

## Delhi Age

## Defaulting hotels get PPL's legal notices

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# Defaulting hotels get PPL's legal notices

**OUR CORRESPONDENT |**  
CHENNAI

**F**or many hotels in Chennai, it may come as a setback to know that their New Year celebrations might just come under threat. The reason is that the Phonographic Performance Ltd (PPL), which is the apex-licensing arm of the Indian Music Industry (IMI), has issued legal notices to several prominent hotels and pubs in the city, which have failed to pay the mandatory license fee to play music on New Year's Eve.

The PPL has said that strict legal action will be

taken against the hotels in case they do not pay the licensing fee as prescribed by the law.

Some of defaulting hotels included in this list are: Appu Hotels, Green Coconut Resort, Courtyard Marriott, Hotel Sakithyan, Chekkers Hotel.

Bipul Pradhan, the CEO of IMI-PPL says, "We have issued notices to hotels and pubs across many cities in the country including Chennai, Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru. New Year is supposedly one of the most celebrated events of the year. But then, it is unfair to the owners of intel-

lectual property (like musicians) to be denied the royalty that they should be legally getting through public performances of their songs."

IMI-PPL has deployed around 500 personnel all across the country, who will be responsible for monitoring the music played in clubs on New Year's Eve.

Sowmya Chowdhury, national sales manager, events, PPL says, "Our personnel will be visiting the clubs that are violating payment of the license fee. They will be dressed in plain clothes and equipped with cameras to record the proceedings in the club. In case,

they find the establishment playing songs for which they have not paid the fees, they will be brought to task."

He adds, "We don't want to become party spoilers. We cannot let the customers of the hotel suffer because of the hotels' negligence. So we would also consider taking legal action after parties are over rather than causing inconvenience to the people who came to celebrate New Year."

When contacted, the representative of Hotel Courtyard Marriott, Chennai denied receiving any legal notice from an authority such as IMI-PPL.