

FORUM FOR A BETTER HYDERABAD

LET US CELEBRATE GANESH CHATURTHI IN AN
ECOFRIENDLY MANNER
LET US NOT DENIGRATE HIS CREATION

~Let us protect Lakes and the environment~

Lord Ganesha, the remover of all obstacles would be pleased if he is painted with natural dyes, which a person can carry with love and devotion for the immersion ceremony. Let us also try to reduce the size of the idols to a more reasonable height.

AP High Court Order-2001

The Hon'ble AP High Court in its order dated 15-6-2001 in W.P. no. 21495 of 1998 and others have made the following observations:

- ❖ The State and other Statutory Authorities have not acted upon the report of the one man Commission headed by Hon'ble Sri Justice M.Krishna Rao, constituted in 1985- namely "hence a notification should be issued by the Government that no idol should be prepared, which is more than 3 feet in height."
- ❖ It is unfortunate that the state has failed to act even in terms of the various committees set up.
- ❖ The lakes in and around the twin cities and Hussain sagar in particular are being polluted. The duty of the State would be to see that the immersion of Ganesh Idols installed at several localities in the twin cities might conveniently be immersed in other lakes".
- ❖ Referring to the guidelines given by the West Bengal Pollution Control Board, with regard to maintenance and cleanliness of the water in the River Ganga, directed that the Respondents, must follow the said guidelines and / or other stricter measures having regard to the fact that in twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad, idols are immersed in lakes and not rivers like the Ganga.

G.O. Rt. No. 233 of 27-7-2001 of E.F.S.& T.

Considering various aspects and based on the recommendations of the Cabinet Sub-Committee, constituted to resolve the issues relating to the decentralization of immersion of Ganesh idols in the tanks other than Hussain Sagar, the above G.O. was issued by erstwhile Government, the salient features of which are given below:

- ❖ Only vegetable-based natural colours must be used on Ganesh Idols, instead of metallic colours to prevent pollution.
- ❖ All Ganesh idols shall preferably be made of clay.
- ❖ Reduce the size of the idols.

Shall persuade the local associations and Samithis to immerse the idols in local lakes other than Hussain Sagar.

Slow action by authorities even after Fifteen years

Although it is heartening to know that the Collector of Hyderabad, the Pollution Control Board, Forum For A Better Hyderabad and the Ganesh Utsav Committee have been successful to some extent in persuading the idol makers to use eco-friendly vegetable dyes for painting their idols, much more needs to be done.

The authorities need to take drastic steps to reduce the noise pollution caused by the playing of music in high volume, causing inconvenience especially to the old, the sick and the infants. Strict instructions should be given to maintain low volumes. Under the Noise (Pollution & Control) Rules, 2000, a person may complain to the relevant authority, if the noise level exceeds more than 10 dB than the permissible ambient limits (Permissible Ambient Air Quality standards prescribes a daytime 55 dB and night time 45dB sound levels in residential areas). The relevant authorities should take appropriate action.

The water bodies in and around Hyderabad, including Hussain Sagar and also Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar are being encroached and contaminated having serious adverse ecological impacts, in violation of provisions of erstwhile Government's Water & Environment (Protection) Acts, & directives of AP High Court in matters of public indifference and insensitivity. Under the AP Water Land And Tree Act (WALTA), 2002, Chapter 4 point 23 pt 4 "no undesirable wastes including liquid wastes shall be allowed to be dumped in the water bodies by any person or organization"

Instead of protecting the lakes and removing the encroachments, amendments to GO111 are being brought about which will dangerously damage the valuable sources of drinking water.

- ❖ Let us act now and persuade the reduction in number and in the size of the Idols.
- ❖ Let us promote the use of eco-friendly natural colours.
- ❖ Let us promote the immersion of Idols in local lakes instead of immersion of such a large number in Hussain Sagar and completely stop immersion in Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar, and protest against any amendments to GO111.

Let us wake up. More than one and half decade passed without much action !!!

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Ganapati Bappa, Morya!

- by Sanghamitra Malik

Ganapati Bappa! But, who's that?
The Elephant God, who's somewhat fat!
But, he is not tall, you see,
Of medium height, just let him be.

One thing, we kids, want to say,
We kind of want to have our way,
Let's make only loamy idols this year,
And help to keep our lakes clean and clear.

The chemical paints, we'll use no more,
It's vegetable colours that we'll explore,
Vinayaka comes to bless us all,
We worship him and he loves us all.

All our lakes have shrunk in size,
Making less idols will be wise,
Let us celebrate, but not at Nature's cost,
If Nature is polluted, then all is lost!

గణపతిపప్పా మోరియా

రచన :- శ్రీమతి సంఘమిత్ర మాలిక్

అనువాదం:- శ్రీమతి కె. అన్నపూర్ణ

Teacher, Oxford Grammar School

గణపతి పప్పా.... ఎవరతను?

అజానుబాహుడా, కానేకాదు, కుబ్జవతారమే

స్థూలకాయుడా అతడే అతడే గజాననుడు...

పిల్లలమైన మాకున్నాయి కోరికలు

చెప్పాలనుకున్నాం మా పద్ధతిలో

చిన్న విగ్రహాల మన హద్దు

మట్టి విగ్రహాలు మహాముద్దు

అవుతుందపుడు జలాశయాల పరిశుభ్రం

రసాయన రంగుల పూత మనకొద్దు

ఆకురసాలే మనకు ముద్దు

అలాంటి గణపతిని పూజిద్దాం

ప్రేమాశీస్సులు పొందుదాం

విగ్రహాల తయారీ తగ్గించు

జలశయాల సంఖ్యను పెంచు

ప్రకృతిని కాపాడి జరుపుకో మెండుగ

అప్పుడే మనకది నిజమైన పండుగ



गणपति बप्पा मोरिया

गणपति बप्पा पर वह है कौन ?
गणेशजी हैं. जो रहते हैं मौन
है नहीं लम्बे कद के वो.
सामान्य कद के ही है वो.

हम सन बच्चों को कहना है कुछ.
है नही ये कोई बातें तुच्छ
बनेंगे मिट्टी की छोटी मूर्तियाँ इस साल
तालाबों का किसीने देखा भी है हाल ?

रसायनिक रंगों से रहना है दूर
वनस्पति के रंग ही हो मशहूर
विनायक जी आशिर्वाद देते हैं सबको,
पूजा करते हैं हम, वो आदर करते हैं.

हमको सारे तालाब सिकुड गये हैं.
थोडे मूर्तियाँ बनाने मे समझदारी है.
मनायेंगे त्यौहार, पर प्रकृति को बचाकर
क्या मिनेगा हमें प्रकृति को खोकर।

रचना - संगमित्र मलिक

अनुवाद - के लीला,

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