

TIME FOR EXCUSES ON NOISE POLLUTION IS OVER, SAYS HC

Amicus Curiae highlights 21 places reportedly flouting rules, court asks for CCTV footage

AUGUSTO RODRIGUES

PORVORIM: In a stern warning to noise polluters in the coastal areas of Vagator and Anjuna, Justice MS Karnik of the Bombay High Court at Goa has made it clear that the time for excuses is over, signaling swift action will follow for those violating noise pollution regulations.

During a hearing on Wednesday, Justice Karnik questioned Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB) advocate Manish Salkar, asking, "There are so many complaints—what are you doing about it?" This comes as Amicus Curiae, advocate Costa Frias, informed the court that loud music should not be allowed after 10 pm.

The court's attention was drawn to a list of 52 units suspected of breaching noise pollution rules. After reviewing records provided by applicant Desmond Alvares and the Anjuna Police Station, Amicus Curiae narrowed down the list to 21 establishments allegedly violating the regulations.

According to Frias, the 21 locations—such as Purple Martini, Hill Top Hotel, Howling Wolves, Curlies and others—have been repeat-



The 21 places the Amicus Curiae named for allegedly flouting decibel norms:

Romeo Lane, Dynamo, Salud, Slique, Raeeth, Echo/Vamos, Hill Top Hotel, W Hotel (six open air venues within), House of Chapora, Purple Martini, Howling Wolves, Guru Bar, Mayan Beach Club, Shiva Valley, Curlies, Gypsea (formerly UV Bar), Thalassa by the Cliff, Kiki, Zohra, Titos (Diaz/ XoXo/ Ber) and Zouk (formerly Ziki)

edly mentioned in complaints, with records aligning with police reports. "I have cross-checked the names submitted by the petitioner with complaints at Anjuna Police Station, and 21 establishments match," Frias stated.

Justice Karnik expressed concern over the apparent lack of action, stating, "We are giving orders, yet it seems nothing is being done. There is definitely some-

thing amiss here." He further emphasized that CCTV footage from these venues should be provided to clarify the situation.

GSPCB's Salkar defended the board's actions, stating, "We have not received any complaints. Whenever we detect breaches, we inform the police and Collector via email." However, Justice Karnik remained unconvinced, stressing the need for concrete

evidence. "You say nothing is happening, but we'll get to the truth from the CCTV," he asserted.

Amicus Curiae also raised concerns about possible manipulation in the Anjuna Police Station's live monitoring system. "The police were receiving data from four establishments for eight hours, but for the other five, the readings were arbitrary," Frias informed the court. Justice Karnik

expressed frustration, questioning, "Why is this happening? How can there be no noise when the system is clearly malfunctioning?"

Calls for action intensified, with Frias urging the court to order monitoring of these 21 establishments to ensure music is stopped by 10 PM for a period of two weeks. In response, the GSPCB advocate emphasized the importance of adhering to existing laws, but Justice Karnik appeared unimpressed. "No music after 10 PM? Nothing at all?" he asked in disbelief.

Further discussion revealed that complaints were particularly frequent against certain venues, including Purple Martini, Salud, Diaz, and Hill Top. Frias also pointed out that Purple Martini continues to operate despite a GCZMA order for its demolition. Justice Karnik assured he would review the necessary documents related to the demolition.

The court was also informed about a letter from the Anjuna Panchayat, dated December 30, 2024, to the police GSPCB and Deputy Collector urging the authorities to file a report on the actions taken to address the issue.

Its BJP versus BJP over Bainguinim waste plant

Cumbharjua MLA opposes what Minister proposes; Faldesdai dares 'Babush' to go ahead with work

Team Herald

PANJIM: The proposed solid waste management (SWM) plant at Bainguinim has escalated into a confrontation between Waste Management Minister Atanasio 'Babush' Monserrate and Cumbharjua MLA Rajesh Faldesai, with the latter strongly opposing it on Wednesday.



Monserrate stated that the government will set up third SWM plant at Bainguinim as all process had been cleared. He claimed that there is no opposition and the Supreme Court had also cleared it



Why can't the Minister set it up in IT Habitat land at Dona Paula or behind his bungalow at Taleigao where there is vacant land. I will not keep quiet if the government goes ahead with the project"
— Rajesh Faldesai, Cumbharjua MLA

village.

Earlier, the Goa Waste Management Corporation (GWMC) meeting chaired by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant approved the E-Waste Policy 2024 for the State aimed at developing sustainable waste management practices.

It also approved a proposal to allocate land to the Gas Authority of India Ltd (GAIL) for establishing a 150 tons per day wet waste processing plant to enhance the State's waste management infrastructure. The Goa Handicraft, Rural and Small-Scale Industries Development Corporation Ltd will be allotted 5,000 square metres of land along with two existing sheds in the IDC at Cacora, Curchorem for use as a Material Recovery Facility (MRF).

The GWMC will train stakeholders across the country in waste management practices through online courses and announced the development of a Massive Online Open Courseware (MOOC) for conducting such trainings.

The GWMC earned revenue of Rs 38.56 lakh through the auction of vehicles and metal waste. It also decided to float new tenders for the collection, transportation, and segregation of solid waste, including non-biodegradable and dry waste.

Monserrate stated that the government will set up third SWM plant at Bainguinim as all process had been cleared. He claimed that there is no opposition and the Supreme Court had also cleared it. The project was delayed due to tenders which were floated three years ago and now it will be retenders with revised estimates. The works will start by August this year and the plant will be completed within two years.

Reacting to Faldesai's opposition, the Minister said that the SWM facility at Bainguinim will benefit the entire Tiswadi taluka.

However, Faldesai challenged the Minister to go ahead and start the work of the proposed SWM facility at Bainguinim. Stating that the SWM facility was already scrapped, he said, "Why can't the Minister set it up in IT Habitat land at Dona Paula or behind his bungalow at Taleigao where there is vacant land. I will not keep quiet if the government goes ahead with the project"

The government has now decided to shift the Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste plant from Kudchirem to Tuem, Pernem, he hinted. The Kudchirem villagers had opposed the proposed C&D plant in the

HC allows Datta Damodar Naik to travel to Pune

Team Herald

PANJIM: The High Court of Bombay at Goa on Wednesday granted permission to Sahitya Akademi awardee Datta Damodar Naik to travel out to Pune on Thursday, January 16 to 24 and appear himself before the investigating officer on January 25 between 10 am and 12 noon.

The Additional Sessions Court, Margao by its order dated January 13, 2025 had granted Naik anticipatory bail on several conditions, including that he will not leave the State without prior written permission of the concerned Court.

Naik against whom the Canacona police had registered a case on January 4 for hurting religious sentiments moved an application before the Additional Sessions Court next day seeking permission to travel outside the State. But hearing of his

application was adjourned to January 21, a date beyond the dates of travel of the application.

Naik wanted to travel to Pune to enable him to attend an interview.

During the hearing, the applicants counsel senior advocate Cleofato Almeida Coutinho stated that Naik would, on return from his trip to Goa, report to the Canacona police station and present himself to the investigating officer (IO) and thereafter as and when required, on a call letter being issued by the IO, attend the investigation.

Considering the urgency in the matter, the High Court granted Naik permission to travel to Pune on January 16 and to return to Goa by January 24 and thereafter present himself before the I.O. on January 25 between 10 am and 12 noon. In the event that the applicant returns earlier, he shall immediately present himself before the IO to record his presence.

NEGLECTED STATE



The wooden walkway, now in a dilapidated state, is in urgent need of attention from the authorities behind the Central Library at Sanskruti Bhavan, Panjim.

SAGUN GAWADE

CCP decides to rehabilitate meat, fish vendors

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Corporation of the City of Panjim (CCP) has decided to rehabilitate meat vendors along with the fish vendors at a temporary shed being constructed near fish market in the city.

Speaking to *O Herald*, Corporation of City of Panaji (CCP) councillor and market committee chairman Bento Lorena, "A temporary shed is being constructed for the fish vendors. The meat vendors will be accommodated in the same shed by extending it. They will be rehabilitated."

The decision has been taken after Supreme Court order directing the corporation to meat vendors to make a representation to the CCP Commissioner for finding a suitable alternative space for the purpose of carrying on their business. The court had said that the representation shall be considered by the Commissioner having regard to the practical aspects of the matters.

Meanwhile, speaking to *O Herald*, All Goa Beef Vendors Association president Manna Bepari said, "We have not been communicated about the decision taken by the CCP. We have given our representation to them as per the direction of the Supreme Court. We have not been shown the place where we will be accommodated and if we are settled according to the representation given to the CCP, then we are ready to accept it.

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Three held for raping minor

PANJIM: In a gruesome incident, a 12-year-old girl was raped by three persons in separate incidents.

The Women Police Station, Panjim have arrested the three accused, who allegedly raped the same victim. The incident occurred last week and according to the victim, the three accused sexually assaulted her same day.

All three cases have been registered under Section 376-AB of IPC, Section 8 (2) of Goa Children's Act, Section 4, 8 and 12 of POCSO. The three accused have been remanded in judicial custody.

Margao fish vendors still grapple with unhygienic conditions at retail market

Say waste strewn all around, clogged drains overflow by the roadside

Team Herald

MARGAO: Mounds of fish waste, overflowing drains and foul odour both welcomes and pushes away vendors and buyers to the retail fish market even as the South Goa Planning and Development Authority (SGPDA) resumes its efforts to hike the soppo fees with allegations of neglect continuing to pour.

Vendors and visitors alike have expressed frustration over the worsening conditions that are disrupting market operations and discouraging customers from visiting.

Fish vendors have raised serious concerns regarding the market's condition. They reported that fish waste is being left unattended, piles of thermocol boxes are discarded within the market complex, and gutters are clogged with garbage and silt, leading to overflow onto the roadside. Broken gates and damaged compound walls are also allowing miscreants to access the premises freely.

Despite the presence of a waste collection vehicle from the Margao Municipal Council, the vendors noted that dry waste is still being set on fire in various parts of the complex, adding to the pollution problem.

We are tired of requesting SGPDA to take this matter seriously and have a tough time dealing with customers, as many are complaining about the mess, which is preventing them from visiting the market. Wastewater is overflowing onto the road due to choked gutters, and a rotten stench fills the air
— Vendors

Vendors reiterated that the deteriorating conditions are negatively impacting business and causing major inconvenience them and customers as well.

"We are tired of requesting SGPDA to take this matter seriously and have a tough time dealing with customers, as many are complaining about the mess, which is preventing them from visiting the market. Wastewater is overflowing onto the road due to choked gutters, and a rotten stench fills the air," said vendors.

"Now, it is only the court that can take the authorities to task, as they did with the wholesale fish market issue," they said.

Stray cow turns holiday into nightmare for Spanish woman, son

Team Herald

ASSAGAO: Stray animal attacks are becoming a growing concern in Goa's famous tourist destination at Anjuna with a Spanish woman and her son were hit by a cow and badly injured during their holiday here.

While Chandana was attacked by the cow, her son was flung into the air by the furious animal at Zorwaddo Anjuna, another two met with the same fate with the marauding bull attacking them.

"One of them even lifted up my son and threw him down. The situation is quite frightening here," Chandana stated.

The menace of stray cattle has taken an ugly turn at Zorwaddo Anjuna with many of them going on a



PICS: ERWIN FONSECA

wild rampage and attacking people.

According to information received, there are a lot of stray cattle found around the Mahila Ashram at Zorwaddo Anjuna.

Sarpanch Laxmidas Chimulkar when contacted observed that all those

stray cattle need not necessarily be of locals but of others from surrounding wards and they wander around this place. "We are in the process of signing an agreement with the goushala at Sinquerim Mayem and once everything is done stray cattle will be im-

pounded.

Last weekend a cow was found dead and it took 2 full days for the corpse to be disposed off this despite the fact that every panchayat has a budgetary provision to do away with stray dead cattle at the earliest, said the woman.

Local panch member Pratima Govekar however sought to blame all the house owners for this mess stating that most people staying at Zorwaddo had given their houses on rent to migrants.

"I squarely blame all house owners who have rented out their premises to migrants. In spite of instructing them nobody listens and all inside roads are filled with garbage by these people and they don't want to move from there."

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Hon'ble Minister for Law & Judiciary, Environment, Captain of Ports & Legislative Affairs & MLA of Nuvem Constituency



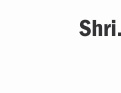
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Smt. Assuciana Roman Sobrinho E Rodrigues
Zilla Panchayat Member



Shri. Gabriel Fernandes
Sarpanch, Village Panchayat Nagoa



Smt. Terezinha D'Sa Faria
Deputy Sarpanch, Village Panchayat Nagoa



Smt. Gilvena Rancy Vaz - Panch V. P. Nagoa



Adv. Shri. Dileshwar M. Naik - Panch V. P. Nagoa



Smt. Rakhi S. Naik - Panch V. P. Nagoa



Shri. Florencio Victor Fernandes - Panch V. P. Nagoa

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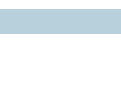
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Secretary, Village Panchayat Nagoa



Shri. Anzil A. Godinho
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