

**Constitution of an Expert Scientific
Committee for Suggesting method for
reuse, recycle of POP material and its
faster dissolution in eco-friendly
manner.**

Government of Maharashtra

Government Resolution No – Yachika-2024/C.R.34/TC-3

Environment and Climate Change Department Mantralaya,

Mumbai- 400 032

Date: 01 August, 2025

Preamble:

Plaster of Paris (POP), commonly used in construction and medical applications and preparation of decorative articles / idols which requires careful disposal due to its potential environmental threat. Recognizing the environmental challenges posed by conventional use of Plaster of Paris (PoP), the urgent need for sustainable management is the necessity of time.

Also, the Honourable High Court vide its order dated 24th July, 2025 in the matter of PIL No. 96/2024, directed the State Government that to constitute an expert committee for suggestion the matters of re-use and recycle of Plaster of Paris (PoP) and also to examine the scientific methods of faster dissolution of Plaster of Paris (PoP) idols in an eco-friendly manner. The committee should be constituted within one month from the date of the order.

In view of the above, State Government decided the constitution of an Expert Scientific Committee for Suggesting method for reuse, recycle of POP material and its faster dissolution in eco-friendly manner.

Government Resolution-

In Consonance with above mentioned references, Government hereby constitutes following “Expert Scientific Committee for Suggesting method for reuse, recycle of POP material and its faster dissolution in eco-friendly manner.” The Constitution of the committee is as follows.

Sr No	Member Of Committee	Designation
1	Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai	Chairman
2	Representative from ICT Mumbai	Member
3	Representative from IIT, Mumbai Environment Science Department	Member

Sr No	Member Of Committee	Designation
4	Representative from National Chemical Laboratory, Pune	Member
5	Representative from Rajiv Gandhi Science and Technology Mission	Member
6	Representative of CSIR-NEERI	Member
7	Regional Officer, Central Pollution Control Board, Pune.	Member
8	Joint Director (Water), Maharashtra Pollution Control Board	Member Secretary

1. Terms of Reference –

To prepare and submit report including recommendations which will assist the State Government to finalize the comprehensive guidelines for the recycle, reuse, and ecofriendly disposal of Plaster of Paris (PoP) materials on following points: -

- a) Developing comprehensive guidelines for eco-friendly management of Plaster of Paris by carrying out different experiments.
- b) Establishing protocols for recycling and reuse of PoP materials.
- c) Creating safe disposal mechanisms/faster dissolution that minimize environmental impact.
- d) Promoting awareness about sustainable practices in PoP usage.
- e) Facilitating research and development of biodegradable alternatives.
- f) Developing certification standards for eco-friendly PoP products.
- g) Identify possible options and practices that can be considered to address the challenge.
- h) Any other point that committee feels to recommend.

2. Delegation of Powers –

- a) The Committee may invite external experts, stakeholders, Government agency officials, and specialists for consultation on specific issues.
- b) The Committee shall conduct field studies, site visits for completion of the task.
- c) The Committee shall conduct practical assessments required for completion of task.
- d) The Committee shall take help of any Chemical Laboratories any other analysis functionaries for the the said task.
- e) The Committee can call any Government Agency / Officials or call any Information / Data available with the Government agencies for completion of task.

3. The Expert Committee shall submit their report to the Government of Maharashtra within 6 months.
4. The expenses towards functioning of Expert Committee shall be borne by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. The Board will also provide administrative, financial and technical support to the Committee for the Committee's functioning.
5. The tenure of the Expert Committee will be till the submission of the report.
6. This Government Resolution is made available on Government of Maharashtra's website www.maharashtra.gov.in and its code number is 202508011517126904. This order has been issued by certifying under digital signature.

By order and in the name of the Governor of Maharashtra

(Ramesh Manale)
Joint Secretary,
Environment and Climate
Change Department

Copy To,

- 1) Secretary to the Hon'ble Governor.
- 2) ACS to the Hon'ble Chief Minister.
- 3) ACS / PS / Secretary State Government Departments, Mantralaya, Mumbai.
- 4) Private Secretary to the All Hon'ble Ministers of State.
- 5) Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board.
- 6) Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board.
- 7) Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay.
- 8) Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai.
- 9) Joint Director (Water), Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai.
- 10) Chairman, Rajiv Gandhi Science and Technology Mission, Mumbai
- 11) VC, Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai
- 12) Director, Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai.
- 13) Director, National Chemical Laboratory, Pune.
- 14) Director, CSIR-NEERI, Nagpur.
- 15) Select File.