

AJAY BHALLA, IAS



गृह सचिव  
Home Secretary  
भारत सरकार  
Government of India  
North Block,  
New Delhi

D.O. No. 40-3/2020-DM-I (A)

19<sup>th</sup> April, 2020

Dear *Chief Secretary,*

Please refer to MHA Order No. 40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dated 15<sup>th</sup> April 2020, vide which consolidated revised guidelines on the measures to be taken by the Ministries/ Departments of the Government of India, State/UT Governments and State/UT Authorities for containment of COVID-19, has been circulated for the strict implementation in all parts of the Country.

2. I would like to draw your kind attention to clause 4 (i) and (ii) of these guidelines which, *inter alia*, mentions that (i) State/UT Governments shall not dilute these guidelines under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 in any manner and shall strictly enforce the same and (ii) State/ UT Governments, may, however, impose stricter measures than these guidelines as per requirement of the local areas.

3. Your attention is also drawn to the Order dated 31.03.2020 in the Writ Petition (Civil) No 468 of 2020, in which the Hon'ble Supreme Court is pleased to observe that (quote) "we trust and expect that all concerned viz. State Governments, Public Authorities and Citizens of this country will faithfully comply with the directives and orders issued by the Union of India in letter and spirit in the interest of public safety" (unquote). The observations, which must be treated as directions of the Apex Court, was conveyed in my DO letter of even no dated 1st April 2020 to all States/ UTs Governments.

4. It has come to notice that some of the States/ UTs are issuing orders allowing activities which have not been allowed as per guidelines issued by MHA under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.

5. I would again urge you to ensure compliance of the revised consolidated guidelines, and direct all concerned authorities for their strict implementation in letter and spirit without any dilution and to ensure strict compliance of lockdown measures.

*With regards,*

Yours sincerely,

*(Ajay Bhalla)*  
19/4/2020

**Chief Secretaries of All States**  
(As per Standard List attached)