

## Government of Odisha Office of Special Relief Commissioner

No. 6458/R&DM (DM) Date: 16.11.2020 RDM-RLF-MISC-0303-2020

## **ORDER**

Whereas, the State is passing through a critical stage of COVID-19 pandemic and it is necessary to strictly adhere to COVID-19 safety protocols for containment of spread of the infection;

And whereas, the Chhat Parv/ Puja is approaching during which usually there is large congregation of people at river banks/ ghats for taking holy bath and performing puja;

And whereas, such congregation has large potential for spread of COVID-19 infections;

And whereas, considering the above, the State Government have directed in public interest to prohibit the celebration of Chhat Puja including mass bathing at river banks/ ghats;

Now, therefore, in exercise of the 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 undersigned hereby directs that celebration of Chhat Puja including mass bathing at river banks/ ghats shall remain prohibited during November 20 - 21, 2020.

The people are advised to perform other rituals at home 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.

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

Chief Secretary, Odisha

Asi Ipaly

Memo No. <u>6459</u> / R&DM(DM) Date: 16-11-2020

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.

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

Memo No. 6760/R&DM(DM)

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/ Member Secretary, State Pollution Control Board for kind information and necessary action.

Special Relief Commissioner & Additional Chief Secretary to Govt.

(Disaster Management)

Memo No. 6461/R&DM(DM)

Date: 16-11-2020

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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)