

GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI
DELHI DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

F.No.1(579)/DDMA(HQ)/Meeting/COVID/2021-22 /482

Dated: 10/12/2021

MINUTES OF THE 26th MEETING OF DELHI DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (DDMA) HELD THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCING ON 27.10.2021 (Wednesday) AT 12:30 PM UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF HON'BLE LT. GOVERNOR, DELHI

1. The 26th meeting of Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic situation in NCT of Delhi was held on October 27, 2021 through Video Conferencing under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Delhi.
2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed all the participants and requested the Chief Secretary, Delhi to start the proceedings.
3. Thereafter, Secretary (H&FW), GNCTD made a presentation and apprised the participants about the current situation of COVID-19 pandemic in NCT of Delhi. The presentation outlined the statistical overview of COVID-19 pandemic in Delhi in respect of current situation & trend analysis of COVID cases, testing and containment measures, health system preparedness, enforcement of COVID appropriate behaviour, vaccination in GNCT and status of genome sequencing. A snap-shot of COVID-19 cases in Delhi vis-a-vis India was presented as under:-

Summary	India	Delhi
Total Cases	3,42,02,202	14,39,630
Total recovered/discharged/migrated	3,35,83,318	14,14,232
Total active Cases	1,63,816	307
Total number of deaths	4,55,068	25,091
Case Fatality Rate (in %)	1.33	1.74
Recovery Rate (in %)	98.19	98.24
Avg. Growth Rate	0.045%	0.0022%
Total Tests Done	60,19,01,543	2,90,79,334
Tests per million	4,45,193	15,30,491

4. It was stated that as far as testing in Delhi was concerned, it has been ahead of the National average. Daily cases have remained in the range of 30-40 cases and


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active cases have also fallen sharply. Positivity ratio has been in the range of 0.05% or so over the last 30 days which is lower than the positivity rate of adjoining districts of NCR. The daily tests have remained high with an average of 73.87% being RT-PCR in the month of October, 2021. Monthly occupancy of bed capacity has been around 2% only. Deaths have considerably reduced and total of 4 deaths have been reported in the month of October, 2021 and "Nil" deaths have been reported on most the days. Enforcement of Covid Appropriate Behaviour is continuing both by District Administration and the Police.

5. On Genome Sequencing, Secretary (H&FW) informed that 6235 samples have been sent to NCDC, 1027 samples to ILBS and 99 samples to LNH. In most of the samples Delta/B.1.617.2 variant has been reported.

6. Thereafter, an overview of the status of the dedicated hospital beds capacity was shared. It was informed that as against 17068 Covid beds and 3940 ICU beds on 21.11.2020 and 37,000 beds including 12,000 ICU beds are underway. Another 6,800 ICU beds will become available in semi permanent hospitals being constructed. For additional 30,000 beds, options have been worked out.

7. Secretary (H&FW), GNCTD also apprised about the stock position of important drugs. Presently there is no shortage of Covid drugs and sufficient stocks of all drugs are available in Delhi. Adequate buffer stock is also being created.

8. Secretary (H&FW), GNCTD gave an update on establishment of PSA plants in Delhi. It was informed that a total 83 PSA Plants (57 Donor + 26 PM CARES) with total capacity of 100.30 MT are either installed or commissioned. Total 63 PSA plants with capacity of 76.70 MT have already been commissioned. 5 PSA plants with capacity of 5.33 MT will be commissioned by 31st October, 2021. 8 PSA plants with capacity of 8.11 MT will be commissioned by 15th November, 2021. 7 PSA plants with capacity of 10.17 MT will be commissioned by 30th November, 2021. 8 LMO storage tanks with combined capacity of 421 MT have been installed and 5 hospitals have received PESO license and in respect of 3 tanks, received pre-approval for grant of PESO license. Further, 2 cryogenic bottling plants with capacity of 12.5 MT will be commissioned by 31st October, 2021.

9. Secretary (H&FW), GNCTD informed that vaccination of more than 201.28 lakh doses have been administered as on 25.10.2021. 1st dose has been administered to 1.29 crore beneficiaries (86% of eligible population) and 2nd dose administered to 72.05 lakh beneficiaries (48% of eligible population). Vaccination capacity of government centers has been around 3.0 lakh doses per day with daily 75,000 doses being administered in recent weeks. Stock of vaccine as on 26.10.2021, was 29.12 lakh doses while 44 lakhs doses have been received in the month of October, 2021 as against earlier allocation of 32 lakh doses. It was also informed that change in vaccination strategy was needed to cover the remaining target groups. Hence, it has been decided to have a focused approach to reach the balance eligible


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beneficiaries. For this purpose identification, mobilization, setting up of camps, mobile teams with strong IEC campaign is being planned. It is also the right time to de-incentivize / incentivize remaining beneficiaries for vaccination by making mandatory vaccination for entry in malls, Delhi Metro, restaurants and offices.

10. Thereafter, Sh. Sanjeev Khirwar, Pr. Secretary (Revenue) / Divisional Commissioner, GNCTD gave a brief presentation before the participants for consideration of proposal for consideration of celebration of Chhathh Puja in Delhi, subject to compliance of Hon'ble NGT Order dated 13.01.2015 titled as Manoj Misra V/s Union of India & Ors regarding pollution control in River Yamuna:

i. The celebration of Chhathh Pooja may be allowed only at "Designated sites" (outside Containment Zones), with the requisite permission from District Magistrate concerned and subject to the compliance of following guidelines/restrictions

- Designated sites will be identified, developed & managed by the Revenue Department / respective District Magistrate in coordination with concerned departments / agencies viz I&FC, DJB, DPCC, Delhi Police, DDA, Municipal Corporations etc.
- No site shall be designated on the banks of River Yamuna.
- At the designated sites, people can offer or throw pooja material, which shall then be duly collected by the concerned Municipal Authorities and other relevant agencies for immediate and proper disposal in a scientific manner under the overall supervision of respective District Magistrate.
- All persons/devotees shall be strictly prohibited from throwing pooja material or any other material like, food-grain, oil, etc. into River Yamuna. All District DCPs shall be responsible to ensure that pooja material or any other material is not thrown in River Yamuna.
- It shall be ensured that no such material is permitted to join the main stream of the river at any point.
- All the relevant guidelines / orders of Hon'ble NGT (including NGT order dt. 13.01.2015) as well as Yamuna Monitoring Committee shall be strictly complied with by all concerned Authorities, Organisers / Samitis and General Public. All concerned Authorities shall take strict measures to ensure prevention and control of pollution in River Yamuna as well as at Yamuna Flood Plains.
- Chhathh Pooja samities / Organisers shall have to submit an undertaking to the respective District Magistrate while applying for permission in respect of strict adherence of the NGT / YMC / CPCB / DDMA orders / guidelines.


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- Strict adherence of COVID Appropriate Behaviour (viz. wearing of masks, maintaining social distancing, regular hand washing and use of sanitizer, etc.) shall be followed.
- District Magistrates / Chairperson, District Disaster Management Authority shall convene meeting with the Religious / Community Leaders / Chhathh Pooja Samitis / Organisers and other stakeholders in their respective areas to sensitize public for strict compliance of COVID Appropriate Behaviour and to ensure that no pooja material is thrown in River Yamuna and to conduct pooja only at the designated sites during the festival.
- District Magistrates shall conduct awareness campaign in their respective areas for promoting compliance of CAB as well as sensitizing public about NGT orders / guidelines.
- All measures/instructions/restrictions (except point No. 13) stipulated in DDMA Order No. 474 dated 30.09.2021 shall remain applicable in respect of Chhathh Pooja celebrations.

11. Thereafter, Director of Education, GNCTD also made a presentation on the recommendation of Joint Committee of the Officers from Education and Health Departments, GNCT of Delhi regarding re-opening of schools. He stated that as per directions in the last DDMA meeting the Committee was constituted with following terms of reference:-

- i. To review the situation regarding the effects of reopening of schools for classes IX to XII.
- ii. To evaluate the preparedness for further reopening of schools for classes VI to VII.
- iii. To review the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) issued by DDMA in its order dated 30.08.2021 in light of the effects of reopening of schools for classes IX to XII and recommend suitable amendments if required.
- iv. To submit its report/recommendations before the next meeting of DDMA.

12. Director, Education Department, GNCTD mentioned that, based on the terms of reference, the Joint Committee has made following observations:

- No reported instance of any increased local transmission of COVID-19 in Delhi due to reopening of schools for Classes IX to XII.
- There has been steady increase in attendance of students (approx. 80%) physically attending the schools.


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- Approximately 97% of the teachers and other staff of the schools have been vaccinated.
- COVID Appropriate Behaviour (CAB) is being strictly followed in all schools.

The Joint Committee also recommended as under:

- The schools may be reopened for all classes from 01/11/2021.
- Head of School to plan a Time Table as per the capacity / occupancy limit of the classrooms/Labs following Covid Appropriate Behavior. The school schedule and Lunch breaks may be staggered to avoid crowding.
- Attendance to be with parental consent.
- 50% of the students to be called in schools.
- Blended mode of teaching learning process (online and Offline) should be continued.
- Vaccination of remaining teachers and other staff in schools should be ensured.
- The Schools may resume the transport facility for the students with half the seating capacity and following the Covid Appropriate Behaviour (CAB).

13. Dr. V.K. Paul, Member, Niti Aayog observed that the presentation of Health and Family Welfare Department, GNCT of Delhi reflects that Delhi, at present, is witnessing a very stable Covid situation. Infections and positivity rate continues to be low despite the ongoing festival season. However, festival season will continue for some more time and therefore the situation has to be watched consistently. There should not be any lowering of guard in ensuring Covid Appropriate Behaviour (CAB) by people in general. He mentioned that it was very heartening to note that 1st dose of vaccination has been administered to nearly 86% of the eligible beneficiaries but stressed the need to include all those sections of people who have been left out as the gap between the 1st dose and 2nd dose continues to be high. It will be appropriate if a visible campaign for inclusion of all such people is initiated. Full vaccination for travelling in metro and for public transport such as taxis, buses and autos must also be promoted. Also wearing of masks must be encouraged at crowded places and if possible efforts to distribute masks among street vendors, poorer sections of society and in market places may be made by the administration.

Dr. V.K. Paul, Member, Niti Aayog agreed with the proposal of opening of schools for all children but observed that in the wake of opening of schools, a small outbreak of or rise in Covid cases is possible. Planning for that eventuality be made


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with preparation of all contingency plans. Delhi should be ready as Role Model Responder for effective management of any emergency Covid-19 situation.

14. Dr. Samiran Panda, from ICMR, observed that people tend to think that full vaccination is the replacement of mask. He mentioned that infection rate among the persons with full vaccination of 2 doses has been found to be more as compared to the persons with single dose vaccination. Therefore, he stressed that a campaign for wearing of masks must be initiated. He also observed that any variant should not be of much concern and no panic in this regard should be allowed to be created.

Dr. Samiran Panda, also agreed that schools be reopened but care should be taken for children suffering from any co-morbidity. Parents must be encouraged not to send sick children to schools. It should be endeavored that parents and all support staff are fully vaccinated.

15. Dr. Sujit Kumar Singh, Director, NCDC observed that the situation in Delhi is quite encouraging and complimented the efforts made by the entire team of Officers / doctors. However, he pointed out that infections in district New Delhi, South and South East have been found to be in double digits and all these cases should be epidemiologically analyzed. On the global scenario, he mentioned that there has been a rising trend of Covid infections in Russia, Brazil, UK and Singapore despite a very high rate of vaccinations. As far as variant, AY.4.2 is concerned, he observed that so far no such case has been found in Delhi.

Dr. Sujit Kumar Singh, Director, NCDC emphasized that there should not be any unnecessary delay in opening of schools for all classes. He pointed out that Covid situation is quite comfortable and Delhi Government should take advantage of the present situation for opening of schools for all children.

16. Sh. Krishna Vatsa, Member, NDMA congratulated all officers and doctors for their all round efforts in well managing the situation. He emphasized maintaining of Covid Appropriate Behaviour by general public and continued vigil be kept in this regard. He pointed out that there have been an increase in Covid cases in West Bengal post Durga Puja festivity and it can also happen in Delhi after Diwali and Chhath Puja. Hence, mass celebration of festivals and crowding should be avoided. He was of the view that given the low level of infections and positivity rate in Delhi it was the right time to open the schools and a normalcy in education should be restored.

17. Sh. Kunal Satyarthi, Joint Secretary, NDMA suggested that coming long holidays during festival season may be used for up-scaling the vaccination programme. Efforts should be made to provide the same to all those who have been left out preferably at their door steps. He suggested opening of schools 15.11.2021 with strict adherence to the SOP.



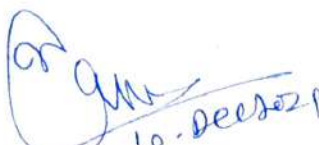
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18. Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Delhi observed that vaccination capacity utilization needs to be improved upon. He reiterated that schools for all age group children should be opened as children have suffered a lot academically in the last 1 ½ years. On opening of schools for all children, if any adverse situation arises it can be handled quickly and if necessary, the schools can be closed at any time by the Government.

19. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi, GNCTD commended the efforts of all officers, doctors and other staff associated with the management of Covid-19 situation in Delhi. He congratulated all for keeping the corona situation under control at this time of the year. He reminded that last year cases had risen after Diwali festivities. He observed that SOPs for Chhath Puja celebration and on opening of schools are adequate. Hon'ble Chief Minister, Delhi expressed that he agrees with the suggestion of Dr. V.K. Paul, Member, Niti Aayog on campaign of mask wearing and he mentioned that this would be done. He observed that we are in the last stage of our battle with Covid-19 virus as in the recent sero survey, 90% of the samples have been found to have antibodies.

20. The Chief Secretary of Delhi expressed gratitude to all officers, doctors, medical staff and all other personnel deployed on Covid-19 duties have performed exceedingly well. However, he observed that vaccination alone does not completely prevent infections. For coming festivals of Diwali and Chhath Puja he stressed that caution is needed and celebration would be with wearing of masks. While recapitulating the deliberations, he stated that following actions will be taken:

- Campaign for observing the Covid Appropriate Behaviour and wearing of masks while celebrating the festival of Diwali and Chhath Puja. To ensure full compliance of the SOP, constant vigil will be kept by the Police as well as District Administration. Congregations only at designated places to be permitted. Videography of the events will be ensured by all the DMs. Message has to be put across that there was no room for any complacency irrespective of the fact that infections and positivity rate are very low.
- Vaccination capacity utilization needs to be pushed up and optimum utilization of the same to be achieved.
- Any uptick of cases in any of the district to be monitored with all surveillance measures.
- Resumption of classes in schools up to class VIII to be allowed w.e.f.01.11.2021.
- All contingency plans and measures to be made ready.


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21. After detailed deliberations in accordance with the advice of the experts, it was agreed to allow opening of the remaining classes in the schools subject to adequate preparedness and adherence to SOPs laid down by the Education Department. It was decided to permit celebration of Chhath Pooja at "Designated Sites" subject to strict compliance of the Orders of Hon'ble NGT and SOPs laid down by the Revenue Dept in this regard.

22. Hon'ble Lt. Governor emphasized on laying special emphasis on enhancing vaccination coverage by way of a mission mode campaign. It was suggested that IEC activities for promoting Covid Appropriate Behaviour with special emphasis on wearing of masks may be scaled up. All stakeholders were advised to keep a close watch on the Covid situation and to put concerted and coordinated efforts for effective management of any exigency that may arise.

23. The members of Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) also resolved to ratify decisions / orders issued since the last meeting.

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the chair.


(Kuldeep Singh Gangar)

Spl. CEO (Disaster Management)

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Copy to:-

1. Secretary to Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Delhi.
2. Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, GNCTD.
3. Dr. V.K. Paul, Member, Niti Aayog, Govt. of India.
4. Secretary to the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi.
5. Secretary to Hon'ble Minister of Health, GNCTD.
6. Secretary to Hon'ble Minister of Revenue, GNCTD.
7. OSD to Chief Secretary, GNCTD.
8. Addl. Chief Secretary (Power), GNCTD.
9. ACS (UD)/Director, Local Bodies, Delhi Secretariat, Delhi.
10. Commissioner of Police, GNCT of Delhi.
11. Addl. Secretary (Policy and Plan), NDMA, MHA, Govt. of India.

12. General Officer Commanding (HQ), Delhi Cantt Area, Delhi.
13. ACS (Home), GNCTD/ State Nodal Officer, GNCTD.
14. ACS (H&FW), GNCTD.
15. Pr. Secretary (Revenue), GNCTD.
16. Prof. Balram Bhargava, DG-ICMR, Govt. of India.
17. Sh. Krishna Vatsa, Member, NDMA, GoI.
18. Sh. Kamal Kishore, Member, NDMA, GoI.
19. Dr. Randeep Guleria, Director, AIIMS.
20. Dr. Sujit Kumar Singh, Director, NCDC.
21. Director, Education Department, GNCTD.
21. Sr. System Analyst, Revenue Department, GNCTD for uploading the Minutes of Meeting on the DDMA website.


(Kuldeep Singh Gangar)
Spl. CEO (Disaster Management)