



DELHI POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI
5th FLOOR, ISBT BUILDING, KASHMERE GATE, DELHI-110006
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F.No. DPCC/RDPC/IM/2020/ 106 to 118

Dated: - 22/10/2020

Subject: Directions u/s 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 read along with Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 for the immersion of idols on the festive occasion of Durga Pooja-2020.

Whereas, on festive occasions such as 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 w.r.t. any type of visarjan 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 directive issued by National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) on 16.09.2019 prohibiting idol immersion in Ganga and its tributaries, violators are required to pay Rs. 50,000/- as Environment Compensation to be levied, collected by concerned District Magistrate and deposited with Delhi Pollution Control Committee.

And whereas, as per order dated 30.09.2020 issued by Delhi Disaster Management Authority, GNCT Delhi, social/ political/ sports/ entertainment/ academic/ cultural/ religious functions and other large congregations are not permitted and the same needs to be followed in letter & spirit.

Now, therefore, by virtue of the powers conferred under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 vide Notification No. S. O. 881 (E) dated 22 / 09 / 1988, by the Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF), Government of India; Delhi Pollution Control Committee hereby issue the following directions:

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

1. Idols should be made only from natural materials as described in the holy scripts. Use of traditional clay for idol is permitted. Use of Baked clay, Plaster of Paris, etc. in idol making are hereby prohibited.
2. Painting of Idols be discouraged. In case idols are to be painted, water soluble and nontoxic natural dyes only be used. Use of toxic and non-biodegradable chemical dyes for painting idols is strictly prohibited.

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

1. That Idol Immersions shall not be allowed during the forthcoming Durga Pooja in any public place including River Yamuna or any other Water Body/ Public place/ Ponds/ Ghats etc.
2. The idol immersion ritual may be performed within the home premises in a bucket/ container, etc.
3. Worship material 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/ handing over to the door to door waste collection vehicle.
4. Composting of biodegradable material may be carried out at home, if possible.

C. Directions for Local Bodies/ Authorities:

1. Wide dissemination of the information be ensured to inform and sensitize the general public to abide by the Phased Re-opening (Unlock - 5) guidelines issued by DDMA vide order dt. 11.10.2020 since religious functions and other large congregations like the forthcoming Durga pooja and immersion procession/ celebration of Goddess Durga idols are not permitted and the same be ensured.

Contd..2.

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 ULB or is done on unauthorized land.
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. Violators shall be liable to pay Rs. 50,000/- per default, to be deposited with DPCC.
8. All local Bodies/Revenue Department/ Environment Department shall give wide publicity of these directions as well as Do's and Don'ts during these festivals, for mass awareness.

All the concerned agencies are also directed to submit Action Taken Report on every Monday till 23.11.2020 to Delhi Pollution Control Committee through email at dppc.rdpcc@gmail.com and msdpcc2019@gmail.com.

It may be noted that the violation of directions issued under section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, or the rules made thereunder shall be punishable under section 15 of the said Act which include imprisonment upto five years and/or with fine which may be extended to Rs. One Lac or with both.


(Dr. K.S. Jayachandran)
Member Secretary

To,

1. The Commissioner of Police, Delhi Police, 2nd Floor, MSO Building, Police Headquarter, ITO, New Delhi-110002.
2. The Commissioner, North Delhi Municipal Corporation, 4th Floor, Civic Centre, Minto Road, New Delhi-110002.
3. The Commissioner, South Delhi Municipal Corporation, 9th Floor, Civic Centre, Minto Road, New Delhi-110002.
4. The Commissioner, East Delhi Municipal Corporation, 419, Udyog Sadan, Patparganj Industrial Area, Patparganj, Delhi 110092
5. The Secretary, New Delhi Municipal Council, Palika Kendra, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001
6. The Chief Executive Officer, Office of Cantonment Board, Sadar Bazar, Delhi Cantt, Delhi-110010.
7. The District Magistrates of Delhi (Revenue Department), Government of NCT of Delhi.

Copy to:

1. Staff Officer to Chief Secretary, GNCTD.
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, Directorate of Information & Publicity (DIP), Block-IX, Old Secretariat, Delhi-110054.
5. SSO (Env.)- Dept of Env, NCT of Delhi
6. Incharge (IT), DPCC- for uploading at website of DPCC.