



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

F.No. 820/SPCB/ 922

Dated: 13/09/2025

NOTICE

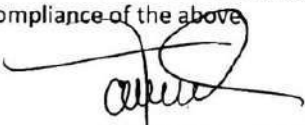
The State Pollution Control Board – Sikkim has notified “Sikkim Idol Immersion Rules 2019” vide no. 167 dated 16th April 2019. Further, all the stakeholders are aware that Biswakarma Puja, Durga Puja, Deepawali, celebration are performed in the month of September - October every year and after performing pujas traditionally idols are immersed in water bodies and leading to deterioration of water quality especially during the aforesaid period.

Therefore, the State Pollution Control Board – Sikkim hereby appeals all the concerned authorities/ citizens to follow the guidelines given below for the safeguard of the environment.

- (1) Plaster of Paris shall not to 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 individual 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




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