

A Platform of Organizations and People Supporting
Environment
RA 449 Sector IV Salt Lake, Kolkata 700105
Contact No:9831636817
E mail : sabujmancha@gmail.com

Ref: SM/Sound/2016/

Dated: 21.12.2016

Sri Sovan Chatterjee;
Minister in Charge
Department of Environment
Pouro Bhaban, Salt Lake, Kolkata

Dear Sir,

Sub: Noise Rule violation during X Mas and New Year festivities

Please accept our heartiest festive greetings on the outset.

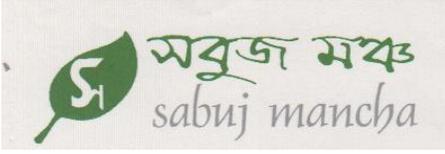
In context to the impending X Mas and New Year festivities and celebrations, Sabuj Mancha , a platform of environment conscious organizations and individuals including eminent experts , would like to draw your attention to the critical issue of significant noise norm violations during the festivities that has become a routine for many years; and place a charter of demands / suggestions for your consideration to stop the menace.

From our experiences- the platform has been actively campaigning against noise norm violations since 2009 – we find that violations like blaring microphone beyond 10 pm despite Supreme Court verdict and existing noise norms, blasting of fire crackers over specified decibel limit and also beyond 10 pm (when fire crackers of all decibels are banned), as well as all out noise attack on people by so called DJ driven programmes; had occurred regularly during the end December – early January in the name of festivities. We demand that the practice and trend should be immediately stopped as apart from violating norms and judicial directives, it severely impacts the health of people; especially elderly, with ailments and children. The pets and other animals also suffer a lot.

In this context we place the following charter of demands / suggestions;

- Open rooftop programmes using microphones beyond 10 pm should not be allowed and even before that the same should not inconvenience the neighbourhood people
- DJ driven programmes in public places should be completely banned irrespective of hours as clearly they always violate the stipulated noise limit.
- Many clubs in city and around blare microphone in such a high pitch during late evening and night close to year end and new year so that people around get extremely inconvenienced. Such clubs should be given directives by PCB and police to ensure that the noise remains confined within their boundary and neighbourhood people should not have to become captive listeners.
- There should not be any bursting of crackers beyond 10 pm; irrespective of decibel level.
- Police should either clearly allow or deny permissions to use microphones instead of current practice of just receiving the applications without any follow up directive. As a matter of fact police should ensure that all microphone users have police clearances and fit sound limiters in microphone as per standing high court directive.
- Police authorities should take *suo moto*, immediate and appropriate actions as per Noise Rules, 2000 and court orders and if it is found that any particular official has not taken actions as per law in case of any violation; he or she should be personally booked for dereliction of duty.

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Wishing prompt and appropriate action at your end.

With Regards

Naba Dutta, Secretary Sabuj Mancha

Professor Sujay Basu, Scientist

Advocate Gitanath Ganguly, Noise Crusader and former High Court appointed Special Officer