



**IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA AT CUTTACK**

**SUO MOTU W.P.(C) PIL No.2140 of 2020**

***Registrar (Judicial),  
Orissa High Court, Cuttack .... Petitioner***

*Er. N.K. Mohanty  
Amicus Curiae*

*Mr. Bijay Kumar Dash  
Amicus Curiae*

**-versus-**

***State of Odisha & others .... Opp. Parties***

*Mr. Manoj Kumar Mishra  
Senior Advocate  
President, OHCBA*

*Mr. Avijit Pattnaik  
Advocate  
Secretary, OHCBA*

*Mr. Debasis Nayak-A  
Addl. Govt. Advocate &  
Advocate for C.M.C.*

*Mr. Partha Sarathi Nayak  
Addl. Govt. Advocate*

**CORAM:**

**JUSTICE S.K. SAHOO**

**JUSTICE V. NARASINGH**



**ORDER**  
**26.08.2025**

This matter is taken up through Hybrid arrangement (video conferencing/physical mode).

**ISSUE RELATING TO TRAFFIC (LIGHTS & CAMERA)**

**Order No.**  
**306.**  
26.08.2025

As per order no.290 dated 31.07.2025, learned counsel appearing for the Cuttack Development Authority was asked to apprise this Court regarding steps taken on the communications of DCP, Cuttack dated 14.05.2025 and to file an affidavit clarifying the position.

Mr. Dayananda Mohapatra, learned Senior Advocate appearing for the CDA is present.

Mr. Sweta Kumar Dash, Secretary, Cuttack Development Authority is present through virtual mode and has filed an affidavit dated 14.08.2025, wherein it is stated as follows:

**(i)** The DCP in the letter dated 14.05.2025 addressed to the Vice-Chairman, CDA requested for installation of CCTV Surveillance Camera System at 191 locations of the Cuttack City for monitoring public safety, enhancing law enforcement response, improving traffic management and aiding in the prevention and detection of crime;



**(ii)** The DCP in another letter dated 14.05.2025 requested for installation of Electronic Traffic Signal System at different places in the Cuttack City;

**(iii)** The ACP (TR) in letter no.292 dated 25.02.2025, sent a proposal for installation of CCTV in 107 different locations in Cuttack City. The Authority in its 140<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on 04.04.2025, approved the proposal of installation of 50 such CCTV Surveillance systems;

**(iv)** However, in consideration of the requirement given by DCP, the CDA required 4 number of PSUs for submission of the technical and commercial proposals for installation of 107 number of CCTV cameras. Out of them 2 (two) bidders i.e. M/s. Rail Tail Corporation of India and M/s. Indian Telephone Industries Ltd. submitted their techno-commercial proposal;

**(v)** The Committee headed by the Vice-Chairman, CDA, ACP Traffic, Engineer Member CDA, ATP, CDA and Executive Engineer, CDA, in consideration of the technical presentation held on 20.05.2025 and 09.06.2025, selected *M/s. Indian Telephone Industries Ltd., Kolkata* to undertake the said work and issued Letter Of Award (LOA) No.6480



by CDA dtd. 13.06.2025, for procurement & installation of CCTV surveillance camera at different locations of Cuttack along with setup Traffic Signal System for a consideration of Rs. 45,53,91,041/- (rupees forty five crores fifty three lakhs ninety one thousand forty one) plus GST @18%. A copy of the Work Order has been annexed to the affidavit as Annexure-A;

**(vi)** Thereafter, CDA entered in agreement with the said Company on 17.06.2025, a copy of which has been enclosed as Annexure-B. Consequently, the Company was paid 50% of the consideration i.e., Rs.22,76,95,520/- (rupees twenty two crores seventy six lakhs ninety five thousand five hundred twenty) for CCTV Surveillance camera in 107 locations and Rs.04,09,86,194/- (rupees four crores nine lakhs eighty six thousand one hundred ninety four) towards Traffic Signal System at 30 locations, in total Rs.26,86,80,714/- (Rupees twenty six crores eighty six lakhs eighty thousand seven hundred fourteen) as advance towards procurement of cameras and other components and for installation/setup in the spot;

**(vii)** As ascertained, the Company commenced the work in 10 nos. of the locations and



in the process to proceed with installation in other different locations;

**(viii)** In the meanwhile, the DCP, Cuttack in its letter dtd. 14.05.2025, further requested to add additional 84 locations;

**(ix)** The CDA released the funds in advance from the CDP Infrastructure Development Fund for installation at 107 locations. The Authority considering financial hardship, required installation at 50 locations only. There being financial hardship/ constraint to bear huge expenditure of Rs. 45,53,91,041/- (rupees forty five crores fifty three lakhs ninety one thousand forty one) and annual maintenance cost, the CDA in its letter dtd. 23.07.2025 requested the Government in Housing & Urban Development Department for financial provision and assistance from the Department so that CDA can be able to ensure installation of CCTV Surveillance System in 107 locations and also 84 locations as requested by the DCP and awaits the response. It is further stated that over the aforesaid amount, there would be payment of GST@ 18% and in total the amount of expenditure would be Rs.53,73,61,428/- (rupees fifty three crores seventy three lakhs sixty one thousand four hundred twenty



eight);

**(x)** After financial assistance given/ released by the Department, the CDA will ensure completion of the work through the agency already engaged and shall also be able to undertake installation work in the additional location as requested by the DCP, Cuttack. A copy of the letter no.7964 dtd. 23.07.2025 has been annexed to the affidavit as Annexure-C.

The said affidavit is taken on record.

The learned counsel for the State shall obtain instruction from the Housing & Urban Development Department, Govt. of Odisha regarding the response to the aforesaid letter dated 23.07.2025 of the CDA.

List this matter on 18.09.2025.

**(S.K. Sahoo)**  
**Judge**

**(V. Narasingh)**  
**Judge**



**STEPS TO BE TAKEN BY AUTHORITIES FOR  
UPCOMING FESTIVE SEASON**

**(A) PREVENTING CONSTRUCTION OF  
HUGE MANDAP PANDALS ON PUBLIC  
ROAD, FOOTPATH AND ERECTION OF  
ELECTRIC GATES AND DECORATIONS**

**307-A.**  
26.08.2025

As per order no.304-A dated 21.08.2025, this Court directed the concerned Authority to file affidavit on the issue as to whether the Puja Committees are taking prior permission relating to the nature of pandals (both bamboo and electrical), the height of gates and its numbers to be constructed within their respective areas while applying for licenses and what safety measures are being taken by the Puja Committee for maintenance of such pandals and whether 'no objection' certificates are issued by taking into account all the safety measures.

Needless to say, roads are public spaces meant for the use of all citizens. Blocking them infringes on the public right to free movement. The dangers of a Puja Mandap gate across the road are significant, creating risks for both public safety and traffic flow. Mandap gates built on public roads cause severe traffic congestion and block access for



emergency vehicles like ambulances, trucks and fire brigade vehicles. Being temporary structures, these gates are vulnerable to heavy rain and wind. A collapse can damage vehicles and cause serious injuries even death. Many gates feature intricate electrical decorations, faulty wiring which when exposed to weather poses fire hazard and a risk of electrocution to passerby. The structures can create bottlenecks that make it difficult to manage large crowds. This is especially risky during emergencies when people need to be evacuated quickly. Right from the starting of construction of pandals across the public road which used to start two to three weeks prior to Puja till its complete removal, it creates public inconvenience, traffic problem and risk to the lives of public at any moment.

Last year, apart from Khan Nagar Durga Puja welcome gate collapsed near the CNBT in Cuttack, on 06.10.2024 afternoon, Bhubaneswar faced a heavy downpour leading to the collapse of a 30-feet high pandal gate at the Rasulgarh Durga Puja Committee. The 20-foot wide light gate, unable to withstand the gusty winds accompanying the rain, caused significant traffic snarls in the area.



Similar collapses of Puja Pandal gate at Damana in Bhubaneswar sparked fear among the people to come out of the houses. The devotees gathered at the Puja Pandal had a close shave when the Pandal collapsed as reported in the media on 04.10.2022. Puja Pandal collapse incidents were also reported in the media from Vysanagar in Jajpur district and Raghunathpur Bazar in the district of Jagatsinghpur.

The competitiveness among Durga Puja Committees is seen through efforts to attract more visitors and sponsors by hosting unique and innovative theme-based Pandals. This competitive spirit is also fuelled by large-scale events with significant media attention, which leads to more public and financial support and elevates the prestige of the organizing Committee, but all the same, on the altar of competitiveness, public safety, public inconvenience and public lives cannot be sacrificed.

The past experiences have led the District Administration to take corrective measures in this regard with the active cooperation of the Puja Committees as per the suggestion of this Court, which is really heartening.



Learned counsel for the State has produced the compliance letter no.1499/DCP (OJC-Cell) dated 21.08.2025 of the Dy. Commissioner of Police, Cuttack addressed to the learned Advocate General, Odisha, wherein it is stated that likewise the previous year, this year the Urban Police District is taking appropriate steps for upcoming festive season. The compliance letter is taken on record.

So far as the issues relating to preventing construction of huge mandap pandals on public road, footpath and erection of electric gates and decorations are concerned, it is mentioned in the compliance letter that the preparatory meeting for Lord Ganesh Puja, 2025 has been conducted at Sarala Bhawan, Cuttack on 18.08.2025 with the President and Secretary of Cuttack Mahanagar Shanti Committee, Purbanchala Shanti Committee, local respectable gentries/persons, all Presidents, Secretaries, Club members of Ganesh Puja Committee and local MLAs etc. and it was unanimously decided as follows:

**(i)** No Pandal, decoration, gate, cultural function will be allowed obstructing the public roads. The Committees desiring to construct pandal/gate by digging at any location will deposit requisite fee to



the CMC and the money receipt be furnished at license cell in the Office of the deponent for considering issuance of license;

**(ii)** No Objection Certificate pertaining to electric fittings be obtained from the Addl. Chief Engineer -cum- Electrical Inspector near Haramani Mandap, Cuttack;

**(iii)** The Organizer of the Mandap will also obtain NOC from Superintending Engineer, R & B, regarding the sustainability and stability of the gate and thereafter permission from the Dy. Commissioner of Police, Cuttack;

Md. Shahbaz, Superintending Engineer, R & B Division No.1, Cuttack appearing through virtual mode intimates this Court regarding structural safety of the gates before erection and during the course of erection and after completion, the same shall be monitored and only after being satisfied about its structural stability and safety, 'no objection certificate' shall be issued.

**(iv)** The Organizer has been instructed that overhead construction of gate should not be done which may cause hindrance to immersion;

**(v)** The Puja Committee members should not erect any gate /pandal encroaching portion of



land of other Sahi and Bustee which may invite law and order problem;

**(vi)** Each Puja Committee should have extinguisher in the pandal/mandap to avoid fire hazard;

**(vii)** The electric fitting should be made in Mandaps by authorized contractor.

A copy of the proceeding of preparatory meeting dated 18.08.2025 and agenda have been annexed to the letter as Annexure-A series.

However, it is brought to the notice of this Court that a peace committee meeting was held on 24.08.2025, chaired by Cuttack District Collector, Mr. Dattatraya Bhausahab Shinde in which the District Administration discussed with the Puja Committee members regarding the arrangements to be made for smooth and peaceful conduct of Durga Puja and other festivals to be held thereafter in compliance of the directions issued by this Court dated 21.08.2025. The affidavit regarding the decisions taken in the meeting relating to the ensuing Durga Puja and other festivals in presence of the community leaders be filed by 02.09.2025.

The Collector, Cuttack has also submitted the instruction pursuant to the order no.304 dated



21.08.2025, wherein it is stated that the first round preparatory meeting for smooth conduct of Ganesh Puja was held on 24.08.2025 with the members of Mahanagar Shanti Committee, Purbanchala Shanti Committee along with office bearers of many other Puja Committees of Cuttack City and the directives of this Court have been communicated and they have been requested to adhere upon the instructions of this Court. It is further stated that a single window system will be made shortly. The discussions with Shanti Committee and Purbanchala Shanti Committee are still going on to set out the detailed SoP for safe and smooth conduct and celebration of different pujas and festivals in and around the Cuttack City and for maintenance of safety and security of the people. The Collector has requested for time for filing an affidavit on this issue.

Sri Shibo Toppo, Addl. District Magistrate -cum- Nodal Officer, Cuttack has filed a compliance affidavit wherein it is stated that a provisional NOC shall be issued first to the Puja Committees for the construction of Puja Pandals and electrical gates during the festive season 2025 and final NOC will be granted on the basis of final report submitted by the concerned departments.



The instruction of Collector, Cuttack and compliance affidavit of Addl. District Magistrate -cum- Nodal Officer, Cuttack are taken on record.

List this matter on **04.09.2025**.

**(B) CONTROL OF AIR & NOISE POLLUTION**

**307-B.**  
26.08.2025

As per order no.304-B dated 21.08.2025, the concerned Authority/Authorities was asked to file an affidavit on this issue.

So far as the above issue is concerned, it is mentioned in the compliance letter of Sri Khilari Rishikesh Dnyandeo, I.P.S., Dy. Commissioner of Police, Cuttack dated 21.08.2025 as follows:

**(i)** As per direction of this Court vide earlier Order No.152 dated 12.09.2024, for upcoming festive seasons, the Dy. Commissioner of Police, Cuttack has issued letter vide letter No.1466/DCP(OJC-Cell) dated 19.08.2025 to all IICs of Cuttack City including IICs Traffic P.Ss., Phulnakhara and all Zonal ACsP including ACP DIB, Cuttack UPD and directed to take sincere and effective steps to implement the direction of this Court as well as certain guidelines of Govt. in Home Deptt., Odisha, Bhubaneswar in their respective P.Ss jurisdiction in letter and spirit. It is further stated in



the compliance letter that they have also been directed to take steps to conduct surprise raids and frequent checking of the amplifiers fixed with sound limiters used by the band parties, D.Js and Music Players in various festive occasions, cultural functions, immersions and other upcoming functions in the city;

**(ii)** It is further stated in the compliance letter that the Dy. Commissioner of Police, Cuttack directed all IICs of the City that in no case any Band Party/DJ or other musical parties should exceed the limit of sound of more than 65 decibels. No Band Party shall be permitted to carry out the processions unless issued with a valid license. The sound level should not exceed the prescribed limit of 65 dB. No D.Js or Band Parties during immersion processions & cultural functions should play music of more than 65 dB and the amplifiers should be checked regularly and in case tampering of sound limiter or violation of sound limit in the music system is noticed, then all the musical instruments shall be seized and proceeding for violating the sound pollution norms shall be initiated against them as per law. A copy of seizure list/case reference if any be sent in this regard for further course of action;



**(iii)** It is further stated in the compliance letter that the ACP DIB -cum- Licensing Cell, Cuttack UPD has also been directed to ensure that the instructions/guidelines/orders of the Court be followed strictly and also while granting the application for permission under section 4(2) of the ODISHA FIRE WORKS AND LOUD SPEAKERS (REGULATION) Act, 1958, THE ODISHA URBAN POLICE Act, 2003 and other relevant Acts;

**(iv)** It is further stated in the compliance letter that all IICs of Cuttack City have been directed to make awareness programmes in their respective P.S's jurisdiction to sensitize the Secretary/President of different Puja Committee as well as general public not to play excessive noise/loud music during festive seasons in their respective Puja Mandaps, cultural programmes and immersion procession etc., because it causes negative effects on people and the environment. It creates health issues, sleep disturbances, stress and it also affects the academic performances of the students etc. All IICs have also been instructed to take action as per law against the violators. A copy of letter No.1466/DCP(OJC-Cell) dated 19.08.2025 has been annexed to the letter as Annexure-B.



The DCP appearing through virtual mode intimates this Court that all the IICs of the Cuttack City have been instructed to take steps to sensitize the locals regarding the effects of loud sound and necessary steps in this regard shall be taken by conducting meeting with the local gentries. He also submits that they will explore the possibility of spreading awareness through the school and other education institutions located in each of the ward of the Cuttack City.

During the course of hearing regarding maintaining the scrutiny of 65 decibels limit as prescribed, it was expressed by the DCP, Cuttack that the same can be enforced in an effective manner, if a dedicated team is deployed by State Pollution Control Board stationed at Cuttack.

Accordingly, the learned State counsel is called upon to intimate the State Pollution Control Board in this regard so that they can respond through their counsel on the next date i.e. **04.09.2025.**

**(v)** It is further stated in the compliance letter that during discussion on the preparatory meeting dated 18.08.2025, it was also unanimously decided as follows:



**(a)** That the Organizers/workers shall take effective steps to ensure strict implementations of the orders of this Court in maintaining prescribed standard within 65 decibel and time limit during use of loudspeaker/ sound system/band parties etc. obtaining permission from competent authority in order to control the sound pollution;

**(b)** The Organizers of Puja Committee/ owners of sound speakers/sound systems/band parties shall not use any sound system beyond the prescribed limit i.e. 65 decibel at night between 10.00 p.m. to 6.00 a.m.;

**(c)** The Organizers/workers of Puja Committee shall not use any fireworks;

**(d)** Puja Mandaps including gates will be constructed without causing traffic congestion for vehicular and pedestrian traffic;

**(e)** No DJ will be allowed during puja and immersion;

**(f)** Licenses are being issued for use of loud speaker/mike under the provisions of



Section-4 Orissa, Fire Works and Loudspeakers Act, 1958 read with sections 28 and 29 of Orissa Urban Police Act, 2003 and Regulations 47 and 56 conditions including use of maximum 06 nos. of sound boxes to be put on the trolley during procession with 65 decibels;

On perusal of the compliance letter, it is seen that there is lack of clarity relating to the maximum sound level inasmuch as it is not on record that the maximum sound level of six no. of boxes would be collectively not beyond 65 decibels.

The DCP is called upon to clarify this aspect on the next date of hearing.

**(g)** The permission must be applied minimum 07 days prior to the immersion. None is allowed to take their Medhas in procession without obtaining the license. List this matter on **04.09.2025**.

**(C) TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT, CROWD CONTROL AND SAFETY**

As per order no.304-C dated 21.08.2025, the concerned Authority/Authorities was asked to file an affidavit on this issue.

**307-C.**  
26.08.2025



So far as the above issue is concerned, it is mentioned in the compliance letter of the Dy. Commissioner of Police, Cuttack dated 21.08.2025 that the Dy. Commissioner of Police, Cuttack has directed ACP traffic to implement the direction of the Court and to ensure the free flow of traffic movement for convenience of visitors. In this context, the following steps have been taken to curb the traffic congestion:

**(i) Traffic Advisory:**

Like every year, this year, 2025 also Traffic Advisory will be published in both language (English & Odia) in print media, social media and local news in advance for visitors' awareness which still contain the details of diversion plan, blocking point and one way traffic system;

**(ii) Increased Traffic Monitoring:**

Additional police and traffic personnel will be deployed in key intersections and high-traffic areas to strictly enforce the traffic regulation for hassle-free movement of visitors;

**(iii) Parking Management:**

Monitor & designated parking places encroached by street vendors will be made vacant for parking of visitors vehicles during festive period.



Apart from that, in coordination with local Puja Committees, additional parking space will be developed near Puja mandaps for parking of visitor's vehicles;

**(iv) Community Engagement:**

The volunteer organizations have been requested to join with police during festival period for regulation of traffic and hassle-free movement of the general public.

**(D) IMPROVING ROAD CONDITIONS**

**307-D.**  
26.08.2025

As per order no.304-D dated 21.08.2025, the concerned Authority/Authorities was asked to file an affidavit on this issue.

Md. Shahbaz, Superintending Engineer, R & B Division No.1, Cuttack has filed an affidavit wherein it is stated as follows:

**(i)** For the on-going monsoons, pothole repair work was taken up using cold bitumen/ IOCL Durapave Emulsis Plus (Instant precoated aggregate for road repairing) on the arterial roads under R & B Division I Cuttack. Tender was invited *vide* bid identification no.22 of 2025-26 dated 21.07.2025. Accordingly, letter of acceptance has been issued to all agencies for drawl of agreement covering different chainages of 15 numbers of arterial roads and ring



road for which renewal coat of bitumen will be laid for smooth movement of traffic;

**(ii)** As per the said LOA, work will start by 1<sup>st</sup> week of September 2025 and it will be completed by 3<sup>rd</sup> week of September 2025 for Cuttack City Ring Road, Buxi Bazar area, Choudhary Bazar area, Chandini Chowk, Dolomundai, Seminary Chhak, etc. The list of all such roads for which tender has been invited has been annexed to the affidavit as Annexure-A;

**(iii)** It is relevant to mention here that as per clause 11 of P1 Agreement executed with all contractors,

*"The amount of security money to be deposited by the tenderer whose tender is selected for acceptance shall be (7 or 5 percent) of the estimated value of the work and towards this amount, the earnest money already deposited by him shall be credited."*

Accordingly in all agreements security deposit of (7 or 5 percent) is being withheld from the agencies until the defect liability period is over. Further, as per Clause 78 of D.T.C.N. of P1 Agreement,



*“any defects, shrinkage or other faults which may be noticed within defect liability period, i.e., 12 to 36 months from the completion of the work arising out of defective or improper materials or workmanship, upon the direction of the Engineer-in-Charge are to be amended and made good by the contractor at his own cost unless the Engineer for reasons to be recorded in writing shall decide that they ought to be paid for and in case of default, Department may recover from the contractor the cost of making good the works. The defect liability period for the work is 12 to 36 months from the date of successful completion of the work”.*

As per the clauses mentioned above, there is provision for withholding of the amount of the contractors as performance security/ security deposit until completion of defect liability period for one to three years and making the contractors liable to pay compensation to the Government in case there is defect arises during or after construction of road work.



The said affidavit is taken on record. The Superintendent, R & B shall explore the possibility of extending the deficit liability period to 36 months for all contractors instead of 12 months.

Learned counsel for the CMC has produced the compliance report of the CMC dated 26.08.2025, wherein it is stated that regarding repair/reconstruction of damaged roads in CMC area before ensuing Durga Puja, as per decision taken in the last Council Meeting of CMC held on 22.08.2025, CMC will take pro-active steps for repair/renovation of all its damaged roads in war footing basis which will be completed before Durga Puja and all concerned Engineers of CMC have been directed to take immediate steps in this regard.

Ms. Kirandeep Kaur Sahota, IAS Commissioner, CMC is present through virtual mode. Affidavit shall be filed by the CMC placing on record the modalities for allowing developmental work including roads in each Ward. Such affidavit should also include the response of the CMC for inclusion of 'defect liability clause' incorporated in the contracts executed by the Works Department so as to ensure accountability, in tune with contracts executed by the Works Department as noted above. It is needless



to state in identifying the works to be undertaken primacy should be given to the interest of the community for which recommendations can be sought from the concerned resident committees or the Puja Committees.

The said affidavit to be filed by 02.09.2025 shall state ward-wise details in a tabular format mentioning therein the amount of funds sanctioned for each ward towards repair of roads under the supervision of CMC for Durga Puja for the year 2024 and the present condition of the said roads that were repaired last year (2024) along with the names of the Junior Engineer for each ward who had certified such works.

List this matter on **04.09.2025**.

During course of hearing, a news item published in Odia daily "The Sambad" dated 26.08.2025 under the caption of "OMP-SIKHARPUR RASTA PALATICHI MARANA JANTA; 200 METER RASTA PARA HEBAKU GHANTAYE" was brought to the notice of this Court, which is taken on record.

In response thereto Md. Shahbaz, Superintending Engineer, R & B Division No.1, Cuttack informs this Court that the said road comes under NHAI.



Mr. P.K. Parhi, learned DSGI along with Mr. D. Gochhayat, learned CGC is present online, through VC.

Mr. Parhi, learned DSGI informs this Court that the Regional Officer and the concerned Project Director, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is the appropriate authority to deal with it and accordingly, *this Court directs their presence either in person or virtually on 04.09.2025* when this issue will be taken up along with other civic amenities issues.

The learned CGC Mr. Gochhayat will make necessary communication in this regard to ensure their presence on the date fixed.

In the interregnum, if any temporary measure can be taken to address the issue on an emergent basis, this Court is sure that the same shall be undertaken by the NHAI.

A copy of the order be made over to the learned CGC.

**(E) ILLUMINATION OF STREET LIGHTS/ STREET LIGHTS NOT FUNCTIONING IN DIFFERENT AREAS UNDER CMC**

As per order no.304-E dated 21.08.2025,

**307-E.**  
26.08.2025



the concerned Authority/Authorities was asked to file an affidavit on this issue.

Learned counsel for the CMC has produced the compliance report of the CMC dated 26.08.2025, wherein it is stated that most of the non-functional street lights out of 28 points as raised by the learned Advocates Committee have already been functional and rest of the street lights will be made functional within next 48 hours.

Learned Secretary, Orissa High Court Bar Association has filed a memo dated 26.08.2025 along with photographs regarding non-functioning of street lights of Ward Nos.3, 22, 27 & 55, which is taken on record.

Let the learned counsel for the CMC obtain instruction in this regard so that the matter can be taken up on **04.09.2025**.

**(F) FIRE SAFETY IN PUJA MANDAPS**

**307-F.**  
26.08.2025

As per order no.304-F dated 21.08.2025, the Fire Officer, Cuttack was asked to file an affidavit on this issue including the instructions to be given, if any, to all the Puja Committees to adhere to the fire safety norms.

So far as the above issue is concerned, it is mentioned in the compliance letter of the Dy.



Commissioner of Police, Cuttack dated 21.08.2025 that all Puja Mandaps have been instructed to keep fire extinguisher in their Puja Mandaps vide letter no.5794 dated 21.08.2025 and letter has also been moved to Fire Officer.

Sri Sanjib Behera, Fire Officer, Cuttack is present through virtual mode.

Learned counsel for the State has produced the written instruction dated 25.08.2025 received from the Asst. Fire Officer, Cuttack Fire Station, Cuttack addressed to the learned Advocate General, Odisha, which is taken on record.

In the said instruction, it is stated that a meeting was held on 21.08.2025 at Collectorate, Cuttack under the Chairmanship of District Magistrate-cum-Collector, Cuttack regarding fire safety and other arrangements to be taken during upcoming festivals in presence of all representatives/ Heads of Department including Fire & Emergency Service, Police and representatives of all Puja Committees of Cuttack city.

In the said meeting, it has been decided that, President/Authorized Member will apply through online in 'Agnishamaseva portal' for issuance of Fire Safety Recommendations in Puja Pandals/ temporary



structures and after receipt of such applications, guidelines/Fire Safety recommendation will be issued for construction of temporary structure as per Indian Standard-8758-2013. A copy of the proceeding dated 21.08.2025 has been annexed to the written instruction as Annexure-A and copy of Indian Standard-8758-2013 has been annexed as Annexure-B.

It is further stated in the written instruction that in the said meeting, it was instructed to all Puja Committee members to keep at least 02 fire extinguishers, 02 fire buckets (One with sand another with water), to deploy a person having knowledge of operation of fire extinguisher. It was also instructed, if necessary, Puja Committee members will be provided basic knowledge with practical operating procedure of fire extinguishers at local fire stations. Apart from the above, all Fire & Emergency Service personnel will be kept on standby/ readiness in their respective fire stations to meet any emergency.

The written instruction is taken on record.

**(G) SUPPLY OF SAFE DRINKING WATER 24 X 7**

As per order no.304-G dated 21.08.2025,

**307-G.**  
26.08.2025



the concerned Authority was asked to file an affidavit on this issue.

Mr. Baishnu Bhusan Behera, General Manager, WATCO Division, Cuttack who is present through virtual mode has filed an affidavit dated 25.08.2025, wherein it is stated as follows:

**(i)** WATCO will ensure uninterrupted and hygienic water supply during the festive season;

**(ii)** Additionally, PVC tanks and Water Tankers will be deployed at strategic locations as per requirement;

**(iii)** To ensure water quality disinfection through chlorine/bleaching powder at WTP made @ of 3-5 Mg./Ltr. intermediate storage reservoir @ 1-2 Mg./Ltr. and at consumer end @ 0.2-0.5/Mg/Ltr. All the production wells are being disinfected through gravity dosing system;

**(iv)** The water supply pipe lines are being washed to clean the deposition of iron oxide;

**(v)** The quality of drinking water is being monitored on day to day basis by third party laboratory from source intermediate storage reservoir, consumer ends, stand posts, production well etc. as per schedule. Every day (except Sunday) around 30-40 numbers samples in CMC area are



collected and tested by the third party laboratory (M/s. Spectro Analytical Labs Ltd.);

**(vi)** The Field engineers and staff of WATCO are testing more than 20 samples per day for residual chlorine content at consumer end through field test kit, which are being recorded everyday;

**(vii)** The Jalasathis engaged by WATCO are also testing more than 50 water samples per day at consumer end through field test kit for residual chlorine;

**(viii)** The residual chlorine test made everyday by the field staff of WATCO and GPS photographs shared everyday in a joint whatsapp group of WATCO, CMC and Health Department official are recorded;

**(ix)** WATCO is trying its level best to supply safe & clean drinking water uninterruptedly during coming festival to the public, and also to prevent water borne diseases any more.

The said affidavit is taken on record.

**(H)            CHECKING            SELLING/**  
**DISTRIBUTION OF CONTAMINATED**  
**AND ADULTERATED FOOD**

As per order no.304-H dated 21.08.2025,

**307-H.**  
26.08.2025



the concerned Authority/Authorities was asked to file an affidavit on this issue.

Learned counsel for the CMC has produced the compliance report of the CMC dated 26.08.2025, wherein it is stated as follows:

**(i)** For carrying out any food business, a Food Business Operator is required to comply with the provision of Schedule-IV of the Food Safety and Standards Act (FSS Act);

**(ii)** Keeping in view the upcoming festive season, three inspection teams have been constituted under the leadership of the Health Officer, Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC)-cum Nodal Officer, Food Safety. Each team comprises Food Safety Officers and Health Supervisors of CMC;

**(iii)** The teams have been directed to inspect major street food hubs within Cuttack Municipal Corporation limits prior to the puja season. Further, during the puja period, inspections will also be conducted around the Puja Pandals, food samples will be collected randomly, and in case of any violation, the concerned Food Business Operator shall be penalized under Section 69 of the FSS Act;

While dealing with this issue to address the contaminated and adulterated food during festive



season, Sri Arun Kumar Sahoo, Health Officer, CMC appearing through virtual mode informs this Court that to ensure the safety of the food, they have requested the Commissioner, Food Safety, Bhubaneswar to provide mobile unit to check the samples.

It is brought to the notice of this Court that on requisition, the mobile unit will be made available to be used by the CMC. We were told that so far as Bhubaneswar is concerned, they have only one such unit.

Necessary steps be taken by the CMC in this regard to ensure that a dedicated food safety mobile unit testing lab is placed at the disposal of the CMC keeping in view the festive season.

**(iv)** A requisition has been given to the Commissioner Food Safety, Odisha, BBSR for the deployment of the Mobile Food Testing Laboratory as per the requirement for immediate checking of food quality. This facility enables on the spot testing of foods items for detection of synthetic colour, starch, cereal, sugar;

**(v)** The above activities shall continue throughout the puja season to ensure Food Safety and Public Health.



List this matter on **04.09.2025**.

**(I) WASTE MANAGEMENT**

**307-I.**  
26.08.2025

As per order no.304-I dated 21.08.2025, the concerned Authority/Authorities was asked to file an affidavit on this issue.

Learned counsel for the CMC has produced the compliance report of the CMC dated 26.08.2025, wherein it is stated CMC shall take necessary steps for providing recycling bins/waste containers, deploying required numbers of sanitation staffs, spreading of bleaching and sweeping, cleaning and removing of all garbage from all Puja Mandap Pandals during entire Puja Festival time for smoothly ensuring of Durga Puja Festival.

**(J) REGULATING TIMING OF CULTURAL PROGRAMMES/MELODY**

**307-J.**  
26.08.2025

As per order no.304-J dated 21.08.2025, the concerned Authority/Authorities was asked to file an affidavit on this issue.

So far as the above issue is concerned, it is mentioned in the compliance letter of the Dy. Commissioner of Police, Cuttack dated 21.08.2025 that the concerned IICs of Cuttack Urban Police District have been instructed to closely liaison with the organizer of Puja Committees and they have



been instructed to stage cultural programmes in spread out manner on different dates confirming to the prescribed standard as per the provision of law and orders of the Court in order to prevent noise pollution and also traffic congestion in the City. The office bearer of the Puja Committee must obtain prior permission from DCP, Cuttack for use of loudspeaker during melody/ cultural programme and the programme must be closed within 10.00 p.m. until further order following the traffic rules.

It is further stated in the compliance letter that safety measures like installation of CCTV and appointment of private security guards in Puja Mandaps should be ensured for ensuring safety and security of valuables of Medhas made of Silver/Gold/crown as well. While installing the CCTV in Puja Mandaps, it should be ensured that the CCTV faces towards public/viewers/devotees, so that it would be easy to detect crime if takes place.

**(K) CHECKING FORCED DONATIONS/  
EXTORTIONS**

**307-K.**  
26.08.2025

As per order no.304-K dated 21.08.2025, the concerned Authority/Authorities was asked to file an affidavit on this issue.



So far as the above issue is concerned, it is mentioned in the compliance letter of the Dy. Commissioner of Police, Cuttack dated 21.08.2025 that instructions have already been issued to all IICs to take prompt action against forcible collection of Chanda; etc.

We expect the duty of the police to protect innocent citizen from criminal intimidation of anti-social elements who indulge in forcible collection of chanda which used to be rampant during festive seasons, should be observed strictly in accordance with law.

**(L) PREVENTION OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES AND SAFETY OF PEOPLE**

**307-L.**  
26.08.2025

As per order no.304-L dated 21.08.2025, the concerned Authority/Authorities was asked to file an affidavit on this issue as to how they have planned to create a safer environment for citizens to enjoy the festive season, while effectively deterring and combating criminal activities.

So far as the above issue is concerned, it is mentioned in the compliance letter of the Dy. Commissioner of Police, Cuttack dated 21.08.2025 that in order to prevent crime, instructions have already been issued to all IICs of Cuttack City to take



prompt action and elaborate police arrangement has been made to prevent criminal activities and safety of people.

**(M) DISCIPLINED IMMERSION  
PROCESSION**

**307-M.**  
26.08.2025

As per order no.304-M dated 21.08.2025, the concerned Authority/Authorities was asked to file an affidavit on this issue.

So far as the above issue is concerned, it is mentioned in the compliance letter of the Dy. Commissioner of Police, Cuttack dated 21.08.2025 that separate police arrangement will be made to regulate for smooth immersion processions.

Learned counsel for the CMC has produced the compliance report of the CMC dated 26.08.2025, wherein it is stated CMC shall take necessary steps for making of temporary ponds for immersion of idols with light arrangement and accessible road to the said ponds. After immersion, all the Idols/ waste materials will be removed by the CMC.

**(S.K. Sahoo)**  
**Judge**

**(V. Narasingh)**  
**Judge**



**SATYABRATA STADIUM**

**308.**  
26.08.2025

**(i) ISSUE REGARDING CLEANLINESS  
AND LIGHTING**

As per order No.305 dated 21.08.2025, the Advocates' Committee have visited Satyabrata Stadium and submitted a report regarding the issues and problems inside the Satyabrata Stadium. The said report is taken on record.

Copy thereof be served on Mr. D. Gochhayat, learned CGC in course of the day so that he can respond to the same and his response be placed on record by 02.09.2025.

List this matter on 04.09.2025.

***(S.K. Sahoo)***  
***Judge***

***(V. Narasingh)***  
***Judge***