

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF GREATER MUMBAI

ESSENTIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE IDOL IMMERSION BY DEVOTEES IN GANESHOTSAV – 2020

In view of the situation arisen out of COVID19 pandemic, Government of Maharashtra and Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai have invoked the citizens of Mumbai from time to time to celebrate Ganeshotsav-2020 on a smaller scale and in a simple manner without violating the phased unlocking guidelines. The important guidelines and advisory for the devotees regarding the immersion of Ganesh idols issued from time to time are summarised and reiterated as follows.

- Devotees who are celebrating Ganesh Festival in their homes are advised to carry out idol immersion of the Ganesh idols at their homes in a bucket or a drum as their first preference.
- There are 70 natural immersion spots for Ganesh idols within MCGM jurisdiction and they are made available this year as well. However, only those citizens / devotees residing within 2 km radius of these spots are allowed to immerse their idols at there by handing over the idols to MCGM teams made available at these spots. The citizens / devotees shall not be allowed to enter the sea water or water of natural spots to immerse the idols themselves under any circumstances.

- At these natural immersion spots M.C.G.M. has made adequate arrangements for collection of idols. The idols so collected shall duly and respectfully immersed in the water by M.C.G.M. teams made available at those spots.
- Additionally in order to reduce overcrowding at natural immersion spots, M.C.G.M. has created about 170 artificial ponds across various Wards. Devotees residing nearby the artificial ponds are mandatorily required to carry out immersion of their Ganesh idols in the nearest artificial ponds only. Adequate arrangements to collect the idols at the Artificial Ponds has also been made by MCGM.
- **In every M.C.G.M. Ward office jurisdiction 7 to 8 Ganesh idol Collection Centres are created and information of artificial ponds with their addresses and google locations is available on <https://portal.mcgm.gov.in> website of M.C.G.M. in “What's New” section.**
- The Ganeshotsav Mandals as well as citizens situated in **Containment Zones** shall immerse their Ganesh idols by creating necessary arrangement in the mandap / pandol and their homes itself. Alternatively they can defer the immersion of the idols to the next year. Devotees who are staying in **Sealed Buildings** shall mandatorily immerse their Ganesh idols in their homes itself (in bucket/ small drums) or postpone the immersion to the next year.

- **All the devotees are advised that they shall perform “Pooja” & “Aarti” in their homes itself and then hand over the idols at the Collection Centres or at Artificial Ponds or at Natural Immersion Spots. Similar condition will apply to the Sarvajanik Ganeshotsav Mandals. Under no circumstances it will be allowed to do Pooja or Aarti at immersion spots.**
- As a special arrangement, M.C.G.M. has created the Mobile Immersion Spots on Wheels by making necessary arrangements by fitting suitable water tanks in trucks. Devotees are also requested to take benefit of these Mobile Immersion Spots.
- **It is once again reiterated that no procession shall be carried out during Ganesh Festival 2020. No such permission shall be granted. Every devotee should note this point and abide by the same to ensure safety of themselves and fellow citizens.**
- During the immersion activity, it is mandatory for all citizens to make use of mask, sanitizers and follow necessary social distancing.
- These guidelines are issued in the larger public interest so that the important cultural festival like the Ganesh Festival is celebrated by all citizens without compromising their safety under COVID19 pandemic.