

SUPREME COURT ALLOWS RATH YATRA AT PURI ON CONDITIONS

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Order given by the Supreme Court that no Rath Yatra should held in the Lord Jagannath temple in Odisha this year, on account of this pandemic situation.



Then after the following order that was given by the Supreme Court the PIL was file in the Odisha High Court but later it was dismissed on the ground of that the state government directing that the religious places of worship for public shall continue to remain closed till the end of the month.

Later on, the center and the Odisha Government have sought permission from the Supreme Court to conduct Puri Jagannath Rath Yatra with precautions.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, mentioning the matter before a bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra, said:

“The tradition of centuries may not be stopped. It is a matter of faith for crores. If Lord Jagannath will come out tomorrow, he cannot come not out for 12 years as per traditions.

So, Supreme Court has put down conditions as it is said that only those priests, shebaites and pandas will be allowed who have tested negative for COVID-19 to conduct the rituals.

“While maintaining the precautions to ensure that pandemic is not spread, state government can impose curfew for a day. People may cogenerate and may seek blessings on TV during the live telecast.

The following condition are there-

- All entries points into the city of Puri, i.e., airports, railway stations bus stands, etc. shall be closed during the period of the festival of Rath Yatra.
- Each Rath Yatra i.e., Chariot shall be pulled by not more than 500 persons and each of that 500 persons will be tested for COVOD-19.
- Each of those who is engaged in pulling the chariot shall maintain social distancing before and after the Rath Yatra.
- The rituals and the Rath Yatra shall be freely covered by the visual media. The state government has allowed to install cameras at different places so that it all can be viewed by the people.
- The State Government shall maintain a record containing details of all those who have been connected therewith along the details of medical conditions after testing.

The state government Is having full power that in the need of the emergency it can be stopped. Further, the Solicitor General has submitted these guidelines report to the Central Government, as per which the Rath Yatra will be carried out without compromising health and safety.