



Right to Peace Over Noise

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The **Madras High Court** has ruled that religious gatherings, which include loud public prayers, cannot be held in **residential premises** without prior permission from the **District Collector**.

- The respondents argued they **had neighbours' consent** and protection under [Article 25 \(freedom of religion\)](#), claiming the chants promoted peace.
 - However, the court ruled that **religious freedom cannot override others' right to peace**, stressing that prayer should be personal and not cause public disturbance.
- This ruling echoes an earlier [Supreme Court of India](#) judgment that prioritized the **right to peace and protection from noise pollution**.
 - In 2005, the Supreme Court ruled that **noise pollution violates Article 21**, which ensures the right to life and peaceful living. It clarified that **using loudspeakers, even for religious purposes, is not a fundamental right**.
 - The Court made it clear that it's not about religion, but about **protecting others from being a forced audience to noise**.
 - Article 21 ensures the right to peace, and no one has a right to create noise that disturbs others, even in their own home.
- Under the **Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981**, "air pollutant" includes **noise** if present in harmful concentrations that can harm humans, animals, plants, property, or the environment.

Read more: [Regulating Right to Freedom of Religion](#)

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