



**Government of Odisha
Office of Special Relief Commissioner**

No. 284 /R&DM(DM) Date: 12-01-2022

From

Pradeep Jena, IAS
Special Relief Commissioner &
Additional Chief Secretary to Govt.
(Disaster Management)

To

Commissioner of Police, Bhubaneswar-Cuttack
All Collectors
All Superintendents of Police
All Municipal Commissioners

Sub: Directions on observance/ celebration of local festivals/ festivities during COVID-19 pandemic situation.

Sir/ Madam,

The State Government vide Order No. 64/ R &DM(DM) dt.05.01.2022, have allowed observance of religious festivals/ festivities/ functions/ rituals with strict adherence to COVID-19 protocols and prohibition of large gatherings in such activities.

As you know that in some areas of your district, people observe/ celebrate local festivals/ festivities/ functions/ rituals during which, social and religious congregations usually take place which have extensive potential of spreading COVID-19 pandemic.

Considering this situations, you are hereby instructed to ensure strictly the following stipulations.

- (i) Prohibition of congregations at river banks/ ghats/ ponds/ sea shore or near other waterbodies to take bath.
- (ii) Prohibition of organisation / celebration mela.
- (iii) Prohibition of religious congregations/ celebrations
- (iv) Religious rituals are allowed in religious places/ places of worship with bare minimum priests/ servitors and staff.

- (v) People are advised to perform the rituals/puja at their home with family members only avoiding mass gatherings and adhering to the COVID-19 safety protocols such as physical distancing, use of face mask/ covering and hand washing/ hand sanitizer.
- (vi) If required, considering local conditions, appropriate restrictions may be imposed on entry of devotees into churches/ temples/ mosques/ religious places/ places of worship and in the celebrations in churches/ temples/mosques/ religious places/places of worship.
- (vii) Collectors/ Municipal Commissioners may decide the number of persons to attend any such religious ritual/ festival/Puja in their respective jurisdictions with strict adherence to Covid appropriate behaviour and norms. The devotees in these places must ensure Covid-19 safety protocols such as wearing of face masks, physical distancing and hand washing /hand sanitizer.
- (viii) In case of violation of COVID-19 safety protocols, local authorities can take strict action including criminal action under relevant acts including Disaster Management Act, 2005.
- (ix) Such violation shall entail fines for devotees as decided by the local authorities.

Yours faithfully,



Special Relief Commissioner &
Additional Chief Secretary to Govt.
(Disaster Management)

Memo No. 285 / R&DM(DM) Date: 12.01.2022

Copy forwarded to the Private Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister/ Private Secretary to all Ministers/ Chief Secretary/ Development Commissioner/ Agriculture Production Commissioner for kind information.



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