



CIVIL

# Maharashtra Issues Guidelines for Foreign Artists Performing in the State

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Mumbai, the cultural and entertainment capital of India, has long been a magnet for international pop artists and bands seeking to captivate audiences with their music. In recent years, the city and the broader Maharashtra region have hosted a series of high-profile performances by some of the biggest names in the global music scene. Artists like Ed Sheeran, known for his soulful ballads and electrifying live shows, have drawn massive crowds to Mumbai. Similarly, Coldplay, the iconic British rock band, has performed to sold-out arenas, leaving fans mesmerized with their signature blend of rock and pop. Other notable acts include Marshmello, the electronic dance music sensation, and Calvin Harris, whose energetic performances have set the stage ablaze. These events have not only entertained but also enriched the cultural fabric of the region, blending international sounds with the local spirit.

However, with the increasing popularity of such events, the need for clear and comprehensive regulations has become evident. The Maharashtra government has responded by issuing a circular that outlines the formal procedures for foreign artists' participation in events and the issuance of No-Objection Certificates (NOCs).

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## Background

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The state of Maharashtra, particularly Mumbai, has long been a hub for arts and entertainment. Its cosmopolitan nature and rich cultural heritage attract artists from around the globe. Events featuring foreign artists have become increasingly popular, ranging from music concerts and dance performances to theatre shows and art exhibitions. While these events enrich the local cultural landscape, they also necessitate a regulatory framework to manage and oversee foreign participation.

## Legal Framework

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The circular issued by the Maharashtra government is based on the guidelines provided by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. It builds upon previous government orders issued in 2018 and aligns with the broader regulatory environment for foreign nationals participating in cultural and artistic events within the country. The primary aim is to ensure that all foreign artists adhere to the rules and regulations while performing in the state.

## Formal Procedure for Foreign Artists' Participation

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### Registration and Documentation

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Foreign artists intending to perform in Maharashtra must be registered with an Event Management Company. This registration ensures that the artists are recognized and their participation is formalized. Additionally, the artists must have a clean police record, with no adverse remarks that could affect their eligibility to perform.

### Visa and OCI Requirements

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Foreign artists are required to possess either a B, E, or X category visa or an OCI (Overseas Citizen of India) card. These documents are essential for their legal entry and participation in events within the country. The possession of these documents ensures compliance with immigration laws and regulations.

### Application Process

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Event organizers are responsible for initiating the application process for the NOC. They must submit the required documents to the Home Department at least eight days in advance. The documents should be forwarded to the Foreigners Registration Officer (FRO) in Mumbai via email. The FRO will then forward the application to the Home Department for further processing.

## Issuance of NOC

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Once the application is received, the Home Department will review the documents and issue the NOC. This certificate is crucial for the participation of foreign artists in any event within the state. Organizers must ensure that they receive this NOC before finalizing any event details.

## Additional Permissions

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In addition to the NOC, event organizers may need to obtain other permissions from local authorities. These permissions can vary based on the nature and location of the event. It is essential for organizers to liaise with local administration and police to ensure all necessary permissions are in place.

## Conclusion

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The circular issued by the Maharashtra government provides a clear and structured approach for foreign artists' participation in events. By adhering to these guidelines, organizers can ensure a seamless and lawful process for hosting international talent. This regulatory framework not only protects the interests of the state and its citizens but also fosters a vibrant and inclusive cultural environment. As Maharashtra continues to attract global artists, these guidelines will play a crucial role in maintaining the balance between cultural exchange and regulatory compliance.

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