

# Chandor-Cavorim gram sabha approve deficit budget for ensuing financial year

Team Herald

**CHANDOR:** Chandor-Cavorim gram sabha on Sunday approved a deficit budget for the ensuing financial year while Sarpanch Eugenio Fiel Dias apologised thrice for transgressions and also promised to convene a special gram sabha before the next ordinary gram sabha scheduled in April.

At the outset, the villagers protested against the failure to include people's correspondence in the agenda for the ordinary gram sabha as mandated under the gram

sabha rules.

The sarpanch was compelled to promise to convene a special gram sabha to discuss people's correspondence at which besides the proposals given for the meeting, fresh proposals will also be considered and the said gram sabha would be held before April 2025.

Further some of the villagers whose proposals were rejected pointed out that the letter informing them that their proposals were rejected were dated February 6, 2024 when Eugenio was not the sarpanch.

"This means that the sarpanch is either forging documents or is so careless that he does not even read what he signs," said one gram sabha member.

The Sarpanch while admitting that it was a mistake due to oversight, once again apologised to the gram sabha.

The villagers again pulled up the sarpanch for presenting the budget proposal for 2025-26 without presenting the Audit Report for the previous year to the villagers.

"The Audit report shows the mistakes and suggests corrections in the budget and hence is

necessary while discussing the budget," argued the villagers.

The sarpanch once again apologised and assured that the Audit Report will be presented to the villagers at the next gram sabha.

Meanwhile, the gram sabha approved a Rs 86.5 lakh deficit budget for the next financial year even as it proposed a revision in fees for transfer of house tax and trade license.

The budget has provided a sum of Rs 3 crore from the Sports Department towards construction of a pavilion and changing room at the

only ground in the village which the Sarpanch who is an accomplished footballer, said was a project he is committed to.

Following a demand from many villagers, the sarpanch agreed to maintenance of the said ground so that its pitch is levelled and usable.

While admitting that the panchayat has nearly Rs 1.80 crore in unutilised funds, the sarpanch promised to reduce this amount and urged people to give their suggestions for developmental works to be undertaken by the panchayat.

# Camorlim gramsabha resolves to gherao PWD engineer over road delay

Team Herald

**MARGAO:** The Camorlim gram sabha on Sunday passed a resolution to gherao the PWD engineer over the delayed construction work on the accident-prone Tembi-Raia road stretch.

It was informed that the project had been tendered two years ago but remains unexecuted. While some members suggested possible political interference as the cause for the delay, the gram sabha resolved to gherao the PWD engineer and seek answers regarding the prolonged delay.

Other pressing civic is-

sues, including concerns about the growing migrant population in the village and the budget, were also discussed.

The rising migrant population emerged as another significant concern. While the Sarpanch informed the meeting that the police had completed tenant verification, members demanded that the panchayat obtain detailed records of migrants residing in the village from senior police officials. It was revealed that, despite completing the tenant verification exercise, the police had not shared

these details with the panchayat.

The panchayat secretary presented the audit report of the panchayat's finances, which revealed that auditors had specifically recommended the preparation of a more realistic budget. This recommendation aligned with the members' concerns about the current budget proposal.

Locals suggested that only essential drainage projects be prioritised for immediate implementation, ensuring efficient use of resources and addressing the most critical areas first.

## citizenherald

## Maintain hygiene at SGPDA retail fish Market

At the retail fish market in Margao (SGPDA), unsanitary practices are creating a mess in the car parking area. Crates and cane baskets full of shrimp (prawns) are being placed directly on the floor and washed using water from the fish market, leading to water accumulation and unhygienic conditions. A private van is being used to transport these crates,

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CRUZ FERNANDES  
Margao

further adding to the disarray.

The president of the Retail Fish Market Association must intervene and immediately put a stop to such practices to maintain hygiene and cleanliness.

Additionally, the mar-



ket's flooring is in a poor state, with broken tiles scattered across the area. Senior citizens and other shoppers face the risk of slipping and getting in-

jured while navigating the market. Authorities must urgently address these issues to ensure a safer and cleaner environment for all visitors.

## New Sonsoddo in the making at Benaullim

Even as the state government continues its struggle to resolve the long-standing Sonsoddo garbage issue, concerns are now emerging over an alleged new waste dumping site developing along the recently inaugurated highway near Benaullim.

Situated near the subway on the left side of the road towards Navelim, this growing dump has become an eyesore along the

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TONY SAVIO FERNANDES  
Zalor, Carmona

otherwise scenic highway, which was opened to the public just last month. Commuters and locals alike have expressed their frustration over the unsightly waste piles, fearing that if left unchecked, it could turn into South Goa's second Sonsoddo.

Environmental activists and residents have urged the Environment Ministry, Pollution Control Board, and the local Panchayat to intervene before the situation worsens. "A stitch in time saves nine. Instead of struggling to find a solution later, authorities must take immediate steps to prevent this from becoming another major garbage crisis," a concerned local remarked.

With waste management remaining a persistent challenge in several parts of Goa, locals are calling for stricter enforcement and better waste disposal alternatives to prevent unregulated dumping along public infrastructure. The question remains—will the authorities act before it's too late?

## Dangerous transportation of construction material



In Goa, it is a common sight for people to transport large items required for construction or even household articles and appliances in small private vehicles, to save money. This not only puts the life of the transporter at risk, but also all other road users. Workers transporting metal rods and sharp items balanced and tied precariously atop vehicles, or sticking out from the

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SABINA DE SOUZA  
Siolim

back of a mini truck, can be spotted on a daily basis, but somehow do not get pulled up by the authorities. Such transport of rods, with just a strip of cloth tied to warn other commuters, should not be allowed. The ropes holding them may snap or come loose, dumping the whole lot

on the person driving behind, or scattering them across the road, causing numerous accidents. There are entire franchises of horror movies based on such incidents, and it is very disconcerting to see this as a regular practice in Goa. The police and traffic officers should be more vigilant and put an end to such dangerous transportation of goods that could potentially turn into weapons.

## Aadhaar card not accepted as ID at GMC, Bambolim



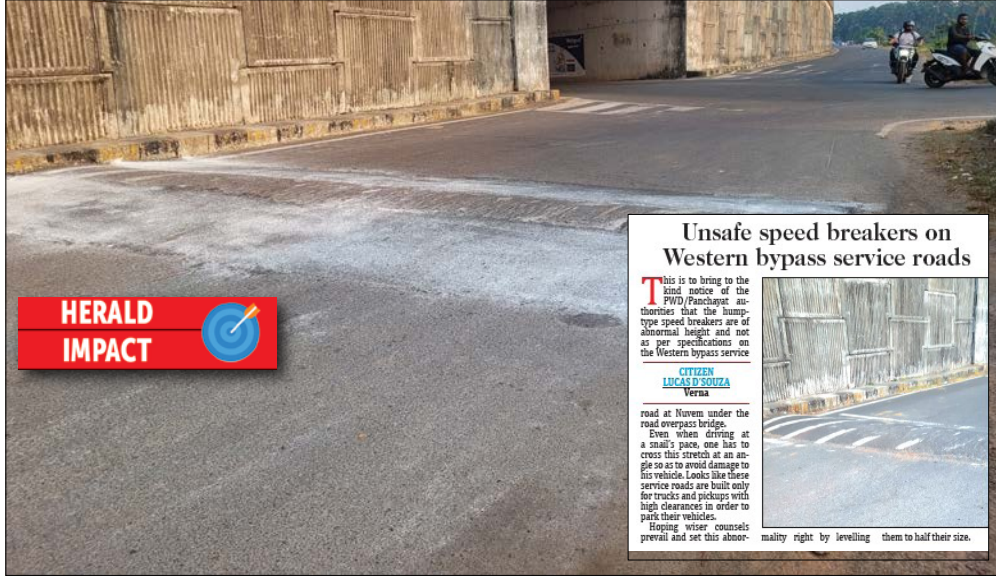
At Goa Medical College, Bambolim, patients and their attendants already have a tough time due to the

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PEDRO LOURENCO  
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massive rush and sheer volume of ailing people who seek medical care at this tertiary hospital. Wait times are long and entails standing in queues in several different places before one can see a doctor. To make matters worse, patients trying to register at the registration counter are

told that their Aadhaar cards are not acceptable as a form of ID - the staff insist on a Voter card. How many people move around carrying their EPIC cards? The Aadhaar card was always touted as an ID card - how can a government hospital refuse to accept it? And if people have travelled from far-off places, should they be expected to waste a trip to the hospital if they have not brought their Voter Card? I urge the dean off GMC to ask their staff to be considerate of ailing people, and accept the Aadhar as a form of identification

## Unsafe speed breakers on Western bypass service roads rectified



Through my Citizen's Herald letter dated December 28 titled 'Unsafe speed breakers on Western bypass service roads' I had bought to the attention of PWD / Panchayat authorities that the hump type speed break-

ers are of abnormal height

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LUCAS D'SOUZA  
Verna

and not as per specifications on the Western bypass service road at Nuvem under the road overpass

bridge. Any car which has a low underbelly, invariably touches the undercarriage causing damage to the fuel tank or the chassis.

The same has been rectified and now road has become motorable to the satisfaction of commuters.

## Road-signs need to be conspicuous and provide correct details

Road signs play a crucial role in guiding motorists and ensuring road safety, but in Goa, many of these signs are missing, displaced, or in need of maintenance.

Several signboards are either obscured by overgrown foliage, faded due to wear and tear, or even incorrectly placed—leading to confusion among drivers. In some cases, road signs indicating pedestrian crossings have fallen to the ground, making them ineffective.

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ADELMO FERNANDES  
Vasco

One such instance is at Vasco's Church Square, where a road sign directing to Khar-iawado incorrectly reads 'Airport Ferry, Terminal Baina, and Kattam Baina'. Interestingly, another sign nearby provides the correct information, highlighting the need to remove or correct the misleading sign.

Authorities need to take im-



mediate steps to rectify these issues, ensuring that road signs are clearly visible, accurate, and well-maintained to prevent accidents and assist motorists in navigating safely.

## Fire hazard brewing near school



A potential fire hazard is developing alarmingly close to one of Margao's most reputed schools in Comba, posing a serious threat to students and nearby properties. Non-usable wooden and other dry materials have been dumped dangerously close to electric panels, creating a situation where a single spark could trigger a devastating fire.

Despite the obvious risk, the Electricity Department and local authorities have

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failed to address the issue, even though city officials frequently pass by the location. Immediate action is required to remove the dry waste from around the electric panels before a fire incident occurs. Authorities must step in without delay to ensure the safety of schoolchildren and the surrounding community.

## Sewage flowing openly by roadside at Siolim

Sewage has been flowing openly by the roadside at Igrejwaddo Siolim for the past several months, and no action seems to be forthcoming. What is surprising is that the health officials at Siolim PHC appear to be either lost in their own world or unwilling to take suo motu action.

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AARON FONSECA  
Assagao

It is odd that, even on such a serious issue, the Siolim PHC expects a complaint to be filed. The site is located barely 300 metres from the PHC, and the sewage is clearly visible by the roadside. Coincidentally, the road was even resurfaced with hot mix a few days ago, yet it seems people's eyes remain shut.



Can we expect the health officials to act swiftly, or will

they continue turning a blind eye?

## Install yellow fog lights in ferries



With the onset of early morning fog, ferry services have been coming to a halt until visibility improves, leaving passengers stranded for hours. This disruption has severely impacted school and college students, as well as working professionals, causing them to arrive late.

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JERRY L. DE SOUZA  
Divar

Concerned parents from Divar and Choro are urging the River

Navigation Department (RND) to install yellow fog lights on ferries at the earliest. In previous years, ferries continued operating despite fog due to such lights, but their absence now is causing unnecessary delays.

With board exams approaching next week, students must not be left stranded on the islands, risking their punctuality for crucial exams. The government and RND must take immediate action in the interest of students and the general public to ensure ferries operate smoothly despite foggy conditions.