The Ganesha Festival is celebrated across India and is particularly popular in Maharashtra. This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, restrictions have been imposed on mass gatherings, making it necessary for cautious celebrations to ensure they are safe and eco-friendly.

**FUN, SAFE & ECO-FRIENDLY WAYS TO CELEBRATE THE GANESHA FESTIVAL THIS YEAR**

**IDOL SELECTION**
Opt for eco-friendly idols, not taller than 2 feet made of *shadu matti*, clay, papier mache wood, etc. Metal or marble Ganesh idols are an excellent option as they are reusable. To order eco-friendly Ganesha idols you can visit [these sites](#).

**MAKE YOUR OWN IDOLS**
Are you too late to book your eco-friendly Ganesha? Why not make your own - a satisfying activity to create your own Ganpati idol. To know where you can purchase the material needed, [click here](#).

**SAFER CELEBRATION**
Follow all safety protocols including the usage of masks, shields & hand sanitizers. Follow social distancing norms and avoid crowds. Opt for virtual *aartis* for the extended family.

**USE NIRMALYA TO MAKE YOUR OWN MANURE.**
Used Flowers, garlands and organic matter (*Nirmalya*) can be composted. Dried flowers can also be used as dyeing agents.

**MINIMAL DECORATIONS**
Minimal and eco-friendly decoration like paper, cardboard, leaves, potted plants, flowers, cloth, can be used; all of which can be recycled.

**SAVE ELECTRICITY**
Avoid playing loud music or bursting firecrackers. Replace traditional bulbs with CFLs. Wrap coloured paper around bulbs rather than buying new ones.
Avoid using one-time use plastic, thermocol plates, decoration, etc. You can always refuse to use them or opt to reduce its usage. Try reusable items like using dupattas and saris for decoration. Repurpose and upcycle materials you no longer use, like glass bottles, old CDs, etc. Recycle items made from metal, wood, plastics, paper, cardboard and electronic-waste.

REMEMBER: THE 5R’S: REFUSE, REDUCE, REUSE, REPURPOSE, RECYCLE.

IMMERSING YOUR IDOLS

BUCKET IMMERSION

IMMERSION IN ARTIFICIAL PONDS

CONVERT TREE GANESHA INTO A POTTED PLANT

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For list of artificial immersion ponds, click here