

**GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE & DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
RI BHOI DISTRICT, NONGPOH.**

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**ORDER UNDER SECTION 163 OF THE BHARATIYA NAGARIK SURAKSHA
SANHITA (BNSS), 2023 READ WITH THE PETROLEUM ACT, 1934**

WHEREAS, credible inputs and reports have been received indicating the potential risk of anti-social elements, miscreants, or agitators procuring loose, unpackaged petrol, diesel, and other inflammable petroleum products in open containers, bottles, plastic pouches, jerry cans, or drums;

WHEREAS, the unauthorized purchase, storage, and transport of loose fuel poses an imminent threat to public safety, creating severe risks of arson, damage to public and private property, fabrication of Molotov cocktails/incendiary devices, explosive accidents, and serious breach of public peace and order within the territorial limits of Ri Bhoi District.

WHEREAS, immediate preventive measures are necessary under the law to regulate the dispensation of highly inflammable substances by retail petroleum outlets to safeguard human life and property;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, **Dr. Abhishek Saini, IAS, District Magistrate, Ri Bhoi District, Nongpoh**, in exercise of the powers conferred upon me under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (formerly Section 144 Cr.P.C), read with relevant provisions of the Petroleum Act, 1934 and the Petroleum Rules, 2002, do hereby issue the following binding directions across the entire district:

- 1. Total Ban on Loose Sale:** All owners, managers, franchisees, and fuel-dispensing staff of Retail Petroleum Outlets (Petrol Pumps) operating in Ri Bhoi District are strictly prohibited from selling or dispensing petrol/fuel in loose containers of any kind, including plastic/glass bottles, cans, buckets, drums, or pouches.
- 2. Direct-to-Tank Dispensation Only:** Petrol and other inflammable fuels shall be dispensed exclusively and directly into the pre-fitted, standard fuel tanks of registered motor vehicles.
- 3. Emergency/Exceptional Situations:** In genuine, verifiable emergency situations (such as generators for critical health facilities, mobile towers etc. loose fuel may be dispensed only in safety-certified, approved metal containers.
- 4. The retail outlet must maintain a separate Special Register** recording the purchaser's full name, address, verified mobile number, Aadhaar/Government ID details, vehicle/equipment registration number, purpose of purchase, exact quantity dispensed, and the purchaser's signature/thumb impression.
- 5. Mandatory CCTV Coverage & Signage:** All fuel pump stations must ensure functional 24x7 CCTV coverage covering all dispensing nozzles and point-of-sale areas. Prominent bilingual warning boards stating **"SALE OF LOOSE PETROL IN BOTTLES/CONTAINERS IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED BY ORDER OF THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE"** must be displayed at all entrance and dispensing bays.

PENAL PROVISIONS & ENFORCEMENT

1. Failure to comply with this order by fuel station owners, operators, staff, or purchasers shall attract immediate criminal prosecution under Section 223 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023 (Disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant).
 2. Violators shall also be liable for penal proceedings under Section 287 / Section 288 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (Negligent conduct with respect to poisonous/combustible matter), alongside statutory cancellation or suspension of retail operating licenses under the Petroleum Act, 1934 and the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.
 3. Addl. District Magistrates, Executive Magistrates, and Police Officers not below the rank of Sub-Inspector are authorized to conduct surprise inspections and execute preventive arrests under Section 170 of the BNSS, 2023 against non-compliant parties.
- This order shall come into force with immediate effect and shall remain operational throughout Ri Bhoi District until further orders.
- Given under my hand and the seal of this office on this **20th day of August, 2026.**


(Dr. Abhishek Saini, IAS)
District Magistrate & Deputy Commissioner
Ri Bhoi District, Nongpoh.