Government of Odisha

Office of Special Relief Commissioner

No.__5315__/R&DM(DM),   Dt.**10-09-2020**

RDM-RLF-MISC-0222-2020

ORDER

As per COVID-19 Guidelines issued by the State Government vide Order No.5039 /R&DM(DM) dated 31.08.2020, all religious places/ places of worship remain closed for public till 30th September, 2020 throughout the State. Social, political, sports, entertainment, academic, cultural, religious functions and other large congregations are not allowed.

Having regard to the order dated 31.8.2020 passed by the Hon'ble High Court in WP(C) PIL No 21016 /2020, the State Government do hereby direct that **the following guidelines shall be followed for observance of Durga Puja, Laxmi Puja, Kali Puja and other similar Puja during September, October and November of 2020**:

1. For conducting Puja in Puja Pandals/ Mandaps, the organizers shall apply to and obtain necessary permission from the District Magistrate or any other officer authorised by him/ her. For the area under Commissionerate of Police of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar, such permission shall be given by the Commissioner of Police of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar or any other officer authorised by him/ her.

2. Puja(s) shall be conducted in indoor-like condition only for observance of rituals without public participation, pomp and grandeur.

3. Puja Pandals/ Mandaps shall be covered on three sides. The 4th side shall also be covered in a way not to allow any public view of the idols. There shall be no darshan by public/ devotees.

4. The size of idol shall be less than 4 feet.

5. There shall be no use of public address system.

6. At any given point of time, there shall not be more than 7 persons including organisers (Kartas) and priests and support staff present in the Puja Pandal/ Mandap.

7. The persons present at Puja Pandal/ Mandap shall follow all Covid protocols of social distancing, mask use, personal hygiene and sanitation issued by Central/ State Government/ Local Administration in letter and spirit.

8. The organizers and other persons involved in conducting the Puja shall abide by any other condition(s) as imposed by Local Administration/ appropriate authority.

9. There shall be no immersion procession. The idols will be immersed in artificial pond(s) created by the local administration for the purpose.

10. There shall be no musical or any other entertainment programme.

11. All the District Magistrates/ Municipal Commissioners/ Commissioner of Police, Bhubaneswar-Cuttack shall strictly enforce the above guidelines.

12. **Penal provisions**: Any person violating these measures will be liable to be proceeded against in accordance with the provisions of Section 51 to 60 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 and Regulations issued thereunder besides legal action under Section188 of the IPC and other legal provisions as applicable.
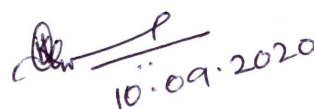
By order of the Governor

Chief Secretary, Odisha

Memo No. 5316 /R&DM(DM)   Date: 10-09-2020

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.

10.09.2020

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

Memo No. 5317 /R&DM(DM)   Date: 10-09-2020

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/Police Commissioner, Bhubaneswar-Cuttack/ All RDCs/ All Collectors/ Superintendents of Police/ All Municipal Commissioners for kind information and immediate necessary action.

10.09.2020

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

Memo No. 5318 /R&DM(DM)   Date: 10-09-2020

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

10.09.2020

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