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Noise pollution level goes through roof in Gachibowli

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HYDERABAD: Once a dreary and desolate spot tucked away in the city outskirts, Gachibowli has now turned into a concrete jungle of chaos and cacophony.

Noise levels are rising in this sensitive zone and are well above the prescribed limits. Telangana State Pollution Control Board (TSPCB) data shows Gachibowli recording 65 decibel (dB) during the day time as against the standard of 50 dB prescribed for a sensitive zone.

This year, the highest noise levels were measured in July and August.

In July alone, noise levels during the day was recorded 66 dB whereas the night time noise was 61 dB, the highest this year in a sensitive zone. Similarly, in August, the day time noise levels touched 65 dB and at night it was 60 dB as against the standard 50 dB during the day and 40 dB during night.

The highest noise level of 74 dB in the city was recorded at Abids against the commercial area standard of 65 dB, while other commercial centres too have logged above 70 dB, with JNTU recording 72 dB, Paradise and RC Puram both recording 70 dB.

Residential zones such as Jubilee Hills and Tarnaka have also crossed the stipulated standards of 55dB during day and 45dB during night.

PCB officials said they were taking measures to check noise pollution and focusing on creating awareness about the issue.

“Noise pollution is a cause of concern. We are working on ways to spread awareness and educate people on the matter,” said a Pollution Control Board official.

While TSPCB’s job seemingly ends with monitoring noise levels, the question remains about who will enforce noise limits.

While PCB authorities said that the local municipal body and the traffic police should enforce them by earmarking ‘silent zones’ and take measures to control honking and use of loudspeakers, the departments have done very little, said environmental experts.

“Delay in zoning the areas is the major cause of noise pollution. Silent zone restrictions in an area can only be enforced if we have silent zones earmarked in the first place,” said WG Prasanna Kumar, a senior city environmentalist.