

GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE :: EAST KHASI HILLS DISTRICT
::: SHILLONG :::

No. EKJ.20/24/2017/Vol-I/211/885

Dated Shillong the 9th September, 2026.

ORDER UNDER RULES 5, 7 & 8 OF THE NOISE POLLUTION (REGULATION AND CONTROL) RULES, 2000

Whereas, it has been brought to the notice of the undersigned that many road side singers/street music performers in the commercial market area use Loudspeakers, Amplifiers, Bluetooth speakers, Sound producing instruments which exceeds the permissible noise limits thereby violating the Hon'ble NGT's order and the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules: -

- **Rule 5(1) & 5(2) of the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000- Loudspeakers & Sound Producing Instruments:** The use of sound-producing instruments, amplifiers, and loudspeakers in public places requires prior written permission from the designated authority.
- **Rule 7(1) of the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000- Citizen Complaint Threshold:** Under Rule 7(1), if ambient noise levels exceed prescribed standards by 10 dB(A) or more, the authority is mandated to take direct enforcement action against the violator. The measured exceedance of range from +10.1dB(A) Leq to +12.1 dB(A) Leq explicitly triggers this clause.
- **Rule 8 of the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000- Power to Prohibit/ Confiscate:** Designated enforcement authorities hold the power to order the immediate prohibition, abatement, or seizure of sound-producing equipment operating in violation of the rules.

Whereas, it has also been observed that the noise level assessment of street performers in the commercial market area exceeded permissible noise limit.

Therefore, I Shri. Abhilash Baranwal, IAS, District Magistrate, East Khasi Hills District, Shillong, being the "authority" under Rule 2(c) and in exercise of the power conferred upon me under Rules 5, 7 & 8 of the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000, and in order to safeguard the environment, do hereby (i) prohibit the un-monitored use of single-stage (microphone) and multi-stage amplification (combining high-output Stranger amplifiers with active Bluetooth speakers and sound boxes) in open public market zones without permits from designated authority, (ii) mandate regular street performers to use acoustic/unplugged and non-electronic/non-amplified musical instruments, (iii) prohibit un-monitored performance along narrow pedestrian thoroughfares like G.S Road and narrow market corridors where sound reverberates off building facades, (iv) Identify specific non-sensitive, acoustic-friendly street performance spots away from high-density commercial corridors or narrow, echo-prone alleyways, (v) Relocate performances to designated cultural zones if available.

The Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board (MSPCB) is hereby directed to enforce this order. MSPCB shall monitor noise levels in the commercial market area and other corridors covered by this order, and shall initiate action against violators under Section 15 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, in addition to any other enforcement action under the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000.

Any violation of the above direction or non-compliance by the general public shall be viewed seriously and action will be taken under Section 223 BNS, in addition to action initiated by the MSPCB under Section 15 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

In view of the urgency of the matter, this order has been passed ex-parte and shall come into force with immediate effect throughout the entire East Khasi Hills District and until further orders.

Given under my hand and seal, the 9th September, 2026.

Sd/-

(Shri. Abhilash Baranwal, IAS)

District Magistrate,

East Khasi Hills District