

Government of Punjab
Department of Science, Technology and Environment
(S.T.E. Branch)

No:10/587/2024-STE2/691

Dated:11.10.2024

Subject: Regulations for sale and use of fire crackers in the State of Punjab in compliance to Orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.

ORDER

The festive season of Diwali, Gurupurab, Christmas and New Year Eve is approaching during which people usually burst crackers, which can adversely affect the respiratory health of vulnerable groups and elderly people etc.

whereas, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide judgment dated 23.10.2018 and order dated 31.10.2018 passed in Writ Petition (Civil) no.728 of 2015 titled as Arjun Gopal and others v/s Union of India and other connected matters had issued certain directions relating to the use of firecrackers for compliance by the State Governments;

and whereas, considering the adverse impact of pollution by use of fire crackers, aggravated risk to lives and health, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal had issued certain directions for compliance by the States with regard to the use of fire crackers vide order dated 09.11.2020 passed in Original Application No. 249 of 2020 titled as Tribunal on its own Motion v/s Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and others and other connected matters;

Keeping in view the order dated 23.10.2018 and 31.10.2018 passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 728 of 2015, the order dated 9.11.2020 passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in O.A No. 249 of 2020 and other connected matters, the State Government in exercise of the powers delegated by the Central Government u/s 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 hereby prohibit, restrict and regulate the sale and use of fire crackers in the State of Punjab by issuing the following directions:

- a. The manufacture, stock, distribute, sale and use of joined firecrackers (series crackers or laries) is here by banned in whole of the State.
- b. Only the greencrackers (those crackers that do not use barium salt or compounds of antimony, lithium, mercury, arsenic, lead or strontium chromate) would be allowed for sale and use in the State of Punjab.
- c. The sale shall be through licensed traders for the permitted fire crackers only.
- d. No licensee shall store, display or sell any firecrackers whose decibel levels are not within the permitted limits.
- e. In the State, only green crackers would be allowed and strictly for very short duration on the following days and time:

Festival	Date	Day	Time for bursting of crackers
Diwali	31 October, 2024	Thursday	From 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm
Gurpurab	15 November,2024	Friday	From 4:00 am to 05:00 am and From 9:00 pm to 10:00 pm
Christmas Eve	25-26, December, 2024	Wednesday Thursday	From 11:55 pm till 12:30 am
New Year Eve	31 December of 2024–01 January of 2025	Tuesday Wednesday	From 11:55 pm till 12:30 am

- f. An endeavor shall be made to explore the possibility of community fire cracking. For promoting Community fire cracking, particular area/fields would be pre-identified and pre- designated by the concerned authorities immediately and the same shall be publicized for information of the public at large.
- g. No e-commerce websites including Flipkart, Amazon, etc. shall accept any online orders and effect online sales within the State of Punjab.
- h. Extensive public awareness campaign shall be undertaken by the Deputy Commissioners informing the public about the harmful effects of fire crackers.
- i. The police authorities shall ensure that the sale and use of allowed green fire crackers only take place during the permitted time and at designated places.
- j. The Punjab Pollution Control Board shall carry out short term monitoring in the selected cities of the State as per Central Pollution Control Board guidelines.
- k. The District Magistrates shall exercise the powers under Explosive Rules, 2008 in a fair and judicious manner in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Government of Punjab, Department of Industries and Commerce.
- l. District Magistrates of 9 Non-Attainment Cities shall take special precautions after taking into account Ambient Air Quality of the concerned cities and will pass appropriate orders for compliance of the Orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.

Any violation of the directions aforementioned will invite immediate penal action under Section 15 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 besides legal action under Section 223 of the BNS and other provisions as applicable.

This is issued with the approval of competent authority.

**Dated, Chd
11.10.2024**

**(Priyank Bharti, IAS)
Secretary to Government of Punjab,
Department of Science, Technology and Environment**

End. No. 10/587/2024-STE2/692-696

Dated, Chd: 11.10.2024

1. All the Administrative Secretaries in the State of Punjab.
2. Director General of Police, Punjab, Chandigarh.
3. All the Deputy Commissioners in the State of Punjab.
4. All the Commissioners of Police/Senior Superintendents of Police of the State of Punjab.
5. Chairman, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Patiala.



**Krishan Gopal
Superintendent Grade-1**