

**GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI  
DELHI DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**

No. F.60/DDMA/COVID-19/2021/486

Dated: 29.10.2021

589

**ORDER**

Whereas, on the basis of local assessment of the COVID-19 situation in Delhi, Delhi Disaster Management Authority has issued Order No. 474 dated 30.09.2021 with regard to guidelines for celebration of upcoming festivals (upto 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2021) for effective management/ containment of Covid-19 in NCT of Delhi. This order, inter-alia, prohibits the celebration of Chhath Pooja in public places / public grounds / river banks (ghats) / temples etc;

2. And whereas, various sections of society including public representatives have requested to allow celebration of Chhath Pooja at public places in Delhi considering the fact that Covid-19 situation is presently under control in NCT of Delhi;

3. And whereas, the status of Covid-19 in NCT of Delhi has again been reviewed and observed that the overall number of Covid-19 patients and positivity rate has declined considerably and the overall situation has improved. Besides it, a considerable size of population of Delhi has been vaccinated for Covid-19. Therefore, it has been decided that celebration of Chhath Pooja may be allowed in Delhi with due caution, subject to strict compliance of specific measures and adherence to the COVID Appropriate Behaviour.

4. Now, therefore, in exercise of powers conferred under section 22 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, the undersigned, in his capacity as Chairperson, State Executive Committee, DDMA, GNCTD, hereby directs that in the territory of NCT of Delhi (outside Containment Zones), the celebration of Chhath Pooja during the month of November, 2021 shall be allowed only at "Designated Sites" (outside Containment Zones), with the requisite permission from District Magistrate concerned and subject to the compliance of following guidelines/ restrictions:

- (i) Designated Sites shall be identified, developed & managed by the Revenue Department / Respective District Magistrate in coordination with concerned departments / agencies viz I&FC, DJB, DPCC, Delhi Police, DDA, Municipal Corporations etc.
- (ii) No Site shall be designated on the banks of River Yamuna.
- (iii) At the designated sites, people can offer or consign such pooja material, which shall then be duly collected by the concerned Municipal Authorities and other relevant agencies for immediate and proper disposal in a scientific manner under the overall supervision of respective District Magistrate.
- (iv) All persons / devotees shall be strictly prohibited from throwing pooja material or any other material like, food-grain, oil, etc. into River Yamuna. All District DCPs shall be responsible for ensuring that pooja material or any other material is not thrown in River Yamuna by the public / devotees.
- (v) It shall be ensured that no such material is permitted to join the main stream of the river at any point.

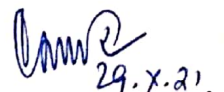
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ADD CEO, DDMA

- (vi) All the relevant guidelines / orders of Hon'ble NGT as well as Yamuna Monitoring Committee (YMC) shall be strictly complied with by all concerned Authorities, Organisers / Samitis and General Public. All concerned Authorities shall take strict measures to ensure prevention and control of pollution in River Yamuna as well as at Yamuna Flood Plains.
- (vii) Chhath Pooja Samities / Organisers shall have to submit an undertaking to the respective District Magistrate while applying for permission in respect of strict adherence of the orders/guidelines of Hon'ble NGT / YMC / CPCB / DDMA.
- (viii) Strict adherence of COVID Appropriate Behaviour (viz. wearing of mask, maintaining social distancing, regular hand washing and use of sanitizer, etc.) shall be followed.
- (ix) District Magistrates / Chairperson, District Disaster Management Authorities shall convene meetings with the Religious / Community Leaders / Chhath Pooja Samitis / Organisers and other stakeholders in their respective areas to brief them about this order so that they may further sensitize public for strict compliance of COVID Appropriate Behaviour, to ensure that no pooja material is disposed off in River Yamuna and to conduct pooja only at the designated sites during the festival.
- (x) District Magistrates shall conduct awareness campaign in their respective areas for promoting compliance of CAB as well as sensitizing public about orders / guidelines of NGT / YMC / CPCB / DDMA.
- (xi) All measures/instructions/restrictions (except point No. 2 & 13) stipulated in DDMA Order No. 474 dated 30.09.2021 (**copy annexed**) shall remain applicable in respect of Chhath Pooja celebrations.

5. All District Magistrates, District DCPs, Deputy Commissioners of Municipal Corporations / Officers of New Delhi Municipal Council & Delhi Cantonment Board, Irrigation & Flood Department, Delhi Pollution Control Committee, Delhi Jal Board, Delhi Development Authority, all other Authorities concerned, field functionaries and Chhath Pooja Samitis / Organisers shall ensure strict compliance of this order.

6. In case, any violation of this order is noticed by the Authorities, the organizer(s) of the event as well as other persons responsible, shall be proceeded against as per the provisions of Section 51 to 60 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, Notification dated 13.06.2020 read with 14.10.2021 issued by H&FW Department, GNCTD, besides initiation of legal action under section 188 of the IPC, Orders of NGT and other provisions of relevant laws.

  
29.X.21  
(Vijay Dev)

Chief Secretary, Delhi

**Copy for compliance to:**

1. All Addl. Chief Secretaries/Principal Secretaries/Secretaries/HODs of Govt. of NCT of Delhi
2. Chairman, New Delhi Municipal Council
3. Addl. Chief Secretary (Health), GNCTD
4. Commissioner of Police, Delhi

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ADD CEO, DDMA

5. Vice Chairman, Delhi Development Authority
6. Pr. Secretary (Revenue)-cum-Divisional Commissioner, GNCTD
7. Pr. Secretary (Environment), GNCTD
8. Commissioner (South DMC/East DMC/North DMC)
9. Pr. Secretary (I&FC), GNCTD
10. Secretary (I&P) for wide publicity in NCT of Delhi
11. CEO, Delhi Jal Board
12. CEO, Delhi Cantonment Board
13. Member Secretary, Delhi Pollution Control Committee, GNCTD
14. All District Magistrates of Delhi
15. All District DCPs of Delhi
16. Director, DGHS, GNCTD
17. Member Secretary, Delhi Pollution Control Committee

**Copy for kind information to:-**

1. Secretary to Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Delhi
2. Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister, GNCTD
3. Secretary to Hon'ble Dy. Chief Minister, GNCTD
4. Secretary to Hon'ble Minister of Health, GNCTD
5. Secretary to Hon'ble Minister of Revenue, GNCTD
6. Secretary to Hon'ble Minister of General Administration, Development, GNCTD
7. Secretary to Hon'ble Minister of Social Welfare, GNCTD
8. Secretary to Hon'ble Minister of Food & Supply, GNCTD
9. Staff Officer to Cabinet Secretary, Gol
10. Staff Officer to Home Secretary, Gol
11. Addl. Chief Secretary (UD), GNCTD
12. Addl. Chief Secretary (Home)/ State Nodal Officer for COVID-19, GNCTD
13. All members of State Executive Committee, DDMA, GNCTD
14. System Analyst, O/o Divisional Commissioner, Delhi for uploading of the order on website  
– ddma.delhigovt.nic.in
15. Guard file

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ADD CEO, DDMA

GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI  
DELHI DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

No. F.1(589)/DDMA(HQ)/Misc.matter/ COVID/474

Dated: 30.09.2021

ORDER

Whereas, the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) is satisfied that the NCT of Delhi is threatened with the spread of COVID-19 virus, which has already been declared as a pandemic by the World Health Organization, and has considered it necessary to take effective measures to prevent its spread in NCT of Delhi;

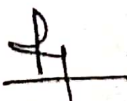
And whereas, Delhi Disaster Management Authority has issued various orders/instructions from time to time to all authorities concerned to take all required measures to appropriately deal with the situation;

And whereas, Delhi Disaster Management Authority has issued Order No. 466 dated 15.09.2021 with regard to prohibited/restricted activities which inter-alia prohibited all social / political / sports / entertainment / cultural /religious / festival related gatherings and congregations;

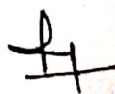
And whereas, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India vide D.O. letter dated 21.09.2021 (**Annexure-1**) has advised to the States / UTs that in the coming months, various festivities will follow one after the other till 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021. As the second surge of COVID-19 is still not over, States / UTs have been advised not to lower their guard. Further, this is a critical period because there may be a tendency to ignore COVID-safe behavior during festivals, resulting in large gatherings, events, fairs etc. It is critical to enforce adherence to guidelines to allow festivities in a cautious, safe and COVID appropriate manner. Any laxity in implementation of COVID Appropriate Behaviour could lead to serious consequences and result in a surge in cases. As a matter of abundant caution, no mass gatherings should be allowed in areas identified as containment zones and in districts reporting more than 5% case positivity. Gatherings with advance permissions and limited people may be allowed only in districts reporting a positivity rate of 5% or below. Therefore, after reviewing the current scenario and considering the overall situation and taking into account the predicted threat of surge in COVID-19 cases in the NCT of Delhi, due caution and care has to be kept during upcoming festival season in the best interest of public health;

Now, therefore, in exercise of powers conferred under section 22 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, the undersigned, in his capacity as Chairperson, State Executive Committee, DDMA, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, hereby directs all authorities / field functionaries concerned to ensure strict compliance of the enclosed Standard Operating Procedure ( SOP) dated 06.10.2020 (**Annexure-2**) issued by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare ( MoH&FW), Govt. of India, on preventing measures to contain spread of COVID-19 during festivities, subject to the following additional measures, suggested on the basis of local assessment for effective management/containment of COVID-19 in NCT of Delhi till 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2021, which shall have overriding effect :-

1. Fairs / Melas / Food-stalls (inside & outside the venues) / Jhoolas / Rallies / Processions will not be permitted during festivals in Delhi.
2. Chhat Pooja festival /celebration shall not be allowed in public places/public grounds/ river banks (ghats) / temples etc. in NCT of Delhi and the public is advised to celebrate the same at their homes.
3. All event organisers will have to obtain requisite permission from District Magistrate concerned for organising festival events, well in advance, besides obtaining permission from all other authorities concerned as per applicable laws/rules and practice in vogue. No permission shall be granted by District Magistrates or any other Authorities for conducting any event in Containment Zones.

  
ADD CEO, DDMA

4. Each such permission (which is applied to District Magistrate concerned) shall be jointly granted by District Magistrate and District DCP concerned on the basis of joint inspection report of area Executive Magistrate, area S.H.O. and Licensing Inspector of Municipal Corporation concerned which shall clearly certify that the festival/ celebrations site is suitable for the conduct of the event and meets all the stipulations laid down in this order and the annexed SOP.
5. Capacity of each event site will be decided on the basis of area and social distancing norms such as (a) In closed space, a maximum of 50% of the hall capacity will be allowed, with a ceiling of 200 persons, and (b) In open spaces, keeping the size of the ground /space in view and with the strict observance of social distancing norms. Since the capacity of each open space shall invariably vary according to its size, the seating capacity for each such site must be determined strictly according to the norms mandated for ensuring social distancing and observance of COVID-Appropriate Behaviour and this capacity shall be certified by District Magistrate and District DCP concerned.
6. Event organiser(s) shall ensure separate entry and exit at each event site / ground/ venue which shall be strictly regulated and only be allowed to person with face cover / mask. Strict perimeter control around the event site shall also be ensured.
7. Database of all event sites permitted in the district must be maintained by District Magistrate concerned and a consolidated database of all such event sites in NCT of Delhi shall be maintained by the office of the Divisional Commissioner, GNCT of Delhi.
8. The District Magistrate concerned shall appoint an officer of suitable seniority as Nodal Officer for each site / venue of Ramlila / Pooja Pandal etc. The District DCP shall also appoint an officer of suitable seniority as Nodal Officer for each site / venue of Ramlila / Pooja Pandal etc. These Nodal Officers shall be responsible to ensure strict compliance of this order and the enclosed SOP as well as other SOPs / Guidelines issued by Govt. of India / Govt. of NCT of Delhi / DDMA from time to time to contain the spread of COVID-19.
9. Every Organiser / Organising Committee / Samiti shall be responsible for conducting videography / video-recording of the event / programme from starting to end on daily basis and a soft copy of the unedited video recording in pen-drive and a certificate, certifying that no violation of the SOPs / Guidelines issued by Govt. of India and Govt. of NCT of Delhi has taken place, shall be submitted to Nodal officers of respective event sites, within 3 hours of closing of event / programme of each day.
10. The video-recording of the event / programme of each day shall be jointly viewed by the aforesaid Nodal officers. In case any violation of SOPs / guidelines observed, they shall report to District Magistrate and District DCP concerned and the permission granted for conducting such programme / event shall be withdrawn / revoked immediately for all subsequent days.
11. District Magistrate concerned shall also make arrangement for sample videography of the permitted event sites to ensure adherence to social distancing and other relevant norms.
12. A certificate, jointly signed by District Magistrate and District DCP concerned shall be submitted to the Chief Secretary, Delhi on daily basis about the status of compliance of SOPs / Guidelines by all the event organisers in the district. The proforma / format of the certificate is enclosed as **Annexure-3**.
13. At all events, related to festivities, no person will be allowed in standing or squatting (sitting on ground) position. Only sitting on chairs with social distancing norms shall be allowed. Only such seating capacity would be ensured that permits compliance of COVID- Appropriate Behaviour.
14. Suitable arrangements shall be made for adequate number of temporary toilets and other public facilities like electricity, water, sanitizers and thermal screeners at each site / venue.
15. Use of volunteers to aid thermal screenings and to enforce use of masks and physical distancing shall be considered. Close circuit cameras may also be utilised to monitor compliance to physical distancing and use of mask.



A. A. R. S. S. S. S.

It may be noted that the restriction on gatherings and large congregations as imposed vide DDMA Order No. 366 dated 15.09.2021 and any subsequent orders in this regard, stands relaxed only to the extent of allowing gatherings /congregations for celebration of upcoming festivals till 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 only.

In case, any violation of this order is noticed by the Authorities, the organizer(s) of the event as well as other persons responsible, shall be proceeded against as per the provisions of Section 51 to 60 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, Notification dated 13.06.2020 read with 20.11.2020 issued by H&FW Department, GNCTD, besides initiation of legal action under section 188 of IPC and other provisions of relevant laws.

  
30.09

(Vijay Dev)

Chief Secretary, Delhi

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7. Secretary to Hon'ble Minister of Social Welfare, GNCTD
8. Secretary to Hon'ble Minister of Food & Supply, GNCTD
9. Staff Officer to Cabinet Secretary, GoI
10. Special Secretary (UT), MHA, GoI
11. Addl. Chief Secretary (UD), GNCTD
12. Addl. Chief Secretary (Home)/ State Nodal Officer for COVID-19, GNCTD
13. Director, DGHS, GNCTD
14. All members of State Executive Committee, DDMA, GNCTD
15. System Analyst, O/o Divisional Commissioner, Delhi for uploading of the order on website -  
ddma.delhigovt.nic.in
16. Guard file



ADDCO, DDMA

6<sup>th</sup> October, 2020

**Government of India  
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare  
Directorate General of Health Services  
(Emergency Medical Relief)**

**Standard Operating Procedures on preventive measures to contain spread of COVID-19 during festivities**

**1. Background**

The months of October to December are time for festivities that witness gatherings of large number of people in specified locations for religious worship, fairs, rallies, exhibitions, cultural functions, processions etc. These events may last a day or a week or more. To prevent spread of COVID-19 infection, it is important that necessary preventive measures are followed for such events.

**2. Scope**

This document outlines various generic precautionary measures to be adopted in addition to specific measures to be taken at locations to prevent spread of COVID-19. No festivity events as enumerated in para 1 above will be allowed in Containment Zones.

Persons above 65 years of age, persons with comorbidities, pregnant women and children below the age of 10 years are advised to stay at home. This applies to the event managers and staff as well.

The competent authority may implement additional measures within their jurisdiction as per their local assessment and in line with activities permitted by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) as per MHA orders issued under Disaster Management Act, 2005 from time to time.

**3. Administrative requirements**

The festivals, fairs, rallies, exhibitions, cultural functions, processions and plays/ concerts associated with these festivities are mass events. Hence the following administrative requirement are advised:

- i. Identify spatial boundaries and prepare a detailed site plan which would facilitate compliance with thermal screening, physical distancing, sanitization etc.
- ii. In case of events that run for days or weeks, the crowd density doesn't remain the same throughout and usually peaks around certain hours of the day and some previously known auspicious days. Planning for the event should specifically factor this so that crowds are regulated and managed to ensure physical distance and frequent sanitization.
- iii. In case of rallies and immersion processions the number of people should not exceed the prescribed limit and proper physical distancing and wearing of masks must be ensured. In any case, the number of such rallies and the distance covered by them may be kept within manageable limits.
- iv. Events such as rallies, and processions spread over long distances may require support of ambulance services.

- v. Events planned to last for many days or weeks such as exhibitions, fairs, puja pandals, ramlila pandals or concerts and plays should have adequate measures to ensure a cap on physical numbers. Staggered timings and restricted entry may be considered.
- vi. Volunteers should be appropriately stationed to ensure thermal scanning, physical distancing and wearing of masks.
- vii. The guidelines issued for theatre and cinema artists will apply to stage performers.
- viii. Adequate supplies of sanitizers, thermal guns and physical distancing floor markings to be ensured.
- ix. Pre-identification of space/ site in each event venue for isolation of suspect cases.
- x. Close circuit cameras etc. may be considered to monitor compliance of physical distance norms, wearing of masks at each venue.
- xi. In case of rallies and processions, route planning, identification of immersion sites, ensuring cap on numbers, physical distancing etc. must be planned beforehand and measures for enforcement outlined.
- xii. All events must plan for medical care arrangements with linkages to nearest hospitals to attend to health emergencies.

#### 4. Generic preventive measures

The generic preventive measures that include simple public health measures are to be followed to reduce the risk of COVID-19. These measures need to be observed by all; the event managers, the organizational staff and the public visiting the festivities and are as follows:

- i. Individuals must maintain a minimum distance of 6 feet in public places as far as feasible.
- ii. Use of face covers/masks to be mandatory.
- iii. Practice frequent hand washing with soap (for at least 40-60 seconds) even when hands are not visibly dirty. Use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers (for at least 20 seconds) can be made wherever feasible.
- iv. Respiratory etiquettes to be strictly followed. This involves strict practice of covering one's mouth and nose while coughing/sneezing with a tissue/handkerchief/flexed elbow and disposing off used tissues properly.
- v. Self-monitoring of health by all and reporting any illness at the earliest to State and District Helpline.
- vi. Spitting should be strictly prohibited.
- vii. Installation & use of Aarogya Setu App shall be advised to all.

#### 5. All festivity events shall also ensure:

##### a) Planning of events

- i. A plan should be prepared well in advance about conduct of each activity (religious places, rallies, processions, cultural shows, fairs etc.), with all relevant stakeholders including event organizers, business owners, market associations, etc.
- ii. Festive events shall be permitted only outside the Containment Zones. Organizers/staff/visitors from Containment Zones shall not be permitted. People residing inside Containment Zones may be encouraged to observe all festivals inside their homes and not move out.

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- iii. Keeping in view the physical distancing norms, event sites should have adequate floor area and proper markings at all locations which are likely to be visited by public.
- iv. Adequate manpower shall be deployed/ arranged by the organizers to ensure observance to physical distancing norms and other preventive measures at all times.
- v. Appropriate arrangements for personal protection gears like face covers/masks, and other logistic like hand sanitizers, soap, sodium hypochlorite solution for sanitizing frequently touched surfaces etc. shall be made available by event organizers/business owners for their staff as per requirements.
- vi. Adequate number of ticket counters shall be planned to facilitate compliance with physical distancing norms.
- vii. Event organizers/business owners may make suitable provisions for contact less payment.
- viii. A simple do's and don'ts advisory may be circulated / displayed prominently at each event venue.
- ix. Posters/standees/AV media on preventive measures from COVID-19 must be displayed prominently at the event sites.
- x. All event managers shall brief the stall owners/staff on the Standard Operating Procedures of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in the context of COVID.
- xi. The event sites should have a designated isolation room/ space for isolating any person found symptomatic during events/shows/rallies, till such time that medical help is available.

b) Entry and exit to the event site

- i. Preferably multiple and separate entry and exits for visitors shall be ensured. The structure/space/venue for the event must also ensure adequate natural cross-ventilation.
- ii. Entrances to have mandatory hand hygiene and thermal screening provisions.
- iii. Only those staff and visitors who are free of symptoms shall be allowed inside the venue.
- iv. Anyone found symptomatic during thermal screening should be politely refused entry and advised to seek immediate medical care.
- v. All staff and visitors to be allowed entry only if using face cover/masks. The face cover/mask has to be worn by all at all times while in public places.
- vi. Physical distance of a minimum of 6 feet, when queuing up for entry and inside the venue as far as feasible. Specific marking for the purpose may be done.
- vii. Proper crowd management inside and outside premises like parking lots, waiting areas, stalls and eateries etc. — duly following physical distancing norms shall be ensured.
- viii. For entry into the religious places, shoes / footwear to be preferably taken off inside own vehicle. If needed they should be kept in separate slots for each individual / family by the persons themselves.

c) Movement within the event venue

- i. The number of visitors inside the event venue shall be restricted in accordance with the order issued by Ministry of Home Affairs from time to time.
- ii. Seating arrangement in the pandaals, food courts, shows etc. must ensure adequate physical distancing. Any shops, stalls, cafeteria etc., outside and within the premises too shall follow physical distancing norms at all times.
- iii. Arrangements for safe drinking water, if required, should be made (preferably with provision for disposable cups/glasses) in the event premises.
- iv. For air-conditioning/ventilation, the guidelines of CPWD shall be followed which emphasize that the (i) temperature setting of all air conditioning devices should be in the range of 24-

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30°C, (ii) relative humidity should be in the range of 40- 70%, (iii) re-circulation of air to be avoided to the extent possible, (iv) intake of fresh air should be as much as possible and (v) cross ventilation should be adequate.

- v. In religious places, touching of statues/idols / holy books etc. shall not be allowed.
- vii. In view of potential threat of spread of infection, as far as feasible recorded devotional music/songs may be played and choir or singing groups should not be allowed.
- viii. Community kitchens/langars / "Ann-daan", etc. at event venue should follow physical distancing norms while preparing and distributing food.
- ix. Community kitchen managers and business owners of food outlets to ensure adherence to highest level of personal and environmental hygiene all the time, especially at the time of preparing, serving /eating meals and after disposal.

d) Sanitation and Hygiene

- i. Effective and frequent sanitation within the premises shall be maintained with particular focus on commonly touched surfaces/areas including lavatories, drinking and hand washing stations/areas.
- ii. Cleaning and regular disinfection (using 1% sodium hypochlorite) of frequently touched surfaces (doorknobs, elevator buttons, handrails, que barricades, seats, benches, washroom fixtures, etc.) to be made mandatory in all public utility common areas.
- iii. Visitors and staff should be advised to dispose of used face covers / masks in covered bins available at the premises. The waste thus generated may be disposed of in accordance with the hazardous waste disposal guidelines.

e) SOP to be followed in case of a suspect case or person who develops symptoms during the conduct of the event

- iv. Place the ill person in a room or area where they are isolated from others.
- v. The person will remain isolated while wearing a mask/face cover till such time he/she is examined by a doctor.
- vi. If symptoms deteriorate, inform the nearest medical facility (hospital/clinic) or call the State or District Helpline.
- vii. A risk assessment shall be undertaken by the designated public health authority (district RRT/treating physician) and accordingly further action be initiated regarding management of case, his/her contacts and need for disinfection.
- viii. Disinfection of the premises to be taken up if the person is found positive.

## Certificate regarding conduct of festivals in District.....

1. In District....., there are total..... No. of permitted sites / venues where festival events are being organised as on date.
2. The video-recording of all permitted sites / venues for the intervening night of ..... (date) has been viewed by the Nodal officers of the respective sites and no violation with regard to relevant SOPs / Guidelines, has been observed, except the violation found in following event sites / venues and therefore, the permission of these sites, as listed below, has been withdrawn/ revoked with immediate effect :
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
3. In District....., now there will be total .....No. of permitted sites where the festival events / programmes will be organised.

Sign &amp; Stamp of District Magistrate

Sign &amp; Stamp of District DCP



ADDC EO, DDMA