

A Platform of Organizations and People Supporting Environment
RA 449 Sector IV Salt Lake, Kolkata 700105
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Ref: SM/Sound/2021

Dated: 29.10.2021

PRESS NOTE

Sub: Civil society monitoring on implementation of the High Court and the Supreme Court orders banning all kinds of fireworks, DJ and other equipments creating sound and air pollution

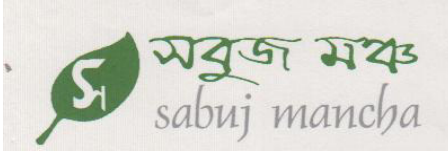
Dear Madam / Sir,

Please accept our heartiest festive greetings from Sabuj Mancha – the Platform of environment organisations and individuals concerned for environment of the state.

We are reminding everyone that the High Court, in the last year, calling fight against the pandemic, had prohibited bursting of all kinds of fireworks to restrict sound and air pollution which were dangerous for the COVID 19 patients and all those who were susceptible victims. The Supreme Court also upheld the order. The High Court had also ordered prohibiting DJ and other equipments which may create sound pollution. The COVID situation is still prevailing and number of victims is again increasing in West Bengal. Sabuj Mancha, along with innumerable organizations and environment activists of the state, is requesting all the concerned authorities to take steps in the light of the said orders to save the citizens from unbearable festive pollution.

We are aggrieved to see that the WBPCB order dated 26.10.21 allowed “green crackers” for specific period. As such there is confusion even among the industry itself regarding such “green crackers”. Our experience of the past amply confirms that there is high probability that all kinds of fireworks will be sold and used in the name of green crackers. The order says nothing regarding prohibition of use of DJ and loud speakers without sound limiter. We have already requested to withdraw such order. **If any positive action is not taken, we shall be compelled to take legal and other courses.**

We also request the authorities to take serious action against the violators of earlier years and inform the public regarding such action so that possible violators are discouraged to repeat such activities. We like to highlight that our monitoring in the last year revealed that the following police stations in **Kolkata** were reluctant to restrict the violations. People of those made serious complaints against their inaction – Sonarpur PS, Behala PS, Sarsuna PS, Tollygunj PS, Ballygunj PS, Jadavpur PS, Gariahat PS, Bhwanipur PS, Kasba PS, Garia PS, Naktala PS, Phoolbagan PS, Maniktala PS, Jorasanko PS, Shyambazar PS, Chitpur PS, Lake Town PS, Bangur PS, Sinthee PS, Baguhati PS, Bidhan Nagar Purbo PS, Dumdum PS, New Alipore PS, Haridebpur PS, Jorabagan PS etc. Our monitoring in **Howrah** also reveals that rampant violations took place due to police inaction in the following areas - Malipanchghara PS, Golabari PS, Lilua PS, Howrah PS, Chatterjee Hat PS, Shibpur PS, Batra PS etc. in **Urban Howrah** and Shympur PS and Bagnan PS in **Rural Howrah**.



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Complaints have been received from other rural areas under Chakdaha PS, Ranagath PS, Kalyani PS, Haringatha PS. Dhantola PS, Haskhali PS, Krishnagang PS, Karimpore PS, Santipore PS, Gangapore PS etc. We request the respective authorities to specially sensitize the above police stations and remind them regarding their responsibilities.

We further demand to the authorities to (a) take strict action against the production units of illegal fireworks as per NGT norms, (b) ensure using of all microphones with sound limiters, (c) sensitize the clubs and multi-storied buildings, (d) give exemplary punishment to the violators and (e) ensure strict vigilance on the festive days, book all the violations and instruct respective police stations to take immediate action.

Like every year, Sabuj Mancha has decided to monitor the situation from 4 to 5 Nov 2021. Apart from monitoring the on ground situation on 4.11.21 evening and night, complaints will be received at the following numbers -

Central Control Room - 9831318265 (Phone & Whatsapp), 9432209770, 9635912049 Whatsapp

Hooghly Control Room - 8016669006, 9883325009 Whatsapp

Howrah Rural - 90645 70985 Howrah Urban - 91 8910634755

Dakshin Dinajpur - 8637046731 (Phone & Whatsapp)

Apart from the Central Receiving Centres, situation of different districts will be monitored by the green activists in the districts.

Yours sincerely,

Best regards,

**Naba Dutta,
Secretary, Sabuj Mancha**