

Noise pollution and its impact on communities

Noise pollution in a state like Goa, which is a popular tourist destination, is a common occurrence. Almost every day, events with loud EDM music and large crowds take place. While these gatherings are part of Goa's vibrant social scene, they

Noise Pollution



become a serious problem when they start affecting the residents living in the surrounding areas. Excessive noise can cause both physical and psychological stress, reduce productivity, interfere with communication and concentration, and may even lead to injuries. For many residents, especially those living near event venues, this is a persistent and deeply troubling issue.

The specific concern I want to highlight is the noise pollution in Mapusa, particularly during EDM events, masquerades, Carnival celebrations, and other music-related activities. These events frequently go on till late at night, causing significant inconvenience to people residing in the surrounding areas. The loud music and noise can be heard as far as Dattawadi, where an educational institution caters to over 4,000 students, including higher

secondary students. This persistent disturbance creates serious problems for students who need peace and quiet to focus on their studies. As a resident of the area, I have personally experienced the impact of this noise pollution. Insomnia (sleeplessness) has become a regular struggle for me due to the loud music that continues into the night. I am certain that many others in the area—especially senior citizens, individ-

uals with mental health concerns, those who are ill, and working professionals who follow a 9-to-5 schedule—are similarly affected. After a long day of work or study, people deserve to rest peacefully without being disturbed by excessive noise. Despite regulations that prohibit loud music after 10 pm, disturbances persist, with noise levels frequently exceeding the permitted limits. This ongoing violation of noise control rules continues to create an unbearable living environment for residents. I strongly urge the responsible authorities to take strict action to ensure that these regulations are enforced. Addressing this issue is crucial to improving the quality of life for those who are consistently disturbed by noise pollution in Mapusa.

Electricity dept workers should be given protective gear

The sight of a lineman repairing electrical switches on a pole at Duler on March 9 without any safety gear was deeply concerning. The worker, seen wearing only a helmet, lacked essential protective equipment such as safety shoes and gloves. Disturbingly, his colleagues assisting him were also without proper safety gear.

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This incident highlights a recurring issue in Goa, where numerous linemen have tragically lost their lives on duty due to the absence of adequate safety equipment. Despite these alarming cases, the authorities seem to have failed in ensuring the well-being of these frontline workers. It is unacceptable that



linemen, who risk their lives performing hazardous public duties, are deprived of basic protective gear. The

government's apparent neglect in providing such vital equipment raises serious concerns. Why are austerity measures seemingly applied when it comes to safeguarding the lives of power department workers? These employees, like anyone else, have families relying on their safe return home. While politicians enjoy the comforts of luxurious travel and privileged lifestyles, they must prioritise the safety of public workers instead of offering empty condolences after preventable tragedies. In this case, the Officers in charge of Mapusa should be held accountable for deploying staff without the necessary safety gear. Such negligence amounts to vicarious liability, and those responsible must face appropriate action to prevent further loss of life.

National Highway? NH66 turning into dumpyard

The National Highway 66 is increasingly becoming a dumping ground for garbage, creating an unsightly and unhygienic mess. Various types of waste — including fish, meat, and chicken scraps, along with mud, wood, plastic,

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and other rubbish — are being discarded along the roadside. In the early morning hours, individuals reportedly arrive in pick-up vehicles, dump their waste, and quickly leave the scene. This careless disposal not only creates an unpleasant visual but also poses serious health risks as the waste rots in the open. Despite the growing problem, authorities appear to be turning a blind eye to the situation. The



question now is — will the Mapusa Municipal Council take decisive action to identify and penalise these violators before the issue worsens?

Prioritise road safety, rebuild speedbreaker



The Government has taken a great initiative of repairing the roads and constructing new ones. But the recent construction of a new road in the area has led to the removal of an essential speed breaker, which was previously in place to control speeding vehicles. This removal has caused significant problems, posing risks to pedestrians who go for morning walks, especially schoolchildren and locals.

The speed breaker was based near the St Sebastian Sports futsal ground. The speed breaker was originally installed to prevent reckless driving in a zone where heavy foot traffic is common. However, in its absence, vehicles now move at dangerously high speeds, increasing the chances of accidents. Residents and shop owners in the vicinity have already reported several near-miss incidents, raising concerns about public safety. The concerned authorities should take immediate action and reinstall the speed breaker to ensure the well-being of the community. Road safety should always be a priority and preventive measures must not be overlooked during infrastructure upgrades.

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Arpora

SGPDA office building in a state of decay—will authorities act?

It is truly disheartening to see the once-majestic SGPDA office building in its current dilapidated state. Once a symbol of administrative efficiency, the building now stands as a glaring example of neglect. Garbage is strewn around, stray dogs and

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drunkards loiter in the corridors, and the structure itself is crumbling—with damp walls, peeling plaster, missing false ceilings, and stained floors adding to the misery. The situation is further worsened by paan-gutka stains on the walls, damaged flooring, exposed electrical conduits posing safety hazards, and unchecked shop encroachments taking over common spaces. The once-functional premises now look abandoned, despite the fact that it still houses offices and businesses.



The real question is—will the authorities ever wake up and take action? The state of this building is not just an aesthetic concern but also a serious safety and hygiene issue. If left unchecked, the damage will only worsen, making repairs even costlier in the long run. Those responsible for its upkeep must act before the structure deteriorates beyond repair.

Preserve State's green heritage, make translocation effective



The 200-year-old banyan tree, which was translocated from St Inez to the Campal football ground in Panjim, has been declared dead. Experts have observed that while the tree's trunk has perished, new shoots are emerging from its roots—a process that could take decades to restore the tree

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to its former grandeur. This development has sparked discussions about the efficacy of tree translocation practices in Goa. Environmentalists argue that such outcomes highlight the need for more robust conservation strategies to preserve the state's green heritage, which is being lost day by day. In a related environ-

mental concern, the Goa Forest Department recently issued an order to the Public Works Department (PWD) to halt the felling of trees for the proposed six-lane elevated corridor project in Porvorim following the tragedy of the 200-year-old translocated banyan tree. The directive emphasizes exploring alternatives to preserve existing trees or consider translocation, reflecting the growing public sentiment against unnecessary tree cutting. These incidents underscore the delicate balance between development and environmental conservation in Goa. As the state grapples with infrastructure expansion, the preservation of its natural heritage remains a pressing concern for both authorities and citizens.

Garbage dumped in front of residence

I'm a resident of Bhati Karai, Shiroda, and have been enduring severe hardship due to the constant dumping of waste food and garbage right in front of my house for the past few months.

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The unbearable stench from the garbage fills my home, and insects and flies have invaded my living space, making it extremely difficult for my family and me to live comfortably. Despite repeatedly complaining to the local panchayat and the Shiroda Health



Centre, no action has been taken so far. When I approached the panchayat members, they assured me that this was only a temporary dumping site and that the waste would soon be cleared. However, the dumping continues, and the situation has only worsened. The garbage pile keeps growing every day, posing serious health risks to my family. I am already struggling with major health issues, and living so close to this unhygienic mess has only made matters worse. Stray animals like cows



and dogs frequently gather around the garbage dump, further contaminating the area with their waste. To make things worse, mosquitoes and flies are constantly entering my home. They sit on our food plates, contaminate our meals, and have turned my house into an unbearable environment. I now fear for the safety and well-being of my family. I am pleading with the authorities to step in and take immediate action. The garbage dump must be cleared without further delay, the accumulated waste

removed, and the area thoroughly sanitised to prevent further health hazards. I also urge the authorities to establish a regular waste collection system to stop future dumping. I have done everything I could — filed complaints, followed up with authorities, and sought help — but the situation remains unchanged. I can't live like this anymore, and I urge those in power to take this issue seriously before it's too late. Attempts to contact Shiroda Sarpanch for a response were unsuccessful, as her phone remained unreachable.

Dust, danger and development in Assagao

Assagao has quietly emerged as one of Goa's most charming destinations. While the village has seen rapid development in recent years, it is

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Assagao

also grappling with growing problems like potholes. These damaged roads are causing several issues, including accidents and excessive dust that settles in local homes and shops, affecting the health of residents. Many tourists, unfamiliar with the pothole-ridden roads, are among the most frequent victims of these accidents.



The village panchayat must take immediate action to improve road conditions or implement precautionary measures—such as installing proper signboards, placing barricades, and regularly watering the roads to reduce dust.

Slow pace of work

The MDR-10 roadwork in Siolim has been progressing at a slow pace, with the ongoing hot weather conditions further delaying the project. While the inconvenience caused by prolonged roadwork is

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expected, what has become a growing concern is the lack of proper planning and consideration for residents living along the route. In several instances, road debris has been dumped directly in front of residential entrances, making it difficult — and in some cases impossible — for homeowners to access their properties. This has



particularly affected residents who are currently away, leaving their homes vulnerable to such careless actions. When these homeowners, many of whom are elderly, return for holidays or family visits, they may find themselves unable to enter their own homes without navigating piles of rubble. This disregard for property access not only inconveniences residents but also raises safety concerns. Blocked entrances can pose

a serious hazard, especially for elderly homeowners who may struggle to move heavy debris or navigate unstable pathways. Such negligence by the responsible authorities reflects a lack of foresight and responsibility in ensuring that basic access needs are maintained during infrastructure projects. It is imperative that the PWD (Roads) engineers address this issue promptly by clearing debris, restoring access to affected properties, and implementing better planning to prevent similar problems in the future. Ensuring residents' safety and convenience should remain a priority even as development projects are carried out.