

Sub :- *Precautionary measures to be taken for 'Prasad' & other edibles by Puja Committees in Nagaon, Assam.*

At the very beginning, I express my heartiest Puja greetings to all the Puja Committees in Nagaon, Assam. For safe & successful celebration of our ensuing Durga Puja, I request all the Puja Committees to take the under mentioned precautions and care for 'Prasad' & other edibles to avoid untoward incident related to food & hygiene.

- All Puja Committees should make a Sub-Committee of 'Food Safety' with members having the basic knowledge of health & hygiene.
- Only fresh & good quality Food-stuff should be purchased by the Committees.
- All Food grains, Grams & Pulses like Rice, Bengal Gram (Boot), Moong etc. are to be properly cleaned & screened so as to make them free from insects, insect's eggs, damaged grains, foreign matters etc.
- It's very important to wash thoroughly all food grains, Grams & Pulses before soaking to wash out pesticides/preservatives normally present in these types of food-stuff to control insect infestation and to prolong shelf-life. Pesticides/preservatives are absorbed by these types of food items if soaked without washing and may lead to gastro-intestinal disorders.
- Responsibility to monitor the washing & cleaning of food-stuff & utensils should be given to a member.
- All food items should be stored in clean utensils and well-covered to avoid contamination by flies & dust.
- Kindly make arrangement to provide safe & hygienic drinking water for all visitors.
- Persons suffering from or harbouring the germs of any infectious disease should not be engaged for preparation as well as handling of food-stuff.
- Toilets should be at a suitable distance from the places like kitchen, dining hall & underground drinking water sources. Littering of the premises of the Puja Mandap with left-overs, disposable plates/glasses should be controlled. Frequent spraying of disinfectant at Toilets, drains and dumping-pits of left-overs & disposable plates/glasses, is very important.

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