

## DU issues safety guidelines for events on campus

According to DU, this is in continuation of a detailed 2023 standard operating procedure (SOP) issued by the Delhi Police following a 2023 Delhi High Court order in a matter of security lapses faced during annual fests, causing injuries and trauma to attending students.

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Other measures include issuing a social media advisory before major events, deploying a first aid team, ambulance and putting in place fire safety measures as part of emergency preparedness.

Police being intimated in advance about an event, appointment of a liaison officer, proper management of crowd, installation of CCTV cameras, arrangements made in case of emergency situations and

enhanced deployment of private security personnel — these are part of a new advisory the Delhi University (DU) issued on Wednesday for "safe, smooth and orderly conduct of events and gatherings".

According to DU, this is in continuation of a detailed 2023 standard operating procedure (SOP) issued by the <u>Delhi</u> Police following a 2023 Delhi High Court order in a matter of security lapses faced during annual fests, causing injuries and trauma to attending students.

A similar advisory had been issued by the Proctor's office last January.

The guidelines issued for DU's colleges, hostels, centres and institutions for safe conduct of events like annual fest or hostel night, among others, emphasise the appointment of a liaison officer for coordination with Delhi Police "regarding all processions, protests, gatherings, functions and events". One officer each is to be appointed for both North and South campuses.

The institutions are also allowed to appoint a liaison officer specifically for an event. As per the advisory, the liaison officer must remain available at all times and share essential details with the local police, including the event schedule, its nature, the presence of VVIPs, the expected gathering, entry modalities, layout, and any other relevant information.

Other measures include issuing a social media advisory before major events, deploying a first aid team, ambulance and putting in place fire safety measures as part of emergency preparedness. As part of crowd management, separate entry and exit gates are to be set up for VIP and general attendees, along with emergency exit routes.

"It is further clarified that the sole responsibility for the conduct and management of events within the premises of any college/hostel or institution rests with the respective college/institution. Delhi Police, as part of its mandate, is tasked with maintaining overall law and order, and not providing security cover to private events," the advisory said.

Volunteers need to be deployed in sufficient numbers, while also mandating the deployment of sufficient traffic marshals for parking and traffic management, it added.

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