

अजय भल्ला, भा.प्र.से.  
AJAY BHALLA, IAS



गृह सचिव  
Home Secretary  
भारत सरकार  
Government of India  
नॉर्थ ब्लॉक/North Block  
नई दिल्ली/New Delhi

D.O. No. 40-10/2020-DM-I(A)

05<sup>th</sup> January, 2021

Dear *Sh Shanmugam,*

Please refer to Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)'s Order No. 40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dated 28<sup>th</sup> December, 2020 whereby the Guidelines for Surveillance, Containment and Caution issued vide order dated 25.11.2020 under Disaster Management Act (DM Act), 2005 were further extended to remain in force till 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2021.

2. Attention is also drawn here to para 9 (ii) of MHA Guidelines wherein cinema/ theatres/ multiplexes have been permitted outside containment zones with up to 50% capacity.

3. The Government of Tamil Nadu (GoTN) vide their Notification No G.O. (Ms) No 001 dated 04.01.2021 has permitted to increase the seating capacity of cinemas/ theatres/ multiplexes from existing 50% capacity to 100% by following the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). This amounts to dilution of MHA Order dated 28<sup>th</sup> December, 2020 issued under the DM Act, 2005.

4. I would also like to draw your kind attention to para 21 & 23 of these guidelines which state that the State / UT Governments shall not dilute these guidelines issued under the DM Act, 2005 in any manner and shall strictly enforce the same.

5. Attention is also drawn here that on 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2020, in a suomotu WP (C) No. 7, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has issued directions to State Governments, inter-alia, for strict enforcement of guidelines/ SOPs issued by Union/ State Governments; strict compliance on COVID-Appropriate behaviour such as, wearing of masks, keeping social distancing etc.; stern action against those who are violating guidelines/ SOPs; regulation of gatherings etc.

6. In view of the above, GoTN is requested to immediately issue necessary Order to bring their Guidelines in line with the MHA guidelines dated 28<sup>th</sup> December, 2020 and inform compliance to this Ministry.

*With regards,*

Yours sincerely,

*(Ajay Bhalla)*

**Shri K Shanmugam**  
Chief Secretary  
Government of Tamil Nadu.