

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: 1.11.2021

PRESS NOTE

Sub: Supreme Court Order dated 1.11.21 - very unfortunate for the victims of sound and air pollution in the festive season.

The Supreme Court on Monday set aside the order of the Calcutta High Court which imposed a complete ban of use of firecrackers in the State of West Bengal. The apex court upheld its order dated 23 Oct 2018 and allowed green crackers for specific period in the coming festive season.

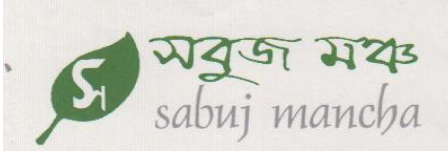
This is very unfortunate that an order passed in a pre-COVID situation has been upheld by the Supreme Court. It is well known that bulk commercial production of Green Crackers as defined by NEERI has not yet started. These were not available in the market till last week of October 21. Now such order will cause confusion and may pave the way for the sale and use of illegal fireworks just labeling those with fictitious bar codes as green crackers.

So we shall make appeal to the Supreme Court to reconsider its decision and protect the citizens who are already living in one of the most polluted places in the world.

We are drawing attention of the authorities that the Supreme Court also ordered to take action against the in-charges of the police stations which are marked for allowing violations and behave callously. Last year we identified the following police stations receiving complaints from the citizens and our direct monitoring - 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**.

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) ensure using of all microphones with sound limiters, (b) sensitize the clubs and multi-storied buildings, (c) give exemplary punishment to the violators and (d) ensure strict vigilance on the festive days, book all the violations and instruct respective police stations to take immediate action.



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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)

Nadia - 9332283356 (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**