

Regarding need to comply with crowd management regulations strictly during religious or cultural gatherings/festivals to control stampedes in the country-Laid

DR. K. SUDHAKAR (CHIKKBALLAPUR): India has witnessed numerous stampede incidents over the years, often resulting in significant casualties. These incidents frequently occur during religious or cultural gatherings due to large crowds and inadequate safety measures. Recent examples include the Hathras incident, the Mahakumbh event in Uttar Pradesh, the Puri incident, and the Bengaluru incident on June 4th, where a large crowd gathered to celebrate the IPL victory. Within minutes, 11 lives were lost, and scores were left injured. Karnataka has recently issued Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for crowd management during large events and mass gatherings, which is a positive step. However, we need a clear policy at the national level. According to a report by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), nearly 70% of mass gathering events in India, particularly during religious festivals, fail to comply with crowd management regulations set by authorities, contributing to recurring stampedes. While there are National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) guidelines, the local police force and state administration often fail to implement them effectively. To address this issue, we need a strict regulation at the Central level and a policy-level intervention to mandatorily ensure that stampede events do not lead to loss of life. I request the Government to implement such a regulation.