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

ORDER UNDER SECTION 163 BNSS

Whereas, it has been brought to the notice of the undersigned regarding unauthorized sand mining and washing activities along the stretch from Umtyngar to Pomkaniew along the Umiew River, has revealed grave environmental violations and unregulated discharge of silt-laden wash-water directly into the river channel; and

Whereas, sand extraction and washing activities are operating without functional settling tanks, filtration arrangements, or designated spoil-disposal sites, causing severe turbidity and heavy siltation in the Umiew River.

Whereas, the operations are being conducted without valid mining licenses, quarry permits from the Forest Department, No Objection Certificates (NOCs) from the Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council (KHADC), or prior Environmental Clearance (EC) / Consent to Establish/Operate from the Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board (MSPCB), in direct contravention of the Meghalaya Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2016, and the EIA Notification, 2006.

Whereas, such unregulated activities pose an imminent threat to aquatic life, water quality, and downstream irrigation channels and allied infrastructure; and

Whereas, urgent preventive and remedial measures are necessary to avert immediate danger to public health, water security, aquatic ecosystems, and public property, and to prevent any obstruction, injury, or annoyance to the public;

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred upon me under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, I, Shri. Abhilash Baranwal, IAS, District Magistrate, East Khasi Hills District, Shillong, do hereby prohibit and order the following restrictions with immediate effect along the Umtyngar-Pomkaniew stretch of the Umiew River and surrounding areas:

1. All unauthorized sand washing and unscientific sand extraction operations along the Umtyngar-Pomkaniew stretch of the Umiew River that discharge silt-laden wash-water directly into the river channel are hereby stoppped/prohibited forthwith pending statutory compliance and clearance from competent authorities.
2. Operators are strictly prohibited from dumping extracted sand, mud, silt, or debris along the river banks or natural drainage paths where it can be washed into the river.
3. No sand washing or mining activity shall resume unless and until operators establish proper settling tanks, closed-loop filtration arrangements, and designated spoil-disposal sites away from the river channel, supported by valid statutory permits and clearances.

This order shall come into force with immediate effect and shall remain in force until further orders.

Any violation of the order shall be prosecuted under **Section 223 of the BNS, 2023.**

Given under my hand and seal on this **19th day of October, 2026.**

Sd/-
District Magistrate,
East Khasi Hills District,
Shillong.