

No solution to **garbage** hotspots along highway at Mapusa



Garbage dumping along road-sides has become a persistent problem in and around Mapusa, with numerous black spots accumulating mixed waste, plastic, diapers, and even rotting carcasses. Shockingly, even in the heart of the Mapusa market, a large garbage dump remains unattended, with no daily waste collection. Stray dogs tear

through the piles, further spreading the mess and worsening the unhygienic conditions.

Many well-meaning citizens, community groups, and even foreign visitors have taken the initiative to organise cleanup drives along these garbage-filled highways. Yet, despite their efforts, the filth re-

turns in no time. This raises serious questions—why do people resort to dumping waste on the roadside? Is there no proper garbage collection service in their residential areas, forcing them to trans-

port their trash in cars and on bikes just to discard it in public spaces? It is imperative that the authori-

ties take decisive action to curb this menace. Installing CCTV cameras at known black spots to identify and penalise offenders could be a crucial step toward deterrence. Additionally, strengthening waste collection services, enforcing stricter regulations, and raising public awareness about responsible waste disposal are necessary to address this ongoing issue.

Open spaces used as a dumpyard, fire risks abound

Goa is already drowning in a sea of garbage, courtesy of the tourists. However, in recent times, locals have also begun dumping household junk in orchards and green spaces, particularly in the coastal villages of Benaolim, often while undertaking home renovations. In an attempt to clear space for more discarded items, they resort to burning previously dumped waste, including furniture, mat-

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Benaolim**



tresses, window frames, plastic, and other materials. This practice results in the release of toxic smoke, posing a severe threat to public health.

With the unseasonably early onset of scorching summer temperatures, the situation becomes even more alarming. The combination of dry vegetation and careless burning creates a clear and present danger of fires spreading rapidly, potentially engulfing vast areas. Similar incidents have already been reported in North Goa, highlighting the urgent need for preventive action.

Law enforcement authorities and local panchayats must take immediate steps to address this growing menace. The formation of flying squads dedicated to monitoring, detecting, and penalizing violators would serve as a strong deterrent. Strict enforcement of penalties on those irresponsibly dumping and burning waste is essential to safeguarding both the environment and public health.

Act against the errant building tenants, clean up Osia Complex



The rear of the SGPD office complex is just as poorly maintained as the front. To make matters worse, several commercial establishments have illegally installed generators and other electrical backup systems in the rear setback without any safety measures. Stagnant water and wet garbage accu-



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mulating year-round near these installations pose a serious risk of electrocution. Additionally, the dirty

water serves as a breeding ground for mosquitoes, further endangering public health. Will the authorities finally take action against the errant building tenants?

Garbage collection point along Airport Road in Vasco an eyesore

The Airport Road in Vasco, often regarded as one of the city's more upscale localities, serves as a key route for vehicles traveling to and from Dabolim Airport. However, a garbage collection point along the pavement has become an unsightly and unhygienic nuisance. Garbage is frequently seen spilling over from the collection bins, strewn haphazardly across the area, forcing pedestrians to step onto the road to navigate around the mess. This poses a significant safety risk, especially given the high volume of traffic on this stretch of road.

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Vasco**

Adding to the problem, rats and other pests are frequently spotted rummaging through the waste, further exacerbating the health hazards. The strong, unpleasant odor emanating from the site makes it even more unbearable for residents, commuters, and shop owners in the vicinity. Given that several residential buildings, shopping centers, and even a promi-



nent bank are located nearby, the presence of an unmanaged garbage collection point in such a prime area is both inappropriate and unacceptable.

It is imperative that the civic authorities take immediate action by relocating the waste collection point to a more suitable and less intrusive location. Additionally, they must implement stricter

waste management measures to ensure that garbage is disposed of in a timely and orderly manner. Regular cleaning and fumigation should also be carried out to prevent further deterioration of the area's hygiene and to eliminate the rodent infestation. Maintaining cleanliness on this stretch of road is not just a matter of civic order but also of public health and safety.

Weak trees, old electricity poles hazardous to public safety

Recently, a major accident was narrowly avoided in Savi-vo-Verem when a tree collapsed onto electricity poles, severely damaging them. Fortunately, the road was empty at the time, preventing any injuries or loss of life. However, the incident has left locals deeply concerned about the safety of the existing infrastructure. They have urged authorities to replace the old, weakened poles with new ones, as the damaged poles were already in a deteriorated state before the incident occurred.

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The critical need for regular maintenance of both trees and electricity poles to prevent similar accidents in the future. Across Goa, numerous electricity poles are visibly bent or leaning, posing a significant threat to public safety. Many of these poles, weakened by age and exposure to the elements, are at risk of collapsing, especially during adverse weather conditions.

To mitigate such risks, the government and the electricity department must adopt proactive measures. Regular inspections and maintenance of electricity poles should be conducted to identify and replace



any that are old, damaged, or structurally unsound. Additionally, trees growing near power lines should be routinely trimmed or, if necessary, removed to prevent them from toppling onto electrical infrastructure.

Public cooperation is also crucial in ensuring safety. Residents should be encouraged to report any leaning, damaged, or unstable poles to the relevant authorities immediately so that timely action can be taken. By implementing these preventive measures and fostering community awareness, we can safeguard public spaces and prevent potential disasters.



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Ramadan month is well known for fasting, but its importance lies in the revelation of the Quran. This Eid-ul-Fitr let us analyse what the

Quran has to say to the entire humanity so that this Eid brings colours to our life in true sense.

One of the special features of the Holy Quran is that it appeals to people to know the truth with open eyes and mind instead of following fantasies, fairy tales and superstitions, it demands to ponder upon its teachings and then establish opinion based on knowledge, intellect and reasoning.

The Quran begins with a chapter called Surah Fa-tiha which explains us the etiquettes of supplication to the Almighty Allah -- who is also known as God

or Ishwar.

It starts with praising the Lord with His attributes like the most Merciful and Master of the Day of Judgement and then requests Him to show us the right Path. In response to this prayer, Allah/God puts forward the entire Quran for the guidance of the entire humanity in the succeeding chapters.

Teachings About Allah/God

Allah is the sovereign Lord, creator, sustainer, maintainer, provider and ruler of the world. Quran prompts to observe the signs in the universe and nature which are proof of the Oneness of Allah/God.

It is our life's experience that at the time of calamity we forget all those whom we associate with Allah/God and call only Him for help since only His remembrance is imprinted on our hearts.

The Quran reminds us to worship, be obedient like loyal servants to Him alone following His commandments in all spheres of life. Call out to Him alone for all our needs since He is the

one who created life and spread in the universe all things required for its sustenance such as air, water, all kinds of food etc.

The Quran warns us to ask for forgiveness of our sins before our death approaches only that Allah/God as He is the Forgiver, the Pardoner. Accepting the above facts and applying it in life is the only solution to maintain peace and harmony in the world.

Life, Death, Judgement And Heaven/Hell

This creation of life is not for fun and enjoyment. The purpose of creation is as important as seriousness in its creation. It is known to all, though forgotten, that life of this Earth will end one day.

Quran repeatedly reminds about death and Judgement Day and requests people to prepare themselves for it by recognising their Lord, mending one's ways of life as per the commandments of God so as to present a good record of deeds on Judgement Day and to grab the reward of

heaven and save one self from the punishment of hell.

"Mischievous has appeared in the land and the sea on account of men's own doings" (30:41)

Mischief means corruption, violence and atrocities which can be cast out by Allah/God's teachings and rightful deeds specially submitting ourselves to God and the fear of the Judgement Day.

Prophethood

Allah/God did not let humankind wander in darkness without guidance after creation but sent prophets in every era to guide and show people the right path (10:47).

They were selected from among the people themselves, humans, who guided the people with their human capacity and presented a lifestyle suitable to humans to come close to Allah/God. Satan tries to tempt people and let them go astray.

Various prophets namely Noah, Ibrahim (Abraham), Lut, Saleh, Yusuf, Musa (Moses), Dawood (David),

Sulaiman (Solomon), etc, are mentioned and it is said that they tried their best to guide the people and faced all challenges and atrocities for the same.

Some people accepted them and their message while others did not. Some even tried to kill them. The Quran highlighted the consequences of those who crossed the limits and what calamities they faced.

The bigots always adopted an attitude of rejection, ban and atrocities on the rightful due to their arrogance, pride, selfishness and adamant nature because the message was against their wishes, freedom, self-made, selfish laws. That's why they also corrupted the teachings of the prophets and the scriptures revealed to them.

Hence, Prophet Mohammad (S A W) was sent as a final Prophet for the entire humanity with Final Revelation of the Quran containing the same message of earlier prophets in a purified manner (4:163).

The Quran contains the gist of all earlier scriptures and following it should be the prime purpose of life. At

one side we have the guidance, mercy and criterion for life in the form of the Quran and at another side

we have the perfect personality and life of Prophet Mohammad (S A W) for its implementation.

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