



# GREEN ALERT



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The focus of Environment Information System (ENVIS) is to disseminate environmental information to decision makers, policy planners, scientists and researchers across the world.

The CERC-ENVIS Centre focuses on 'Eco-labelling and Promotion of Eco-friendly Products.' This bimonthly e-bulletin features latest news, developments and innovations in the field.

## Condoms for environmentally conscious consumers

Most of us are taking steps in our lives to help protect the environment, like buying organic food or throwing waste into the recycling bin. But, we probably haven't thought about making our sex life a little greener.

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has awarded a 100,000 dollar grant for production of the next generation of eco-friendly condoms to an Indian scientist Dr. Lakshminarayanan Ragupathy. The condom's raw material is derived from plants. If the project is successful, thinner, cheaper, eco-friendly condoms will reach the market soon. Dr. Ragupathy's idea of a green condom was among 50 ideas selected as part of the Grand Challenges Explorations (GCE).

Source: <http://www.canindia.com/2014/06/indian-green-condom-researcher-gets-100000-grant-from-the-gates/>  
<https://in.news.yahoo.com/indian-scientist-wins-grant-produce-eco-friendly-condoms-091250441.html>



## Eco product

## Green issue

Being a multi-cultural and multi-religious society, India celebrates a number of festivals in a year. They are characterised by colour, gaiety, enthusiasm as well as prayer and rituals.

Unfortunately, the festivals pose some environment pollution issues affecting people and nature. For instance, when idols made of plaster of paris (POP) are immersed toxic chemicals are released into the rivers and lakes making the water acidic. This can be deadly not just for fish but for people taking a bath in the water body. It is better to use idols made of metal, stone unbaked clay or recycled paper and colour them with turmeric, sandal paste and kumkum instead of chemicals.

Use reusable items or items made from biodegradable materials like paper, flowers, ornamental plants and leaves, and bamboo for decoration. The flowers and other biodegradable material used for worship can be made into compost. Use containers made of leaves instead of plastic plates or bags for distributing prasad.

During Holi, chemical colours containing harmful ingredients are used causing health problems ranging from dermatitis to cancer. Use organic colours made of flower or plant extracts. Also, play with dry colours to save water. Instead of wooden logs people should burn waste during the traditional Holi bonfire.

Noisy firecrackers during Diwali can prove to be a real nuisance for the sick and elderly as well as for animals. Moreover, the smoke they emit worsens the air pollution problem. Use eco-friendly firecrackers made of recycled paper and those which are less noisy. Try using LED lights instead of electric lights for illumination. They use 80% less energy. All in all, having a short community celebration instead of an individual one can reduce air, water and noise pollution.

## Celebrate festivals the eco-friendly way



## Public to participate in creating Govt ads

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has decided to 'crowd source' ideas or creative inputs for its official advertisements. It wants to involve the general public in its effort to create awareness on green issues.



The Ministry started the experiment with an announcement on World Environment Day on 5 June 2014 which was successful. This is the first time the Ministry has sought public participation and selected the best entry to develop a communication product like an advertisement or poster. The contributor will be suitably recognised.

Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/the-good-earth/Environment-ministry-to-crowd-source-green-ads/articleshow/36795916.cms>

## Eco news

## PIL for green toilets in Railway coaches

A public interest litigation (PIL) has been filed before the Madurai bench of the Madras High Court for installing environment-friendly toilets in all passenger coaches in the Indian Railways.



The petitioner has contended that the human waste being discharged from the coaches on tracks spread infections to the railway staff involved in cleaning work at stations. It also pollutes the air causing a health hazard to 200 million people living near railway stations, according to the petitioner. The court has issued a notice to the Central Government on this PIL and asked it to respond.

Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/madurai/Petition-seeks-eco-friendly-toilets-in-railway-coaches/articleshow/39851761.cms>

## Eco tip

Adopt lighting solutions that consume less energy. Not only do compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) save energy but they last for years. So you won't be climbing up a ladder as often!

Visit CERC-ENVIS website [www.cercenvis.nic.in](http://www.cercenvis.nic.in) and <https://www.facebook.com/EcoProductsEcoLabeling> to know more about our activities.

Consumer Education and Research Centre

"Suraksha Sankool", S. G. Highway, Thaltej, Ahmedabad - 380 054.

Tel: 079-27489945/46, 27450528, 27438752/3/4 Fax: 079-27489947 Email: [cerc-env@nic.in](mailto:cerc-env@nic.in), [cerc@cercindia.org](mailto:cerc@cercindia.org) Website: [www.cercindia.org](http://www.cercindia.org)