

Unhygienic conditions at Mapusa meat market poses risk of food-borne infections

Shopping at the Mapusa market has become an unsettling ordeal, especially for customers frequenting the meat shops. At a time when shops at smaller markets like Margao are being sealed for violating pollution norms, neither the traders nor the authorities here at Mapusa seem to be bothered about sanitation and hygiene at this market. The shops selling meat - both beef and



Stinking nuisance outside Mapusa Sub-Registrar's office



The Mapusa Sub Registrar's office is frequented by many people of different ages and for different works pertaining to various documents but the people are greeted by a huge perennial heap of garbage right outside the threshold of entrance to the place. This heap is always seen and surrounding shopkeepers are dis-

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gusted complaining as they say that they are then personally targeted. There is also an electric transformer located just close by. Is it a herculean task for the Mapusa municipality to remove this black spot from here? Mapusa needs to

look cleaner, there is much to be desired from the Mapusa municipality in terms of keeping the city clean and even the people also need to do their part. Permanent action needs to be taken in perennial dark spots such as these in the city and people coming to Mapusa surely do not deserve to be greeted with garbage.

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pork - wash their counters and floors, but do not have a proper drainage/sewage system. The bloody wash water, often with bits of meat and bone, is pushed out of the shops onto the pathway, and customers often have to trudge through

stagnant puddles of filthy water to reach the shops. The puddles attract swarms of flies and we often see maggots and other vermin in this stagnant wash water.

What makes matters worse is the cross-contamination - fruits, vegetables and even snacks are sold at the same market, not too far away. The flies that sit on the rotting water

and then sit on the fruits and ready-to-eat snacks, raising the risk of contamination and infections like salmonella and parasitic infestations. The same flies may also infect the fresh meat at the shops, which also sell mince or kheema, where the meat is ground without washing. Sources reveal that some shops neither have a soak

pit, nor a septic tank to absorb the waste.

These conditions are unacceptable in a post-pandemic world, where infections like bird flu, swine flu, Covid and even the latest outbreak of Guillan-Barre Syndrome in Pune are known to cause severe health complications and death.

I urge the Mapusa Municipal Council and

the Goa State Pollution Board to look into this pressing sanitation issue and ensure that these traders are now allowed to leave filthy water in front of their shops. The least that can be done is to have basic but proper drains for this waste water, which can be disinfected with bleach or chlorine, if nothing else.

Safety protocol needs to be in place at flyover construction site from Dabolim to Upasagar



In a freak accident which occurred the other day, a tourist taxi plunged into a deep pit dug for a flyover pillar near Dabolim. The taxi had picked up two tour-

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Vasco

ists from Dabolim International Airport. Fortunately no one was injured in the incident as the car's air-bags deployed in time. However, the incident raises a pertinent question with regards to the safety measures being taken along the route where the flyover is being constructed. It is observed that the

barricades that have been put up are too high which blocks the view of the motorists and two-wheeler riders. This is a very busy road and the scene is chaotic at the Bogmallo junction. Heavy vehicles including concrete mixers and trucks are seen moving along the route. Proper signage needs to be put up all along the route of the construction site. Traffic cops need to be posted at strategic points in order to control the flow of traffic. Extra street lighting may be necessary after dusk. Proper barricading and safety protocol needs to be in place in order to prevent any more untoward incidents.

Pathetic, unsanitary state of trains



The PM and the railway minister make a huge hoo ha about Vande Bharat trains but the condition of most trains in India is horrible. I recently travelled to Gadag on the Vasco da Gama - Jasidih Express on a pilgrimage but was appalled to see the state of the

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toilet in my compartment. The wash basin enclosure was in a mess and the commode was super dirty. Gutka stains, discarded packets and

layers of dirt greeted me as I entered the toilet. To worsen things, there was no water. I beat a hasty retreat and waited till I reached Gadag to relieve myself. Pathetic and traumatic, I doubt whether I shall ever travel by train again.

Cable jungle overhead



The government has time and again issued warnings to internet service providers and TV operators to remove their cables which

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have been unauthorisedly strung from electricity poles throughout the State. But despite this, things remain the same in

the coastal villages. The worst case seen is at Maria Hall crossroads in Benaulim. The Goa Electricity Department has added to the mess by leaving exposed multiple trunk cables leaning against the electric pole. This is not only an ugly sight but also a fire hazard. Will the sarkar set it's own house in order before asking ISPs to remove their cables.

Huge pothole poses risk to motorists at Sangolda



A huge pothole in the middle of the road at Sangolda poses threat to motorists at the Livrament junction. The road has been repaired time and again but one fails to understand the quality of material used to repair roads. The pothole is right in the middle of the road and catches commuters along the route unaware. On several occasions two-wheeler riders have gone flying and landed straight into the nearby fields, injuring themselves badly. Most people going to Mapusa and Panjim travel

along this route skip the torturous journey along the six-lane elevated highway corridor at Porvorim.

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Sangolda

It is indeed a sad state of affairs that we have to travel along such bad roads when we pay road tax. People do have the right to travel safely on the road when they contribute toward road construction and repairs. It's time the government repairs the road before it snuffs out precious lives.

Handcarts, kiosks by roadside pose nuisance at CHOGM road

Moving hand carts selling tender coconuts and permanent kiosks at CHOGM Road, Porvorim are a real nuisance by the roadside. This cannot be allowed under the Goa Panchayat Raj Act and the panchayat should initiate action against the holders of moving cart licences.

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Calangute

Many of these illegal hawkers cause traffic congestion on the roads in Porvorim. Many of these handcarts sell eatables and throw the waste by the roadside thus violating all norms of hygiene. Though authorities have drawn guidelines to regulate such eateries, the rules



are flouted. The food waste which is basically disposed in the open, attracts stray dogs and cows who pose nuisance to travellers. It is reportedly learnt that most of the owners are migrants and have political god fathers right from grassroot level. It would be prudent if the authorities shift them to demarcated vending zones.



The missing link between Rachol and Shiroda

Shiroda is an ayurvedic hub with a hospital and college besides a religious destination for thousands of devotees visiting every no moon day to offer prayers to the deity Kamakshi. There is still no link to connect Rachol and Shiroda and one has to make use of a ferry and own conveyance (two four wheelers) to reach the destination, or take a longer

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Margao

route. A bridge is the long pending need which will ease the travel time by half an hour and reduce the mileage and will be boon for those coming from the south side and face-lift the areas along the route. The issue had been intentionally neglected / delayed for political reasons citing the name of the public. The present local MLA is on the ruling side should now take active lead in developmental works to close the missing link between Rachol and Shiroda in the interests of the general public.

Dogs posing a threat on beaches

I am a British tourist who has visited India many times. It has become a worry regards number of packs of dogs on the beaches. I have been on Patnem beach for the last three weeks and seen many people being

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attacked by dogs whilst walking in the beach. Three people

we have met have suffered dog bites, and had to take rabies jabs. One whilst on a scooter and two whilst walking on other beaches. It's only a matter of time till a child is attacked. I am a dog lover but the number of dog related incidents is increasing at an alarming rate. Why is something not being done to control these dogs? It's a serious problem and could affect tourist visits.

