

Oppn slams Goa govt for failing to crackdown on night clubs, restaurants playing loud outdoor music

Opposition parties in Goa criticized the state government on Tuesday for failing to enforce the Bombay High Court's order against nightclubs and restaurants on the beach belt playing loud outdoor music. The Goa bench of the Bombay High Court, with Justices M S Karnik and Valmiki Menezes, recently ruled that establishments cannot play outdoor music unless they install online noise meters.

Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) president Amit Patkar told reporters that residents of Anjuna (North Goa) have been protesting nightly against clubs playing loud music after 10 pm.

Patkar, who visited the area with his colleagues, observed that many nightclubs were violating the law by continuing to play loud music past the 10 pm cutoff. He claimed that nightclub owners, many from Delhi, were disregarding local laws and employing "bouncers" at their entrances, making it difficult even for local police to intervene.

Patkar also alleged that the Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB) had revoked the permits of several nightclubs, yet they continue to operate.

Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao expressed frustration that the situation persists despite state Environment Minister Aleixo Sequeira's promise in the assembly to stop loud music. AAP MLA Venzy Viegas joined locals at the Anjuna police station on Sunday night, demanding action against the violators.

Minister Sequeira was unavailable for comment.

A senior GSPCB official stated that five restaurants have installed online noise monitoring meters linked to the local police station, and 33 others have been directed to do so as a priority. All these establishments are located in North Goa's coastal belt.