

**GOVERNMENT OF NAGALAND
HOME DEPARTMENT
NAGALAND STATE DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NAGALAND:: KOHIMA**

NO.NSDMA-ER-COVID-19/301/2020/2857 Dated Kohima, the 6th Oct' 2020

Sub: Guidelines for celebration of the forthcoming Durga Puja festival in Nagaland.

(1) As a part of the celebration of the Durga Puja festival, pandals with idols of Durga and other deities placed in it are erected every year at temples(mandirs) and public places at many locations in the State, particularly in Dimapur. At several places, around the pandals, fairs are also organized and stalls selling various items are put up. As the pandals and all such locations usually see congregation of a large number of people, it is imperative in view of the existing COVID-19 pandemic that suitable regulations are put in place and appropriate measures are taken during the celebration of the forthcoming Durga Puja Festival so that the spread of COVID-19 is prevented; and to this end, the following **guidelines** are hereby issued applicable to the entire State of Nagaland:

- a) The puja pandals will be allowed to be **set up only in temples (mandirs)** and no temporary pandals shall be allowed to be erected on and by the side of any street.
- b) The timing for the visit of the devotees to the pandals shall strictly be from **5AM in the morning till 10 PM** in the evening.
- c) There shall be no Mela/Food Stall/Stalls selling any items etc. in and around puja pandals.
- d) A maximum of **30 persons** including organizers and priests shall be allowed to gather at any time in the puja pandals
- e) The puja organizers should not allow any person to enter the puja premises without face cover/mask and washing/sanitizing of hands. It shall be the responsibility of puja organizers to arrange for facilities for hand washing/sanitization at entrance of puja premises.
- f) Distribution of wet prasad to devotees shall not be done.
- g) The organizers should ensure **sanitizing the premises** before opening and after closing and every 6 hours during the day.
- h) **No permission for any immersion** procession shall be given under any circumstances. Maximum of 10(ten) persons shall be allowed to complete the ritual of immersion.
- i) All visitors to puja location shall be subject to thermal scanning by puja organisers and no person with any symptom related to COVID-19 shall be allowed to enter the puja pandals



- j) In case any Person/ visitor to puja pandal is suspected to be symptomatic with COVID-19, it shall be the responsibility of the puja organizers to inform the nearest Government medical facility and arrange for shifting of such person to the nearest COVID-19 treatment centre.
- k) Person above 65 years of age, children below 10 years of age, person with co-morbidities and pregnant woman may be advised to avoid visiting the puja pandals.

(2). In addition to the usual authorities in the Districts giving the necessary permissions to the puja committtes/organizers for putting up pandals, the authority for giving the final clearance this year will be the respective District Task Force headed by the Deputy Commissioner. The DTF shall also make necessary arrangements with the concerned puja committees/organizers to ensure that immersion of the idols is suitably staggered so as to avoid congestion and large gatherings at the immersion sites.

(3) Any violation of the above mentioned guidelines will attract action as per legal provisions against the puja committee/organizer or the individual /devotee as the case may be.



(R. RAMAKRISHNAN) IAS
Principal Secretary, Home:

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Copy to:

1. The Commissioner & Secretary to Governor, Nagaland for kind information.
2. The Additional Chief Secretary to Chief Minister, Nagaland for kind information.
3. The Sr. PS to Deputy Chief Minister, Nagaland for kind information.
4. The Director General of Police for kind information.
5. The Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department for kind information.
6. The Principal Director , Health and Family Welfare Department for information
7. All DCs & Chairman District Task Force for information and for wide dissemination of the guidelines and for ensuring compliance.
8. The CP Dimapur and all SPs for information and necessary action.
9. Office copy.



(R. RAMAKRISHNAN) IAS
Principal Secretary, Home.