

Nullah spewing sewage near South District Hospital sullies Sal, fields

Team Herald

MARGAO: A group of concerned citizens and social activists have raised serious alarm over the sewage being discharged into a nullah located just next to the compound wall of the South Goa District Hospital.

The untreated sewage flows into agricultural fields and eventually into River Sal, causing severe environmental pollution. The residents have sharply criticized the government's lack of action on the matter.

During a visit to the hospital, it was observed that the nullah, which runs adjacent to the district hospital, was flowing with sewage that emitted an unbearable stench.

Savio Coutinho, a local activist, expressed his frustration, alleging



ing that public funds amounting to crores of rupees are being wasted due to the government's failure to implement proper sewage management.

"The nullah next to the district hospital is constantly discharging sewage water, which then flows into the fields and eventually reaches River Sal, severely polluting the area," Coutinho stated.

“The nullah next to the district hospital is constantly discharging sewage water, which then flows into the fields and eventually reaches River Sal, severely polluting the area – Savio Coutinho, former MMC Chief

“The sewage from the nullah is ruining our agricultural land. During the monsoon season, the situation worsens as the sewage directly enters the fields, making it almost impossible to work – Agnelo Miranda, farmer

He also pointed out the hypocrisy of the authorities who are quick to seal business establishments for not connecting to the sewage pipeline, yet allow untreated sewage to flow openly without action. "It's shocking that authorities remain silent on this issue," he added.

Milagres Fernandes, a social worker from Madel, emphasised

that the sewage problem has persisted for years without resolution.

"Standing near the entrance of the district hospital has become unbearable because of the foul-smelling sewage. This is not just an inconvenience, but a potential health hazard for patients receiving medical services. It's time the authorities address this issue before allowing any new

housing projects in the area," Fernandes said.

He also highlighted the impact on local farmers, many of whom have stopped cultivating their fields due to the contamination from the sewage.

Fernandes also raised concerns about the nearby school, where students are exposed to the unpleasant and harmful effects of the sewage. "This untreated sewage is making its way into the River Sal, which is affecting fish life and further polluting the river," he added.

"The sewage from the nullah is ruining our agricultural land. During the monsoon season, the situation worsens as the sewage directly enters the fields, making it almost impossible to work," said Agnelo Miranda, a farmer from the area.

Happy Birthday
ROSHAN VASUDEV REDKAR
(Sarpanch of V. P. Arpora Nagao)
Wishing you a very long and a happy life.
BEST WISHES FROM
ANIKET D. SHIRODKAR
(Ward Member - Tambudki Vaddo & Kudas Vaddo Arpora Bardez - Goa)

LOOKING FOR LANDS ON JOINT DEVELOPMENT (JDA) BASIS IN AND AROUND GOA

WE ARE REPUTED BUILDERS, LOOKING FOR LANDS AND PROPERTIES, (SETTLEMENT & RESIDENTIAL LANDS WITH SANAD & CLEAR TITLE AND LEGAL REPORT) ON DEVELOPMENT BASIS (JDA). SUBJECT TO MUTUAL ACCEPTANCE AND TERMS, THE LANDS WILL BE DEVELOPED INTO PRIME RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES FOR VILLAS OR FOR APARTMENTS. UPON AMICABLE WORKING REFUNDABLE DEPOSITS AND SHARING PERCENTAGES CAN BE MUTUALLY DISCUSSED. INTERESTED PARTIES AND LAND OWNERS MAY MAIL TO WITH NAMES & CONTACT NUMBER & LAND DETAILS @ luminarizen@gmail.com

LIGHT AND LIFE

JOSEPH FERNANDES



Parishioners carry a statue of Mother Mary in a procession on the occasion of the feast of the Our Lady of Candelaria in Pomburpa. February 2, celebrated worldwide as Candlemas Day, marks how Joseph and Mary presented Jesus in the Temple of Jerusalem 40 days after His birth

‘MMC shunts waste to Cacora instead of upgrading Sonsoddo’

Team Herald

MARGAO: Roque Mascarenhas, the petitioner representing 'Citizens for Sonsoddo' in the High Court, has raised concerns regarding the failure of the Margao Municipal Council (MMC), an 'A' class municipality, to effectively resolve ongoing waste management issues at the Sonsoddo dump yard.

Talking to reporters, Mascarenhas criticised the civic body for its inefficiency despite the significant funds being generated from taxpayers.

"The municipal council continues to spend a large sum of money on transporting garbage to the Cacora waste treatment plant, but I'm satisfied with the progress made in clearing the legacy waste," he noted.

Mascarenhas highlighted that when the petition was initially filed, the High Court issued several directives to the MMC, including the establishment of a 15 TPD bi-omentation plant at Sonsoddo to manage wet waste, but those measures have not been implemented. He further pointed out that the High Powered Committee, chaired by the Chief Minister, has yet to convene to address the issue.

"When visiting the site, it is evident that key machinery, including bailing machines, are often non-functional, and other equipment is in disrepair," Mascarenhas claimed.

He also called on the residents of Margao to hold their elected representatives accountable for the ongoing failure to address this critical issue.

Glen elected Saligao Comunidade president

Team Herald

PANJIM: Glen Dantas was elected as President while Orlando Vaz was elected as the Attorney of Saligao Comunidade on Sunday.

According to a statement, the elections for the Managing Committee of the Saligao Comunidade were held at the Comunidade Ghor in Muddawadi, Saligao. A record-breaking 194 Gaunkars attended. The election proceedings were conducted smoothly under the guidance of the Presiding Officer (Mamladar of Bicholim) Shripad Majik, who was assisted by three Talathis and two clerks.

Glen Dantas, who was elected as the new President, is a graduate in Economics and Political Sci-

ence and has been in the printing industry for over 30 years while Orlando Vaz is a retired music teacher. Vaz has previously served as both President and Special Attorney of the Comunidade.

Allan Vaz, a retired State Bank of India Manager, took over as Treasurer, bringing with him extensive financial expertise. Other elected members included Dr Andrew D'Souza, Substitute President, Andrew Cordeiro, Substitute Attorney, Ashley Delaney, Sub Treasurer.

"The newly elected committee looks forward to serving the Saligao Comunidade with dedication and transparency, working together towards a stronger and united Saligao Comunidade," the statement said.

Assonora farmers struggle as water shortage threatens crops

Team Herald

MAPUSA: The disruption of water supply due to a breach in the Tillari canal has severely impacted around 100 farmers in Assonora, who have relied on the Sal river for irrigation for many years.

Last week, a breach in the Tillari Canal in Maharashtra resulted in a significant reduction in the water flow of the Amthane and Sal rivers, which in turn affected the water supply to areas upstream, including Fuden, Assonora, and Para.

These farmers cultivate approximately 60 acres of land upstream, where they have earned their livelihoods. However, due to the ongoing water shortage, they are now struggling to save their crops.

“We have been sent from one office to another, but we have not found any solution. We don't know where the water will come from or if we'll get any relief – local farmer

The farmers have expressed frustration over their attempts to seek help from authorities, claiming they are being passed from one department to another without receiving any solutions. Their primary concern is the imminent risk of significant financial loss if water is not made available soon.

Laxman Narvekar, a local farmer said, "Earlier, there was only one plan, but now there are three. So where will the water come from?" Another farmer warned,

"If water is not made available within the next 20 days, we will suffer huge losses."

Farmers have also voiced their frustration with the Water Resources Department (WRD). One farmer explained that when they approached WRD officials in Mulgao, they were directed to visit the WRD office in Mapusa. "We have been sent from one office to another, but we have not found any solution. We don't know where the water will come from or if we'll get any relief," they said.

Despite appearances, the farmers noted that although their crops may seem green from a distance, they are actually dying from the roots due to the lack of water.

The farmers are urging authorities to take immediate action, as the ongoing water shortage threatens to decimate their livelihoods.

Infra woes, staff shortages at South District Hospital leave patients in limbo

Patience runs out as citizens wait endlessly for hospital to be fully functional; accident victims still referred to GMC, Bambolim

MAX. TEMP 35.5 °C
MIN. TEMP 21.5 °C

idharudhar



Your MLAs have been found – in the rival party office

Team Herald

MARGAO: Citizens are voicing concerns about the South Goa District Hospital at Margao, which, despite being inaugurated with much fanfare, continues to fall short of providing required medical services.

Many patients are still being referred to Goa Medical College due to a shortage of resources at the district hospital, highlighting the long-standing demand for the hospital to be upgraded to a tertiary care facility and fully operational.

Despite numerous complaints from the public and ongoing debates in the Assembly, the hospital's performance has yet to meet expectations, prompting renewed calls for Health Minister Vishwajit Rane to fulfill his promises.

It is important to note that as a district hospital, South Goa's healthcare facility should cater to hundreds of patients from across

“Delayed diagnoses of non-communicable diseases and the lack of access to life-saving treatments continue to affect vulnerable populations. Universal Health Coverage will remain out of reach unless immediate steps are taken to protect citizens from the financial burden of healthcare – Prabhav Naik

the region. Yet, many are still being transferred to Goa Medical College, including accident victims, due to the insufficient staff and lack of equipment at SGDh.

In a petition to the Health Minister, local citizen Prabhav Naik urged authorities to act on their promises and improve the hospital's operations, emphasizing the pressing healthcare needs of South Goa.

"Delayed diagnoses of non-communicable diseases and the lack

of access to life-saving treatments continue to affect vulnerable populations," Naik said. "Universal Health Coverage will remain out of reach unless immediate steps are taken to protect citizens from the financial burden of healthcare."

Further complaints include long waiting times for patient registration due to poor management, malfunctioning lifts, and inadequate essential services such as MRI and CT scans.

Citizens, including Milagres Fernandes, have expressed concern that the hospital lacks proper infrastructure, including a functioning ICU and blood bank. Fernandes also noted that issues like incomplete infrastructure, including missing bus sheds and footpaths, exacerbate the hospital's challenges.

Rohan Naik, another concerned citizen, highlighted that the district hospital also suffers from a critical shortage of staff.

Birthday Greetings



To our dearest
ROSHAN VASUDEV REDKAR
(Sarpanch of V. P. Arpora Nagao)

Happy Birthday to the person who makes our life more meaningful just by being in it. May this year bring you all the happiness you deserve.

Best wishes from :



KDR BOYS OF ARPORA

JAIDEEP GAD - President; PARESH KARMALKAR - Secretary; NANDAN KARMALKAR - Treasurer

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