



Government of Odisha
Office of Special Relief Commissioner

No. 1623 /R&DM(DM)

Date: 25-03-2021

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, resurgence of SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19) have been noticed in many parts India ;

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 to the COVID-19 safety protocols;

And whereas, the Government of India in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has 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 State Government have issued instructions vide Order No.1502/R&DM(DM) dt.19.03.2021 for celebration of 'Holi' and 'Dolayatra' in a restricted manner strictly adhering to the COVID safety protocols;

And whereas, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India vide Order No.40-2020-DM-I(A) dated the 23rd March,2021 have issued guidelines for effective control of COVID-19;

And whereas, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India vide their DO. No. AS(H)/Misc./2021 dated 24.03.2021 have strongly advised the States to consider imposing local restrictions in public observance of festivals and limit/ do away with mass gatherings in public observance of festivals like Holi, Shab-e-Barat, Bihu, Easter and Eid-ul-Fitr etc;

And whereas, the sacred festivals of 'Good Friday', 'Easter', 'Pana Sankranti'/ 'Jhamu Yatra', 'Danda Yatra' and 'Sriram Navami' etc are falling in the month of April and people usually congregate and get in touch with each other to celebrate the festivals during which it is not possible to adhere to COVID appropriate behaviour and such congregations have a potential to cause spread of the virus;

Now, therefore, in exercise of powers conferred under Section 24(I) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 read with Rule 8(1) of the Odisha Disaster Management Rules, 2010 the following guidelines are issued;

- a. In the interest of health of the general public and for containment of spread of COVID-19, it is hereby directed that congregation for celebration of the above festivals like 'Good Friday', Easter, 'Pana Sankranti'/ Jhamu Jatra, Danda Jatra and 'Sriram Navami' and associated religious and cultural congregations shall not be allowed in public throughout the State.
- b. Religious rituals in churches/ temples/ places of worship will continue as usual with limited number of persons with strict adherence to Covid protocols.
- c. **Considering local conditions, Collectors and Municipal Commissioners may impose appropriate restrictions on entry of devotees into churches/ temples/ religious places/ places of worship and in the celebrations in churches/ temples/ religious places/ places of worship. Collectors/ Municipal Commissioners may decide the number of persons to attend any such religious ritual / festival/ in their respective jurisdictions with strict adherence to Covid appropriate behaviour and norms.**

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


25/3/2021
Chief Secretary, Odisha

Memo No. 1624 /R&DM(DM) Date: 25-03-2021

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.


25/3/2021
Special Relief Commissioner &
Additional Chief Secretary to Govt.
(Disaster Management)

Memo No. 1625 /R&DM(DM) Date: 25-03-2021

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.


25/03/2021
Special Relief Commissioner &
Additional Chief Secretary to Govt.
(Disaster Management)

Memo No. 1626 /R&DM(DM) Date: 25-03-2021

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


25/03/2021
Special Relief Commissioner &
Additional Chief Secretary to Govt.
(Disaster Management)