

Proshun Chakraborty | TNN

**W**ith the 10-day Ganesh festival ending today with 'Anant Chaturdashi,' NMC, with the help of various social organizations and school and college students, has made elaborate eco-friendly arrangements to bid adieu to the elephant-headed god.

Around 64,000 household idols and 1,045 big idols from Ganesh mandals are expected to be immersed at Telangkhedi, Gandhisagar, Naik Talao, Bhole Nagar, Kalamna and Sakkardara lakes and 112 artificial tanks installed across 72 prabhags in the city.

"The NMC's health department purchased 97 tanks this year in addition to some it had from last year. Corporators too contributed funds from their discretionary funds to purchase another 20 tanks, which were placed in prabhag areas," said NMC's health committee chairman and corporator Ramesh Shingare. He said that huge pots for collection of 'nirmalya' and other items have also been provided at immersion spots. This year too, the NMC has constructed an artificial tank at Ambazari Lake by blocking flowing water from all sides.

Mayor Anil Sole appealed to devotees, especially household ones, to immerse idols in artificial tanks installed in their wards. "Apart from helping the civic body save natural water bodies, the move will also help avoid traffic congestion on roads to lakes," he said. The mayor on Friday immersed his household idol in an artificial tank.

This year too, over 800 volunteers from eight different non-government organizations like Rotary Club of Nagpur, Green Vigil, Nisarg

Vigyan Sansthan, hundreds of students and apart from NMC employees will be deputed at immersion points.

Many citizens group too have expressed their wish to participate in the last day's immersion. They would convince devotees to immerse PoP idols in artificial tanks and not to throw 'nirmalaya' in lakes.

As many as 50 Green Vigil volunteers are already convincing devotees to go for eco-friendly immersion at artificial tanks installed at Vayusena Nagar side of the Telangkhedi Lake.

Rotary Club of Nagpur will play its part through its novel project 'Bappa ke Doot'. Members will urge devotees to put 'nirmalya' in collection bags available at Rotary booths.

Kanak Resources Management Limited, the

firm entrusted for lifting of garbage, has also agreed to press its vehicles and employees for cleanup activities across the water bodies and places where artificial tanks will be installed.

The NMC will later immerse the idols at abandoned metal quarries on Wadi, Amravati and Pachgaon roads. Last year, PoP idols were marked with a red dot, but NMC has not ensured implementation of this rule this year.

Shingare assured that if any citizens provide evidence of water from artificial tanks being emptied near lakes, action will be initiated against officials concerned.

Meanwhile, mayor Anil Sole on Tuesday flagged off a 'chariot,' which will collect nirmalaya. "It will be used to manufacture bio-compost and later any citizen or farmer can procure the fertilizer free of cost from the civic body," said Sole.

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Anil Sole | MAYOR, URGING CITIZENS TO IMMEDIATELY IMMURSE IDOLS IN ARTIFICIAL TANKS