

P.R.No:1007

Date:01.11.2021

PRESS RELEASE
ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND FOREST DEPARTMENT
ADVISORY
POLLUTION-FREE DEEPAVALI-2021

Deepavali is a festival of joy, light and splendor. In order to celebrate Deepavali in a safe and pollution free manner following Advisory is issued.

1. Bursting of certain polluting firecrackers can have severe adverse impact on human and animal health including deafness, watering of eyes and severe respiratory distress etc. Air pollution due to fumes from firecrackers can also lead to severe air and water pollution which is detrimental to the environment. In this regard, a Public Interest Litigation was filed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India with a request to ban the production and sale of Crackers. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its Judgment dated 23.10.2018 have directed that fire crackers can be manufactured only by using raw materials that will reduce emission levels. Directions were also issued to manufacture and sell green crackers in future.
2. The same has been reiterated in the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 29.10.2021 including banning the use of Barium Salts in firecrackers and manufacturing and selling of joined firecrackers.
3. The Hon'ble Supreme Court have also directed to create adequate awareness about the adverse impact on environment due to increase in pollution caused by bursting of crackers, It has been directed to encourage bursting of crackers in earmarked areas as a community at a designated time. In compliance of the above directions of the Apex Court, the Government of Tamil Nadu in the year 2018, 2019 & 2020 had designated time slots for bursting fire crackers between 6.00 AM to 7.00 AM and 7.00 PM to 8.00 PM. Similarly, this year also the Government have designated the time for bursting of green fire crackers between 6.00 am to 7.00 am and 7.00 pm to 8.00 pm on Deepawali day.
4. Further to create awareness about the need to celebrate safe and pollution free Deepawali, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) undertakes awareness activities every year. Accordingly, TNPCB shall take action to create awareness among the public through Schools, Colleges, Eco clubs and National Green Corps (NGC) with

the help of School Education, Higher Education Departments, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Department, Director General of Police, all District Collectors, Director of Environment and Commissioners of all Municipal Corporations in Tamil Nadu at State Level.

As per the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, people are advised to celebrate safe and pollution free Deepavali observing following Do's and Don'ts:

Do's:

- i). Only green crackers shall be used between 6.00 am to 7.00 am and 7.00 pm to 8.00 pm on Diwali day.**

Don'ts

- i). Avoid bursting of joined (Serial) fire crackers which create huge noise pollution**
- ii). Avoid bursting of fire crackers in 'Silence areas' like hospitals, schools, courts and religious places.**
- iii). Avoid bursting of fire crackers near huts and fire prone areas.**

People are advised to celebrate the festival responsibly so that their action does not lead to environmental pollution. Government of Tamil Nadu is making a sincere appeal to people to celebrate the festival of lights in harmony with nature.

Wishing everyone a very Happy Green Deepavali.

**Principal Secretary to Government
Environment, Climate Change and Forest Department.**

Issued By: - DIPR, Secretariat, Chennai - 9.