

MOST IMMEDIATE

No. 2/5/2020-Public
Government of India/Bharat Sarkar
Ministry of Home Affairs/Grih Mantralaya

North Block, New Delhi
Dated, the 20th July, 2020

To

The Chief Secretaries of
All State Governments and Administrators of all Union Territory
Administrations

Sub: INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS ON 15th AUGUST, 2020

Sir/Madam,

Every year, the Independence Day is celebrated with grandeur, gaiety, fervour and enthusiasm. This year also, the Independence Day will be celebrated in a manner befitting the occasion. However, in view of spread of Covid-19 pandemic, while organizing various programmes or activities for the Independence Day celebrations, it is imperative to follow certain preventive measures such as maintaining social distancing, wearing of masks, proper sanitization, avoiding large congregations, protecting vulnerable persons, etc.; and follow all guidelines related to Covid-19 issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. Therefore, all programmes should be organized in a way that large congregation of people is avoided and technology is used in a best possible manner for celebration befitting the occasion. The events organized could be web-cast in order to reach out people at large, who are not able to participate.

2. Keeping the above limitations and precautionary steps in view, the Independence Day Celebrations in Delhi shall consist of the following:-

- (i) The Ceremony at Red Fort consisting of the presentation of a Guard of Honour by the Armed Forces and the Delhi Police to the Prime Minister (Pradhan Mantri), unfurling of the National Flag accompanied by playing of the National Anthem and firing of 21-gun salute, speech by the Prime Minister, singing of the National Anthem immediately after PM's speech, and release of tri-coloured balloons at the end.
- (ii) "At Home" reception at Rashtrapati Bhawan.

3. For celebrations of the Independence Day at different levels in the States/UTs, certain guidelines have been prescribed, as enumerated in the succeeding paragraphs:-

4. The functions in the State/Union Territories on this day may consist of the following:-

STATE LEVEL:

- (i) A ceremony in the morning (after 9.00 AM) in the State/Union Territory Capitals consisting of unfurling of the National Flag by the Chief Minister; playing of the National Anthem; presentation of Guard of Honour by the Police including Para-Military Forces, Home Guards, NCC, Scouts, etc; speech by the Chief Minister; and singing of the National Anthem.
- (ii) In view of Covid-19 pandemic, large congregation in the ceremony be avoided. It is imperative that social distancing norms, wearing masks, etc., are followed.
- (iii) It would also be appropriate that Covid-19 warriors like doctors, health workers, sanitation workers, etc., are invited in the ceremony as a recognition of their noble service in fight against Covid-19 Pandemic. Some persons cured from Covid-19 infection may also be invited.

DISTRICT LEVEL:

- (i) A similar ceremony as mentioned above in the morning (after 9.00 AM) at the District level which may, inter-alia, consist of unfurling of the National Flag by a Minister/Commissioner/District Magistrate; playing of the National Anthem; parade by State Police personnel, Home Guards/NCC, Scouts; speech by the Minister/ Commissioner/ District Magistrate explaining the significance of 15th August and exhorting the audience to work for the unity and integrity of the country; and singing of the National Anthem.
- (ii) In view of Covid-19 pandemic, large congregation in the ceremony be avoided. It is imperative that social distancing norms, wearing masks, etc., are followed.
- (iii) It would also be appropriate that Covid-19 warriors like doctors, health workers, sanitation workers, etc., are invited in the ceremony as a

recognition of their noble service in fight against Covid-19 Pandemic. Some persons cured from Covid-19 infection may also be invited.

SUB-DIVISIONAL LEVEL/BLOCK LEVEL:

- (i) Ceremonial hoisting of the National Flag by a Minister/Sub-Divisional Magistrate (after 9.00 AM), playing of the National Anthem; speech by the dignitary explaining the significance of 15th August and exhorting the audience to work for the unity and integrity of the country; unfurling of the National Flag; singing of the National Anthem, etc.
- (ii) In view of Covid-19 pandemic, large congregation in the ceremony be avoided. It is imperative that social distancing norms, wearing masks, etc., are followed.
- (iii) It would also be appropriate that Covid-19 warriors like doctors, health workers, sanitation workers, etc., are invited in the ceremony as a recognition of their noble service in fight against Covid-19 Pandemic. Some persons cured from Covid-19 infection may also be invited.

PANCHAYAT HEADQUARTERS/BIGGER VILLAGES:

- (i) Ceremonial hoisting of the National Flag by the Sarpanch/Village Head-man (after 9.00 AM), playing of the National Anthem; speech by the Sarpanch/ Village Head-man explaining the significance of 15th August and exhorting the audience to work for the unity and integrity of the country; singing of the National Anthem etc.
- (ii) In view of Covid-19 pandemic, large congregation in the ceremony be avoided. It is imperative that social distancing norms, wearing masks, etc., are followed.
- (iii) It would also be appropriate that Covid-19 warriors like doctors, health workers, sanitation workers, etc., are invited in the ceremony as a recognition of their noble service in fight against Covid-19 Pandemic. Some persons cured from Covid-19 infection may also be invited.

5. It may be ensured that National Flag is hoisted at all State Capitals/Districts/Block/Panchayat levels.

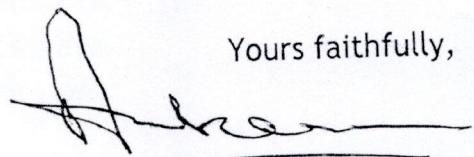
6. As regards holding of "At Home" reception at Raj Bhawan/Raj Niwas by the Governor/Lt. Governor on the Independence Day, the matter is left to the discretion of Governors/Lt. Governors. However, in view of Covid-19 pandemic, preventive measures such as maintaining social distancing, wearing of masks, proper

sanitization, avoiding large congregations, protecting vulnerable groups, etc., and other measures as prescribed and recommended by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, are followed. It would be appropriate that Covid-19 warriors like doctors, health workers, sanitation workers, etc., are invited in the ceremony as a recognition of their noble service in fight against Covid-19 Pandemic. Some persons cured from Covid-19 infection may also be invited.

7. Performance of Police/Military bands may be recorded at places of historic importance associated with Independence movement; and recorded versions thereof may be displayed through large screens/digital media, during public functions and on social media.

8. Other functions of the day may include activities like planting of trees; inter-school/inter-college debates on digital platforms; online quiz contests/patriotic essay writing and poetry competitions; launching of any important scheme, singing patriotic songs/delivering patriotic talks by selected boys/girls on the social media; illumination of Government Buildings/State Bhawans, etc; thematic webinars; online campaign by NSS and NYKS centred around patriotic themes; or any other activity deemed appropriate by the State Government/Union Territory Administration befitting the occasion. Other innovative ways of celebrating the Independence Day may be considered like propagating patriotic or national integration messages/songs through digital and social media platforms, sound shows/lighting of important public buildings, waving of National Flags by people at rooftops/balconies, etc.

9. It would be appropriate that the theme of "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" is suitably spread and publicised amongst the masses through various activities/messages in the functions and on social media during Independence Day celebrations.



Yours faithfully,

[ANUJ SHARMA]
Joint Secretary
Tel: 011-23092436

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2. All Ministries/ Departments of the Govt. of India
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4. Vice-President's Secretariat
5. Prime Minister's Office
6. Registrar, Supreme Court of India
7. Registrar, Delhi High Court
8. Cabinet Secretariat
9. Rajya Sabha Secretariat
10. Lok Sabha Secretariat
11. NITI Aayog, Sansad Marg, New Delhi.
12. Election Commission of India
13. Union Public Service Commission
14. Office of Comptroller & Auditor General of India
15. Central Vigilance Commission
16. University Grants Commission
17. National Commission for SCs
18. National Commission for STs
19. National Commission for Backward Classes
20. National Commission for Safai Karamcharis
21. National Commission for Minorities
22. National Commission for Women
23. National Human Rights Commission
24. Manager, State Bank of India, Parliament Street, New Delhi
25. Manager, Reserve Bank of India, New Delhi
26. All attached & subordinate offices of the Ministry of Home Affairs located at Delhi/New Delhi
27. Ad.III Section, MHA

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*Deepak Kumar
20/07/2020*
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