Let's celebrate an eco-friendly Ganesha festival

The Ganesha festival is one of the most enduring festivals, joyously celebrated across the state. However, these celebrations can affect the environment drastically. This year, let's make an effort to have a green Ganesha festival.

Here are some steps that you can take to keep your Ganesha celebrations environment friendly:

- **Use Artificial Immersion Tanks**
  Immersing Ganesha idols in water bodies causes serious health hazards to marine life. You can reduce the damage, by using artificial tanks installed by civic bodies.

- **Use Minimal, Eco-friendly Decoration**
  Use decorations made with recycled paper, flowers or reusable items like a dupatta or a saree. Also, for colours, you can use organic material like turmeric or henna.

- **Use Nirmalya for Composting**
  Flowers and garlands (Nirmalya) and other organic material can be added to a compost pit to fertilize your plants. Dry the flowers to make natural colours or for use as decorations for gifts.

- **Say No to Plastic and Thermocol**
  Dumping plastic and Thermocol in the garbage harms the environment as they are not bio-degradable. For decorations, use paper flowers or natural flowers, cloth, wood, etc. to make dolls, puppets, and bells.

- **Refrain from Noise Pollution**
  Avoid playing loud music or bursting firecrackers, which are a disturbance. Speakers and microphones are permissible between 6 am and 10 pm and noise levels are limited to 55 decibals.

- **Generate Awareness**
  Adopt eco-friendly ways of celebration and spread awareness among people about green Ganesha celebrations with posters and videos. You can also join awareness drives and workshops.

- **Clean Up the Trash During and After Festivities**
  Ensure you clean up the trash left behind. Even after preparations, it is difficult to make festivities completely eco-friendly. We can, however, try to reduce the damage to the environment.

- **Conserve Energy**
  Use decorative lights during the “aarti” or “puja” and only when needed. Replace traditional bulbs with compact fluorescent lights (CFL), which are energy efficient and save electricity. Wrap coloured paper around bulbs rather than buying coloured lights.

- **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**
  The three R’s – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. Reduce consumption; reuse products and recycle the Ganesha festival flowers and leftovers to manage waste.

**List of Artificial Ponds for Idol Immersion in Mumbai**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ward</th>
<th>Name of Pond</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F-South</td>
<td>Swan Mill, Manoranjan Maidan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F-North</td>
<td>Ashok Piral Maidan, Pratiksha Nagar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G-South</td>
<td>Khedakar Gully</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G-North</td>
<td>Mayor’s Bungalow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H-East</td>
<td>Mahalaxmi Gandhi Vidhyalaya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H-West</td>
<td>Shambhaji Garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-West</td>
<td>Dr. Hedgewar Maidan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-East</td>
<td>Desai Talao</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P-South</td>
<td>Dallaji Sahi Maidan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P-North</td>
<td>Ganesh Ghat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P-North</td>
<td>Buva Sahi Maidan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Police Helpline:**
- Commissioner of Police, Mumbai: 22620826
- Police Control Room, Mumbai City: 22621855
- Mumbai Airport: 26156315 / 26156309
- Andheri (East): 26831562 / 26831447
- M.I.D.C: 28368302 / 28394205
- Oshiwara: 26233861 / 26233862
- Sakinaka: 28529896 / 28522334
- Police Infoline: 1090
- Women’s Helpline: 22633333

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**Route Maps:** Mumbai Police has segregated routes into three types – for immersion processions, for the public returning from immersion points and for regular traffic. Detailed maps with diversions and updates will be available from @MumbaiPolice on Twitter, before the event.

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