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## **FSAI and NSS Collaboration - Ganesh Mandal Audit Day 1,2 and 3**

**Date:** 17th to 19th September 2023

**Time:** 6:00 AM to 10:30 PM

**Place:**

Day 1: Andheri to Borivali

Day 2: Dadar to Mulund

Day 3: Dadar to CSMT

**Platform:** Offline

September 20th, 2023, Mumbai.

The National Service Scheme (NSS) Council of Fr. CRCE, in collaboration with the Fire and Security Association of India (FSAI), undertook a comprehensive audit mission to assess fire safety measures and identify potential hazards associated with Ganesh Mandals during the Ganesh Chaturthi festival. The audit covered stations from Andheri to Borivali on the first day, Dadar to Mulund on the second day, and Dadar to CSMT on the auspicious Ganesh Chaturthi day.

The initiative began with meetings and orientations where NSS volunteers, acting as FSAI representatives, were briefed on objectives, methodologies, and parameters. Volunteers were divided into teams, each assigned to a specific area for comprehensive coverage. A standardized survey APK ensured systematic data collection for consistency and accuracy.

During on-site inspections, volunteers conducted preliminary assessments of Ganesh Mandals, evaluating fire safety measures, security protocols, crowd management plans, and emergency preparedness. Valuable insights were gathered through discussions with Mandal representatives, and the information was diligently recorded on the APK.

On the second day, efforts were extended to assess Ganesh Mandals from Dadar to Mulund stations. New registrations were done on the standardized survey APK, and comprehensive documentation continued throughout the day. Despite the focus on safety, the festive spirit in the Dadar to Mulund area was evident, showcasing the harmonization of tradition with safety.

On the third day, the audit targeted major Ganesh Pandals across Mumbai, specifically within Dadar to CSMT station areas. Despite traffic challenges, volunteers managed to assess main Pandals such as Parelcha Raja and Lalbaugcha Raja. The systematic data collection using the APK revealed commendable efforts by Mandal representatives and volunteers in ensuring safety and the orderly movement of participants.

The audit findings indicated that approximately 70% of surveyed Ganesh Mandals had readily accessible fire extinguishers, while 30% lacked this crucial safety equipment. NSS volunteers not only assessed fire safety measures but also shared information about pre-and post-event fire security procedures and precautions to enhance safety awareness.

Throughout the audit, the importance of collaboration between local authorities, Ganesh Mandals, and the community was emphasized to address findings and prioritize fire safety. The partnership between FSAI and NSS underscored a commitment to promoting safety awareness and elevating festival security.

In conclusion, the joint mission by FSAI and NSS provided valuable insights into safety and security measures practised by Ganesh Mandals during the comprehensive audit conducted from the 17th to the 19th of September 2023. The reports highlighted commendable practices and areas requiring improvement, ultimately contributing to safer and more secure Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations in the future. The enduring partnership between FSAI and NSS stands as a testament to their unwavering dedication to promoting safety awareness and festival security.

A Report by Ronak Raut, Event Co-ordinator

## An Insight into the Program:





