

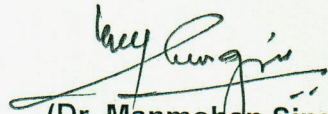
# Jammu Municipal Corporation

Town Hall Jammu-180001

Phone No : 0191-2520448, 2520428

## APPEAL

- Hon'ble Prime Minister in his "Mann Ki Baat" on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2016 has expressed **concern regarding use of idols made of plaster of paris during festivals like "Ganesh" and "Durga Puja"** in view of their adverse impact on environment. The Hon'ble PM has further emphasized the need for using environment friendly materials like mud and clay, also considering the facts that use of such materials will provide employment opportunities to the local people. Involvement of school Children in making eco-friendly idols can lead to enhancement of their creativity and environmental awareness.
- Immersion of idols made of plaster of paris, cement and **plastic in water bodies not only causes environmental damage but also has serious public health consequences. The paints used for decorating such idols contain harmful substances like mercury, zinc oxides, chromium and lead.** They causes significant stress on rivers, lakes and local ponds, adversely affect the quality of water, damage the aquatic ecosystem, block natural flow of water, are the potential causes of skin diseases and cancer and also result in soil and land degradation.
- In view of the above, public in general is requested and appealed that:-
  - Idols should be made from natural materials as described in the holy scripts.
  - Painting of idols should be discouraged. In case idols are to be painted, water soluble and non-toxic natural dyes should be used.
  - Use of toxic and non-biodegradable materials like plaster of paris, cement and other hazardous substances are strictly prohibited.
  - Worship material like flowers, vastras (clothes), decorating material (made of paper and plastic) etc. should be removed before immersion of Idols.

  
(Dr. Manmohan Singh) KAS  
Commissioner  
Municipal Corporation  
Jammu.

NO. JMC/L/32-36  
Dated: 03-02-2017  
Copy to the:-

1. Commissioner Secretary to Govt. Housing & Urban Development Deptt. Civil Secretariat, Jammu. This is in ref to Adm. Deptt. No. HUD/Adm/209/2016 dated: 17.11.2016.
2. Joint Commissioner (A) JMC to ensure the publication in leading newspapers for general public awareness.
3. Health Officer, Municipal Corporation Jammu for massive public awareness through print and electronic media.
4. Private Secretary to the Principal Secretary to HCM. for information of Prpl. Secy. This is in ref to No. PS/AS/HCM/2016-241 dated: 28.09.2016.
5. I/C Website JMC for uploading.