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## Civic body to promote home immersion of Ganesh idols

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Pune:** The Pune Municipal Corporation would promote home immersion of Ganapati idols this year.

The civic administration would provide the material required to dissolve the idols made up of plaster of Paris. Citizens can use it and immerse the idols at their home. The move aims at spreading environment awareness.

“The administration will make available ammonium bicarbonate for free for the citizens. The idols will get dissolved in 48 hours after putting them in water mixed with this powder,” said Suresh Jagtap,

the head of the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC)’s solid waste management department.

He said the solution would be available on first-come, first served basis. Each family will get 2kg of raw material — enough to immerse the idol at home. The citizens can approach the ward offices near their homes to collect this material.

According to PMC officials, around 6 lakh idols are immersed every year in the city. Of them, around 5 lakh are made of plaster of Paris.

Scientists at the city-based National Chemical Laboratory (NCL) worked on this environment-friendly

solution for household and big Ganapati idols made of plaster of Paris that are taken for immersion on Anant Chaturdashi.

The idol can be dissolved by putting it into a bucket without the nirmalya—stale floral offerings. The given powder should be added to the water filled in the bucket. The solution has to be stirred after every two to three hours. After the idol is dissolved, the water can be used for gardening.

“The method will help in reducing water pollution. More and more citizens should come forward for taking the benefit of this initiative,” said mayor Prashant Jagtap.

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