



**STEP TOWARDS
REDUCING
POLLUTION OF
WATER BODY**



**Surat
Municipal
Corporation**

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History

In Surat City, immersion of Ganesha idols was done in Tapi River at Ovaras (Small jetty like Structure) prior to 2014-15. Idols of Lord Ganesha made of POP were immersed in Tapi River resulting in pollution of River. Moreover, all these years 2 Lac cusecs of additional water was released from Ukai dam for the immersion.

In 2014-15, Surat Citizen's Council Trust opposed the immersion of idols of Lord Ganesha made from POP in Tapi River. Consequently, the idea of artificial pond evolved by National Green Tribunal. The guideline for the same are as below.

- (1) Idols should be made from natural materials as described in the holy scripts. Idols should be made of traditional clay & not from use of baked clay, P.O.P.
- (2) Painting of idols should only be done from water soluble and nontoxic natural dyes. Use of toxic and non-biodegradable chemical dyes for painting idols is strictly prohibited.
- (3) Worship material like flowers, clothes, decorating material (made of paper and plastics) should be removed before immersion of idols. Biodegradable materials should be collected separately for recycling or composting. Non Bio-degradable materials should be collected separately for disposal in sanitary landfills.
- (4) Public should be educated on ill effects of immersion of idols in the holy water bodies through mass awareness programme.

- (5) The idol immersion Points shall be cordoned and barricaded. Synthetic Liner has to be placed in the bottom, in advance. The said Liner should be removed on completion of immersion ceremony so that remains of idols could be brought to the bank. Bamboo and wooden Logs if any, should be reused. Clay has to be taken to sanitary land fill for disposal.
- (6) Local bodies have to identify adequate number of designated immersion spots to avoid overcrowding and also to reduce pollution load on water bodies.
- (7) A co-ordination committee should be set-up including local authorities and representatives of pooja committees.
- (8) At the immersion sites, solids wastes, flowers, clothes, decorating materials, etc. should be prohibited.
- (9) Within 48 hours of the immersion of idols, the material left at idol immersion points on the bank of rivers, lakes, beaches, etc. should be collected by the local bodies for disposal as mentioned in Para (3) above.
- (10) In case of immersion of idols in rivers and lakes, arrangement shall be made for construction of temporary confined ponds with earthen bunds for the purpose of immersion of idols.
- (11) The pooja organizers shall be involved in a campaign on the ill effects of the toxic components of colouring materials, not only of the idols, but also other decorating materials used during the festive season.

DETAILS OF GANESH VISARJAN - 2018

Zone	No of Artificial Ponds	No of Idols immersed	No of gauri Ganesh Idols immersed
Athwa	4	10253	682
Central	2	4301	2365
Varachha	5	15557	320
Limbayat	1	12146	775
Udhna	2	4457	335
Rander	3	5644	2096
Katargam	5	12075	1567
TOTAL	22	64433	6528

As per National Green Tribunal (Principal Batch) Guidelines, Artificial Ponds were prepared and the P.O.P. idols were immersed in artificial ponds since 2014-15. Total no of P.O.P idols immersed in 8 artificial ponds were 15275.

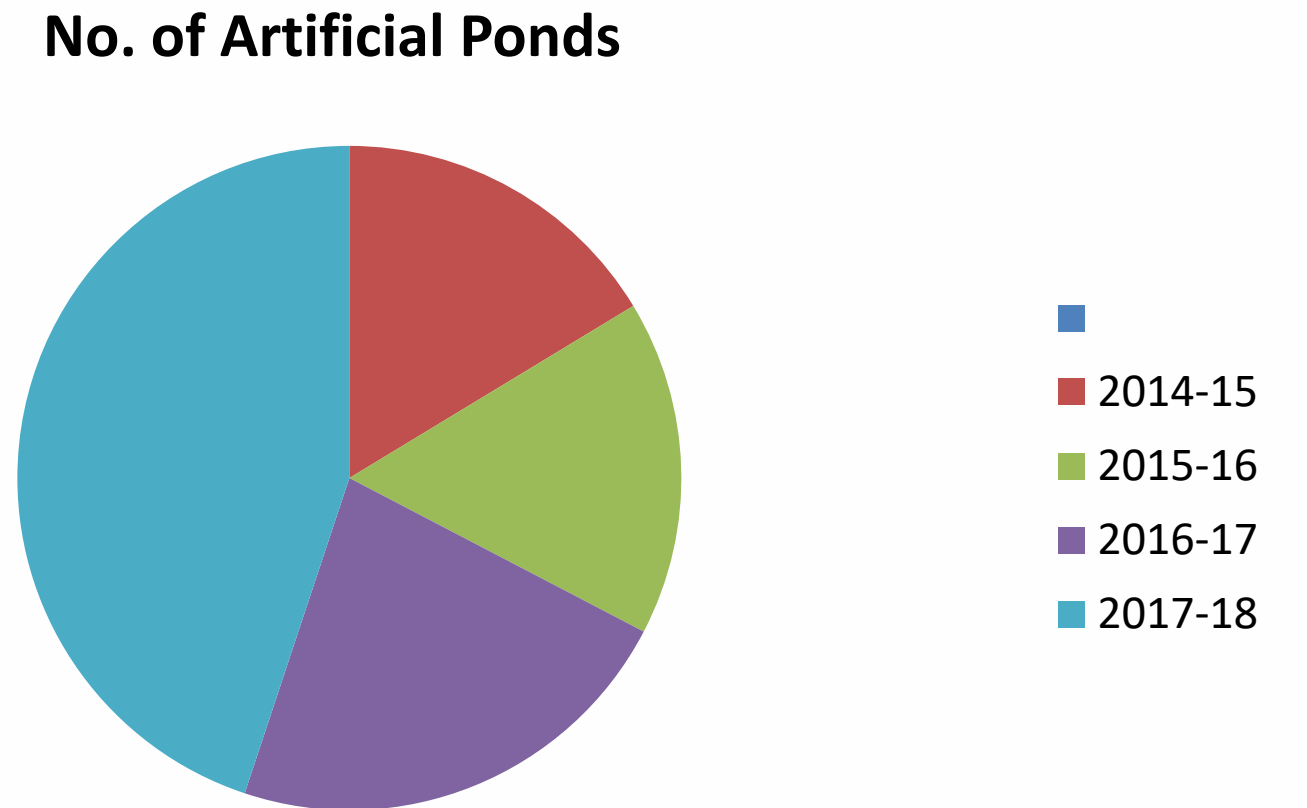
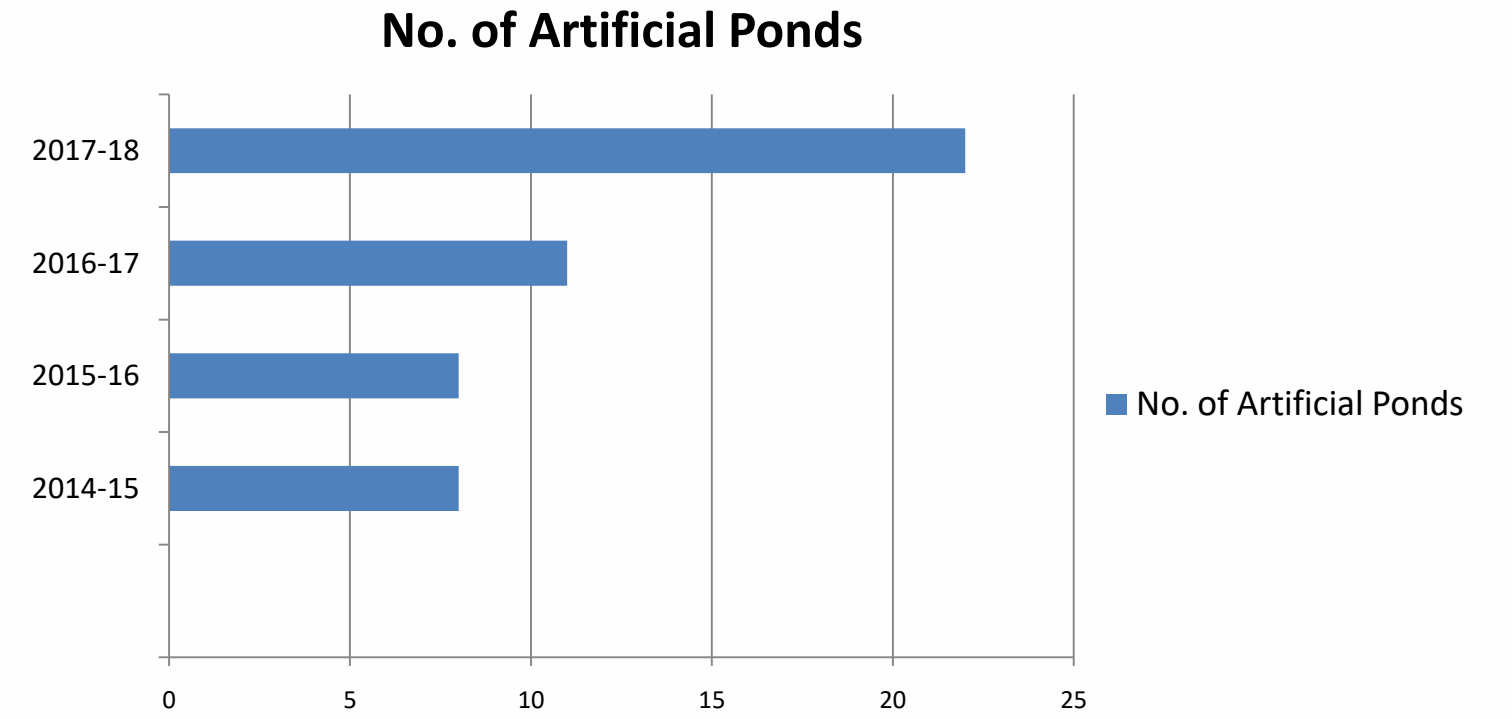
In 2015-16, 21802 idols were immersed in 8 artificial ponds and some were immersed in River Tapi. In 2016-17, 30250 idols were immersed in 11 artificial ponds and 31300 were immersed in Ovaras (like small Jetty, Wharf).

In 2018-19, Surat Citizen Council Trust had filed a PIL 156-2018 against State of Gujarat. High Court ordered Surat Municipal Corporation, not to immersed any idols in River Tapi. As a result of which, Surat Municipal Commissionershri and Police Commissionershri of Surat City unitedly took the Leadership of not allowing any idols to be immersed in River Tapi. Many training programmes were organized by the Municipal Commissionershri and Police Commissionershri. Public sense was developed for immersion in artificial pond and there was good response from public, leaders, Municipal councilors, Municipal staff and Police staff and Others. The Ganesh Visarjan programme was completed Successfully and Peacefully in 2018.



Year-wise Summary of Idol Immersion

Sr. No.	Year	No. of Artificial Ponds	No of Ovaras (like small Jetty, Wharf)	No of Idols Immersed	
				Ovaras (like small Jetty, Wharf)	Artificial Ponds
1	2014-15	8	31	30200	15275
2	2015-16	8	31	31300	21802
3	2016-17	11	31	33133	30250
4	2017-18	22	0		64433



Details Of The Artificial Ponds, Expenditure, Man Power and Machinery used In Surat Municipal Corporation -2018

SR · N O	NAME OF ZONE	LOCATION OF ARTIFICIAL POND	SIZE OF ARTIFICIAL POND	CAPACITY OF ARTIFICIAL POND (IN LITRES)	NO OF IDOL IMMERSION - 2018	EXPENDITURE	MAN POWER	MACHINERY				
								Trucks	Cranes	J.C.B.	Poclanes	Total
1	ATHWA ZONE	DUMAS, KANDI FALIYA	55.00mtX10.00mtX2.00mt	11,00,0000	3200	42,46,000	676	52	8	4	2	66
2			19.05mtX7.3mtX2.00mt	2,84,700	2894							
3			8.00mtX5.8mtX2.00mt	92,800	2514							
4		T.P.S.NO.29(RUNDHVESU+MAGDALLA)FP.NO.106, Y-JUNCTION, UDHNAMAGDALLAROAD	40.00mtX15.00mtX2.50mt	15,00,000	1645							
5	CENTRAL ZONE	ATDAKKA OVARA, B/S MERITIME BOARD OFFICE, B/H GANDHIBAUG, CHOMKBAJAR	45.00mtX15.00mtX2.00mt	16,87,500	793	30,10,000	338	26	4	2	1	33
6		ATDAKKA OVARA, B/S MERITIME BOARD OFFICE, B/H GANDHIBAUG, CHOMKBAJAR (NEW PROPOSAL)	30.00mtX20.00mtX2.00mt	12,00,000	3508							
7	VARACHHA ZONE	T.P.S.NO.21(SARTHANA-SIMADA)FP.NO.98, NEAR HAREKRISHNADIAMONDEXPORT, SIMADA	34.00mtX8.00mtX2.50mt	6,80,000	6621	56,70,000	870	67	9	6	2	84
8			15.00mtX4.00mtX2.50mt	1,50,000								
9		T.P.S.NO.21(SARTHANA-SIMADA)FP.NO.37, NEAR V.T.CIRCAL (NEW PROPOSAL)	34.00mtX8.00mtX2.50mt	6,80,000	2910							
10		NANAVARACHHA OVARA, B/H RAMJI MANDIR (NEW PROPOSAL)	18.00mtX8.00mtX2.50mt	5,62,500	5094							
11		T.P.S.NO.24(MOTAVARACHHA-UTRAN)FP.NO.193, RAMCHOWK, OPP.GOKULDHAMIRROWHOUSE, MOTAVARACHHA (NEW PROPOSAL)	35.00mtX10.00mtX2.00mt	7,00,000	932							
12	UMBAYAT ZONE	T.P.S.NO.41(DINDOLI)FP.NO.0-46(RECREATION FOR S.M.C)	50.00mtX15.00mtX2.50mt	18,75,000	12146	31,31,300	169	13	2	1	1	17
13	UDHNA ZONE	T.P.S.NO.22(BHESTAN)FP.NO.71 EWSAWAS, NEAR SARSWATI COLONY	60.00mtX25.00mtX2.50mt	37,50,000	2335	39,25,000	338	26	4	2	1	33
14		T.P.S.NO.6(MAJIURA-KHATODRA)FP.NO.235 OLDSUB-JAIL PLACE, RINGROAD (NEW PROPOSAL)	40.00mtX15.00mtX2.40mt	14,40,000	2122							
15	RANDER ZONE	T.P.S.NO.74(PAL)FP.NO.2, PALHAZIRA ROAD, NEAR NEW R.T.O. OFFICE	50.00mtX15.00mtX2.00mt	15,00,0000	3260	44,42,500	507	39	6	3	1	49
16		RAMJI MANDIROVARA, PAL (NEW PROPOSAL)	25.00mtX15.00mtX2.00mt	7,50,000	1438							
17		T.P.S.NO.46(JAHANGIRPURA)FP.NO.86,87, OPP.ISCON MANDIR, JAHANGIRPURA (NEW PROPOSAL)	30.00mtX15.00mtX2.00mt	9,00,000	946							
18	KATARGAM ZONE	H-04, B/H KOSADAWAS NEAR HEALTH CENTRE (NEAR NAVAVISTAR -AMROLI, KOSAD, CHHAPRABHATHA, UTRAN)	50.00mtX15.00mtX2.50mt	18,75,000	3524	72,93,000	870	68	9	6	2	85
19		T.P.S.NO.25(SINGANPORE)FP.NO.110, NEAR CAUSEWAY (NAVAVISTAR -KATARGAM, FULPADA, VED, DABHOLI, SINGANPOR)	50.00mtX15.00mtX2.50mt	18,75,000	4287							
20		T.P.S.NO.26(SINGANPORE)FP.NO.210, R-16, NEAR VANZARAVAS OVARA (NEW PROPOSAL)	25.00mtX15.00mtX2.50mt	9,37,500	1431							
21		T.P.S.NO.27,FP.NO.182, MANISHA GARNALA, OPP.PAY&USE TOILET BLOCK, BELOW BRIDGE (NEW PROPOSAL)	30.00mtX15.00mtX2.50mt	11,25,000	935							
22		T.P.S.NO.19,FP.NO.199, LANKA VIJAY OVARA, OPP. KATARGAM WATERWORKS (NEW PROPOSAL)	25.00mtX10.00mtX2.50mt	6,25,000	1898							

Process of Ganesh Visarjan Through Artificial Pond



Artificial Pond with Water



Demo Drill of Visarjan



Line for Ganesh Visarjan on Site



Ganesh Visarjan through Crane



Mangal-Murti Visarjan



Murti transfer into Other area

Eco-friendly Clay Statue Idols

To promote eco-friendly Ganesh idol creations, in the interest of limiting pollution, the government undertaken innovative initiative under supervision of the U.C.D. department and is carrying out the following works.

TRAINING

- U.C.D. department, SMC organized a month long training for creation of eco-friendly idols.
- To attract the skilled workers from cottage industry for this initiative and to provide them financial assistance ,with assistance of following departments:
 - a) Cottage industry department
 - B) Rural technology organization
- The government in the year of 2014-15 and 2015-16 ,catered to about 950 people who not only received training for a global environmental cause but also were given financial assistance of about 3000 INR as stipend and were provided with the workshop kit worth 6000 INR and special soil worth 1400 INR.
- Apart from this, to promote the creation of eco-friendly idols the government created 50 people from this as the master trainer to impart this knowledge and skill to other people.

AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

- The government also undertook initiative to promote ,through social media , the advantages of eco-friendly idols as well as spread the awareness for harmful consequences of using **PLASTER OF PARIS IDOLS**.
- Part from this the **SMC** also organized ways to promote this in various other activities carried out by the corporation.

PRODUCTION

- To increase the production of eco-friendly idols the U.C.D. department also gave incentives like providing land, for setting of workshops, to the participants of training .

MARKET

- For the purpose of getting a market for selling idols of training gotten sculptors, SMC and G.M.K.R.T.I. organization organize the selling of clay idols during Ganesh Festival. The sculptors were given the option of priority wise for optional economic opportunities on a free scale.

IDOL IMMERSION IN DIFFRENT SOCIETIES OF SURAT

- More than 500 soceities has done eco friendly Ganesha idol in their soceity campus artificial small pond build by the soceity itself.



Green Ganesh Project

In the Indian culture, there is a significance and importance of festivals because a festival is a tool to bring life to a state of exuberance and enthusiasm. Ganesh Festival, one of the most sacred Hindu festivals, celebrates the birth of Lord Ganesh - the supreme God of wisdom and prosperity. This annual occasion is observed by the whole of Hindu community with great fervour and piety. It is observed in the Hindu calendar month of Bhadrapada, starting on the Shukla Chaturthi (fourth day of the waxing moon period). To celebrate the festival The God Ganesh's Idol are brought to home and common place of Communities on the day or a day before the festival begins and worship for 3 to 10 days, then immerse idol in river, pond or sea.

Every year, the citizen of Surat celebrates Ganesh Utsav with Great Spirit and grand festivities. As a part of the celebration, idols- primarily made of Plaster of Paris (POP) of Lord Ganpati are immersed into the river Tapi to mark the conclusion of the festivities. River Tapi is the primary source of drinking water for Surat which had a population of 50 lacs. Roughly 75,000 idols are immersed in the river every year.

UCD Department of Surat Municipal Corporation aim at this juncture to minimize the pollution by replacing POP idols with "clay idols" without hurting the festive sentiment of the people and to conserve one of the most important natural resource of city- The River Tapi and by making clay idols provides employment to needy urban poor women. Under the Green Ganesha project SMC engaged needy poor women in Eco-friendly Clay Idol Making work. With help of Gujarat Matikam Kalakarigari and Rural Technology Institute, UCD trained 50 master trainers and 950 interested SHG members to make Clay idol. UCD also provided the necessary space for making clay idols as well as provisioned the necessary stall for the sale of Clay idols on the free of cost basis for the beneficiaries.

The total Rs. 54,33,820/- sales of eco-friendly Clay Idol was in 2018-19. SMC has also encouraged citizens to immerse idols at Home and Societies. last year SMC get success to convince more than 3500 Societies to immerse idols in their societies.