

23 August 2017

To,
G. Padmavathi
Mayor
Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP)
N.R. Square
Bangalore -560001.

4/6, Ground Floor
High Grounds, Millers Road
Opp Vikram Hospital
Bangalore 560052
T : 080 - 41521797
www.bpac.in

Subject : Pollution free and Eco-friendly Ganesha Festival, 2017.

Dear Madam,

Greeting from B.PAC!

B.PAC is constantly working to improve the governance in the city along with citizens, elected representatives and civic officials. One of our work includes disseminating relevant information to citizens various public works/programs undertaken by the government and elected representatives across Bengaluru city.

Under B.CLEAN/B.GREEN program, we constantly work on urban environmental issues through advocacy and civic engagement.

As you are aware, Bengaluru is gearing up with massive preparations for Ganesha Chaturthi, the most significant of these preparations being the sale and purchase of Ganesha idols. However, as known to many, these idols are made of Plaster of Paris (PoP), a highly insoluble substance. These PoP idols cause extensive damage to the environment, when immersed in water bodies. They pollute the city's lakes substantially, largely affecting the already deteriorating quality of water and the aquatic life in the lakes. Such contaminated water will drastically affect the health of citizens directly or indirectly coming in contact with it.

A recent study released by the Central Pollution Control Board to assess the impact of immersion of Ganesh idols in Bengaluru's lakes revealed some disturbing facts such as, an increase in the TDS (Total Dissolved Solids) by a 100 per cent and an increase in metals such as iron by nearly 10 times, while content of copper in the sediments increased by 200 to 300 per cent.

B.PAC along with B.CLIP Civic Leaders, citizens and student community, with an objective to bring actual change on ground, conceptualized '**Mane Maneyalli Maninna Ganapa**' Campaign with an aim to encourage large number of citizens to switch from PoP to clay Ganesha idols and pledge to celebrate the festival in a responsible manner.

B.PAC has so far conducted 15 workshops across BBMP wards, reaching over 2500 households. The objective of these workshops is to make aware the ill effects of using PoP idols and spreading awareness of using eco-friendly idols made using clay. A large number of citizens, including school and college students took part in the workshop and made Ganesha idols out of clay during the workshops.

While B.PAC & B.CLIP Civic Leaders, as being responsible citizens of Bengaluru, have been able to demonstrate positive action on ground so that our lakes do not get further polluted, it is crucial and necessary for the government to primarily enforce the ban on production, transportation and sale of PoP idols in Bengaluru city, and secondly to put in place a proper system of implementation of ban.

BBMP must set a precedence by conducting a citywide raid on places where PoP idols are being sold and take possession of the banned idols.

B.PAC would urge you to take note of the above concern and strictly direct officers to act against the offenders of rule of law by fining them heavily so that it acts as a deterrent. BBMP must also strictly monitor and ensure idols immersed in lakes are free from decorated plastics, flowers etc...

Citizens have put in massive effort this year to ensure a green and sustainable Ganesh Festival, time is of essence, we have only 48 hours, we urge BBMP & KSPCB take strict actions against POP idols so that the good efforts of citizens does not get vitiated.

Anticipating a positive response from your good office.

Thanking you.

-Sd-

Revathy Ashok,
Managing Trustee & CEO

Encl: Photographs from 'Mane Maneyalli Maninna Ganapa' Campaign

CC:

Anand, Deputy Mayor, BBMP

N. Manjunatha Prasad IAS, Commissioner, BBMP

Sarfaraz Khan, Joint Commissioner (SWM & Health), BBMP

Photographs from 'Mane Maneyalli Maninna Ganapa' Campaign



Gokula Vidya Mandira, Shakambari Nagar, Ward No.179



Lakshmi Devi Park, Koramangala, Ward No.151.



Berlie Street, Shanthinagara, Ward No.117



Ramamurthy Nagar, Ward No.26



Govindraja Nagara, Ward No.104



HSR Layout, Ward No.174

Photographs from 'Mane Maneyalli Maninna Ganapa' Campaign



Gayathri Nagara, Ward No.76



Jakkasandra, Ward No.146



Govindrajnagar, Ward No.104



Kalkere Govt. School, K.R. Puram, Ward No.52



Modern School, J.P. Nagar, Ward No.117



Shakthiganapathy, Ward No.74