

INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED BY SECRETARY SATSANG, 16.06.2020

(ENGLISH)

Recently in India, the central & various state governments have decided to relax the lockdown norms in different sectors, although it is not equally applicable everywhere in the country.

The relaxation is specified according to the intensity of the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic in the country. The severity or relaxation of the directives issued from time to time by the local administrative authorities should be followed properly.

All the devotees and Satsang Kendras / Mandirs / Upayojana kendras are asked to abide by the Government directives in particular.

A solution resultant to various queries by many people is published herein regarding various issues evolving from the recent pandemic situation.

This notification is valid only during this current pandemic COVID-19 situation, of which various instructions may not extend to the natural state or when the normalcy returns.

REGARDING DEPOSITING ISTABHRITI

Question:

★★ What are the directives regarding Istabhriti remittance in this current situation? How to deposit the entrusted amount of Istabhriti during this lockdown and where?

Answer:

★ **In the current situation, depositing any oblation personally continues to remain suspended in all the philanthropy counters.**

★ **Everyone is asked to deposit their oblations at the Upoyojana Kendra of their own locality as per possibility.**

The decision of collecting Istabhriti may only be resumed at Upoyojana Kendras following the guidelines of local Govt. authorities regarding the withdrawal or relaxation of the lockdown. No imprudent decisions shall be made in this regard.

Those regions which have no restrictions imposed on public movements and where resumption of Upayojana Kendra seems likely, the people from those



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regions shall contact the workers of the local Upayojana Kendra over the phone, get an appointment and only then deposit the Istabhriti personally according to their appointed timings.

Different timings should be allocated to people willing to deposit Arghya and the devotees of their area should also be informed to deposit in accordance to the same.

★ **Upayojana Kendra workers should arrange the timings for collection of Istabhriti in a way that it does not crowd the Upayojana Kendra.**

★ **Due to the current situation, Upayojana Kendra may collect Arghyas on multiple days, but whichever days the collection of Arghya occurs, on the same day itself it should be deposited in the specified bank account of Satsang .**

Question:

★★ How to deposit Istabhriti oblations accumulated and kept together for a long time? Do we require to fill up a separate form for each 30 day Istabhriti or can the amount be filled up in a single form during remittance?

Answer:

★ **Mentioning the number of months it can be remitted in a single deposit form.**

★ **For example— if one's monthly remittance is Rs 50/-, then it needs to be mentioned as Rs 50/- × 3= Rs 150/- for the remittance of three months.**

Question:

★★ Is it imperative to remit individual oblations in the various bank accounts (power jyoti) of Satsang? Despite provisions, it seems impossible to do so. What to do in this regard?

Answer: Remitting oblations by an individual in the bank accounts of Satsang, which is relatively less in amount, is indeed a task almost impossible and is never imperative to do so. Moreover, it was even mentioned that way in the previous notice issued by Secretary, Satsang. Upayojana kendras etc. are supposed to deposit large accumulated amounts at those bank accounts, not individuals.



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Question:

★★ Can Upayojana kendras resume Istabhriti collection now?

Is there a clear directive for the remittance of Istabhriti, for both the parties- 'the provisor' individual and 'the accumulator' authorities of Kendra/Mandir / Upayojana kendras?

Do the people have to deposit Istabhriti in a single & specific day or in different days & times? In that case, what are the instructions to be followed to maintain social distancing?

What is the instruction for the remittance of Arghya in the bank accounts of Satsang ?

Answer:

★★★ Please keep in mind that Arghya should not be remitted online in any of the bank accounts of Satsang. Sending the money online will not serve the purpose of the Lord, because the online transaction will have no particular description of the actual resolve of the amount sent, rather it will create harassment while accounting.

★ Those who are in the habit of depositing Istabhriti oblations personally and those who personally collect and bring the lots to philanthropy counters such as Deoghar, Amar-dham (Kolkata), Siliguri, Guwahati, Bhubaneshwar, Sambalpur Satsang Vihars are asked to restrain themselves from doing so.

★ Currently, all individual interactions are restricted with the philanthropy counters.

★ Philanthropy shall only receive lots either from Kendra-Mandirs or sent by postal/ courier service. No one shall personally send lots to Philanthropy. Those should be sent through Satsang kendra-mandirs only.

★ Personal Arghya should be deposited by filling up the deposit slip along with their signature, and that should reach the Kendra/Mandir/Vihars only through Upayojana Kendra of respective localities.



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★ Those who have already deposited their individual Arghya to the bank should retain the bank challan's Satsang Copy, Devotee Copy with bank's seal and self-signed deposit slip, and submit it to their Upayojana Kendras. This shall help in receiving the Arghya Prashwasti through them.

★ **In this regard, the workers of the Upayojana Kendra are repeatedly made aware that, while submitting to Kendra Mandirs, the Arghya documents of these individuals should not be clubbed together with the lots and should be mentioned separately clubbing together only the bank challans and the deposit slips. After receiving from Upayojana kendras, Kendra-Mandir's workers too shall send those documents mentioning it separately to philanthropy.**

★ Areas where Satsang Centre/Mandir/Vihars are less in number or the areas with no Satsang establishments, the devotees of those particular places should like usual personally or through Upayojana kendras send their own Istabhriti along with the collected amount of the devotees living there, depositing their Arghya in Satsang bank accounts sending all the required documents together through regd. postal services or courier services to Satsang Philanthropy, Deoghar.

★ All the workers of Kendra-Mandirs should be really cautious not to mix up those deposited lots and bank challans from various Upayojana Kendras, which should reach philanthropy as mentioned above.

★ Upayojana Kendra workers should get in touch in advance with the workers of their associated Kendra/Mandir/Vihars over the phone about their date and timings of submission of the accounted lots and the documents and shall submit the same on the appointed schedule only.

★ Workers of Kendra-mandirs should call philanthropy counters prior to submitting all the lots received from Upayojana kendras, and later make a call to philanthropy again to get the printed Arghya praswastis or they may receive those while submitting the lots next month.

Question:

★★ What should be done with the Diksha-pranamis & Dikshapatras which are still with the workers since the cancelled Navavarsha utsav, April 2020?

★★ What should be done with the Utsav arghya & receipt books of the cancelled Navavarsha utsav, April 2020, which are still with the workers?



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Answer:

★ Diksha Pranami and Utsav Arghya can be sent by filling up a separate deposit slip, while remitting one's own Istabhriti. Utsav Arghya can be sent to the assigned code 'UTSAV' by filling up a separate self-signed deposit slip, mentioning the beneficiary's name. Utsav Arghya deposited without mentioning beneficiary's name makes it very difficult to accept and to account.

★ Regarding pranamis offered during diksha, the workers should always keep in mind that the code of Thakur pranami is DPRNM & that of Acharya pranami is APRNM. Workers should always mention these codes while depositing Diksha pranami.

When one can come to Deoghar, only then the Dikshapatras & receipt books will be deposited. Meanwhile, if some other procedure is derived, it will be informed timely.

★★ From the offering person or family, through Upayojana Kendras, via kendra-mandirs reaching of the Arghya oblations at Satsang Philanthropy— this sequence ought to be remembered always & observed by all.

It is important to note that:

1. Everyone should be cautious not to fall into the situation where one may catch the infection. One should always follow social distancing, sanitization and strictly wear face masks.
2. No one shall visit Upayojana Kendra/Kendra Mandir to deposit Arghya, documents etc. without consulting and getting an appointed date and time from the associated workers for the same in advance.
3. Nobody should visit the philanthropy counters individually or from Upayojana Kendras to deposit Arghya, documents etc. other than through Kendra-Mandirs. It will not be possible to accept the deposits.
4. **It is mandatory to sign on every deposit slip.** Upayojana Kendra workers must check if the deposit slips are signed by the depositors. Individual signatures of all the members of the family are not required, instead any one member belonging to the same family and having the same family code may sign on the deposit slip.



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5. Satsang bank account's challan form has 3 parts out of which **the bank shall keep the Bank's copy. The other two parts (Satsang copy and Devotee copy) stamped with the seal of the bank should be deposited to philanthropy.** Devotee copy shall be returned to the depositor, which should be kept and maintained as the proof of receipt.

6. While depositing Arghya in the banks, one must notice if the bank employee has stamped the bank's seal on the bank challan.

7. Due to the lack of workforce it may not be possible to receive Arghya Praswasti for the submitted lots immediately. One must exchange phone numbers with one of the responsible workers of the philanthropy counter where one is submitting the documents. That way, once the lots are printed, one can easily be informed and collect the Arghya Praswasti.

★★ **Click here to download the deposit slip and the various bank challans—**

www.satsang.org.in/forms

REGARDING PUBLIC VISITS TO KENDRA-MANDIRS

Question:

When can the Kendra-Mandirs be reopened? When will the people get to enter the Kendra-Mandirs normally and what are the restrictions regarding the time span of their stay there? How many can enter the premises together? What are the instructions regarding the timings of opening & closure of the Kendra-Mandirs? What is the instruction about opening Kendra-Mandirs which lie in high containment areas(red zone)?

Answer:

★ With the permission or recommendation of the local administrative authorities, the areas where lockdown has been withdrawn or relaxed can open the premises of Kendra-Mandirs for about an hour (apart from the time of Bhog), where 7-8 people can enter together only to offer pranam and nobody may stay there for long. **Social distancing should be followed strictly & wearing face masks should be made compulsory.**



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Kendra-Mandirs should remain closed in high containment Red Zones for it may increase the chances of infection in the community.

★ **Restrictions & regulations imposed by the government should be followed in every respect. Social distancing, sanitization, wearing face masks etc. should be imposed strictly. Nobody shall be allowed to enter the premises at personal convenient timings every now & then.**

Question:

★★ How many people should enter Kendra-Mandirs during prayer time? Can Satsangs be arranged in Kendra-Mandirs? If yes, then how should it be arranged? Can domestic Satsangs be arranged personally, if yes, then how to do so? Shall the usage of microphone & loud speakers be resumed in Kendra-Mandirs during prayer or Satsang?

★★ Can Satsang or Bhandara be arranged during observance of any function now at Kendra-Mandirs? Can local level Utsavs be organised?

Answer:

★ People coming from outside the premise shall be restrained from entering Kendra-Mandirs during prayer-time at the moment. The decision on it shall be provided following the situation further.

★ Follow Govt. directives so not to create any chance to infect oneself or others— these are the objectives that should be kept in mind if desirous of arranging Satsang or Matri-sammelan congregating mass. **So it is better to postpone such arrangements furthermore.**

★ If Satsangs are organised in Kendra-Mandirs, people may want to join, but it is not desirable in this situation to allow gatherings of the people coming from outside to the premises. **Those who stay together in a place may arrange Satsang among themselves, but fewer number of participation is advised and public gathering should not be allowed.**

★ **Using microphone & loudspeakers at all the Satsang Kendras, Mandirs, Vihars (Adhiveshan kendras, Upasana kendras, temporary or makeshift kendras) still remains suspended.**



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★ To hold any function which are usually observed, workers of all Kendra-Mandirs should accord with the situation. If celebrations & amusements require postponement for the purpose of life & growth, that should be accepted & followed. Moreover, following Govt. directives & seeking permission from Govt. authorities in advance is compulsorily essential to commence any such public gathering.

Question:

★★ What is to be followed at Kendra-Mandirs for resumption of the lodging & bhandara facilities after lockdown is released?

★★ How to keep the Kendra-Mandir premises infection-free?

★★ Is it permissible to mandatorily implement basic hygiene rules, like usage of facemasks, sanitization, social distancing etc. for public entry purpose at the Kendra-Mandir premises?

Answer:

★ **Lodging facilities or bhandara shall remain suspended furthermore until the situation gets normalized absolutely.** For now, internal lockdown should continue.

★ To keep the premises uninfected public gatherings should be avoided totally, residents of Kendra-Mandirs should avoid mixing with people outside and usage of face masks, social distancing, sanitization process should be implemented with stricture. **Where in a controlled way public from outside are allowed, it should be made clear in advance to obey in compulsion the basic hygiene rules, like usage of facemasks, sanitizers, distancing etc.**

REGARDING JAAJAN-DIKSHA ETC.

Question:

★★ Is it permissible at present to impart Diksha, if yes, then how many at a time? Where, in what situations and how can a Ritwik impart Diksha? What are the workers supposed to do in regard to impart Diksha to a seeker & also regarding Mass-Diksha?

★ Is it permitted to roam & tour in different places for Jaajan work, to arrange Diksha at residences of someone else or to call people at the worker's own place to impart Diksha?



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Answer:

★ In every situation to remain attached & keep trying to attach own environment to the Lord should remain our regular practice. **To impart Diksha to a seeker is absolutely an obligatory task for the workers, but how much of it is possible to execute, at this situation, should always remain afloat in mind. Decision has to be taken thoroughly knowing especially about the diksha seeker's recent travel history & public contacts. Chances of getting infected and creating a possibility for others to get infected as well is not desirable. So, every way remaining in limits & self control has to be maintained in every deed. Every precautionary measure has to be taken. To impart Diksha to many at a time is not admitted now. Dwelling in different places for Diksha should also be ceased furthermore.**

Question:

★★ Is it permissible to visit houses, door to door for Jaajan?

Answer:

★ Physical closeness should be avoided as much as possible. It is not at all possible to know the whereabouts of all the people and if there remain any infected person at any of the houses one plans to visit. Getting a welcome is also an important matter. So this idea should be dropped for the time being.

Question:

★★ Is it expedient to accept food or drink at anyone's place while travelling outside for Jaajan work?

Answer:

★ It is not at all desirable to accept food or drinks from persons not known thoroughly in the context of Sadachar (hygiene), **rather it defies physical & mental sadachar which is not at all an act desirable of the Lord.** It should remain afloat in mind even more in this situation.

Question:

★★ What is the instruction to the workers who have to renew the holy panja?



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Answer:

★ For panja renewal one has to visit Deoghar ashram which is not possible at this moment. The lockdown has been increased till 30th June in Jharkhand state. If one's panja gets lapsed he should not impart diksha until renewed. Instructions through SMS will be sent from the Ritwik office to those who have renewal.

VARIOUS MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS

Question:

★★ Is it permitted to visit Deoghar ashram with family when the lockdown is withdrawn? If yes, then how many together can visit?

A clear instruction is needed regarding the visit of the devotees to the ashram. What measures should be taken if & when allowed to visit?

Answer:

★ At present a declared lockdown is imposed till 30th June in Jharkhand state. It will be informed in due time after the lockdown is completely released.

★ For information regarding ashram visit, **no calls to be made to anyone's personal phone, rather the communication center (18003450122) should be called for the purpose after 30th June. At present 'Suvidhan' office (accommodation dept.) & the lodging facilities are totally closed.**

Question:

★★ Is online/virtual Satsang permitted?

Answer:

★ If solely the objective is to contemplate, glorify or to invoke the Lord, then any & every way or medium can be utilised.

Question:

★★ Various kendra-mandirs, Upayojana kendras etc. are donating money in different Govt. funds, but on the contrary, at many places many devotees are in miserable condition. What should be done for that?



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Answer:

★ There are many such kendra-mandirs or the like who are simultaneously engaged in providing food & other support at a regular long term basis as well to the afflicted irrespective of whether they are devotees or not. Even birds & beasts are being provided by the Satsangees at many places. **If the people of an area remain consciously active, even if two persons get along together actively towards benefactions in providing life & growth, then no scope of accusing anyone remains.**

Question:

★★ What is instructed to get saved remaining uninfected from this pandemic outbreak?

Answer:

★ **Observing Jajan-Jaajan-Istabhriti with a fervent zeal, following five sustaining codes of Swastyayani with active promptitude, practicing the hygienic acts thoroughly, along with obeying rules & regulations as is applicable— comprehensively these can save to a greater extent.**

REGARDING BHOG, MAINTENANCE, CONSTRUCTION etc.

Question:

★★ More or less maintenance &/or coloring works are essential in many kendra-mandirs. Is it permitted?

★ The construction work in many places remain ceased. Is it permitted to resume those works, specifically in those places which are in green zone?

★ Communication & dealings with the philanthropy is necessary for both maintenance & construction work. What to do in this regard?

★ Can the incomplete constructional works resume? For that purpose withdrawal of arghya from philanthropy is required. How to deal with this?

★ The kendra-mandirs whose possibility or capability is comparatively less, they have to depend on daily collection of bhog-articles or arghya. But it has become impossible in this situation. So, is it permitted to resume daily collection work there?

★ It is required to withdraw arghya for Thakur-bhog & maintenance, as the process stays ceased till now resulting to face many problems. When will the system get normalized? Especially, there should remain no hindrance or interruption in the case of Thakur-bhog.



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★ Many kendra-mandirs were damaged due to the devastating storm 'amphan'. Those need to be restored immediately & for that collecting arghya, depositing the same at philanthropy, again applying to withdraw the sum to work; this is really a long process. Yet the restoration work is essential. What to do in this regard?

Answer:

★ In the present situation without any Govt. circular or permission construction works shall not be resumed.

★ With the consent of local administrative authorities, minor works which does not require any outsourcing or deployment of waged labourers etc. can be done.

★ An interim arrangement should be made to collect the necessary arghya by communicating to people through phone.

★ One can deposit arghya for kendra-mandirs at Upayojana kendras by mentioning the specific code using a separate deposit slip other than the one used to remit Istabhriti etc.

★ The kendra-mandirs who require to withdraw arghya for bhog/maintenance etc. from philanthropy, should apply to the Secretary Satsang, which should be done in the letterhead of the establishment mentioning the code of the same and the amount & date of the previous withdrawal, along with the amount & specific purpose for present requirement. The applicant should be the person who has been authorized & approved by the Secretary Satsang, whose signature, description of specific bank account (account no. & IFSC code) where the arghya would be sent, with scanned copies of the pass-book & cheque of that account should be attached in the application, which should be sent through e-mail at:

satsangphilanthropy@gmail.com



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