



**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE & COLLECTOR, JHARSUGUDA (ODISHA)**

**OFFICE ORDER**

No. 14765/Emg.

Dated : 15 .09.2020

**Whereas**, the guidelines issued by Govt. of Odisha Vide Oder No. 5039/R&DM(DM) dated 31.08.2020, of all religious places /provide that places of worship will remain closed for public till 30th September 2020 throughout the state and social, political, sports, entertainment, academic , cultural, religious functions and other large congregation are not allowed until 30.09.2020.

**And Whereas**, the Govt in Revenue & Disaster Management Department (DM) vide their Order No. 5315/R&DM(DM) dated 10.09.2020 communicated orders for observance of Durga Puja, kali Puja, Laxmi Puja and similar Puja during September, October & November 2020 following the directives of Hon'ble High Court in WP(C) PIL No. 21016/2020.

**Now, therefore**, in exercise of the powers conferred under Order No. 5315/R&DM(DM) dt. 10.09.2020 of R &DM(DM), I Saroj Kumar Samal, OAS, Collector & DM, Jharsuguda do hereby pass the following orders for smooth and regulated observance of Durga Puja, Kali Puja and Laxmi Puja and similar Puja in Jharsuguda District.

The Sub-Collector, Jharsuguda is hereby authorised to issue permission for Puja in Puja Mandaps/ Pandals in Jharsuguda Municipality Area. Similarly , all Tahasildars-cum-Incident Commanders of the district are also hereby authorised to issue permission for performing Puja and observing rituals in Puja Mandaps /Pandals in their respective Tahasil Jurisdiction including Municipality after observing following guidelines in Letter & Spirit.

**Guidelines for conducting Puja in Puja Pandals.**

1. Puja(s) shall be conducted in Indoor-like condition only for observance of rituals without public participation, pomp and grandeur.
2. Puja Pandals / Mandaps shall be covered on three sides. The 4th side shall also be covered in a way not to allow any public view of the Idols and there shall be no darshan by public / devotees.
3. The size of the idols shall be of less than 4 feet.
4. At any given point of time, there shall not be more than 7 persons including organisers (Kartas), Priest and support staff in the Puja Pandal /Mandap.
5. The public address system shall not be used.
6. The persons present at Puja Pandal / Mandap should follow the COVID protocols of social distancing, use of face masks, personal hygiene and sanitation.
7. Musical or any other entertainment programme shall not be allowed at the premises of Puja Mandaps.
8. There shall be no immersion procession.

9. In the context of any eventual emergent situation the District Disaster Management Authority u/s 34 (m) reserves the authority to annul such permission or revise it with more stringent regulations in view of public interest, subject to conformity to directives of Hon'ble High Court. Such steps will further be taken in the instance of glaring or repeated violation in respect of particular mandaps.

Further persons violating the guidelines will be liable to be proceeded against in accordance with the provision of Section 51 to 60 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, the Epidemic Act, 1897 and Regulations issued there under besides facing legal action under Section 188 of the IPC and other legal provisions as applicable.

  
DISTRICT MAGISTRATE &  
COLLECTOR, JHARSUGUDA

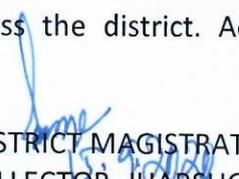
Memo.No. 14766 /Emg. Dated : 15.09.2020

Copy submitted to the R.D.C.(ND), Sambalpur for kind information.

  
DISTRICT MAGISTRATE &  
COLLECTOR, JHARSUGUDA

Memo.No. 14767 /Emg. Dated : 15.09.2020

Copy forwarded to the Superintendent of Police, Jharsuguda for information and necessary action. He is requested to please ensure its implementation across the district. Accordingly instruction may be given down to the bottom.

  
DISTRICT MAGISTRATE &  
COLLECTOR, JHARSUGUDA

Memo.No. 14767 /Emg. Dated : 15.09.2020

Copy to the PD, DRDA, Jharsuguda / Sub-Collector -cum- SDM, Jharsuguda / All Tahasildar / All B.D.Os / All Executive Officers of Municipalities/District Culture Officer, Jharsuguda for information and necessary action.

Copy to the DI&PRO/ DIO, NIC, Jharsuguda for publicity.

  
DISTRICT MAGISTRATE &  
COLLECTOR, JHARSUGUDA