

**DON'T BE DEAFENED OR  
IRRITATED BY NOISE  
KNOW YOUR RIGHTS AND  
DEMAND THEM**



**CONTACT:  
The Bangalore Environment Trust,  
166, Langford Road,  
BANGALORE - 560 025. Tel: 225515**

We are all suffering from pollution and sanitation of various kinds. The general feeling is that the laws which have been formulated for our welfare are not being implemented because of the callousness and inefficiency of the Police and the Municipal authorities. Let us take a more constructive view. The enormous increase in population makes it impossible for the authorities to perform their duties effectively unless citizens by and large act responsibly and are prepared to cooperate and help the officials to discharge their duties. If Bangalore is to become a pleasant city to live in, the big divide between the authorities and the people must be bridged. A large number of people would, we are sure, like to share in the effort of improving conditions, and we would like to hope that the BET provides a forum both for voicing your grievances and participating in the movement to improve environmental conditions.

The BET has a scheme of Supporters consisting of individuals who are prepared to assist it in attaining its objectives. If you would like to support us, contact the Administrator to understand what exactly is involved.

When you read this brochure you will find that the laws leave little to be desired. So, let us get into action to have them implemented.

G. Govardhan

Administrator

Bangalore Environment Trust

# NOISE POLLUTION AND WHAT YOU CAN DO

## WHAT IS NOISE POLLUTION?

All of us are constantly exposed to sound. Sounds like the twittering of birds, the rustling of leaves, the gentle lapping of waves are natural sounds that strike a responsive chord in most of us. But when even pleasant sounds become too loud, they become unwanted noise. Sound levels are measured in decibels (dB). It is a unit for expressing the relative intensity of sound on a scale from zero (for the average least perceptible sound) to about 130 for the average pain level.

## HARMFUL EFFECTS OF NOISE

Noise is harmful. Damage caused by noise can range from the bursting of the eardrum to permanent hearing loss, cardiac and cardiovascular changes, stress, fatigue, lack of concentration, deterioration in motor and psychomotor functions, nausea, disturbance of sleep, headache, insomnia, loss of appetite, and much more. Pregnant women exposed to high noise levels may be at risk.

## SOURCES OF NOISE

A survey carried out in Bangalore by the Bangalore Environment Trust revealed that the main sources for noise were:

1. Road traffic
2. Use of loudspeakers
3. Bursting of crackers
4. Industrial activities
5. Railways
6. Aircraft
7. Radios and T.Vs.

## RIGHTS AND REMEDIES

All of us are entitled to live in an environment free from pollution. Though separate laws have been enacted for air pollution and water pollution, no separate legislation has been passed for noise pollution. But under the recently enacted Environment Protection Act, 1986, the Government **does** have the power to curb noise pollution. However, no rules have yet been framed for enforcing this aspect of the Act, and citizens must press the authorities to have this done.

But a number of existing laws such as the Karnataka Police Act, 1963; the Karnataka Municipal Corporations Act, 1976; the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939; the Cinematograph Act, 1952, and the Code of Criminal Procedure, have provisions that enable the authorities to control excessive noise.

The following legislations give adequate protection from noise pollution. You can make full use of them.

## **THE KARNATAKA POLICE ACT, 1963, CHAPTER IV:**

Section 31 (1) gives adequate powers to the Commissioner of Police and the District Magistrate in areas under their respective charges, to make orders for regulation of traffic and for preservation of order in public places. The playing of music, beating of drums, tom-toms or other instruments and blowing of horns or other noisy instruments in or near streets or public places can be stopped. Sub-section (r) (ii) of Section 31 (1) says the blasting of rock or making excavations in or near streets or public places; and Sub-section (r) (iii) of Section 31 (1) says the use of a loudspeaker in or near any public place or in any place of public entertainment can be prevented.

Sub-section (x) (i) of Section 31 (1) empowers the Commissioner of Police for licensing or controlling with such exceptions as may be specified, the musical dancing,

mimetic, theatrical, or other performances for public amusement including melas and tamashas.

Section 34 enables the Commissioner or the Superintendent of Police to delegate some of the powers resting with them under Section 31 (1) to their subordinate officials up to the rank of Sub-inspector, for effective implementation thereof.

It will be apparent from the foregoing that the provisions in the Karnataka Police Act, 1963, give adequate powers progressively:-

- a) to make rules
- b) to give directions
- c) to frame charges, prosecute and get convicted, and
- d) to arrest without warrant.

These, if judiciously used, with due appreciation of the fact that noise pollution is not merely a cause of nuisance but constitutes a potential health hazard, should go a long way in abatement thereof.

## **MOTOR VEHICLES ACT, 1939**

The Police Department has adequate powers under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, and the Rule 186 of the Karnataka Motor Vehicles Rules (1963) to prohibit the use of multi-toned horn or any other device giving an unduly

harsh, shrill or alarming noise, excepting of course, ambulances and fire fighters.

## **THE KARNATAKA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION ACT, 1976**

Under the KMC Act, it is an obligatory duty of the Corporation to abate all nuisance, including noise pollution.

### **CHAPTER XVI : DEFINES NUISANCES, SECTION 334**

Abatement of nuisance from dust, smoke, etc. If in the opinion of the Commissioner, the storage, dumping or deposit in any building, or land of coal, charcoal, ashes, cinders, gunny-bags, wool, cotton or any material, or the shifting, breaking, cutting or burning of such coal, charcoal, ashes, cinders or material, or subjecting the same to any process, causes or is likely to cause nuisance to the inhabitants in the neighbourhood of such building or land, by the emanation of dust, floating particles, smoke, unwholesome smell or noise or otherwise, he may, by notice, require the owner or occupier of such building or land to take such steps as may be specified in the notice for the abatement of such nuisance.

## **CHAPTER XVII : LICENSES AND FEES, SECTION 355**

The Commissioner may issue directions for abatement of nuisance caused by steam or other power - (1) If, in any factory, workshop or work-place in which steam-power, water-power or other mechanical or electrical power is used, nuisance is, in the opinion of the Commissioner, caused by the particular kind of fuel used or by the noise or vibration created, he may issue such directions as he thinks fit for the abatement of the nuisance within a reasonable time to be specified for the purpose. (2) If there has been wilful default in carrying out such directions or if abatement is found impracticable, the Commissioner may

- a) prohibit the use of the particular kind of fuel; or
- b) prohibit the working of the factory, workshop or work place,
  - i) altogether until such directions have been carried out; or
  - ii) between the hours of 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. or during any particular time or times between such hours.

### **SECTION 356 :**

Prohibition of use of steam-whistle or steam-trumpet without permission of the Commissioner.



(1) No person shall, without the written permission of the Commissioner, use or employ in any factory or any other place, any steam-whistle or steam trumpet for purpose of summoning or dismissing workmen or persons employed.

(2) the Commissioner may, at any time, revoke any permission which he has given for the use of such instrument as aforesaid, on giving one month's notice to the person using the same.

## **SECTION 358**

Power of Commissioner to require owner or occupier of factory, etc. to discontinue the use of such factory :

Whenever it shall appear to the Commissioner that any factory, workshop or workplace or any building or any place in which steam, water or other mechanical power or electrical power is used, is or is likely to become, by reason of the employment of such power or by noise or any gas, vapour, smoke, vibration, dust or other impurity generated in the course of the work carried on in such place or by any other cause, a nuisance or danger to the life, health or property of persons in the neighbourhood, he may, by written notice, require the owner or occupier of such factory, workshop, workplace, building or place, to discontinue the use of such factory or place for any of the purposes that may be specified in such notice.

## **CHAPTER XIX : RULES, REGULATIONS AND BYE-LAWS : SECTION 423**

Power to make bye-laws - Sub-section (28) for stopping, abating or controlling any excessive noise whether within or outside a building which may amount to nuisance.

## **THE CINEMATOGRAPH ACT, 1952**

The Central Government, the State Government, and the District Magistrate, can impose restrictions on the exhibition of films in any place. Thus, the authorities do have the power to prohibit the exhibition of cinema films on the terraces of buildings or in the open, particularly when these shows are likely to cause undue disturbance to the neighbourhood.

### ***WHAT YOU CAN DO ?***

If you are concerned or troubled by noise pollution and seek to remedy the situation, the answer is simple - you must be prepared to act.

First and foremost, examine your own actions and consider whether you are unnecessarily creating noise which affects your neighbours and surroundings. You may

not have control over all sources of noise, but you can at least control the noise levels emanating from your own radio, T.V., car, etc. Also don't buy fire crackers that make noise - buy only the ones that light up your celebrations. Persuade your friends and neighbours to do the same.

If you are troubled by obnoxious noise in your neighbourhood caused by loudspeakers, film shows, late-night parties, crackers, etc., ring up the Police Control Room (100) as well as the nearest Police Station. The telephone numbers of the Police, location-wise, is given on the last page of this brochure. You are not bound to give your name and address. To protect you from harassment by the people against whom you lodge a complaint, the Police will not disclose the source of the complaint.

Please keep an accurate record of your complaints. If you phone the Police Control Room, ask for your complaint 'Ticket' number, also get the name and designation of the officer who answers the phone, as well as the time and date. If the concerned police officer refuses to act, the Police Commissioner will then be able to pull up his recalcitrant official. Do make sure you mention all the relevant details in your complaint.

## **NOISE AND SMOKE POLLUTION FROM MOTOR VEHICLES**

Complain to the Regional Transport Commissioner or the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic). Give the offending vehicle(s) number(s) and the date, time and place of offence.

## **SALE AND USE OF BANNED CRACKERS (SUCH AS ATOM BOMBS):**

If shops in your neighbourhood are selling banned crackers, call the Police. Remember, it is easier to control this nuisance at the point of origin rather than after the damage has been done and the incriminating evidence blown up!

## **AEROPLANE NOISE**

If you are seriously concerned with this problem, get your entire neighbourhood to act. Bombard the Civil Aviation authorities with letters and force them to ensure that all aircraft follow noise abatement procedures during take off and landing. Alternately, get the Airport Authorities to make night landings so expensive, that airlines might prefer to re-schedule their flight timings during the day time.

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**COMMUNITY HEALTH CELL**  
326, V Main, I Block  
Koramangala

What happens when the Police fail to respond?

The answer is simple - escalate your campaign. If the Sub-Inspector on duty refuses to act, see the Station Inspector; if the Station Inspector refuses to act, write to the Police Commissioner. If the Police Control Room refuses to respond, call the Police Commissioner.

If you are worried that revealing your identity will make you vulnerable to local pressures, ask a friend who lives in the other end of town to complain on your behalf or write to a concerned environmental group such as the Bangalore Environment Trust (BET). You will be surprised at the impact a letter to the Editor of any of the leading newspapers has on the lethargic public machinery.

## **FORM ANTI-NOISE COMMITTEES IN YOUR LOCALITY**

When the nuisance is beyond tolerable limits and other means don't work, file a writ petition in the High Court. The Bangalore Environment Trust will be glad to help you in every way. This method has been successful in the past. Once there is a Court Order, the Police are bound to act, or face contempt of Court. Contact your local MP/MLA/Councillor, and bring to his notice the harmful effects of noise as well as your own particular problem. Write to the Department of Environment, Government of India, as well as to the Secretary, Department of Ecology and Environment, Vidhana Soudha.

## **OTHER WAYS IN WHICH YOU CAN HELP**

If you are interested in helping others besides helping yourselves, are you prepared to spare your time or your money or both? If the answer is YES, then please write to BET 166 Langford Road, Bangalore - 560 025. We will be very glad to avail of your service in an appropriate way.

## **DECIBELS (dB)**

It is important for citizens to learn the meaning and implications of decibels. A decibel is a logarithm of the ratio of sound pressure experienced on the threshold of hearing. It is a unit for expressing the intensity of sound on a scale from zero (for the average least perceptible sound) to about 130 ( for the average pain level). Remember that even a small increase in the value of dB level means a large increase in terms of sound pressure. For example, the sound pressure at 120 dB is a hundred times more than at 80 dB. An increase of just 3 dB means there is a doubling of the sound pressure on your ear drum.

## **FESTIVALS**

Contrary to its original purpose and practices, festivals are becoming more and more festivals of noise rather than religious celebrations. Banned types of crackers are freely sold and used. These are one of the most obnoxious forms of noise and do immense damage. It is desirable that all citizens act to curb this noise, firstly by protesting against the free sale of crackers, and secondly reporting their use to the Police. Let us make these festivals real joyous celebrations and not a torture for the majority.

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## RELATION BETWEEN SOUND PRESSURE AND dB

0	10 — 20	30 — 40	50 — 60	70 — 80	90 — 100	110 — 120	130 — 140 dB
	100	1000	10,000	1,00,000	10,00,000	1,00,00,000	
	Bird singing	Quiet room Library Study	Typing	Car horn	Power drill	Aeroplane taking off	

The following table is a summary of Recommended Noise Exposure Limit

(World Health Organisation - 1980):		
Environment	Recommended Max - Level	Effects
Indoor/domestic Night-time	35 dB	Increased awakening at higher levels.
Indoor/domestic Day-time	45 dB	Speech communication deteriorates at higher levels.
Community/urban Night-time	45 dB	Difficulties in falling asleep at higher levels
Community/urban Day-time	55 dB	Annoyance increases at higher levels.
Industrial/ Occupational	75 dB	Predictable risk of hearing impairment at higher levels.

**The following are the approved list of crackers :-**

Aeroplanes also known as CHIDIAS OR FIRE-FLIES containing gunpowder or nitrate mixture in a metal case not exceeding 25mm in diameter and 15mm length.

## ALUMINIUM TORCHES

Amorces in the form of caps or tapes for toy pistol consisting of dots of explosives composition approved by the Chief Controller and in proportion not exceeding 4.5 grams of composition to every 1000 dots.

## NON-BON OR CHRISTMAS CRACKERS.

Containing an explosive of such composition and in such quantity as may be approved by the Chief Controller.

CHINESE CRACKER having paper shells of size not exceeding 75mm in length and 15mm in diameter containing gunpowder nitrate mixture or an explosive composition approved by the Chief Controller.

## COBRA EGGS OF PHARAOH'S SERPENT (WHITE)

"CRACKERS commonly known as " Atom Bombs" made with gunpowder nitrate mixture or an explosive composition approved by the Chief Controller, wrapped up

in a paper and tied round with string the whole not exceeding 25 grams in weight 40mm in length and 2mm in diameter or diagonal.

"CRACKERS commonly known as Palm Leaf Crackers' or Basket Bombs', containing gunpowder, nitrate mixture or an explosive composition approved by the Chief Controller and wrapped up in palm leaf or in paper into triangular shape.

DISTRESS SIGNAL ROCKETS.

\* FLOWER POTS OR FOUNTAINS

\*HAND FIARES

\*LANCERS

MAGIC SERPANT( BLACK )

MAGNESIUM TORCHES AND PENCILS

MAROONS containing an explosive composition and of such construction, size and weight as may be approved by the Chief Controller.

ROCKET of size not exceeding 76mm in length and 25.4 mm in diameter provided it is not a metal case

\*ROMAN CANDLE

\*SHELLS provided they are fired from substantial mortar firmly burried below the ground level.

\*SPARKLERS (including Electric sparklers) each consisting of a wire having affixed thereto a mixture of nitrate of barium aluminium powder, magnesium powder, iron filings, dextrin and gum, the total weight of the composition so fixed to each such wire not to exceed 22 grammes provided that such sparklers shall be so constructed as not to allow any hot residue to become detached either during, or after combustion.

SQUIBS made with gunpowder or nitrate mixture.

## LIST OF POLICE STATIONS & OUTPOSTS

	Tel No.
1. Gen No PABX	79421
2. Police Exchange:	
Ulsoor PABX	569203
3. Adugodi	235795
4. Ashoknagar	576623
5. Banaswadi	562103
6. Banashankari	611375
7. Basavangudi	601121
8. Basaveswara Nagar	353819
9. Bharathinagar	566393
10. Bowring Hospital	574154
11. Byappanahalli	562100

12. Byatarayanapura	609038
13. Central	600885
14. Chamarajpet	604478
15. Chickpet	72024
16. Commercial Street	567080
17. Cubbon Park	564026
18. Devarajeevanahalli	566413
19. Fraser Town	567365
20. Gangammanagudi	367234
21. Gavipuram Guttahalli	601176
22. Girinagar	621016
23. H.A.L.	565432
24. H.A.L. (Air Port)	562153
25. H.A.L. Air Port (Security)	79421
26. Hanumanthnagar	608544
27. Hebbal	330907
28. High Grounds	74593

29. Indiranagar	567371
30. Jagjeevanramnagar	611241
31. Jalahalli	363624
32. Jayaprakash Narayan Nagar	640894
33. Jayanagar	608833
34. Jeevan Bheema Nagar	564352
35. Jnanabharathi	79421
36. Kadugondanahalli	565595
37. Kalasipalyam	600195
38. Kamakshipala	352240
39. Kengeri	79421
40. Kengeri (gate)	600675
41. Koramangala	566284
42. KSRTC Out Post	79421
43. Krishnarajapuram	58322
44. Madivala	565028
45. Magadi Road	350483

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COMMUNITY HEALTH CELL  
326. V Main, I Block  
Koramangala

46. Mahadevapura	58782
47. Mahalakshmi Layout	320411
48. Malleswaram	366568
49. Market	72876
50. Mico Layout	640996
51. Peenya	395919
52. Rajajinagar	350647
53. Rajagopalnagar	395644
54. R.T. Nagar	330460
55. Regulated Market Yard	366904
56. Sadashivanagar	345358
57. Sampangiramnagar	238568
58. Seshadripuram	364967
59. Do	366584
60. Shankarapuram	611897
61. Shivajinagar	568597
62. Siddapura	611247



63. Silver Jubilee Park Road	237745
64 . Soladevanahalli	394805
65. Sriramapuram	357437
66. Subramanyanagar	322422
67. Subramanyapuram	642089
68. Tharagupet	611290
69. Thyagarajanagar	607868
70. Tilaknagar	641976
71. Ulsoor	574821
72. Ulsoor Gate	237539
73. Upparpet	73367
74. Victoria Hosp. Outpost	79421
75. Vidhana Soudha	79668
76. Vijayanagar	350653
77. Vijayanagar Circle Inspector's Office	355700
78. Visveswariah Kendra	27269

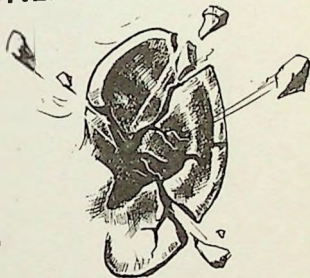
79. Viveknagar	562003
80. Vyalikaval	363484
81. Wilson Gardens	235537
82. Yelahanka	79421
83. Yeswanthapur	346572

## TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF THE POLICE - LOCATION-WISE

	Jurisdiction	Telephone No.			
Director General of Police (A R Nizamuddin)	Karnataka State	211803	} Off.		
		79421/200			
		567665	} Res.		
		569203/244			
Commissioner of Police (S N S Murthy)	Bangalore City	569203/200	} Off		
		24501			
		79421/222	} Res.		
		71366			
		79421/444			
Dy. Commr. of Police, Law & Order (East) (T Jayaprakash)	Chamarajpet, Basavangudi, Shankarapuram, Gavipuram- Guttahalli, Srinagar, Hanumanthnagar, Siddapura, Thilaknagar, Jayanagar, Subramanyapura, Banashankari, J.P. Nagar, Cubbonpet, Sampangiramanagar, Silver Jubilee Park, Ashok- nagar, Wilson Garden, Madivala, Koramangala, Adegodi, Cubbon Park Area, Vasanthnagar, Frazer Town, Kadugondanahalli, Banaswadi, Devarajeevanahalli, Commercial Street, Shivajinagar, Bharathi- nagar, Ulsoor, Viveknagar, Indiranagar, Jeevan Bhimanagar, Byappanahalli, Krishnarajapuram, Mahadevapura.	71583	} Off.		
		79421/499			
			} Res.		
		566060			
				569203/223	
		Dy. Commr. of Police, Law & Order (West) (Subhash Bharani)	Yeswanthapur, Jalahalli, Soladevanahalli, Peenya, Gangammanagudi, Munireddypalya, Hebbal, Yelahanka, Malleswaram, Sadashivanagar, Srirampura, Rajajinagar, Subramanyanagar, Mahalaxmi Layout, Kengeri Gate, Magadi Road, Jagajeevanramnagar, Byatarayanapura, Vijayanagar, West of Chord Road, Kengeri, Chickpet, City Market, Kalasipalyam.	24386	} Off.
				79421/223	
					} Res.
				576157	
Police Control Room	Bangalore City			28373	
		100			
		79421/395			
		255			

**HOW MUCH MORE  
CAN IT TAKE?**

**HELP  
PREVENT  
NOISE  
POLLUTION**



**३** *भारत इलेक्टॉनिक्स*  
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**not only irritates  
but  
is harmful to health**



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