



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

No. 1164 /R&DM(DM) Date: 08.03.2021

ORDER

Whereas, the State is passing through a critical situation due to detection of new variant of SARS-CoV 2 and it is necessary to strictly adhere to COVID-19 safety protocols for containment of spread of the infection;

And whereas, the State Government vide Order No.1020/R&DM(DM) dt.27.02.2021, have specifically directed that large gatherings congregations shall continue to be prohibited. Social, political, sports, entertainment, academic, cultural and religious functions and other gatherings shall be allowed with a ceiling of 500 persons subject to strict adherence of the COVID-19 safety protocols;

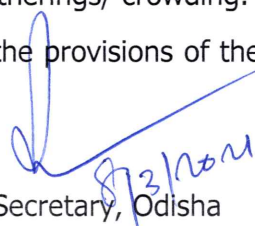
And whereas, the Government of India in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have issued SOP dated 22nd December, 2020 for stringent Epidemiological Surveillance and Response and the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India vide Order No.40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dated 26.02.2021 has issued revised guidelines for surveillance, containment and caution with regard to COVID-19;

And whereas, the festival 'Mahashivratri', one of the largest and most significant among the sacred festivals of India is approaching and people usually congregate to worship 'Shivlinga 'and observe it by fasting and meditation and keep awake all night.

And whereas, large congregations on the festival of 'Mahasivaratri 'have large potential for spread of COVID-19 infections;

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 24(l) of the Disaster Management Act,2005 read with Rule 8(1) of the Odisha Disaster Management Rules,2010, the undersigned hereby directs that while allowing for celebration of '**Mahasivaratri 'on 11th March,2021** and its related rituals, the Collectors/ Municipal Commissioners may restrict congregations/ gatherings to such number as may be felt appropriate in view of the prevailing pandemic situation considering local situations/ circulation space available within such temples and its premises to enter into/ gather in temples strictly adhering to the COVID-19 safety protocols. Further **mela/ congregations outside/ within the temple premises may also be reasonably restricted** so as to avoid mass gatherings/ crowding.

Any person found violating this order shall be punishable under the provisions of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 and other relevant laws.


Chief Secretary, Odisha

Memo No. 1165 /R&DM(DM) Date: 08.03.2021

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.


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

Memo No. 1166 /R&DM(DM) Date: 08.03.2021

Copy forwarded to the Addl. Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary/ Commissioner-cum-Secretary of all Departments/ Director General of Police/ Director General of Police, Fire Services, C.G. Home guards and Director, Civil Defence/Police Commissioner, Bhubaneswar-Cuttack/ All RDCs/ All Collectors/ All Superintendents of Police/ All Municipal Commissioners/ Member Secretary, State Pollution Control Board for kind information and immediate necessary action.


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

Memo No. 1167 /R&DM(DM) Date: 08.03.2021

Copy forwarded to the Joint Secretary (Disaster Management), Ministry of Home Affairs (Disaster Management Division), Government of India for kind information.


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