

अजय भल्ला, भा.प्र.से.  
AJAY BHALLA, IAS



गृह सचिव  
Home Secretary  
भारत सरकार  
Government of India  
नॉर्थ ब्लॉक/North Block  
नई दिल्ली/New Delhi  
26<sup>th</sup> March, 2021

No. 40-34/2020-DM-I(A)

Dear Chief Secretary,

Kindly refer to my D.O. letter of even number dated 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 and guidelines for effective control of COVID-19 issued by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on 23.03.2021.

2. As you are aware, the country is passing through a critical juncture, as number of COVID-19 cases and deaths have been on the rise in many States and UTs in the recent past. After assessing the situation, guidelines for effective control of COVID-19 have been issued by MHA on 23.03.2021 wherein it has been emphasized that States/UTs should strictly enforce test-track-treat protocol, COVID-19 appropriate behaviour and prescribed SOPs on various activities, such as opening of schools, higher education institutions, hotels and restaurants, shopping malls, multiplexes, entertainment parks, gymnasiums, exhibitions etc. Further, States and UTs, based on their assessment of the situation, may impose local restrictions at district/sub-district and cities/ward level.

3. In view of the upcoming festivals such as Holi, *Shab-e-Barat*, harvesting festivals, Easter, *Eid-ul-Fitr*, etc., State Governments/UT Administrations should take necessary measures to regulate crowds during these festivals by ensuring strict observance of COVID appropriate behaviour, such as wearing of mask and maintaining social distancing, as mandated in aforesaid guidelines and in the National Directives for COVID-19 Management. In this regard, a D.O. letter has also been issued by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) on 24.03.2021 (copy enclosed).

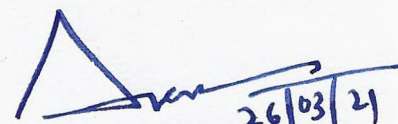
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4. I would urge you to issue necessary instructions to the district administrations and police authorities to scrupulously enforce COVID appropriate behaviour and SoPs in all public gatherings during the upcoming festivals. Further, IEC campaign should also be intensified for creating public awareness. As has been emphasized time and again by the health experts, strict adherence to COVID appropriate behaviour in public places and gatherings will help in breaking the chain of transmission and reduce the incidence of COVID cases in the country.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

Encl. as above

  
(Ajay Bhalla) 26/03/21

**To**

**Chief Secretaries of all States**

Copy to: DGPs of all States





भारत सरकार  
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय  
निर्माण भवन, नई दिल्ली-110011

Government of India  
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare  
Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi - 110011

आरती आहुजा भा.प्र.से.

अपर सचिव

**Arti Ahuja, IAS**

**Additional Secretary**

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Do. No. AS(H)/Misc./2021

Dated the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear *son/madam,*

The battle against CoVID-19 is at a critical juncture, with rising number of cases and deaths being reported in many States & UTs in the recent past. In this regard, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) Order dated 23.03.2021 for effective control of CoVID-19 may kindly be referred to.

2. In light of this Order, and in view of upcoming festivals such as Holi, *Shab-e-Barat*, *Bihu*, Easter and *Eid-ul-Fitr* etc, it is strongly advised that States may consider imposing local restrictions in public observation of these festivals and limit/do away with mass gatherings, in exercise of powers conferred under Section 22 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005.

3. I am attaching an order to this effect issued by Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) for reference.

4. Any laxity at this point in ensuring strict adherence to various SoPs issued by MoHFW to contain the spread of CoVID-19, may result in losing the impetus and benefits that our country has gained so far in managing the virus. Strict adherence to CoVID appropriate behaviour in public places and gatherings is the key to break the chain of transmission and reduce the incidence of cases in the country.

*With warm regards,*

Encl. As above.

Yours sincerely,

*(Arti Ahuja)*

Chief Secretaries/ Administrators of all States/UTs

Copy to: Secretary (HFW)