

CELEBRATING A SAFE AND ECO FRIENDLY GANESHA FESTIVAL

The holy festival of Ganesh Chaturthi is celebrated every year with great fervour. But it is our core responsibility to make sure our festivities do not harm the environment. However, the festival this year will be celebrated in a much more restricted way amidst the global pandemic situation like last year.

With the festival of Ganesh Chaturthi just around the corner, here are some ideas to make the celebration eco-friendly, safe and socially-distant.

Opt for clay/tree Ganesha idols



Opt for eco-friendly idols*, these idols are made of natural colours, fertilisers, red soil and have a seed within them, which grows into a plant. So don't immerse but plant.

DIY your own Ganesha idol



By now you might have already booked your idols. In case you have not and are looking for an eco-friendly option. There are countless DIY ideas online for creating your own Ganesha idol.

Go for small and simple idols



A small idol can be immersed in a bucket at home. According to the Government guidelines, home idols should not be more than 2 feet tall.

Safer Celebration



Follow all safety protocols including the usage of masks, shields & hand sanitizers. Follow social distancing norms and avoid crowds. Opt for virtual aartis for the extended family.

Use Eco-friendly Decoration



Use decorations made with recycled paper, flowers or reusable items like a dupatta or a saree. Also, for colours, you can use organic material like turmeric or henna. Avoid using decorations made for one-time usage.

Refrain from noise pollution and save energy



Avoid or minimize the use of loudspeakers as it causes noise pollution. Use energy-efficient lighting fixtures like LED, diyas or traditional earthen lamps.

*Buy your mould and clay, prepare your idols at home: bit.ly/ClayIdols | For tree ganesha: bit.ly/Treeldols

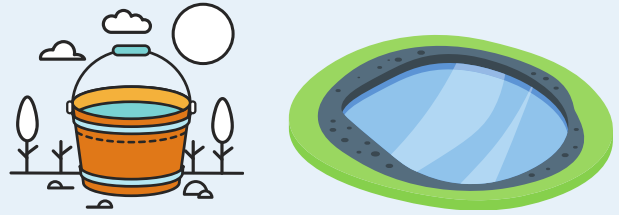
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Sensible disposal techniques



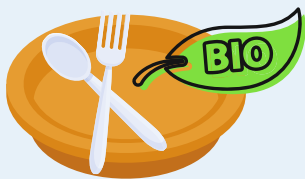
Make sure flower garlands, cloth and other decorative materials are removed before immersion of idols. Clothes & food items like coconut, fruits etc. should be donated and not wasted. A society compost pit should be made wherein all the biodegradable items can be disposed of.

Symbolic immersion



Ecofriendly ganesh idols can be symbolically immersed at home in a bucket of water. Another way of immersion can be sprinkling a few drops of water on the idol and then wiping it clean for next year's use. The Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai has arranged for artificial ponds* across the city.

Use of biodegradable plates and cups



Limit or ban the use of plastic disposables. Opt to use Plates and cups made of plants, trees or biodegradable material for Prasad distribution. Also, make arrangements to donate the leftovers.

Compost pit for organic material



Collect the offerings of flowers, garlands (Nirmalya) and other organic material and put them in a community built compost pit. This compost material can be used to fertilize your garden.

Remember the 5R's



REFUSE
REDUCE
REUSE
REPURPOSE
RECYCLE

REFUSE the use of non-biodegradable or hazardous material.
Always try to **REDUCE** its usage.
REUSE and **REPURPOSE** items by upcycling the materials you no longer use and alter it for another more practical use.
RECYCLE paper, cardboard, plastic.

*Please view the list of artificial ponds here: bit.ly/ArtificialPonds4Immersion