The holy festival of [Ganesh Chaturthi](https://www.hindustantimes.com/topic/festivals-of-india) is celebrated every year with great fervour. But it is our core responsibility to make sure our festivities do not harm the environment. However, the festival this year will be celebrated in a much more restricted way amidst the global pandemic situation like last year.

With the festival of Ganesh Chaturthi just around the corner, here are some ideas to make the celebration eco-friendly, safe and socially-distant.

**DIY your own Ganesha idol**

By now you might have already booked your idols. In case you have not and are looking for an eco-friendly option. Here are some DIY ideas.

**Annexure 1**

Annexure 1

**Safer Celebration.**

Follow all safety protocols including the usage of masks, hand sanitizers and follow social distancing norms to avoid crowd gatherings for aarti and darshan.

Virtual aarti or darshans can be made available for the extended family members.

**Sensible disposal techniques.**

Make sure flower garlands, cloth and other decorative material are removed before immersion of idols.

Clothes & food items like coconut, fruits etc. should be donated and not wasted.

A society compost pit should be made wherein all the biodegradable items – including flowers used for decoration etc. can be disposed of. The eventual compost can be used within society gardens.

**Restrict music to avoid noise pollution and save energy.**

Avoid or minimize the use of loudspeakers as it causes noise pollution.

Use energy-efficient lighting fixtures like LED diyas or traditional earthen lamps

**Eco-friendly Ganpati Decoration**

Materials like thermocol, plastic, fibres, plaster-of-paris etc. should not be used for decoration due to their non-biodegradable nature. Use of materials like paper, wood, cloth, organic colors etc., should be encouraged when decorating

**Opt for clay Ganesha idols or tree ganesh idols**

If not this year, why not for the next year? These idols are made of natural colours, fertilisers, red soil and have a seed within them, which grows into a plant. So don’t immerse but plant.

Buy your mould and clay, prepare your idols at home: Link: <https://itsybitsy.in/collections/ganesha/products/copy-of-diy-natural-clay-ganesha-mould-and-make>

For tree ganesha: https://www.treeganesha.com/

**Go for small, simple Ganesha idol**

A small idol can be immersed in a bucket at home. According to the Government Guidelines home idols should not be more than 2 feet tall.

**Artificial immersion ponds**

Instead of immersing the idols in public water bodies, artificial immersion ponds can be set up in the community. This prevents the pollution of public water bodies while keeping the roads traffic-free.

**Here** is a list of the artificial ponds ward wise in Mumbai.

Annexure 2

**Remember the 5R’s**

Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, Recycle.

Refuse the use non-biodegradable or hazardous material always try to reduce its usage. Reuse and Repurpose items by upcycling the materials you no longer use and alter it for another more practical use. Recycle paper, cardboard, plastic

**Compost pit for organic material**

Collect the offerings of flowers, garlands(Nirmalya) and other organic material and put them in a community built compost pit. This compost material can be used to fertilize for your garden.

**Use of biodegradable plates and cups**

Limit or ban the use of plastic disposables.

opt to use Plates and cups made of plants, trees or biodegradable material for Prasad distribution. make arrangements to donate the leftovers to the needy.

**Symbolic immersion**

Instead of immersing Ganesh idol in a water body, it can be symbolically immersed at home. metal or stone idol can symbolically be immersed in a bucket of water. Another way of immersion can be sprinkling a few drops of water on the idol and then wiping it off and keeping it for next year’s use.

**Please note: We will be attaching the List of artificial ponds along with their ward and area name in annexure 2**

1. **List of artificial Immersion Ponds**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| WARD | Name of Artificial Ponds, (Detailed address to add) |
| F-South |  |
| F-North |  |
| G-South |  |
| G-North |  |
| H- East |  |
| H-West |  |
| K-East |  |
| K-West |  |
| N |  |
| P-South |  |
| P-North |  |
| R-South |  |
| R-North |  |
| R-Central |  |