



Indian Muslims for Secular Democracy
Equality Justice Compassion Peace

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PRESS STATEMENT

Muslims welcome UP government's directive to curb noise emanating from places of worship

Indian Muslims for Secular Democracy (IMSD) welcomes the Allahabad High Court-prompted move by the Uttar Pradesh government to control noise pollution in the state. IMSD believes the use of loudspeakers in religious places and elsewhere during religious occasions is not an issue of faith. Often it is simply a matter of competitive religiosity between and within religions.

IMSD supports the UP government's directions to the district authorities on Sunday to stop unauthorized use of loudspeakers and public address systems, and to regulate the decibel level while granting permission.

We call upon the state administration to enforce the directives strictly and impartially, irrespective of whether it is a temple, mosque, gurudwara or church.

IMSD applauds the Muslims from Mallapuram (Kerala) who in June this year proactively decided to curb noise pollution. A group of 17 mosques from the Vazhakkad locality came to an agreement whereby only the biggest mosque in the area -- Valiya Juma Masjid -- would use loudspeakers to give out the call to prayer five times a day. The other 16 mosques, it was agreed, would say the azaan without loudspeakers.

IMSD also compliments the group of Muslims from South Mumbai who have voluntarily reduced the decibel level of the loud speakers atop the local mosque in order not to disturb the neighbourhood.

In 2014, Muslims from Navi Mumbai welcomed the Bombay High Court's order directing the police to remove the unauthorized loudspeakers from 45 out of the 49 mosques in the area.

IMSD appeals to people of all religions to voluntarily remove loudspeakers from their places of worship or at least cut down the decibel level as a mark of good citizenship and environmental care.

We appeal to Muslims, in particular, to take a lead in this matter and emulate the good practice of their co-religionists from Mallapuram, Mumbai and Navi Mumbai.



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