

**ACTION TAKEN REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF
IDOL IMMERSION GUIDELINES IN MIZORAM FOR THE YEAR 2021**

1. CONSTITUTION OF COORDINATION COMMITTEE

- Deputy Commissioner, Aizawl District vide letter No. D.13023/1/2021-DC(A)/18 dt. 29.09.2021 constituted a Coordination Committee for safe idol immersion under the Chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner (G).
- Dr. Lalramnghaki Pachuau, Scientist 'B' was appointed to represent MPCB in the Coordination Committee vide letter No. H.88088/105/19-MPCB/104 dt. 07.10.2021.
- Meeting of the Coordination Committee was conveyed on 05.10.2021

2. AWARENES CAMPAIGNS FOR SAFE IDOL IMMERSION

1) Circulation of Guidelines on Idol Immersion

• For the effective implementation of Guidelines issued by CPCB for idol immersions, Mizoram Pollution Control Board vide its letter No. H.88088/Poltn/105/19-MPCB/82 dt. 09.09.2021 issued notice forwarding copy of the guidelines to 2nd Assam Rifles, Zodin Square, Aizawl, Assam Rifles 23 Sector (HQ), Khatla, Aizawl, Central Gorkha Mandir Committee and Hindustan Club, Aizawl, Mizoram directing them to strictly adhere to the Guidelines and to submit detail information on this scheduled puja celebration programme to Mizoram Pollution Control Board.

In response, General Secretary, Hindustan Club vide its letter No. Nil dated 06.10.2021 informed the Board that Hindu Committee under Hindustan Club has a permanent idol in the temple and the idol immersion is to be carried out symbolically without actual immersion. Commandant, 2nd Assam Rifles vide letter No.VIII.11011/PRI-Misc/2021/1762 dt. 03.10.2021 also informed the Board that after celebration of Durga Puja 2021, the unit intended to immerse idols in the Tuirial River.

• The Guidelines was also distributed to all the eco-clubs in various districts through District Education Officer & District Implementation & Monitoring Committee, National Green Corps (Eco-Clubs), Mizoram vide letter No. H.88088/Poltn/105/19-MPCB/85 dt. 01.10.2021 so as to create awareness among the eco-club students and to encourage them on using Eco-Friendly Idols for prevention of water pollution and to pass on the messages to their families and the society.

2) Distribution of Pamphlets

The Board prepared pamphlet on safe idol immersion for creating mass awareness on general public for safe idol immersion on puja festivals. Pamphlet was widely circulate through various social media platforms, whatsapp, facebook, instagram

3) Issue of public advisory on safe idol immersion

Public advisory on safe idol immersion highlighting important points on the guidelines was issued to the public through I&PR Department, Govt. of Mizoram

Be Environmental Friendly with your idol immersion !

- ✓ Use only eco friendly idols made with natural and bio-degradable organic materials, free of Plaster of Paris (POP), plastics and other toxic materials.
- ✓ Use Biodegradable paper plates/cups and earthen pots in place of single use plastic and polystyrene (Thermocol) for prasad distribution and other purposes.
- ✓ Remove worship and decoration materials (flowers, leaves, cloths and jewellerys) and segregate in color coded bins before immersion.
- ✓ Instead of immersion of idols in natural water bodies, use a bucket filled with water or a designated on-land temporary artificial pond or tank located nearby.
- ✓ Do not throw puja materials in water bodies or on shore or land.
- ✓ Do not burn wastes generated at the immersion sites or left them unattended.
- ✓ Ensure collection and disposal of all left over materials within 24 hours of completion of idol immersion in accordance with Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.

Issued by
Mizoram ENVIS Hub (Mizoram Pollution Control Board)
Co-ordination Committee on Idol Immersion, Govt. of Mizoram

PUBLIC ADVISORY FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFE IDOL IMMERSION

(Issued by Co-ordination Committee on Idol Immersion, Mizoram)

Immersion of idols on festive occasions such as, Ganesh Chaturthi, DurgaPooja and SaraswatiPooja are known to cause extensive pollution of water bodies. The idols are commonly made of Plaster of Paris (POP) with plastic and thermocol accessories, adorned with toxic paints and heavy decorations. Such materials are non-biodegradable and are toxic when immersed in water bodies. Hence, Central Pollution Control Board developed "Guidelines for Idol Immersion" to ensure environmental friendly idol immersion without affecting the quality of water bodies while ensuring religious observance.

It is requested that following points be kept in mind and followed for ensuring environmentally safe idol immersion:

1. Only eco-Friendly idols should be used for offering Poojas which are made with natural, bio-degradable and organic material like clay, sand, newspaper, sugarcane, natural dye and dried flowers etc., free from Plaster of Paris (POP), plastic, thermocol and other toxic, inorganic raw materials.
2. Bio-degradable paper plates/cups and earthen pots should be used in place of single use plastic and polystyrene (Thermocol) for Prasad distribution and other purposes.
3. Worship materials like flowers, leaves, clothes and decorating materials should be removed before immersion of Idols and segregated in colour coded bins.
4. Pooja Organizing Committees should procure eco-friendly idols only from registered/authorized manufacturers and should seek prior permission from concerned ULB providing management plan for idol immersion at least one month in advance for making necessary arrangements in consultation with the concerned departments.
5. Instead of immersion of idols in natural water bodies, temporary idol immersion Ponds/Tanks should be arranged at suitable locations in close vicinity of the public or on the banks of rivers, ponds or lakes with necessary provisions for collection and storage of segregated wastes prior to immersion.
6. Immersion of small idols at household level should be done in eco-friendly manner that is, using only eco-friendly idols immersed in a bucket filled with water or in a designated on-land temporary artificial pond or tank located nearby.
7. All the collected and segregated materials should be transported and disposed of periodically or within 24 hours of completion of idol immersion in accordance with Solid Waste management Rules, 2016. Littering or burning of wastes generated at the immersion sites or on the banks of the rivers should be prohibited.

DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS
Government of Mizoram

PUBLIC ADVISORY FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFE IDOL IMMERSION

Ref: MIZ/2021-2022

Aizawl, the 13th October 2021 (Co-ordination Committee on Idol Immersion, Mizoram under Mizoram Pollution Control Board has issued the following Public Advisory for Environmentally Safe Idol Immersion in line with the list down directions in the matter by the Central Pollution Control Board to be adhered to by local Puja Committees in Mizoram.

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3. ASSESSMENT OF WATER QUALITY


- Mizoram Pollution Control Board conducted assessment of water quality in the Tuirial river near Tuirial Village where Idols was immersed on 13th October 2021 (before idol immersion), 15th October 2021 (during idol immersion) and 20th October 2021 (after idol immersion).

- The analysis results :**

<i>Monitoring Location: Tuirial River near Tuirial Village</i>												
<i>Sl No.</i>	<i>Monitoring period</i>	<i>Monitoring results</i>										
		<i>pH</i>	<i>D.O (mg/l)</i>	<i>Colour</i>	<i>B.O.D (mg/l)</i>	<i>Conductivity (µs/cm)</i>	<i>Turbidity (NTU)</i>	<i>TDS</i>	<i>Chloride (Mg/L)</i>	<i>TSS</i>	<i>Hardness (Mg/L)</i>	<i>Alkalinity (Mg/L)</i>
1.	Before idol immersion	7.7	5.0	Pale yellow	1.1	124	19.2	120	8.0	20	42.0	64.3
	During idol immersion	7.4	6.9	Pale yellow	1.0	123	14	90	15.1	20	50.0	73.5
	After Idol Immersion	7.6	6.5	Pale yellow	1.1	124	15.1	130	10.7	60	50.0	64.3

- Observations/Remarks:**

- As per report received by the Board, only 2nd Assam Rifles unit practiced Idol immersion in the river for celebration of Dusshera 2021.
- It was confirmed that most of the idols used in Dusshera celebration 2021 were made of, traditional clay, bamboo, flowers etc which were all bio-degradable and easily decomposed in water.
- As the Idols immersed in water bodies are of eco-friendly idols with herbal colours/ biodegradable dyes, there was no significant change in water qualities due to immersion of the idols as evidenced by the analysis results indicated vide section 3 of the above.


(C.LALDÜHAWMA)
Member Secretary,
Mizoram State Pollution Control Board