

12 yrs after opening, Ponda hospital's facilities still not up to the mark

In the absence of essential services, patients are forced to go to GMC for treatment

Team Herald

PONDA: Twelve years after its inauguration, the Ponda Sub-District Hospital (SDH) continues to struggle with inadequate medical facilities, forcing patients to seek treatment elsewhere. Despite being a four-storey hospital intended to provide comprehensive health-care under one roof, it still lacks essential services such as a CT scan machine, an MRI machine, and a sufficient number of doctors.

The hospital is now back in the spotlight as seven out of its eight lifts remain non-functional, causing severe difficulties for patients, particularly pregnant women and those undergoing dialysis.

While minor ailments are treated efficiently, the absence of modern medical upgrades means that in cases of emergencies or serious conditions, patients have no choice but to travel to Goa Medical College (GMC) in Bambolim, which is 35 km away.



The problems plaguing SDH have been raised in previous Goa Assembly sessions. In the past, South Goa MP Captain Viriato Fernandes, Opposition Leader Yuri Alemao, and Congress Party President Amit Patkar had criticised Hospital Medical Superintendent Dr Jayshree Marcaikar over the hospital's lack of general surgeons, CT scan machines, and other necessary medical equipment.

PMC Councillor Venkatesh Naik said most of the people in Ponda and surrounding areas heavily depend on the Sub District Hospital. "All essential medical facilities including a CT scan, required number of doctors should be made available by the

government at the earliest and the concerned MLAs and ministers of from the taluka should also look into the matter in the interest of public.

Public worker Viraj Sapre highlighted that the post of surgeon has remained vacant for nearly 22 months. Additionally, a skin specialist is no longer available at the hospital.

"This hospital has effectively become a referral centre, as patients are frequently transferred to GMC due to a shortage of doctors and equipment. Now, with the lifts being out of order for over 15 days, patients are suffering even more," he said.

Vishal Fadte pointed out that SDH is centrally lo-

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- Vishal Fadte, local resident

ated in Ponda city and, if adequately equipped with medical facilities and staff, patients would not have to be sent to GMC. "The vacant surgeon's post must be filled immediately on a regular basis. Similarly, all non-functional lifts must be repaired without delay," he said.

Before its renovation

in 2012, SDH was a small hospital known as the ID (Infectious Disease) Hospital. After its expansion, residents of Ponda and surrounding talukas hoped it would provide better medical care. However, key facilities such as a CT scan are still missing.

Naresh Naik stressed

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Heavy Rush "GOA SHOPPING FESTIVAL", LIFESTYLE SHOPPING EXHIBITION AT SGPDA MARGAO



Margao, Feb 01: GOA SHOPPING FESTIVAL, the Life Style Shopping Exhibition at SGPDA GROUND in MARGAO is seen crowded everyday. There are lot of Furniture stalls in the exhibition where people rushed to the stall as Furniture stalls were offering good discounts. Other stalls like: Pratik Motors, Prestige, Paramount Marketing, Usha International Ltd, Nuetech Solar Systems Pvt Ltd., AG Furniture Studio, RGS Kitchen Ware, Afgan Dry Fruits, Harsh Enterprises, Smith Furniture, Gujarat Namkeen, Jijee Jewellery, Sankul Food, Laxmi Enterprises, SS Furniture,

Rajastan Papad, Samra Furniture, Kitchenware, Home Products, Sofa Sets & Home Furniture, Imported Curtains, Shower Curtains, Lazy World Bean Bags, Money Counting Machine, Ladies Fashion, Toys, Garments, Imported Watches, Magic Mop, Ladies & Gents Shoes, Children Clothes, Imported Jewellery, Bed sheets, Herbal Products, Children Furnitures, Educational Cd's, Door Mats, Bombay Halwa, Mens Wear, Health care Products & many more The exhibition is open for the public from 10.30 a.m. To 9.00 p.m. So don't Miss.

2 shops gutted in Vasco market, loss estimated at Rs 10 lakh

Team Herald

VASCO: Two shops were gutted and two others were partially destroyed in a major fire in the Mormugao Municipal market at Vasco early Saturday morning.

The Fire and Emergency Services personnel prevented the fire from spreading to other shops in the

congested market.

According to information given by Vasco fire officer Dilip Bicholkar, they received a call at 3:40 am and they immediately rushed to the spot. On seeing the three shops engulfed in flames, they called for additional fire tenders and prevented the fire from spreading to adjacent shops.

Though the exact cause of fire

was not immediately known, the total loss is estimated to be around Rs 10 lakh. Fire personnel saved property worth over Rs 1 crore.

Bicholkar opined that the fire might have started around midnight. He has requested shopkeepers to install small fire hydrants or extinguishers, as immediate action can prevent major damage.

Upon receiving the information, Vasco MLA Krishna 'Daji' Salkar rushed to the site and appreciated the efforts of the fire personnel and the electricity department for their prompt action, and averting a major disaster.

Salkar too urged shopkeepers to adopt safety measures such as installing fire extinguishers and also to appoint watchman during night.



O HERALDO

The Voice of Goa - since 1900

GOA, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2025

Happy Feast of

Our Lady of Health, Cuncolim



Age-old Cuncolim feast tradition to bring together faithful from across Goa



The much-awaited feast of Our Lady of Health more commonly called Saude Saibinnichem Fest in Konkani will be celebrated at Cuncolim on February 2 with grandeur and solemnity.

The Church of Cuncolim is located at one of the most scenic spots in South Goa surrounded by lush green fields and hills on all sides. The first Cuncolim Church was built somewhere between 1600 and 1604. It was further enlarged in 1630. In recent times, Our Lady of Health Church, Cuncolim,

Goa was redesigned with two new wings in two phases, the first one in 1953 and the second one in 1967. This was all possible with the hard work and guidance from Msgr. Agapito Lourenso. On December 16, 1967, the late His Eminence Valerian Cardinal Gracioso blessed the new wings.

The feast is celebrated in rotation by the 12 Vangods of the parish. Vangods being the original settlers of the area are also known as gaunkars. Initially, there were 8 vangods which later on increased to 12. This

year the feast will be celebrated by the 10th Vangod and Wendy Gomes from Panzorconni will be celebrating it.

Cuncolim Maddi is unique because a picture of Our Lady is taken in a procession from the Church to Dandora with great solemnity and this procession attracts a large crowd even from neighbouring Assolna.

It is believed that many years back, a family distraught over the death of their only child who was a male, threw out all the Holy pictures from

the house and left their abode. However, their neighbour picked up the picture of Our Lady and placed it in an open space for reverence and since then a framed picture of Our Lady is taken from the church to that open space even today as part of the Maddi celebration explained Manny Fernandes from Cuncolim,

Being an extremely popular feast, it attracts a large fair which lasts for even three weeks. Stalls selling furniture, sweets, games for youngsters are set up with even people from

neighbouring villages selling their sweets.

While the entrance to the church is occupied by those selling sweets, potters also sell their clay items specially the traditional cunnim used for cooking and rooster shaped water storage pot.

The fair does cause a lot of problems for motorists as the highway gets blocked with the crowds visiting the stalls set up along its side. Cuncolim market gets overcrowded during the fair with stalls selling readymade clothes.

In the village of Cuncolim, there is a unique and rich tradition that is on the February 1, on vesper day have a long procession going through the Cuncolim bazaar with the statue of the Sacred Heart of Mary. The said statue was gifted to the church by Joao Louis Miranda and Maria Jeraldin from Dandora, Cuncolim. They both signed an act with the church stating that all the expenses for the Vesper evening mass, sermon procession along with music (band) would be borne by them. While the procession goes through the bazaar, all shop owners light candles outside their establishments, showing the inter-religious harmony that exists in Cuncolim. It is on this day, the whole Cuncolim Parish was consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Mary, in Portuguese it is called "ACTO DE CONSAGRACAO PROCESSAO" and the procession is known as the candlelight procession or processao.

Wishing all my Cuncolkars
A HAPPY FEAST OF OUR LADY OF HEALTH
 -:- Best Wishes From :-:-
PRASHANT R. NAIK
 (P.P.)
 Social Worker
 Cuncolim Constituency
 Cosy's Ads, Chinchinim, Navelim, 9850477904

Wishing you a blessed and joyful Feast of
Our Lady of Health-Cuncolim
 May her loving presence be a source of strength and inspiration to us all.

YURI ALEMAO Leader of Opposition
 M.A.-Cuncolim

Cosy's Ads, Chinchinim, Navelim, 9850477904

