

Greenolution *Digest*

Greenolution e-Newsletter, August 2014

**Green
Ganesha
Tips**

1

**Think Ganesha.
Think Green.**



**COVER
STORY**

Light Pollution

4



**GREEN
CLICK**

7

**GREEN
QUIZ**

6

Think Ganesha. Think Green.



It is that time of the year again when the mood is festive and the air is full of chants and shouts of “Ganpati Bappa Morya”. Although Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations have been a norm for years now, the pattern of celebrations has been witnessing a sea of change over the years. With the masses getting more nature friendly, efforts are now on to have celebrations in the most nature-friendly way as possible. This chain of thought has given rise to the trend of buying eco-friendly Ganesha idols and decorations, opting for artificial tanks for immersing the idols aka visarjan, among other things.

Not only are these options available aplenty, some of these are actually quite easy to follow. So, if you’re keen on doing your bit towards nature while still being in the festive mood, here are a few options:

1. Buy eco-friendly idols only. Thankfully, it isn’t so difficult now. A host

Think Ganesha. Think Green.

of sellers are now stocking Ganesha idols made of clay that have been painted with water colours and not the toxic ones.

2. If rangolis are the mainstay of your Ganesha decorations, then you can opt for natural biodegradable colours like turmeric, henna, mehendi, rice powder, gulaal, to name a few.

3. When distributing Prasad among those gathered, try and avoid plastic pouches as they are non-degradable, hence harmful. Use natural plates like banana leaves instead.

4. The concept of artificial immersion tanks is fast catching up. Given that the hazards of immersing idols in water bodies aren't unknown, it will be a nice move to opt for artificial tanks instead. Symbolic immersion is another trend that is fast gaining popularity. Herein, devotees immerse their Ganesha idols at home, thereby bringing negative impact on the environment down to zero.

5. To dispose of remnants like offerings of flowers, garlands and other organic material, one can put them in a community-built compost pit. This com-



Think Ganesha. Think Green.



post material can be used to fertilize gardens. It can also be put in a Nirmalya Kalash instead of letting it in water.

6. As far as possible, one must avoid playing loud music. This will minimise chances of noise pollution and give people of all age groups a chance to enjoy the celebrations more peacefully.

7. Lights, variety of them, form an integral part of decorations during the Ganesh festival. While the lights add to the grandeur, a lot of precious electricity is wasted. One must try and switch these lights on only when necessary. One may also replace traditional bulbs such as incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) or the newer favourites LEDs. Coloured papers can also be wrapped on bulbs to give more colours, rather than buying expensive bulbs.

**COVER
STORY**

Light Pollution

- shared by Janhavi Biwalkar,
Environment, HO Services



Imagine you are viewing from an elevated point at Nariman Point, especially during night and enjoying wonderful view of Queen's Necklace. Needless to mention that it will be an awesome experience. What makes that site wonderful is, off course Sea and all those bright streetlights, lighting from office buildings, hotels etc.

But have we ever given thought on the fact that is this lighting required at the moment. Illumination during night time is required as far as safety and security of the place is concerned. But too much of lighting have its own negative impacts ecosystem also. This phenomenon is known as pollution

of light.

We are facing consequences of different types of pollution such as Pollution of soil, air, water, noise and so on. Light pollution is also a major concern to environment. It is an umbrella term for representing all forms of misused artificial light. In the broad sense, light pollution is defined as the any unwanted change of natural light levels in the environment due to artificial light sources.

The obvious cause of light pollution is use of external lighting inappropriately. It can be apartment light, office lighting, car headlights, decorative lights, advertising boards, security lights, light houses, streetlights and many more.

High illumination causes hormonal imbalance and weakens natural signals of all living creatures. Due to intense inappropriate outdoor lights, natural biological clock of plants and animals is disturbed

- Due to high illumination, irregular foliage shedding pattern of trees is observed.
- Bright light also affects nocturnal animals, at night makes it difficult hunt, roam

and perform their regular activities.

- Birds are also solely dependent on stars and moon for travelling during night. Because of bright light these birds lack orientation while travelling.
- Light pollution also endangers sea turtles. Newly hatched turtles need a dark night sky to orient themselves toward the sea, but artificial lighting on beaches distracts them away from sea.

Is there any Solution to Light Pollution?
Yes; definitely there is way out for this. A practical choice is to install the right lighting

fixture at the right place. Also make sure that they are pointed downwards. Appropriate shields should be provided especially for beach lights.

If we want to have all the fun of sky watching at night, birds to reach their natural destination and other living creatures to perform their regular activities undisturbed, then we must act together to save our environment from Light Pollution.



GREEN QUIZ

Quiz

1 The atmosphere of big metropolitan cities is polluted most by:

- A. Automobile exhausts
- B. Radio-active fall out
- C. Household waste
- D. Pesticides residue

2 Most abundant water pollutant is:

- A. Industrial wastes
- B. Pesticides
- C. Detergents
- D. Ammonia

3 Which of the environmental pollutions can cause birth defects?

- A. Smog
- B. CO
- C. SO₂
- D. Radioactivity

4 If there was no CO₂ in the atmosphere, the earth's temperature would be:

- A. Less than the present
- B. Same as present
- C. Higher than the present
- D. Dependent on O₂ content of air

To know the winner for last issue

visit www.greenolution.com



**GREEN
CLICK**

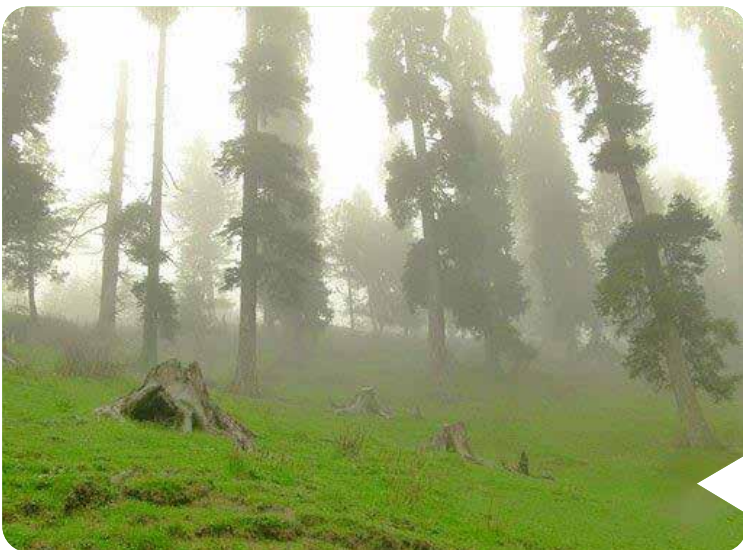
DT 3,5-4,5 / 16-80 AZ



H.Chavan, Trombay



H.Ranjan, Maithon



Indraneel Maitra, Noida



Piyush Singh, Tata Power Solar