CITY BEEFS UP SECURITY FOR NAVRATRI

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It is that time of the year again when decking up, going on a shopping spree and getting special makeovers for dandiya nights tops the list for most youngsters. To ensure that these revellers are safe while they dance the night away, event organisers across the city are making elaborate safety plans and massive security arrangements. Apart from the regular Hand Held Metal Detectors (HHMD), Door Frame Metal Detectors (DFMD), manual frisking and baggage scanners that are present at all event grounds, this year will also see a heightened increase in digital security and presence of bouncers inside the venues.

HI-TECH GADGETS TO ENSURE SMOOTH ENTRY

Enthusiastic revellers want to enjoy every minute dancing and the time wasted at entry points for manual frisking and scanning can become a sour point. Keeping this in mind, organisers of the dandiya at the Kutchi Ground in Borivali will be using special high-tech machines at entry points. Chetan Gaur, one of the organisers, says, “Before the programme begins, thousands of people queue up at entry points, which could result in a stampede. We also don’t want people to waste their time in security checks, so we have installed a special machine that will do away with the need for manual frisking. These are usually available only at airports.” Apart from a marked increase in the number of CCTVs installed throughout the ground, there will also be substitute technology like aerial monitoring, for extra surveillance.

QUICK RESPONSE TEAMS ON HIGH ALERT DURING THE PROGRAMME

Some of the Navratri grounds are expected to witness daily footfalls of around 30,000 per day. This will also include celebrities and stars visiting them which might lead to untoward situations. With women security being the prime concern for most event organisers, they will be arranging women bouncers in uniform, as well as civil clothes. Binu Cherian, vice president of events at a top security agency, says, “Our major focus is on women safety and security. We will have Quick Response Teams at strategic locations of the dandiya ground. While the function is on, these teams will scan the grounds to keep an eye on any mishandling or suspicious activity.”

OTHER THAN THE USUAL SECURITY PROVISIONS, THIS YEAR WILL SEE AN INCREASE IN DIGITAL SAFETY AND PRESENCE OF BOUNCERS INSIDE THE VENUES

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CELEBRITY SECURITY AND CROWD MANAGEMENT

With Navratri grounds witnessing celebrities and a bevy of Bollywood stars along with thousands of revellers, organisers are making sure that constant and thorough monitoring is carried out for all nine days. Binu says, “For celebrities and artiste protection, the security has been increased this year. We are going to make sure that they will be escorted properly from the time they enter the venue, till they leave it. Additional crowd management teams will also be deployed in case the crowd gets out of control, while trying to boost the show,” he laments.

KEEPLYING VENUES FIRE SAFE

Mazhar Nadiadwala, who heads one of the largest Navratri venues in Worli, says, “We want to ensure that all kinds of precautions are taken to keep everyone safe. There are fire extinguishers placed across the venue and we will also have a fire engine and fire marshalls stationed.” Also, ambulances will be stationed outside venues.

EVACUATION PLANS IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

This year, most event organisers are charting out blueprints and performing artistes. Certain assembly points have already been identified at the venue, where we will gather the crowd. The entry and exits for celebrities will be different from that of the general public. For instance, they’re having multiple entry and exit points for faster evacuation in case of an on-ground emergency. Binu says, “We have proper evacuation plans in place for the backstage, ticketing area and various other public points in the venue.”

One of the dandiya programmes in the city, last year