Anil Mehta vs State Of Rajasthan on 18 March, 2025

Item No.7

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
CENTRAL ZONE BENCH, BHOPAL
(Through Video Conferencing)

Execution Application No.04/2024(CZ) in 0.A.No.102/2022(CZ) (I.A.No.50/2024)

Anil Mehta Applic

۷s.

State of Rajasthan & Ors.

Respond

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Date of Hearing: 18.03.2025

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SHEO KUMAR SINGH, JUDICIAL MEMBER

HON'BLE DR. AFROZ AHMAD, EXPERT MEMBER

For Applicant (s): Mr. Maitreya Prithwiraj Ghorpade, Adv.

For Respondent(s): Ms. Archita Yadav, Adv. Ms. Prachi Mishra, Adv.

ORDER

- 1. This is an application enforce and execute the order dated 31.07.2023 passed in O.A. No. 102/2022(CZ). The issue raised in this original application was with regard to noise pollution and protection of Fateh Sagar lake in accordance with the wetland rules. This Tribunal vide order dated 31.07.2023 directed the authority is as follows:-
 - 1. "First question up for consideration is "whether Fatehsagar lake is a wetland to which Rule 4 of Wetland Rule 2017, is applicable". It is not denied by respondents that 'Fatehsagar lake' is included in National Wetland Inventory and Assessment project by MoEF&CC whereby it has identified 201503 wetlands Supreme Court in the order dated 08.02.2017 in M.K. Balakrishnan & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Ors., Writ Petition (Civil) No.230 of 2001 has said:
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"Accordingly, we direct the application of the principles of Rule 4 of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 to these 2,01,503 wetlands that have been mapped by the Union of India. The Union of India will identify and inventorize all these 2,01,503 wetlands with the assistance of the State Governments and will also communicate our order to the State Governments which will also bind the State Governments to the effect that these identified 2,01,503 wetlands are subject to the principles of Rule 4 of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010."

- 2. In view of Supreme Court's above direction even if 'Fatehsagar lake' is not a 'notified wetland', it has to be protected by application of Rule 4 of Wetland Rules of 2017. Rule 4 of Wetland Rules 2017 say as under:
 - "4. Restrictions of activities in wetlands.--(1) The wetlands shall be conserved and managed in accordance with the principle of 'wise use' as determined by the Wetlands Authority. (2) The following activities shall be prohibited within the wetlands, namely,-
 - (i) conversion for non-wetland uses including encroachment of any kind;
 - (ii) setting up of any industry and expansion of existing industries;
 - (iii) manufacture or handling or storage or disposal of construction and demolition waste covered under the Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2016;

hazardous substances covered under the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989 or the Rules for Manufacture, Use, E. A No. 04/2024 (CZ) Anil Mehta vs. State of Rajasthan & Ors.

Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro-organisms Genetically engineered organisms or cells, 1989 or the Hazardous Wastes (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008; electronic waste covered under the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016;

- (iv) solid waste dumping;
- (v) discharge of untreated wastes and effluents from industries, cities, towns, villages and other human settlements;
- (vi) any construction of a permanent nature except for boat jetties within fifty metres from the mean high flood level observed in the past ten years calculated from the date of commencement of these rules; and,
- (vii) poaching.

Provided that the Central Government may consider proposals from the State Government or Union Territory Administration for omitting any of the activities on the recommendation of the Authority."

- 3. The restrictions of activities in wetlands and protection provided in Rule 4 has to be extended to 'Fatehsagar lake' and its 'Zone of Influence' area. It is the responsibility of Rajasthan State Wetland Authority i.e. respondent 4 to take appropriate action in the matter and do the needful. First question is answered accordingly.
- 4. The second question is, "whether partially 'Zone of Influence' of Fatehsagar lake including lake area falls within the notified area of Eco Sensitive Zone of Sajjangarh of wildlife sanctuary", and if so "whether prohibition applicable to Eco Sensitive Zones have to be applied to said area or not.
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- 5. Irrespective of the fact whether Eco Sensitive Zone of Sajjangarh Wildlife Sanctuary covers entire Fatehsagar lake area or its 'Zone of Influence', we are satisfied that area falls within notified area of Eco Sensitive Zone shall attract restrictions and prohibitions applicable to Eco Sensitive Zone and the same will have to be applied and implemented. On this aspect, we have no manner of doubt and also do not find any otherwise pleading or material on record to take a different view of the matter. In view of the matter, State of Rajasthan through Principal Secretary, Environment and Climate Change as also Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Wildlife and all its assisting authorities are responsible to take appropriate action and enforce restrictions, prohibitions and regulations applicable to Eco Sensitive Zone of notified Wildlife Sanctuary to the area which falls within 'Fatehsagar lake' or its 'Zone of Influence' and take appropriate action to implement the same without any further delay.
- 6. Third question is regarding "noise pollution in area of Fatehsagar lake". It is not disputed by learned counsel of the applicant that no specific standards have been prescribed in respect of wetland regarding noise level or standard of noise. In absence of such standards having not been prescribed, it is difficult to assume that there is violation of Noise Pollution Rules, 2000 which refers to 4 categories of area i.e. Industrial, Commercial, Residential and Silence Zone. With regard to mixed area, Rules permit that such area can be declared by concerned authority but in the present case it is also not the case of applicant or respondent, that any such mixed area in the area of Fatehsagar lake or its 'Zone of Influence' has been declared. In absence of any such declaration, we find it difficult to issue any specific direction to take action by concerned authorities, particularly when neither any person is impleaded in OA who is allegedly violating Noise Pollution Rules 2000 nor in absence of any such person a general vague direction can be issued to authorities concerned to comply with law when no specific E. A No. 04/2024 (CZ) Anil Mehta vs. State of Rajasthan & Ors.

violation of law against any individual is demonstrated or shown by applicant.

7. Joint Committee report has found that in some areas, particularly in night time, noise standards even of highest level i.e. prescribed for industrial area or commercial area are being breached on

account of the activities of marriage procession etc. undertaken in various hotels campus, inside and outside, which are located in the area of 'Fatehsagar lake' and its 'Zone of Influence' and recommendations have been made for taking several steps to mitigate such violation of noise pollution by directing hotels not to permit certain activities within area of 'Zone of Influence' of Fatehsagar lake or Eco Sensitive Zone of Sajjangarh Wildlife Forest which includes within its ambit the area of Fatehsagar lake. No serious objection has been raised by respondents with regard to the recommendations made by Joint Committee. Applicant though has filed objection to Joint Committee report but during course of the arguments stated that those recommendations be directed to be acted upon and should be implemented.

- 8. We are also of the view that by taking out processions like marriage processions etc. and by beating the drums or using bands, noise pollution levels cannot be breached particularly during night hours. At least these activities cannot be permitted to go on in area falling within 'Zone of Influence' of Sajjangarh Wildlife Sanctuary. Therefore to that extent respondents shall ensure and impose complete prohibition on such activities. Concerned hotels etc. shall be notified of this prohibition so that they may not allow such activities to go on.
- 9. Fourth question is regarding "light pollution". Learned counsel for applicant drew our attention to annexure 23 and 24 to OA which are some articles published in different journals on the aspect of 'light pollution'. However, it is not disputed that till date no authenticated investigation or research with regard to light pollution has been conducted in E. A No. 04/2024 (CZ) Anil Mehta vs. State of Rajasthan & Ors.

the context of Indian conditions and at least none has been placed on record. It cannot be doubted that in certain circumstances high Intensity Lights may be detrimental to wildlife and other species of different categories and also to nature as such. But this aspect requires a detailed study on the matter, and if necessary, appropriate guidelines/regulations need be framed. On this aspect we find it appropriate to direct MoEF&CC, respondent 6, and Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India to take up requisite study on the issue of 'light pollution' and take appropriate action to regulate such pollution in the context of Indian conditions and if necessary different provisions may be made for different areas depending on nature of flora, fauna and other relevant factors available in those areas.

- 10. In view of above discussion, we find it appropriate to accept report of Joint Committee to the extant it is consistent with the view taken above and, direct respondents to implement recommendations made therein which are consistent to our findings above, in words and spirit, without any further delay and in any case within a period of 3 months from today."
- 2. The applicant has filed this execution application stating that there are non-compliances of the rules and orders of this Tribunal.
- 3. Notices were issued to the respondent and in compliance thereof, the respondent nos. 1 and 4 have filed the compliance report with the following facts:-

1."That the designated wildlife sanctuary known as Sajjangarh Wildlife Sanctuary is an Eco-Sensitive Zone. Such extra layer of protection aimed at securing area's unique ecology. Moreover, it was submitted that partially part of the Fatehsagar Lake falls within this Eco-Sensitive Zone of Sajjangarh Wildlife Sanctuary.

Moreover, prohibited activity within the Eco-Sensitive Zone cannot be allowed in any part of the wetland.

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The regulations in place for Eco-Sensitive Zones are designed to prevent activities that could harm the fragile ecosystem thus, the sound and noise pollution in the area must be stopped.

4. The para-wise compliances are reported as follows:-

S. No. RECOMMENDATIONS

1 The operation of loudspeakers, bursting of

crackers. blowing of horns ete. all are having noise level much more than the prescribed limit in day period and therefore, the ambient noise standard are bound to increase in such circumstances and CPCB should develop a special protocol for dealing with complaints of bursting of fire crackers, barat processions, horns and loudspeakers which shall be mandatory to follow and shall be followed. CPCB should also take up a study of a model city which is free from noise pollution and recommend measures to be incorporated here too and should also give the comment regarding measurement of noise pollution from a point source eliminating other such sources.

- 2 Public grievance lodging App to control the menace of pollution due to Noise in the country may be prepared by CPCB.
- 3 All the lake side hotels at Fatehsagar/Ambavgarh should be install a continuous ambient noise level meter with the consultation of RSPCB connected by online CCTV to the grievance app so that the information of noise level is in the public domain and the authority can check the levels as mentioned in the grievance app.
- 4 All the hotels should install a display board depicting the ill effect of noise pollution and certifying that they do not increase the sound levels beyond permissible standards at their main gate.
- 5 The Municipal authorities/ UIT should install display E. A No. 04/2024 (CZ) Anil Mehta vs. State of Rajasthan & Ors.

boards in their areas indicating ill effect of noise pollution near Lakes of Udaipur in ESZ.

6 The Municipal authorities should complete the work of notifying area into commercial residential and silence zone so that applicability of noise level standards can be ensured. In this regard, the

Municipal Commissioner Udaipur has asked the Director ULB to appoint a technical consultant through the process of tender and the work is under process.

7 Every Police Thana shall be equipped with Noise Level Meter. It need be mentioned here that it was found by joint committee towards noise level meter reading and the officials carrying out monitoring should also take into account the above fact as the noise level meter measures a sum total noise present at any location from all sources.

8 Mobile DJ music systems/operating on four wheelers vehicles with Barat procession/religious procession to be banned and the ban to be enforced by Police/RTO.

9 In Eco sensitive zone of Sajjangarh Wildlife Sanctuary as wild animals are living there, therefore, certain activities shall be strictly prohibited.

10 CCTV cameras be installed all around the periphery of Fatehsagar Lake and in the eco sensitive zone at strategic places.

5. Learned counsel for the applicant has filed the rejoinder to the compliance submitted by the respondent and submitted that this Tribunal taking reliance on M. K. Balakrishnan & Ors. vs. Union of India & Ors., W.P. (C) No. 230/2001 has directed the authorities to enforce the wetland rules, specifically rule 4 but the authorities have reported that the joint committee has concluded in its report that as per information provided by the Forest Department, Fateh Sagar lake is not a notified wetland and is E. A No. 04/2024 (CZ) Anil Mehta vs. State of Rajasthan & Ors.

also not included in the list of district wise wetland identified for notification and development by the State Government of Rajasthan.

6. The contention of the Learned counsel for the applicant is that it is non-

compliance. We have gone through the report, it simply says that the joint committee has concluded in its report and that is the view of the joint committee report. However, this Tribunal vide paragraph 19 onward quoted above has clarified that the restrictions of activities in wetlands and protection provided in rule 4 has to be extended to Fateh Sagar lake and its zone of influence area and it is the responsibility of Rajasthan State Wetland Authority to take appropriate action in the matter and do the needful.

- 7. Learned counsel for the State Wetland Authority has submitted that the action has been initiated and taken by the authorities concerned and in its detailed report which is parawise attached with the report discloses that the directions are being enforced and necessary orders have been issued.
- 8. It is further submitted that the noise level meters have been installed in the premises of the hotels and there are display boards to create awareness in the public and thus the rules are strictly followed. So far as the prohibition of DJ, sound system, bursting of firecrackers, use of laser light, spot lights in marriage gardens are concerned, the authority has submitted that the rules provide the

authorities concerned for taking proper and necessary action according to rules and to file a complaint by the person who is aggrieved. Existing rules and decisions in the matter are quoted below:-

1. As per Rule No. 4 (2) of Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control Amendments Rules, 2017. The authority shall be responsible for the enforcement of noise pollution control measures and the due compliance of the ambient air E. A No. 04/2024 (CZ) Anil Mehta vs. State of Rajasthan & Ors.

quality standards in respect of noise and definition of authority:-

"Authority" means and includes any authority or officer authorised by the Central Government, or as the case may be, the State Government in accordance with the laws in force and includes a District Magistrate, Police Commissioner, or any other officer not below the rank of the Deputy Superintendent of Police designated for the maintenance of the ambient air quality standards in respect of noise under any law for the time being in force.

2. Also National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, Delhi in the Original Application No. 681/2018 (CZ) titled as News item published in "The Times of India" Authored by Shri Vishwa Mohan Titled "NCAP with multiple timelines to clean air in 102 cities to be released around August 15" passed an order on dated 15.03.2019; interalia reproduced as follows:-

"The State PCBs may undertake noise level monitoring in conjunction with the Police Department and take remedial action. The Police Departments of all the States/UTs may obtain the noise monitoring devices within a period of three months.

The Police Department of all the State/UTs may also train their staff regarding the use of such devices and develop a robust protocol for taking appropriate action against the defaulters".

- 3. Criteria for making Noise Complaints as described under Noise Rules:- Copy of The Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules 2000 (As amended till 10.08.2017 vide \$.O. 2555 (E) annexed.
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As per Rule No. 7 of Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000. Complaints to be made to the authority. -

(1) A person may, if the noise level exceeds the ambient noise standards by 10 db (A) or more given in the corresponding columns against any area/zone [or, if there is a violation of any provision of these rules regarding restrictions imposed during night

time], make a complaint to the authority.

(2) The authority shall act on the complaint and take action against the violator in accordance with the provisions of these rules and any other law in force.

Ambient Air Quality Standards in respect of Noise:-

Area Category of Limits in dB(A) Leq*
Code Area/Zone Day Time Night time

Criteria to make a complaint to the authority:-

Area Category of Complaint criteria in dB(A) Leq* Code Area/Zone exceeding 10 dB of standard Day Time Night time Note:-

- 1. Day time shall mean from 6.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m.
- 2. Night time shall mean from 10.00 p.m. to 6.00 a.m.
- 3. Mixed categories of areas may be declared as one of the four above mentioned categories by the competent authority.

8dB(A) Leq denotes the time weighted average of the level of soung in decibels on scale A which is relatable to human hearing.

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A "decibel" is a unit in which noise is measured.

"A", in dB(A) Leq, denotes the frequency weighting in the measurement of noise and corresponds to frequency response characteristics of the human ear.

Leq: It is an energy mean of the noise level, over a specified period.

Action at a glance taken by Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board w.r.t. Noise Complaints:-

1. On receiving complaints received from various sources RSPCB had conducted Noise Monitoring in the month of February-2022 at the following points and the brief details are as under:-

- S. Point of Collection Date of Leq dB(A) No. Monitoring
- 1.Top of Ambavgarh 11/2/2022 86.2(day) road
- 2. PP Singhal Marg near 11/2/2022 94.3 (night) to Fatehsagar
- 3. At the end of Alkapuri 11/2/2022 94.8(day) Road Copy of analysis reports annexed as Annexure-2.
- 2. As the results exceeded the permissible limits of any area/ zone RSPCB contacted the Hotel association and conveyed to the members to strictly follow Noise pollution control rules and desist from playing music after 10.00 PM. Also RSPCB had issued 29 notices to the hotels located around the lakes informing them about the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules. Before the beginning of religious festivals/ marriages and as a result of this action the ambient quality noise monitoring results were significantly reduced. It may also be noted that the honking of horns also cause momentary increase in noise pollution load and continues honking on every road significantly increase noise pollution.
- S. No. Point of Collection Date of Leq dB(A) Monitoring
- 1. Ambient noise monitoring 09/09/22 57.4(day) near to Lalit Laxmi Vilas 53.6(night) hotel
- 2. Ambient noise monitoring at 09/09/22 62.4(day) E. A No. 04/2024 (CZ) Anil Mehta vs. State of Rajasthan & Ors.

	entrance gate of hotel Hilltop		55.5(night)
3.	Ambient noise monitoring in ESZ zone at location latitude 24.588644 N,	12/09/22	63.1(day) 56.1(night)
4.	longitude 73.651751 E Ambient noise monitoring in ESZ zone at location latitude 24.590882 N,	12/09/22	62.0(day) 52.1(night)
5.	longitude 73.652454 E Ambient noise monitoring near to Lalit Laxmi Vilas hotel	12/09/22	63.4(day) 59.6(night)
6.	Ambient noise monitoring at main road P P Singhal Marg in front of 1559 hotel	12/09/22	75.4(day) 69.4(night)
7.	Ambient noise monitoring near to hotel Hilltop	12/09/22	66.9(day) 61.2(night)

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8.	Ambient noise monitoring near to hotel Lakend	12/09/22	68.8(day) 62.8(night)
9.	Ambient noise monitoring in ESZ zone at location latitude 24.588644 N, longitude 73.651751 E		65.9(day) 52.1(night)
10.	Ambient noise monitoring in ESZ zone at location latitude 24.590882 N, longitude 73.652454 E	15/09/22	62.0(day) 52.1(night)
11.	Ambient noise monitoring near to hotel lakend	15/09/22	62.0(day) 52.1(night)
12.	Ambient noise monitoring near to hotel Hilltop	15/09/22	62.0(day) 52.1(night)
13.	Ambient noise monitoring at main road P P Singhal Marg in front of 1559 hotel	15/09/22	62.0(day) 52.1(night)
14.	Ambient noise monitoring near to Lalit Laxmi Vilas hotel	15/09/22	62.0(day) 52.1(night)
15.	Ambient noise monitoring near to Lalit Laxmi Vilas hotel	14/11/22	62.0(day) 52.1(night)
16.	Ambient noise monitoring at main road P P Singhal Marg in front of 1559 hotel	14/11/22	62.0(day) 52.1(night)
	Ambient noise monitoring near to hotel Hilltop	14/11/22	62.0(day) 52.1(night)
E. A No. 04 18	1/2024 (CZ) 3. Ambient noise monitoring near to hotel Lakend	Anil Mehta v 14/11/22	s. State of Rajasthan & 62.0(day) 52.1(night)
19.	Ambient noise monitoring in ESZ zone at location latitude 24.588644 N,	14/11/22	62.0(day) 52.1(night)
20.	longitude 73.651751 E Ambient noise monitoring in ESZ zone at location latitude 24.590882 N	14/11/22	62.0(day) 52.1(night)
21.	longitude 73.652454 E Ambient noise monitoring near to hotel Hilltop	06/01/2023	62.0(day) 52.1(night)
22.	Ambient noise monitoring	06/01/2023	62.0(day)

	near to hotel Lakend		52.1(night)
23.	Ambient noise monitoring near to Lalit Laxmi Vilas hotel wook	06/01/2023	62.0(day) 52.1(night)
24.	Ambient noise monitoring near to hotel Hilltop	25/01/2023	62.0(day) 52.1(night)
25.	Ambient noise monitoring near to hotel Lakend	25/01/2023	62.0(day) 52.1(night)
26.	Ambient noise monitoring in ESZ zone at location latitude 24.590885 N, longitude 73.652454E	25/01/2023	62.0(day) 52.1(night)
27.	Ambient noise monitoring near to Lalit Laxmi Vilas hotel work	26/01/2023	62.0(day) 52.1(night)
28.	Ambient noise monitoring in ESZ zone at location latitude 24.590882 N, longitude 73.652454E	26/01/2023	62.0(day) 52.1(night)
29.	Ambient noise monitoring in ESZ zone at location latitude-24.588644 N, Longitude-73.651751 E	26/01/2023	62.0(day) 52.1(night)
30.	Ambient noise monitoring at PHED pump house.	06/02/2023	62.0(day) 52.1(night)
31.	Ambient noise monitoring near main gate of the hotel lakend.	06/02/2023	62.0(day) 52.1(night)

9. Accordingly, the District Magistrate and the Commissioner of Police and other officer not below the rank of the Deputy Superintendent of Police E. A No. 04/2024 (CZ) Anil Mehta vs. State of Rajasthan & Ors.

properly notified by the State Government have been authorised as the authority to take necessary actions and Rule 7 of Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 directs that a person may if the noise level exceeds the ambient noise standard may file a complaint to the authority and the authority shall act on the complaint and take action against the violator in accordance with the provisions of rules.

10. In case of Abhilaksh Sachdev v. State of Haryana WPC No. 6280/2024 decided on 04.11.2024, Hon'ble High Court of Punjab and Haryana has clarified the position that air pollution constitute

noise pollution and as such noise pollution is punishable under the Penal Provision of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. Noise pollution is a punishable offence under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and it is obligatory to the police to register an FIR under Section 173 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS).

- 11. Accordingly, applicant is at liberty to file an FIR with the jurisdictional police station and in case of police inaction, the aggrieved party may approach the magistrate concerned under Section 175 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS).
- 12. In view of the above provisions of Noise Pollution Rules 2000 and Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS), the aggrieved party applicant may approach to the competent authority by means of filing a complaint against a particular person violating the rules.
- 13. In the present application, officers of the State have been arrayed as a party but the matter contains the marriage party, band, light and sound which is not the work of the noted six (06) respondents which are arrayed as respondents.
- 14. In view of the above facts, since the wetland authority has filed the reply that the order has been complied, thus, this execution application stands disposed of as the order has been complied. In case of any further E. A No. 04/2024 (CZ) Anil Mehta vs. State of Rajasthan & Ors. violation, the aggrieved may approach to the appropriate forum as narrated above according to rules and the competent authority notified under the Noise Pollution Regulation and Control Rules, 2017, shall act in accordance with the rules and to take suitable action. With these observations, the Execution Application No. 04/2024 stands disposed of.

Sheo Kumar Singh, JM Dr. Afroz Ahmad, EM 18th March 2025 E. A No. 04/2024(CZ) PN E. A No. 04/2024 (CZ) Anil Mehta vs. State of Rajasthan & Ors.