



STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD-SIKKIM
FOREST & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
DEORALI, GANGTOK – 737102

F. No. 820 /SPCB/1336

Dated: 15/09/2026

NOTICE

In exercise of the powers conferred under the relevant provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, and pursuant to the enforcement of the Sikkim Idol Immersion Rules, 2019, the State Pollution Control Board – Sikkim hereby notifies all concerned local authorities, festival committees, organizations, and the general public of the mandatory guidelines to be adhered to during the upcoming festive season (comprising Vishwakarma Puja, Durga Puja, Deepavali, and other associated celebrations occurring between September and October).

It has been observed that the traditional immersion of idols in various natural water bodies across the State leads to significant accumulation of toxic materials, leading to severe deterioration of water quality, disruption of aquatic ecosystems, and public health hazards. To prevent environmental degradation and ensure eco-friendly celebrations, all concerned entities shall strictly comply with the following directives:

1. Plaster of Paris shall not be used for making Idols.
2. No Puja Committee or organizations or individual shall use Synthetic/ Plastic colour for painting of idols and other decoration purpose including the puja pandal in any festival.
3. Sub – Divisional Magistrate/Block Development Officer (BDO) are requested to implement the provision of the Sikkim Idol Immersion Rules, 2019 within their jurisdiction for Environmental Protection, constitute a Co – ordination Committee under his/her Chairmanship comprising the members from Police, Non-Government Organizations, Local authorities, representative of Puja Committees, stakeholders etc. for effective monitoring and control of pollution in his or her jurisdiction. He/she may co-opt any other official/individual as he/she deems fit.
4. Non – biodegradable items are strictly prohibited for making idols and pandal decoration in any festival.
5. The height of the super structure shall be less than 30 ft. and the idol shall not exceed 10 ft. in height.
6. All Puja committees or individuals' organization shall submit a declaration before the Local Bodies specifying that in the making of idols and raising super structure stating that: -
 - a. no plaster of paris (PoP) has been used;
 - b. no synthetic paint or colour containing toxic heavy metals has been used;
 - c. the height of idol is less than 10 ft.
 - d. the height of the super structure is less than 30 ft.
7. Local Bodies shall submit copies of all declarations received in this regard to the State Pollution Control Board – Sikkim.
8. Both the local bodies and State Pollution Control Board – Sikkim shall make surprise inspection and impose penalty/ prohibition from organizing festival in future, either temporarily or permanently as per the provision of the act and rules in case any violation is detected.
9. A suitable idol immersion spot along the river bank shall be created and notified by the local authority.
10. The biodegradable materials should be removed before immersion and the concerned local bodies/organization/NGO or any individuals may use these materials for composting and other useful purpose.
11. The biodegradable wastes/materials generated from temple or house of worship every day should not be allowed to dispose off to water bodies. Disposal of such biodegradable wastes to water bodies will invite penalty to be imposed by the local authorities on the temple committee.
12. Prohibiting the sale and use of single use plastics items viz. Thermocol for decoration, use of plastic plates, cups, glasses, cutlery, such as forks, spoons, knives, straw, trays, wrapping or packaging films around sweet boxes, carry bags of thickness not less than 120 microns.

The State Pollution Control Board – Sikkim further appeals and solicits kind cooperation of all the people of Sikkim for strict compliance of the above.

Member Secretary
State Pollution Control Board-Sikkim
Forest and Environment Department
Government of Sikkim