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Hotel TV Is a Commercial Use of Music, Calcutta High Court Says; Copyright Licence Required

Sheikh Rayees • August 9, 2026

PUBLISHED REPORT

Hotels cannot rely solely on a cable operator's copyright licence when they provide television access to guests in their rooms, the Calcutta High Court has ruled. A Bench of Justices Debangsu Basak and Md Shabbar Rashidi held that television services offered in hotel rooms constitute a commercial facility and amount to "communication to the public" under the Copyright Act, 1957. Hotels must therefore obtain the necessary copyright licence and pay...

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