal concentration.

And whereas, the chemical paints, colours and dyes applied on such POP idols contain hazardous chemicals/ elements like Mercury, Zinc Oxide, Chromium, Lead, Cadmium etc. which cause harmful effects on aquatic life, which when consumed by humans may cause cancer and other diseases including respiratory ailments, skin infections etc.

And whereas, Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) had pronounced various directions with respect to any type of immersion in River Yamuna vide orders dated 13.01.2015 and 16.09.2015. The orders prohibit throwing pooja material or any other material like food-grain, oil, etc. into river Yamuna except on the designated site.

And, whereas, in view of directives issued by National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) on 16.09.2019 and 15.09.2021 prohibiting idol immersion in Ganga and its tributaries, violators are required to pay Rs. 50,000/- as Environment Compensation to be levied.

And, whereas violation of directions issued by National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 shall attract punishable action under Section 15 of the said Act which include imprisonment and/ or with fine which may extend up to 1 lakh or with both.

Now, therefore, by virtue of the powers conferred under Section 33 (A) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 read along with the Hon'ble Green Tribunal Orders as mentioned above, Delhi Pollution Control Committee hereby issues the following directions:

A. Directions for Idol Makers/ Sellers of Idols / Persons making Idols in-situ:

1. Use of natural clay and biodegradable materials for manufacture of idols.
2. Use of natural dyes/ colours and biodegradable materials for decoration of idols.
3. POP based idols should not be allowed for immersion in water bodies.

B. Directions for General Public/ Resident Welfare Associations/Pooja Samities, etc:


1. POP based Idols shall not be immersed during the forthcoming Ganeshotsav, Durga Pooja, etc. in any Water Body/ Ponds/ Ghats, etc. except in designated places identified by local bodies/authorities.
2. Safety measures to be taken at the banks of river Yamuna during immersion of idols as detailed in the guidelines.
3. As far as possible, encourage immersion of idols in a bucket of water in case of individual house or residence/ within the premises/ parks of residence welfare apartments in temporary/ artificial ponds. After immersion, decanted water can be used for gardening purpose.
4. Worship materials like flowers, decorating material (made of paper) etc. be removed before immersion of idols and may be collected separately for disposal in an environmentally safe manner.
5. Composting of biodegradable material may be carried out as far as possible.

C. Directions for Local Bodies/ Authorities:

1. Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) shall create temporary immersion / artificial ponds in close proximity of a locality/ residential areas for immersion of idols to abide by the guidelines issued by CPCB vide letter dated 17.02.2022.
2. All the Municipal bodies, Delhi Police shall check the entry of vehicles / Goods carriers entering into Delhi carrying prohibited idols as its cargo.
3. All the Municipal bodies shall also issue relevant directions to all Zonal Offices to take action against illegal idol making being done without license/ registration with ULBs.
4. The Delhi Police shall issue relevant directions to the Police Officers at the Police Check Post / Police Station, to take appropriate action against the offenders violating these directions.
5. Bio-degradable materials to be collected separately for recycling or composting.
6. Non-biodegradable materials to be collected separately for disposal in sanitary landfills.
7. District Magistrate shall enforce the NMCG directive regarding idol immersion. No idol immersion shall be allowed in river Yamuna and any other water bodies, except in designated places identified by local bodies/authorities. Violators shall be liable to pay Rs. 50,000/- as Environmental Compensation which shall be deposited to DPCC.
8. To create awareness among the public through daily newspapers/ electronic media/ sky advertisement balloons regarding use of eco-friendly idols during festivals in association with the festival Samitis or NGOs
9. Awareness campaigns regarding making of eco-friendly idols should be organized at community places, schools/ colleges in association with festivals Samitis or NGOs.

All the concerned agencies are also directed to submit weekly Action Taken Reports during the months of September and October, 2022 to Delhi Pollution Control Committee through email at dpcc.rdpcc@gmail.com and msdpcc@nic.in.

It may be noted that the violation of directions issued under section 33(A) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 or the Rules made there under shall be punishable under section 41 of the said Act which include imprisonment upto six years with fine.



(Dr. K.S Jayachandran)
Member Secretary

To,

1. The Commissioner of Police, Delhi Police, Police Headquarters, Jai Singh Marg, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001.
2. The Commissioner, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Civic Centre, Minto Road, New Delhi-110002.
3. The Chairman, New Delhi Municipal Council, Palika Kendra Parliament Street, New Delhi, Delhi 110001
4. The Chief Executive Officer, Office of Cantonment Board, Sadar Bazar, Delhi Cantt, Delhi-110010.
5. All District Magistrates, Revenue Department, Government of NCT of Delhi.

Copy for information to:

1. Staff Officer to Chief Secretary, GNCTD, Delhi Secretariat, New Delhi 110002.
2. The Divisional Commissioner, 5 Sham Nath Marg, Delhi-110054
3. The Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032.
4. Director (Env.)- Dept of Env, GNCTD, Delhi Secretariat, New Delhi 110002.
5. In-charge (IT), DPCC, 5th floor ISBT Building, Kashmere Gate Delhi 110006- for uploading on DPCC's website.