

F.12(8)-REV/Corona Curfew/2021
Government of Tripura
Tripura Disaster Management Authority
Revenue Department
Secretariat, Agartala

Dated, 27th September, 2021

ORDER

Subject:- Guidelines for Durga puja and other puja celebrations in Tripura during October to December, 2021.

Whereas, Ministry of Health & Family Affairs, Government of India has issued Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on 6th October, 2020 on preventive measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 during festivities;

AND

Whereas, in pursuance of the SOP issued by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India and from the field experience, it is considered necessary to issue additional guidelines for Durga puja and other puja celebrations in Tripura during October to December, 2021 to limit the spread of COVID-19 through its transmission;

NOW

The State Executive Committee, Tripura Disaster Management Authority, in exercise of the powers, conferred under Section 24 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, hereby directs all Clubs/Puja Committees/Household Puja Organizers and other stakeholders to follow the guidelines given in **Annexure-1** during Durga puja and other puja celebrations in Tripura during October to December, 2021. Non-compliance of the guidelines shall attract action as per law.

Enclo: As stated


(A.K. Bhattacharya)

Additional Secretary, Revenue (RR&DM)

To

1. All Principal Secretary/Secretary/Special Secretary, Govt. of Tripura.
2. Director General of Police, Govt. of Tripura.
3. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Govt. of Tripura.
4. Secretary, Tripura Legislative Assembly.
5. All DM & Collectors, Tripura. They are requested to communicate the guidelines to all Clubs/Puja Committees and other stakeholders.
6. All Superintendents of Police, Tripura.
7. All Head of Departments, Govt. of Tripura.
8. Presidents/ Secretaries of all Clubs/ Puja Committees.

Copy for information to:-

1. Secretary to Hon'ble Governor of Tripura, Raj Bhawan, Agartala.
2. Principal Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister.
3. PS to the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister.
4. PS to all Hon'ble Ministers.
5. PS to Chief Secretary, Tripura.

**Guidelines for Durga puja and other puja celebrations in Tripura
during October to December, 2021**

General:

1. It is mandatory for all Clubs/Puja Committees/Household Puja Organizers to take prior permission for Puja celebration from District Administration/Police Administration and other concerned Departments.
2. In view of Covid situation, the subscriptions may be voluntary.
3. The Clubs/Puja Committees may try to introduce system of collection of donation/subscription through online to avoid visit of homes and personal interaction. They may circulate bank details in case such arrangements are adopted.
4. Effort should be made by Municipal bodies to reduce the number of pandals through mutual consultation so that there are no pandals in close vicinity.
5. The DM & Collectors may implement additional measures within their jurisdiction as per their local assessment and in the line with activities permitted by Government of Tripura for which orders issued under Disaster Management Act, 2005 from time to time.

Puja Pandals / Mandops:

6. Narrow entry-exit system & obstructions for movement and viewing should be avoided. Pandals/Mandops should be designed in such a way that idol is clearly visible from a distance. Preferably multiple entry/ exits for the visitors should be ensured.
7. Only 5 to 10 visitors should be allowed at a time in front of the pandal maintaining physical distance at least one meter. Proper marking for standing of visitors behind the persons in front should be done by the Puja Organizers.
8. Sufficient place for visitors in front of the pandals/Mandops should be arranged by the Organizers.
9. Required number of volunteers should be kept ready for maintaining physical distancing of the visitors in coordination with security personnel. Volunteers should ensure that only limited numbers of visitors are allowed entry at a time to maintain social distancing.
10. All the member of the Organizing Committees/volunteers and visitors should wear mask during Puja days. The Organizing Committees should arrange sufficient mask to distribute if any visitor comes without a mask. Hand sanitizers/hand wash should be arranged for all visitors at entry point as well as common areas.
11. All the Puja pandals should be sanitized at least three times every day. The bamboo, rope etc., used for regulating crowd may particularly be sanitized on regular interval. Necessary arrangements may be made for the same.

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12. There should be arrangement of thermal screening of visitors in all Puja Mandops/Pandals. If any visitor with high temperature is detected, local health authority may be contacted for necessary action.
13. No symptomatic persons may be allowed entry in puja pandals and associated events.
14. A space should be identified near the entry gate of the pandal for isolation of suspected cases till arrival of medical help.
15. All puja pandals should have plan for medical arrangements such as linkages to nearest hospitals, ambulances and handling other health emergencies.
16. All the puja pandals should display COVID safety norms/ advisories in a prominent place. Announcement of the same through public address system for the visitors should also be ensured.
17. Clubs /Puja Committees should not organize any entertainment programme during and after Puja days.
18. Clubs/ Puja Committees should not arrange for any extravagant lighting in the Pandals which may attract excessive gathering of the visitors.
19. To the extent possible, the Clubs/Puja Committees may arrange large screens/ LED Screen away from the puja mandops/pandals to facilitate the visitors to view the Goddess idols from the distance/outside.
20. The Clubs/Puja Committees may use local TV Channels for viewing of puja by the general public.
21. Competition among the Clubs/Puja Committees and prize distribution to the Organizers may be avoided.
22. Prasad distribution/common feast in a group may be avoided.
23. Community kitchens/"Anna-daan", etc., at event venue should follow physical distancing norms while preparing and distributing food.
24. Cleaning and regular disinfection (using 1% sodium hypochlorite) of frequently touched surfaces (doorknobs, elevator buttons, handrails, que barricades, seats, benches, washroom fixtures, etc.) to be made mandatory in all public utility common areas.
25. Visitors and staff should be advised to dispose of used face covers/masks in covered bins available at the premises.
26. Strict social distancing shall be maintained around the stalls set up by the owners near the puja pandal. Use of mask by stall personnel will be compulsory.

Immersion:

27. Minimum number of vehicles for carrying Goddess Idols to the immersion ghat should be used by the Clubs/ Puja Committees and maximum 30 persons should be allowed for attending immersion.

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28. The Clubs/Puja Committees may consider preparing artificial pond nearby the pandals/mandops for immersion which will be disposed later on by the Municipal/local authorities.
29. Timing of immersion should be staggered and as per schedule of the local police authorities.
30. The crowd or extra gathering and delay in immersion ghat should not be allowed. Extra precaution to avoid crowd/gathering at immersion ghat should be taken by the District/Police administration/Municipal Authorities.
31. During procession with Idols towards immersion ghat, road side public gathering should also be avoided and it should be ensured by the District/Police administration.
32. The District/Police administration should keep close surveillance on the gathering in the premises of Durga Puja pandals/mandops, procession for immersion and in immersion ghats through CCTV and other media. They should take appropriate action as per guidelines of COVID-19 for violating the rules.
33. The Municipal/Local authorities should keep close vigilance, particularly for cleanliness, sanitization of puja pandals/mandops and speedy immersion of idols in immersion ghats.
34. The Club authorities/Puja Committees may introduce innovative ideas to ensure least gathering of visitors in front of puja pandals/mandops during puja days. They may display messages for covid related precautions for general awareness.
35. The District Administration in coordination with Police, Municipal/local authorities and other Departments may impose further restrictions to ensure law and order, movement of vehicles, avoidance of gathering etc., as per the situation.

Other issues for maintaining Covid appropriate behaviour:

36. Event organizers/business owners may make suitable provisions for contact less payment.
37. In religious places, touching of statues/idols/holy books etc. shall not be allowed.
38. No festivity events should be allowed in Containment Zones. The families in containment zones may celebrate festival at home.
39. There should not be any procession/music/dance while bringing the idols to the pandals.
40. Floor markings keeping distance of at least 2 meters (6 feet) should be done for standing of visitors at entry points.
41. CCTVs may be installed to monitor compliance of physical distance norms, wearing of masks at each puja pandals and surrounding areas. The CCTV footage should be shared with District and Police administration on demand.

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42. Priests should use micro phones to utter the Mantras to the extent possible so that sound reaches worshippers standing even far away.
43. Devotees should be encouraged to offer "Anjali" with flowers brought from homes to avoid congestion. The Anjali should be offered in small group of 10-15 worshippers with staggered timings.
44. "Sindoor Khela" should be organized by Puja Committees in a planned manner in smaller groups of 10-15 persons with spaced out timings in a staggered way.
45. Any kind of fair should not be arranged by the Clubs/Committees near the puja pandals.
46. Persons above 65 years of age, persons with co-morbidities, pregnant women and children below the age of 10 years are advised to stay at home. This applies to organisers as well.
47. Spitting should be strictly prohibited.
48. Installation & use of Aarogya Setu App shall be advised to all.
49. Only a few stalls may be allowed to be set up in pandal premises. These stalls must be at proper distance from the puja pandals to avoid rush and gathering.
50. All organisers, pujari and volunteers should get themselves Covid tested two days before the puja day so that there is no transmission of virus through them. Health Deptt may deploy testing teams at major puja sites to facilitate testing.
51. On puja days, Covid testing booths may be set up in a lieu major puja sites to provide facility for testing of some worshippers selected by organisers.
52. Posters/standees/AV media on preventive measures from COVID-19 must be displayed prominently at the event sites.

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