

PUNE, LATE CITY, 20+4 (NEWSLINE) PAGES, ₹ 5.00



The Indian EXPRESS

JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 2016

DAILY FROM: AHMEDABAD, CHANDIGARH, DELHI, JAIPUR, KOLKATA, LUCKNOW, MUMBAI, NAGPUR, PUNE, VADODARA

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

The Indian EXPRESS Sat, 27 August 2016
epaper editions epaper.indianexpress.com/c/12928353

PMC gears up to curb Ganapati immersion pollution

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, AUGUST 26

THE PUNE Municipal Corporation (PMC) has joined hands with the National Chemical Laboratory (NCL) and Cummins in India to encourage residents to take up idol immersion at their homes, as a means to check pollution of river and other natural water bodies during the Ganesh festival.

NCL scientist Shubhangi Umbarkar said they were successful in getting the Plaster of Paris-made Ganesh idols dissolve in water by using ammonium

carbonate powder. "It was implemented as a pilot initiative last year and this time is being taken up in a big way. The remains of the dissolved idol can be used as manure," she said, adding that residents from various parts of the state have been approaching them for implementing it.

She said that the PMC is buying ammonium carbonate and distributing it free of cost to residents. "There are two government companies that supply ammonium carbonate and we are holding discussions for getting the necessary supply to PMC," said Umbarkar.

Cummins has been working

with the PMC for the last few years on managing the waste generated during Ganesh festival. "We have engaged ourselves as the CSR initiative of the company and involved employees for the purpose. The company had made attempts on its own to find a way out to get the Plaster of Paris idols dissolve in water but the solution was time consuming. The NCL has come up with a more effective solution so we would participate in the initiative by taking up a public awareness campaign to encourage citizens to implement it," said S Ravichandran of Cummins Group.

He said they would continue their work of segregating waste at the collection points during Ganesh festivals so that all waste is segregated effectively to keep the city clean and ensure there is no water pollution. According to the PMC, at least six lakh Ganesh idols are immersed in water bodies every year which have been polluting it. The maximum idols are from household celebrations so the awareness campaign would focus on reaching out to residents with free supply of ammonium carbonate.

PMC Joint Municipal Commissioner Suresh Jagtap said the Maharashtra Pollution



Control Board (MPCB) has given a go ahead to the civic body on its initiative to check water pollution. The NCL is a constituent laboratory of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

and Cummins is a group of complementary business units that design, manufacture, distribute and service engines and related technologies, including fuel systems, air handling and filtration.

The Indian EXPRESS Sat, 27 August 2016
epaper editions epaper.indianexpress.com/c/12928328