



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

No. 6773 /R&DM(DM)  
PT2-RDM-RLF-MISC-0034-2020

Date: 30/11/2021

**ORDER**

Whereas, SARS CoV-2 infection continues to be active in different areas in the State and in some parts of the Country;

Whereas, as per report of MoHFW, GOI, although, the overall COVID-19 cases in the country are continuously declining across the States/UTs, the analysis of data during November, 2021 shows that 16 districts of three States have reported positivity rate more than 10% and 18 districts of ten States have reported positivity rate between 5% to 10%. Thus, COVID-19 is still a public health challenge and a matter of concern.

Whereas, Globally, also, the surge in cases, being reported across various countries, especially in South Africa, Europe, China, Singapore, Russia, etc., is a matter of concern.

And whereas, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare vide D.O. No. 40-3/2020-DM -I(A) dated 22<sup>ND</sup> November, 2021 has also prescribed the following directives;

***COVID-19 positive cases and hospital/ ICU bed occupancy in every district should be closely monitored. Precaution and vigil need to be maintained in view of the ongoing festival season and the present trend of COVID virus. Constant focus needs to be maintained for enforcement of the directions for wearing masks, especially in large gatherings, in order to avoid any surge in COVID-19 cases in the State.***

***There should be a continued emphasis on the five-fold strategy, i.e., Test-Track-Treat-Vaccination and adherence to the COVID Appropriate Behavior, to safely navigate through festive season and to avoid the possibility of any surge in COVID-19 cases.***

***The District Administrations should re-energise the field functionaries to handle the challenges ahead in COVID containment measures.***

And whereas, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India (GoI) vide Order No.40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dated 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2021, Order No.40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dated 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2021 and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare vide D.O. No. Z-

28015/85/2021-DM Cell dated 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2021 & DO No.Z.26015/30/2021-DM Cell dated 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2021 have issued guidelines along with National Directives (**Annexure-I , II & III** ) for effective control of COVID-19;

And whereas, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare vide D.O. No.Z-28015/85/2020-DM Cell dated 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2021 has also prescribed the following directives;

*"This is a critical period as there may be a tendency to ignore COVID- safe behaviour 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 Behavior could lead to serious consequences and can result in a surge in cases."*

And whereas, the Government of Odisha vide Revenue & Disaster Management (Disaster Management) Department order No. 4921/R&DM(DM) dated 31st August, 2021, Order No.5659/R&DM(DM) dated 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2021 and Order No.6077/ R &DM(DM) dated 31<sup>ST</sup> October,2021 had imposed stipulations/ instructions for graded unlocking from 5:00 AM of 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2021 to 5:00 AM of 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2021 for effective control of COVID-19;

Now, therefore, with a view to protecting the health of the public and preventing spread of Covid-19 along with normalising the economic activities, stipulations/ instructions for graded unlocking as notified under order No. 4921/R&DM(DM) dated 31st August, 2021 stand extended **till 5.00 AM of 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2022 with the following additional stipulations/ restrictions:**

- **Unlocking:** There shall be graded unlocking throughout the State with effect from **5.00 AM of 1<sup>st</sup>December, 2021 till 5.00 AM of 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2022.**
- **Night curfew:** **Night curfew shall be imposed in all urban areas of the State from 10.00 PM to 5.00 AM every day.**
- **Weekend Shutdown:** There shall be no weekend shutdown across the State.
- **Opening of shops/ malls:** During unlock period, all types of shops, malls shall remain open across the State from **5.00 AM to 10.00 PM** every day.

*It shall be the responsibility of the Mall Authorities/ shop owner(s)/ Market Associations to ensure that COVID appropriate behaviour are followed strictly by himself/herself, and the customers. The owner shall make arrangement by deploying his/her staff to prevent crowding by customers inside and outside the shop/ mall. Proper social distancing demarcations in and outside shop shall be displayed by the shop owner and COVID appropriate social distancing shall be ensured by him/her. In case of violation, local authorities can take strict action including criminal action under relevant Acts including Disaster Management Act, 2005. **Such violation shall entail sealing of such shops/ malls for a period along with heavy penalty as decided by the Local Authorities.***



- All Social/ Religious/ political gatherings shall remain prohibited.
- Exhibitions/ Trade Fairs/ Expo/ Melas shall remain prohibited.

**Cultural Activities** :Cultural gatherings/ programmes including melodies, orchestra/ jatra/ opera, dances-classical, folk and other permitted dance forms, cultural competitions, open air theatres/ drama/ nukkad natak/ street plays/ other such performances, etc shall be allowed to open with due compliance to covid protocols. The orders of the Government vide its order No 6540/ R&DM (DM) dated 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 ( **Copy enclosed as Annexure- IV** )

- Auditoriums/ assembly halls/ similar facilities shall be allowed to open with due compliance to covid protocols.
- Open Air Theatres/ Jatras /Operas shall be permitted by the local authorities (District Magistrate/SP/ Municipal Commissioner or any other officer authorized) subject to compliance of COVID-19 safety protocols such as mandatory wearing of face masks, physical distancing, provision of thermal scanning, etc. Keeping the size of the ground/ space in view, appropriate number of persons (**subject to a ceiling of 2000 persons**) will be allowed ensuring maintenance of prescribed physical distancing norm i.e., maintaining a distance of 6 feet from each other and the seating arrangement shall be made accordingly. As far as possible, facility for online booking of tickets may be arranged by the organizers and sufficient number of counters shall be opened to prevent crowding during physical booking of tickets. Facility of advance booking online as well as through counters may also be organized. The organizers shall be responsible for due compliance of these norms/ conditions.
- For indoor halls the numbers of viewers/ spectators shall not exceed 50% of the seating capacity of the hall.
- Cinema halls, theatres shall be allowed to open with up to 50% of capacity and operate with due compliance to covid protocols.
- In closed places, the number of persons including the invitees shall not exceed 50% of the hall capacity.

*The person having double dose/final vaccination certificate and Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) (-ve)/ RT PCR (-ve) Report obtained within 72 hours prior to the function will be allowed to attend the function.*

*The organiser of the function will ensure adherence of COVID-19 safety protocols such as wearing of masks, maintaining social distancing of at least six(6) feet between participants and provision of thermal scanning & use of hand wash or sanitizer will be mandatory.*

*However, Permission for such activities shall be accorded by the respective District Magistrates/ SPs/ Municipal Commissioners/ Police Commissioner, Bhubaneswar-Cuttack or other officers authorised by them. Provided that the respective District Collector/SP/ Municipal Commissioner/ Police Commissioner, Bhubaneswar-Cuttack may further restrict the number of persons to be allowed in such functions/ gatherings keeping the local situation in mind in the interest of the health of the people and issue specific order in that regard. In case of violation of COVID-19 safety protocols, Local Authorities can take strict action including criminal action under relevant acts*



*including Disaster Management Act, 2005. **Such violation shall entail closure of functions along with heavy penalty as decided by the local authorities.***

- Marriages, thread Ceremony/ Bratopanayan, funerals, last rites and related gatherings with approval from local authorities shall be allowed with a ceiling of 250 persons (for the entire event) including hosts, guests, priests and catering and other support staff with adherence to COVID-19 safety protocols subject to the following conditions:
  - (i) Under no circumstances, the number of participants shall exceed the ceiling for the entire event.
  - (ii) In closed spaces, subject to the above ceilings such number of persons shall be allowed as would be feasible to follow Covid protocols.
  - (iii) In open spaces, keeping the size of the ground/ open space in view, appropriate number of persons will be allowed, subject to the above ceilings, so as to ensure maintenance of prescribed physical distancing norm.
  - (iv) Marriage processions shall be allowed with due prior written approval from competent authorities subject to the ceiling 50 participants including bridegroom, priest, friends, relatives, guests, members of band party, light & sound systems etc. The number of persons in marriage procession shall count towards the above said ceiling of 250 persons.
  - (v) All other conditions/ stipulations for marriage, funeral and last rites related gatherings shall be followed as per the Government guidelines released vide Revenue and Disaster Management (DM) Department letter No. 2321/ R&DM(DM) dt. 30.04.2021.
  - (vi) All other conditions/ stipulations for thread ceremony/ bratopanayana and related rituals shall be followed as per the Government guidelines released vide Revenue and Disaster Management (DM) Department letter No.2666 dated 18.05.2021.

*In case of violation of COVID-19 safety protocols during these activities, Local Authorities can take strict action including criminal action under relevant acts including Disaster Management Act, 2005. **Such violation shall entail closure of functions along with heavy penalty as decided by the local authorities.***

- All religious festivals/ festivities/ functions shall be held/ celebrated/ observed as per orders of the Government vide its order No 4534/ R&DM (DM) dated 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2021. **(Annexure-V)**

*Considering local conditions, District Magistrates/ Municipal Commissioners/ Police Commissioner, Bhubaneswar-Cuttack may impose appropriate restrictions on entry of devotees into churches/ temples/ mosques/ religious places/ places of worship and in the celebrations in churches/ temples/mosques/ religious places/places of worship. Collectors/ Municipal Commissioners may decide the number of persons to attend any*



*such religious ritual/ festival/Puja in their respective jurisdictions with strict adherence to Covid appropriate behaviour and norms.*

*The devotees in these places must ensure Covid-19 safety protocols such as wearing of face masks, physical distancing and hand washing /hand sanitizer. In case of violation of COVID-19 safety protocols, local authorities can take strict action including criminal action under relevant acts including Disaster Management Act, 2005. **Such violation shall entail fines for devotees as decided by the local authorities.***

- **Omicron virus:** A new variant of SARS-CoV-2 ( B.1.1529; named Omicron) has been classified as Variant of Concern by the WHO. Such variant has been detected in many parts of the Globe Internationally.

Travellers from specified Countries at risk [ **Countries in Europe including the United Kingdom, South Africa, Brazil , Bangladesh , Botswana , China , Mauritius , New Zealand , Zimbabwe , Singapore , Hong Kong & Israel**]

*COVID-19 safety protocols are required to be observed scrupulously in order to prevent the transmission of the infection in the State of Odisha. Collectors/ Municipal Commissioners/SPs shall remain watchful to International Travellers and re-energize their field functionaries and augment the enforcement efforts on COVID Appropriate Behaviour and Safety protocols by taking innovative measures for prompt and effective management of COVID-19. Penal provision may be ensured at field level for not adhering to covid appropriate behavior.*

- **Zero Night Celebration/ Welcome to New Year/ similar function on the eve of New Year:** Usually people in large number congregate in hotels, restaurants, clubs, parks and other public places on 31<sup>st</sup> December and 1<sup>st</sup> January for Zero Night Celebration/ Welcome to New Year/ similar function on the eve of New Year. Such congregations have large potential for spread of COVID-19 infections.

Hence, congregation in public places including hotels, restaurants, clubs, parks, convention halls, kalyan mandaps, etc. for Zero Night Celebration/ Welcome to New Year/ similar other function on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2021 and 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2022 shall remain prohibited throughout the State.

Picnics at public places are prohibited. No community feast in public places shall be allowed on the occasion of Zero Night Celebration/ Welcome to New Year/ similar function on the eve of New Year.

The people are advised to celebrate such functions at home premises 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. **People are advised to use permitted green crackers during this celebration with utmost safety/ caution and not to use in public places** vide orders of the Government vide its order No 6130/ R&DM (DM) dated 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2021 ( **Annexure- VI**) & in light of the order dated 29.10.2021 passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court and as per direction of Hon'ble High Court of Odisha in WP(C) No.33208 of 2021 & 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 .

**All other stipulations/ instructions contained in the order No. 4921/R&DM(DM) dated 31st August, 2021 shall remain unaltered.**

***Explanation:***

**Subject to other provisions of this order, activities that are not specifically prohibited/ regulated/ restricted/ permitted with restrictions above are allowed subject to adherence to COVID- 19 safety protocols and SOPs/ guidelines issued by appropriate authorities.**

**During the night curfew period all activities shall be banned except the following:**

- i. All commercial establishments including essential items, food and vegetable shops, excluding all medicine/ pharmaceuticals/ medical devices/optical shops etc. shall remain closed.
- ii. However, home delivery of essential goods, food items, including grocery, vegetables, fish, meat, egg and milk are permitted. Further, home delivery of food by restaurants, hotels and aggregators such as Swiggy, Zomato etc. are allowed.
- iii. No restrictions shall apply to COVID testing and vaccination centres and movement of persons/ vehicles for COVID testing and vaccination shall be allowed.
- iv. All Government & Private offices/ establishments dealing with essential services/ utility providers like power, telecommunication, water supply, Police, Municipal Services, Railways/ Airport/ Port services and Security etc. shall remain functional.
- v. Movement of private four and two wheeler, auto rickshaws, cab aggregators such as Ola, Uber etc. are allowed for dropping and picking up passengers to and from airports, railway stations and bus stands.

***However, during the night curfew, the District Magistrates/ Municipal Commissioners/ Police Commissioner, Bhubaneswar-Cuttack, shall allow/ restrict any such activities as would be necessary in the interest of general health of the public and for prevention of spread of Covid-19 .***

**General Directives for COVID-19 Management**

The following General Directives for COVID-19 Management shall be strictly followed throughout the State:

- a. Face coverings/ Masks: Wearing of face cover/ mask properly is compulsory in public places; in workplaces; and in public transport.
- b. Physical distancing: Individuals must maintain a minimum distance of 6 feet in public places.
- c. Spitting in public place will be punishable with fine, as prescribed in accordance with laws, rules or regulations.
- d. Same as permitted by the Excise Department, consumption of liquor in public place is prohibited.
- e. Consumption of paan, gutka, tobacco, and similar products in public place is prohibited.
- f. The National Directives for COVID 19 Management is placed at

**Annexure-II.**



## **Safety and Protection of vulnerable persons**

The following categories of people are advised against outdoor movement, except for essential and health purposes.

- a. persons above 65 years of age
- b. persons with co-morbidities
- c. pregnant women
- d. children below the age of 10 years

## **Instructions for enforcement of above stipulations:**

- i. All the district magistrates shall strictly enforce the National COVID 19 directives as specified in *Annexure II*. Penalties prescribed shall be levied and collected from all persons and entities violating these directives.
- ii. All industrial and commercial establishments, workplaces, offices etc. shall put in place arrangements for implementation of SOP before starting their functioning.
- iii. Police Commissioner, Collector, ADM, CDM & PHO, DCP, Sub-Collector, Tahasildar, B.D.O, Municipal Commissioner and Executive Officer of Urban Local Bodies are hereby authorized to take all necessary actions for enforcement and implementation of the aforesaid measures. Local police shall render necessary assistance as and when requisitioned by the aforementioned officers.
- iv. Excise enforcement activities shall be permitted.

**Special Powers:** District Magistrates & Collectors/ Police Commissioner of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar Police Commissionerate/ Municipal Commissioners shall scrupulously implement these guidelines and shall take all possible measures to enforce the guidelines. They may impose any additional restrictions as may be felt necessary in the interest of containment of the spread of COVID-19 and to ensure COVID appropriate behaviour are followed by all concerned.

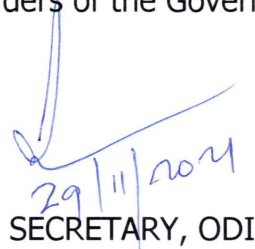
### **Penal provisions:**

Any person violating these lockdown measures will be liable to be proceeded against as per the provisions of Section 51 to 60 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, and COVID-19 Regulations 2020, besides legal action under Sec. 188 of the IPC, and other legal provisions as applicable.

In case of any other doubt, the State Government in Revenue & Disaster Management (Disaster Management) Department will issue necessary directions or clarifications.

This order shall come into effect from **5.00 AM of 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2021**.

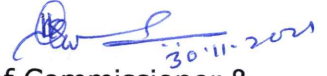
By orders of the Governor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, followed by the date '29/11/2021' written in blue ink.

CHIEF SECRETARY, ODISHA

**Memo No. 6774/ R&DM(DM) Date: 30/11/2021**


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. 6775 /R&DM(DM) Date: 30/11/2021**

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



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

**Memo No. 6776/ R&DM(DM) Date: 30/11/2021**

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)





राजेश भूषण, आईएएस  
सचिव

RAJESH BHUSHAN, IAS  
SECRETARY



भारत सरकार  
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग  
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय

Government of India  
Department of Health and Family Welfare  
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

D.O. No. Z-28015/85/2021-DM Cell  
21<sup>st</sup> September 2021

As you are aware, the Govt. of India has been issuing Guidelines and Advisories from time to time to the States/UTs to assist their efforts in containing the on-going Covid pandemic. Attention is specifically drawn to the letter issued on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 wherein Union Health Ministry had advised States to keep a "strict vigil" and take steps so as to curb spike in Covid cases. On 21<sup>st</sup> February 2021, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021, all States were advised not to lower their guard, enforce Covid Appropriate Behaviour (CAB) and to follow effective surveillance strategies in respect of potential super-spreader events. Vide D.O. No. Z-28015/85/2021-DM Cell dated 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021, a framework based on district-wise positivity rate and bed occupancy rate was provided to the States wherein the States could initiate local containment measures primarily focused on restricting inter-mingling of people on the basis of this framework. This framework was reiterated by Ministry of Home Affairs vide their Order No.40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dated 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021. Further, vide D.O no. Z-28015/01/ASH/2021-EMR dated 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021, States were advised to ensure prompt action on the framework referred to in earlier letters and to ensure surge surveillance for Variant of Interest (VOI) and Variant of Concern (VOC). Important action points for regular follow up at State/UT level has also been reiterated by Cabinet Secretary's D.O letter No. 272/2/1/2021-CAB.III dated 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021 addressed to all Chief Secretaries.

2. Covid-19 still remains a grave and continuing public health challenge in our country. While the country is witnessing a sustained decline in the number of daily cases as well as daily deaths but the 2<sup>nd</sup> surge of Covid-19 is still not over. Globally also, the surge in cases is being reported across multiple countries. This surge in cases has reinforced the importance of implementation of Covid Appropriate Behaviour (CAB) in addition to vaccination efforts.

3. Amidst the rise in new cases of Covid-19 across the globe and even with the consistent decline in India's 2<sup>nd</sup> surge, India has 3.09 lakh active cases and is still reporting daily cases as high as 30,000. Hence, there is a need for a continued focus on **Prompt & Effective Containment Measures** as well as **Acceleration in the Pace and Coverage of Covid Vaccination** to prevent any potential rise in number of cases.

contd..2/-



4. In the coming months, various festivities will follow one after the other till 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021.

Date	Festival
7 <sup>th</sup> October – 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Navratri
15 <sup>th</sup> October	Dussehra
19 <sup>th</sup> October	Milad Un-Nabi/Eid-e-Milad
24 <sup>th</sup> October	Karwa Chauth
4 <sup>th</sup> November	Diwali
5 <sup>th</sup> November	Govardhan Puja
6 <sup>th</sup> November	Bhaiya Dooj
10 <sup>th</sup> November	Chhath Puja
19 <sup>th</sup> November	Guru Nanak Jayanti
25 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas
31 <sup>st</sup> December	New Year's Eve

5. This is a critical period as 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 Behavior could lead to serious consequences and can result in a surge in cases.

6. MoHFW vide its letter dated 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and subsequent advisory issued by MHA on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021 had already issued detailed instructions on **Containment Framework** and for putting restrictions to manage the spread of COVID-19 infection. **Districts were directed to undertake stringent containment measures in identified areas** based on test positivity and strain on healthcare system.

Criteria	Threshold
<b>Test positivity</b>	Test positivity of 10% or more in the last one week
<b>OR</b>	
<b>Bed occupancy</b>	Bed occupancy of more than 60% on either oxygen supported or ICU beds

7. However, 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 (as per local context) may be allowed only in districts reporting a positivity rate of 5% or below. These gatherings shall also be monitored and in case of violations of physical distancing and mask usage norms, necessary enforcement and penal actions should be taken.



8. Restrictions and relaxations shall be imposed and monitored based on weekly case positivity or a high bed occupancy (Oxygen and ICU beds) and restrictions if any shall be imposed without any delay and for a **minimum period of 14 days** besides continued focus on the **five-fold strategy** of Test-Track-Treat-Vaccinate and adherence to COVID Appropriate Behaviour.

9. To safely navigate through the festive season without any adverse consequences in the form of infection outbreak, it is important that States **continue to diligently follow the five pillars of COVID-19 Management** i.e. "Test-Track-Treat-Vaccinate and adherence to COVID Appropriate Behavior".

**1. Testing:**

- To ensure availability of sufficient testing facilities across the states with particular focus on semi-urban and rural areas. For timely detection, Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) shall be made available in rural and remote areas of the State. Testing should be ramped up in areas reporting high number of cases, and/or increasing trend/ high positivity to aid early identification.
- To ensure sufficient RT-PCR machines and RAT kits to enable required level of testing across all districts particularly during the whole festival season and adequate logistics planning accordingly.
- Undertake testing in areas with specific and vulnerable population to aid early detection.

**2. Track:**

- Containment zones shall be clearly delineated as per the guidelines issued by MoHFW based on cluster of cases to contain spread of infection.
- Active case search through formation of special teams in containment zones.
- Effective contact tracing, their testing and monitoring of high risk contacts.

**3. Treat:**

- Upgradation of health infrastructure based on case trajectory in the district is crucial to avoid case fatality.
- Completion of PSA Plants in hospitals both Government and private on a mission mode including availability of medical gas pipeline (MGPS), and trained manpower.
- Availability of oxygen through oxygen cylinders and concentrators particularly in rural areas.
- Adequate availability of drugs in all COVID dedicated facilities including maintaining buffer stock of drugs.



- Availability of required health infrastructure in rural areas as per the SOP on Covid-19 Containment & Management in Rural, Peri-Urban & Tribal Areas dated 18th June 2021.
- Similarly, upgrading health infrastructure to manage paediatric Covid-19 cases vide Guidelines for Management of Covid-19 in Children.
- Undertaking upskilling/reskilling of medical staff and fields functionaries on latest Clinical Management Protocol and availability of sufficient trained manpower in all COVID dedicated facilities.
- The available funds under Emergency COVID Response Package II shall be promptly leveraged for upgrading the health infrastructure.
- To monitor mutations, if any, States shall send required number of samples as per the SOPs already issued for Whole Genome Sequencing to INSACoG Labs.

#### **4. Vaccination:**

- State-wide vaccination of eligible age groups may be accelerated.
- Coverage of eligible second dose beneficiaries shall be prioritized.
- Optimal usage of allocated doses through minimal wastage.

#### **5. Covid Appropriate Behaviour:**

- Community engagement is a critical element of sustained COVID-19 management.
- Effective IEC in local language duly utilizing medical professionals and local influencers to promote Covid-safe festivities.
- Need to undertake effective communication with community on elements of COVID-appropriate behavior which includes use of masks/face covers, following physical distancing (2 gaj ki doori) and practicing respiratory & hand hygiene.
- Need for monitoring the adherence to Covid Appropriate Behaviour and guidelines.

10. Necessary directions need to be issued adequately in advance by the State governments for practicing caution during the upcoming festival season.

contd..5/-



11. There should be strict **adherence to limits on gatherings linked with availability of space** to ensure effective physical distancing. Use of volunteers to aid thermal screenings and to enforce use of masks and physical distancing shall be considered. Closed circuit cameras may also be utilized to monitor compliance to physical distancing and use of mask.

12. Guidelines already issued with respect to malls, local markets, and places of worship, as available on MoHFW website dated 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020 shall be strictly followed at the district level. Any violations of the guidelines shall entail imposition of necessary restrictions to avoid a spread of infection.

13. As an abundant caution, States can continue with night curfews, weekend curfews and other restrictions to highlight that COVID is still not over and to influence adherence to COVID-appropriate behavior.

14. States shall closely **monitor the case trajectories across all districts on a daily basis** to identify any early warning signals and shall ensure imposition of restrictions and adherence to COVID Appropriate Behaviour as a non-pharmaceutical intervention to control the spread of infection. It is important that these guidelines are reiterated and ensured by the State Governments amongst all concerned for effective follow up in a mission mode approach to maintain the gains made so far in COVID-19 management and avoid any resurgence of cases.

Yours sincerely,


Sd/-  
(Rajesh Bhushan)

**To : Chief Secretaries/Administrators of all States/UTs**

Copy to : Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Secretary, Health - All States/UTs

Copy for information to:-

1. Cabinet Secretary, Cabinet Sectt., Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi.
2. Home Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, North Block, New Delhi

  
(Rajesh Bhushan)

**NATIONAL DIRECTIVES FOR COVID-19 MANAGEMENT**

1. **Face coverings:** Wearing of face cover is compulsory in public places; in workplaces; and during transport.
2. **Social distancing:** Individuals must maintain a minimum distance of 6 feet (2 gaz ki doori) in public places.

Shops will ensure physical distancing among customers.

3. **Spitting in public places** will be punishable with fine, as may be prescribed by the State/ UT local authority in accordance with its laws, rules or regulations.

*Additional directives for Work Places*

4. **Work from home (WfH):** As far as possible the practice of WfH should be followed.
  5. **Staggering of work/ business hours** will be followed in offices, work places, shops, markets and industrial & commercial establishments.
  6. **Screening & hygiene:** Provision for thermal scanning, hand wash or sanitizer will be made at all entry points and of hand wash or sanitizer at exit points and common areas.
  7. **Frequent sanitization** of entire workplace, common facilities and all points which come into human contact e.g. door handles etc., will be ensured, including between shifts.
  8. **Social distancing:** All persons in charge of work places will ensure adequate distance between workers and other staff.
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स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय  
Government of India

Department of Health and Family Welfare  
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

DO No. Z.26015/30/2021-DMCell  
23<sup>rd</sup> October 2021

राजेश भूषण, आईएएस  
सचिव  
RAJESH BHUSHAN, IAS  
SECRETARY



With continued and collaborative efforts of the Central and State Governments, India has achieved the landmark of administering over 100 crore COVID-19 vaccine doses. While vaccination is one of the prime interventions against COVID-19, the Hon'ble Prime Minister has emphasized that we must continue to exercise precaution by following COVID appropriate behavior to prevent risk of future resurgence of COVID-19.

2. It needs to be remembered that as has been observed globally as well as in many States/UTs in our country, unregulated public movement/gatherings without duly following COVID appropriate behavior, especially in context of festivities have often led to upsurge in COVID-19 cases. This is why it remains crucial for all of us not to let our guards down against COVID-19 in view of upcoming festive season. As has been rightly pointed out by Hon'ble PM, we must continue to remain vigilant and celebrate our festivals with utmost precautions.

3. You may be aware that, taking cognizance of need to celebrate festivities in a safe and cautious manner, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in October 2020 had issued a 'Standard Operating Procedures on preventive measures to contain spread of COVID-19 during festivities' available at:

<https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/StandardOperatingProceduresonpreventivemeasurestocontainspreadofCOVID19duringfestivities.pdf> which still remains valid.

4. Vide my earlier DO No. Z-28015/85/2021- DM Cell, dated 21st September 2021, all States/UTs have been advised to take following precautions in view of upcoming festivities:

- Strict enforcement of laid down guidelines for allowing festivities in a cautious, safe and COVID appropriate manner.
- No mass gathering should be allowed in areas identified as containment zones and in districts reporting more than 5% COVID-19 test confirmation rates.
- Necessary directions should be issued adequately in advance by the concerned State Governments for practicing cautions during the festivities.
- Gatherings that are allowed with advance permission and limited number of people (as per local context) should be closely monitored and in case of violations of COVID appropriate behavior, necessary enforcement and penal actions should be taken. There should be strict adherence to limits on public gatherings taking into account availability of space to ensure effective physical distancing.
- Guidelines already issued with respect to malls, local markets and places of worship, as made available on MoHFW website dated 30th November 2020 and 1st March 2021 should be strictly followed.
- States/UTs need to continue diligent focus on five pillars of COVID-19 management i.e. Test-Track-Treat-Vaccinate and COVID appropriate behavior.

5. States/UTs may explore and promote various modalities for online modes of celebrations, online shopping and discourage unnecessary travel through rigorous IEC.


.....contd/-

6. It is crucial that District Health Authorities keep a strict watch over local trajectory of cases and institute timely and rigorous public health interventions based on the advisories issued by Union Ministry of Health & FW and MHA from time to time.

7. States/UTs are further requested to ensure that non-adherence to COVID Appropriate behavior in public places is dealt with strongly. Inter-sectoral collaboration between health departments, law enforcement agencies, market and trade associations, civil society organizations, and community will be essential to curb any risk of spike in COVID-19 trajectory.


8. I am sure under your able leadership, we shall be able continue with the momentum of managing COVID-19 so far

Yours sincerely

  
(Rajesh Bhushan)

**Additional Chief Secretary / Principal Secretary / Secretary (Health) of all States/UTs**

✓ Copy to: 1) Cabinet Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat, New Delhi  
2) Home Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi

  
(Rajesh Bhushan)





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

No. 6540 /R&DM(DM)

Date: 18.11.2021

**ORDER**

Whereas, SARS CoV-2 infection continues to be active in different areas in the State and in some parts of the Country;

And whereas, the Government of Odisha vide Revenue & Disaster Management (Disaster Management) Department order No. 4921/R&DM(DM) dated 31st August, 2021 and Order No.6077/R&DM(DM) dated 31<sup>st</sup> October,2021 had imposed stipulations/ instructions for graded unlocking until 5:00 AM of 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2021 (Monday) and 5:00 AM of 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2021 (Wednesday) respectively for effective control of COVID-19;

Now, therefore, with a view to protecting the health of the public and preventing spread of Covid-19 along with normalising the economic activities, stipulations/ instructions for graded unlocking, **following activities are allowed with effect from 20th November, 2021 :**

- Cultural gatherings/ programmes including melodies, orchestra/ jatra/ opera, dances-classical, folk and other permitted dance forms, cultural competitions, open air theatres/ drama/ nukkad natak/ street plays/ other such performances etc shall be allowed to open with due compliance to covid protocols.
- Auditoriums/ assembly halls/ similar facilities shall be allowed to open with due compliance to covid protocols.

Following COVID-19 safety protocols shall be adhered to:

- (i) Open Air Theatres/ Jatras /Operas shall be permitted by the local authorities (District Magistrate/SP/ Municipal Commissioner or any other officer authorized) subject to compliance of COVID-19 safety protocols such as mandatory wearing of face masks, physical distancing, provision of thermal scanning, etc. Keeping the size of the ground/ space in view, appropriate number of persons (**subject to a ceiling of 2000 persons**) will be allowed ensuring maintenance of prescribed physical distancing norm i.e., maintaining a distance of 6 feet from each other and the seating arrangement shall be made accordingly. As far as possible, facility



for online booking of tickets may be arranged by the organizers and sufficient number of counters shall be opened to prevent crowding during physical booking of tickets. Facility of advance booking online as well as through counters may also be organized. The organizers shall be responsible for due compliance of these norms/ conditions.

- (ii) For indoor halls the numbers of viewers/ spectators shall not exceed 50% of the seating capacity of the hall.
- (iii) Cinema halls, theatres shall be allowed to open with up to 50% of capacity and operate with due compliance to covid protocols.
- (iv) In closed places, the number of persons including the invitees shall not exceed 50% of the hall capacity.
- (v) The person having double dose/final vaccination certificate and Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) (-ve)/ RT PCR (-ve) Report obtained within 72 hours prior to the function will be allowed to attend the function.
- (vi) The organiser of the function will ensure adherence of COVID-19 safety protocols such as wearing of masks, maintaining social distancing of at least six(6) feet between participants and provision of thermal scanning & use of hand wash or sanitizer will be mandatory.
- (vii) Persons with symptoms of Influenza Like Infection (ILI) and Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) shall not be allowed to the function.
- (viii) Vulnerable groups of people, such as, persons above 65 years of age, persons with co-morbidities and pregnant women are advised not to attend the function.
- (ix) Chewing of gutka and paan and spitting in the function is strictly prohibited.
- (x) Cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched surfaces(door knobs/handles, hand rails, slides, chairs, tabletops, benches, washroom fixtures, floors/ walls shall be ensured
- (xi) Deep cleaning of all drinking/ hand washing points/ wash rooms, lavatories shall be ensured.
- (xii) The organiser of the function will ensure elaborate arrangement for hand washing with soap and water and also ensure availability of hand sanitizers.

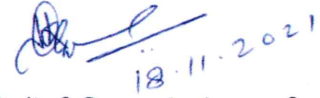
*However, permission for such activities shall be accorded by the respective District Magistrates/ SPs/ Municipal Commissioners/ Police Commissioner, Bhubaneswar-Cuttack or other officers authorised by them. Provided that the respective District Collector/SP/ Municipal Commissioner/ Police Commissioner, Bhubaneswar-Cuttack may further restrict the number of persons to be allowed in such functions/ gatherings keeping the local situation in mind in the interest of the health of the people and issue specific order in that regard.*

Any person violating the measures notified in the above order will be liable to be proceeded against as per the provisions of Section 51 to 60 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, and COVID-19 Regulations 2020, besides legal action under Sec. 188 of the IPC, and other legal provisions as applicable.



In case of any other doubt, the State Government in Revenue & Disaster Management (Disaster Management) Department will issue necessary directions or clarifications.

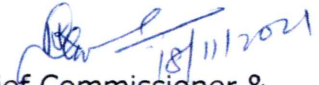
By orders of the Governor



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

**Memo No. 6541 / R&DM(DM) Date: 18.11.2021**

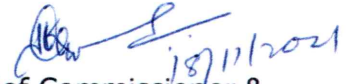
Copy forwarded to the Private Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister/ Private Secretary to all Ministers/ Chief Secretary/ Development Commissioner/ Agriculture Production Commissioner for kind information.



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

**Memo No. 6542 / R&DM(DM) Date: 18.11.2021**

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



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

**Memo No. 6543 / R&DM(DM) Date: 18.11.2021**

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)



ANNEXURE-V

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

No. 4534 /R&DM(DM), Dt. 09.08.2021

**ORDER**

Whereas, the country continues to pass through COVID-19 and resurgence of infection is observed in some States as well as in many neighbouring countries in Asia and elsewhere in the world;

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 whereas, the State Government vide Order No.4290 /R&DM(DM) dated 31.07.2021 have issued COVID-19 Guidelines prohibiting all social/ cultural/ religious gatherings.

And whereas, the festivals/ Pujas of **Ganesh Puja, Durga Puja, Laxmi Puja, Kali Puja and other similar Puja/ festivals of other religious communities are falling in August, September, October and November of 2021** and people usually congregate & get in touch with each other to celebrate the Festivals/ Pujas during which it is not possible to adhere to COVID appropriate behaviour and such congregations have a potential to cause spread of the virus;

And whereas, it is felt necessary to issue guidelines/ instructions for observance of Puja/ celebration of festivals well in advance so that the general public as well as the Organisers of such Pujas/ Festivals will be suitably prepared;

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 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/puja and associated religious and cultural congregations shall not be allowed in public throughout the State.

However, religious rituals in churches/ temples/mosques/places of worship will continue as usual with limited number of persons with strict adherence to Covid protocols.

The citizens are allowed to observe the said Pujas/ festivals in their premises without causing any congregation at any place and maintaining all safety protocols, such as social distancing, wearing masks, proper sanitisation, etc.

**The Puja Committees/ organisers/ in rural and urban areas are allowed to conduct puja in mandaps/ pandals as per the following instructions:**

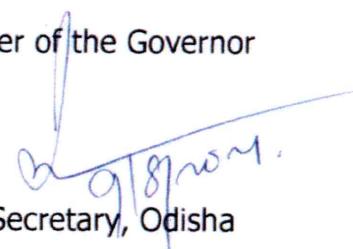
1. For conducting Puja in Puja Pandals/ Mandaps, the organizers shall apply to and obtain necessary permission from the District Magistrate or any other officer authorised by him/ her. For the area under Commissionerate of Police of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar, such permission shall be given by the Commissioner 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 religious procession of any kind of any religious community
11. There shall be no musical or any other entertainment programme.
12. **Ganesh puja in educational institutions** is allowed with participation of limited number of students observing COVID appropriate behavior.
13. No community feast associated with any puja/ festival during the period shall be allowed.
14. All the District Magistrates/ Municipal Commissioners/ Commissioner of Police, Bhubaneswar-Cuttack shall strictly enforce the above guidelines.
15. **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 there under besides legal action under Section 188 of the IPC and other legal provisions as applicable.

Considering local conditions, Collectors and Municipal Commissioners may impose appropriate restrictions on entry of devotees into churches /temples /mosques/ religious places/ places of worship and in the celebrations in churches/ temples/mosques/ religious places/places of worship. Collectors/ Municipal Commissioners may decide the number of persons to attend any such religious ritual/ festival/Puja 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.


By order of the Governor

  
Chief Secretary, Odisha



**Memo No. 4535/R&DM(DM)      Date: 09.08.2021**


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.

  
9/8/2021

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

**Memo No. 4536/R&DM(DM)      Date: 09.08.2021**

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

  
9/8/2021

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

**Memo No. 4537/R&DM(DM)      Date: 09.08.2021**

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

  
9/8/2021

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



ANNEXURE-VI

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

No. 6130 /R&DM(DM) Date: 01/11/2021

**ORDER**

Whereas, SARS CoV-2 infection continues to be active in different areas in the State;

And whereas, the winter season is approaching during which the elderly, children, persons with co-morbidities and others develop respiratory problems;

And whereas, people usually burn fire crackers in the festival Diwali, Chhat Puja & Kartik Purnima ;

And whereas, it is a well-known fact that burning of the fire crackers releases copious amounts of harmful chemicals, which have severe impact on the respiratory health of vulnerable groups and such pollutants can further aggravate health conditions of COVID-19 positive persons besides persons staying in home isolation;

And whereas, burning of crackers amidst COVID-19 pandemic situation will result adverse effect on the health of the public and the vulnerable groups like elderly, children, persons with co-morbidities and others;

And whereas, in light of the order dated 29.10.2021 passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court and as per direction of Hon'ble High Court of Odisha in WP(C) No.33208 of 2021 & 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, **following directions are passed in respect of sale and use of fire crackers during the festival of Diwali, Chhat Puja & Kartik Purnima:**

- (a) Sale and use of fireworks shall be limited to only "green fireworks" that conform to the definition and formulation as proposed by CSIR-NEERI.(Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – National Environmental Engineering Research Institute)
- (b) Sale and use of other fireworks shall be completely banned. Sale and use of joined firecrackers (series crackers or *laris*) shall also remain banned.
- (c) Only those traders/ dealers who obtain and produce a certificate from the PESO (Petroleum & Explosive Safety Organisation), after due inspection of their existing stock, certifying that the green fireworks stocks in their possession conform to the definition and formulation proposed by CSIR-NEERI and are genuine shall be allowed to sell their products.
- (d) Authenticated copy of the PESO certificate granted after due inspection of existing stocks lying in possession of the traders/ dealers shall be deposited with the District Administration/ Police Commissioner for getting permission to sell the green fireworks.



- (e) Traders/ dealers who fail to obtain and produce the certificate from PESO shall not be allowed to sell their products, keeping the "precautionary principle" in mind. Mere labelling of fireworks boxes as "green fireworks" and providing QR codes shall not entitle any trader/ dealer to sell the same.
- (f) Only those retailers who obtain a license from the concerned authorities under the provisions of the Indian Explosives Act, 1884 shall be allowed to sell green fireworks.
- (g) Retailers shall be allowed to set up shops and sell green fireworks only in special zones designated by the respective District Administrations/ Police Commissionerate.
- (h) Green Fireworks shall only be sold at designated sites as permitted by appropriate authority and all COVID-19 protocols shall be strictly followed. Sale of Fireworks on the internet shall be strictly banned.
- (i) Wholesale Traders and Retailers shall have to produce original invoices on demand by the District Administration/ Police Commissionerate.
- (j) The use of fireworks shall be limited to 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm on Diwali day, i.e., 04.11.2021 only. Use of fireworks beyond the said time frame shall be visited with strict penal action.
- (k) Violation of any of the aforesaid conditions shall be dealt with strictly and penal action shall be taken in accordance with law.
- (l) The District Administration/ Police Commissionerate is directed to ensure strict compliance with the above conditions.
- (m) The District Administration/ Police Commissionerate shall ensure full & complete compliance of the orders above through proper verification of the documents as mentioned supra and proper enforcement so as to ensure no spurious/ unauthorised/ banned fire crackers are sold anywhere within their jurisdiction. Further, the local officers shall be personally liable for violations of the orders of Hon'ble Apex Court, Hon'ble National Green Tribunal and Hon'ble High Court of Odisha.

The people are advised to perform 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. Also people are advised to use permitted green crackers with utmost safety/ caution and not to use in public places.

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

**Memo No.** 6131 /R&DM(DM)

**Date:** 01/11/2021

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.** 6132 /R&DM(DM)

**Date:** 01/11/2021

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/ 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.** 6133 /R&DM(DM)

**Date:** 01/11/2021

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)