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No.EDN-HE (21) F (07) 38/2019-Environment

Directorate of Higher Education  
Himachal Pradesh

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E-mail:dhe-sml-hp@gov.in

E-mail:genbr@rediffmail.com

Dated: Shimla-171001 the October, 2022

To

All the Principals, Government/Pvt./Skt. Colleges, in Himachal Pradesh.  
All the Deputy Directors of Higher Education, in Himachal Pradesh.

Subject: -

OA No.249 of 2020-Tribunal on its Own Motion vs Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change & Ors.

Sir,

Please find enclosed herewith a copy of letter No.STE-E(3)-14/2020 dated 10-10-2022 along with its enclosers received from the Additional Secretary (Env. Sci.& Tech.) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh on the subject cited above.

In this context, you are, therefore directed to issue necessary directions to the establishment working under your control to aware / educate the students about the harmful effect of air & noise pollution due to bursting of the Crackers during festivals. You are also directed to ensure the compliance of the directions issued by the Government vide above referred letter under intimation to the quarters concerned as well as to this Directorate, with in stipulated period.

Kindly treat it as most urgent.

Addl. Director of Higher Education (A)  
Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-1

Dated: Shimla-171001 the October, 2021

Endst.No. Even  
Copy for information:-

1. The Additional Chief Secretary (Env.S&T) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-2 w.r.t. his/her letter no. referred above.
2. The Technical Officer (Computer/IT/Cell), Directorate of Higher Education, Shimla-1 to upload the letter on departmental website.
3. Guard File.

Addl. Director of Higher Education (A)  
Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-1

शिक्षा निदेशालय उच्चतर शिक्षा  
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**MOST URGENT**

No. STE-E (3)-14/2020  
Government of Himachal Pradesh  
Department of Environment of Science & Technology

From

The Additional Chief Secretary (Env.S&T) to the  
Government of Himachal Pradesh

To

- 1 The Addl. Chief Secretary (Home) to the  
Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-171002.
- 2 The Pr. Secretary (Education) to the  
Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-171002.
- 3 The Director General of Police  
Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-171002.
- 4 The Director,  
Department of Env. Sci.&Tech., Shimla-171001.
- 5 The Member Secretary,  
HP State Pollution Control Board, Shimla-171009.
- 6 All the Deputy Commissioners,  
Himachal Pradesh.
- 7 All the Superintendents of Police  
Himachal Pradesh.
- 8 The Director (Higher/Elementary),  
Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-171001.

Dated; Shimla-2, the

10<sup>th</sup> October, 2022.

**Subject: OA No. 249 of 2020-Tribunal on its Own Motion vs. Ministry of  
Environment, Forest & Climate Change & Ors.**

Sir,

In continuation to this Department letter of even number dated 12-11-2020 & 30-10-2021 on the above cited subject and to say that the festive season of Diwali, Gurupurab, Chirstmas and New Year Eve is approaching during which people usually burst crackers, which can adversely affect the respiratory health of vulnerable groups, besides aggravating health condition of COVID-19 positive persons. Also the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide orders dated 23.10.2018 and dated 31.10.2018 passed in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 728 of 2015 titled as Arjun Gopal and Others vs. Union

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of India and connected matters had issued certain directions relating to the use of firecrackers for compliance by the State Governments. Considering the adverse impact of pollution by use of fire crackers, aggravated risk to lives and health during the Covid-19 pandemic, the Hon'ble NGT 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. 249/2020 titled as Tribunal on Its Own Motion vs. Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change and other connected matter. The operative part of directions issued on dated 09.11.2020 is reproduced as under:-

"Para 48 (i) there will be total ban against sale or use of all kinds of fire crackers in the NCR from midnight of November, 9-10, 2020 to the midnight of November 30- December 1, 2020, to be reviewed thereafter.

- ii. Direction (i) will also apply to all cities/towns in the country where the average of ambient air quality during November (as per available data of last year) fall under 'poor' and above category.
- iii. The cities/towns where air quality is 'moderate' or below, only green crackers be sold and the timings for use and bursting of crackers be restricted to two hours during festivals, like Diwali, Chatt, New Year/Christmas Eve etc., as may be specified by the concerned State. This direction is on pattern of direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in (2019) 13 SCC 523 which we are applying to areas moderately polluted or below air quality due to aggravated effect during Covid-19, as already noted. If nothing is specified by the State, timing will be 8 to 10 pm on Diwali and Gurupurb, 6 am to 8 am on Chatt and 11.55 pm to 12.30 am during Christmas and New year eve (which have yet to come and do not fall in November but if ban continues) and not otherwise.
- iv. At other places, ban/restrictions are optional for the authorities but if there are more stringent measures under orders of the authorities, the same will prevail.
- viii. All States/UTs/PCBs/PCCs may initiate special drives to contain air pollution from all sources in view of potential of aggravation of Covid-19
- ix. The Chief Secretaries and DGPs of all the States/UTs may issue and circulate an appropriate order in above terms with appropriate enforcement guidelines to all the District Magistrates and Superintendents of Police, PCBs/PCCs.
- x. The CPCB and the State PCBs/PCCs may regularly monitor the Air Quality during



this period which may be uploaded on their respective websites. CPCB may compile information on the subject, including the status of compliance of this order from all the States/UTs and file a consolidated report with data compiled till filing of report, before the next date by e-mail at [judicial-ngt@gov.in](mailto:judicial-ngt@gov.in) preferably in the form of searchable PDF/OCR Support PDF and not in the form of Image PDF.

In the aforesaid backdrop, it has been decided that during this year festival season, **only green crackers would be allowed and strictly for a very short duration on the following days and time specified in the table below:**

Festival	Day	Time for bursting of the crackers
Diwali	24 <sup>th</sup> October, 2022	From 8:00pm to 10:00pm
Gurupurab	8 <sup>th</sup> November, 2022	From 4:00am to 5:00am and From 9:00pm to 10:00pm
Christmas Eve	25-26 <sup>th</sup> December, 2022	From 11:55 pm till 12:30 am
New Year Eve	31 <sup>st</sup> December of 2022-1 <sup>st</sup> January of 2023	From 11:55 pm till 12:30 am


No e-commerce websites including Flipkart, Amazon, etc. shall accept any online orders and effect online sales within the State of H.P.

The average Ambient Air Quality and Air Quality Index (AQI) of the selected locations across the state monitored by HP State Pollution Control Board is also available on State Board website [www.hppcb.nic.in](http://www.hppcb.nic.in).

You are, therefore, requested to direct all the concerned Officer(s)/ Official(s) under your control to ensure compliance. 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 188 of the IPC and other provisions as applicable.

This may be attended on TOP PRIORITY.

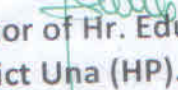
Yours faithfully,

  
(Satpal Dhimal) - 10-10-22  
Additional Secretary (Env. Sci. & Tech.) to the  
Government of Himachal Pradesh  
Phone No.0177-2621874

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Endst. No.EDN-U(G-III)-Environment/2022/- 2667 Dated: 17-10-2022  
Office of the, Deputy Director of Higher Education Una Distt. Una (HP).

Forwarded to all the Principal/Headmaster of GSSSs and GHSs Schools in Una District for information and *further necessary action.*

  
Dy. Director of Hr. Education,  
Una District Una (HP).