

Govt apathy turns elevated corridor work into nightmare for commuters

The elevated corridor has been planned to solve Goa's traffic woes for the next 25 years, but what about the existing traffic problems? Many commuters traveling on the Mapusa-Panaji highway are facing immense inconvenience due to the ongoing construction work. Earlier, it was in the South due to the new Zuari bridge, and now it's in the North. It seems like these projects are never-ending, and the public is destined to suffer indefinitely.

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The elevated corridor's pillars near Holy Family Church have created hazardous conditions for churchgoers, who are forced to navigate through muck and slippery roads. Accidents have become a routine occurrence at this spot. The contractors are negligent and appear to have no concern for public safety—or is it that no one even knows if the contractor is present at the site to witness the suffering of the people?

With crores being spent on such massive projects, why can't a few



thousand rupees be allocated to ensure public safety? Shouldn't precautions be taken to minimize public hardship? After all, these projects are being executed using taxpayers'

money, the very same public that is now subjected to undue suffering. Can the contractor find a solution to this slippery mess near Holy Family Church?

Freshly laid road dug up again due to cable fault

Hardly a few months have passed since the newly laid underground 11KV cable and a new layer of hot-mix was spread on the MDR-6 road from St. Anthony's Church, Siolim, to Marna. The public heaved a sigh of relief, as at least the digging of the road had stopped. But to our horror, the road was dug up just a day after it was re-

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paired. When inquired, the contractor said there was a cable fault, so they had to dig up the road, and in the bargain, the water pipeline was damaged.

Double dhamaka for the workers to earn their day's salary. It has to be investigated how the HT cable developed a fault, and those responsible should be held



accountable.

How is the cable handled and pulled through the conduit to its target? The hole drilling machine may save on excavations, but if such faults are going to occur in the future once the real load is applied to the cable, the hot spots will definitely lead

to short circuits or open circuits. Consumers will suffer until the Electricity Department, with its new gadget, is able to locate the damaged spots—only time will tell.

Till then, let's hope the authorities—PWD, Roads, Water, and Electricity Departments—

work together as a new unit that our CM will have to create for such works. My only concern is that if a fault occurs at night, it will remain unresolved until the next day when the fault-finding team arrives to start work. "Acche din" is going to be a distant dream now.

Chaos at Mapusa Junction: When will traffic signals be fixed?



Daily commuters at the Mapusa junction are struggling with severe traffic congestion due to non-functioning signals, leading to unregulated vehicle movement and safety hazards. With no traffic police deployed, peak hours witness massive gridlocks, making it difficult for motorists to navigate and pedestrians to cross safely. "It's a daily struggle. There's no order and accidents are inevitable," said a frustrated commuter.

With four schools, a high-

er secondary and a college in the area, the junction often becomes chaotic as vehicles

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approach from all directions. Without proper traffic signals, students struggle to cross the road safely, navigating through the heavy traffic.

We as citizens urge the authorities to take immediate action either by repairing the signals, put the signals back or stationing traffic personnel before the situation worsens further.

SGPDA must act against this stinking nuisance



The issue of dumping of rotten fish and leftover trays etc at SGPDA fish market causing unbearable odour posing health hazard was brought out in **O Herald** under caption "Citizens Herald" in its edition of December 23, last year. The SGPDA must be appreciated for converting that area as a permanent place for dumping rotten fish and other left over with no concern to the environment or health of

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public visiting daily who have been forced to wear masks with darshan of dirty areas in the heart of the city. The authorities have not to suffer from unbearable odour emanating all around the market as meetings are held in closed air conditioned rooms and end up with hefty lunches in posh ho-

tels with controlled environment. The authorities are least bothered to inspect the area periodically so long they get allowances and treat.

The area gets a facelift only at the time of visit of Central Ministers. Do we have to wait till such time or the concerned Minister will intervene to initiate immediate action? CM said to be prompt and effective will look in this regard or restrict all actions to his home turf?

Sanitation issues at Patto, Panjim

The area behind Patto Bridge in Panjim is facing serious sanitation issues due to stagnant water, which has become a breeding ground for mosquitoes and bacteria. This is increasing the risk of diseases like dengue and malaria, posing a significant health threat to the local community. The stagnant water emits a foul smell, making it difficult

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for pedestrians and daily commuters to pass through the bridge comfortably. Additionally, the water is polluting the Mandovi River, affecting its quality and contributing to environmental degradation.

The area is also turning into an illegal dumping ground, with garbage piling up due to improper waste management. The accumulation of waste is attracting stray animals like dogs and rodents, further worsening the sanitation problem. The combination of rotting garbage



and stagnant water is contributing to air and water pollution, making the surroundings unhygienic. If left unaddressed, the situation could lead to more severe public health is-

ssues. Urgent intervention from local authorities is needed to clean the area, implement proper drainage systems, and prevent further pollution of the Mandovi River.

Clear Sangolda nullah before the rains

For the last 18 years, the nullah at Sangolda has neither been de-weeded nor desilted, resulting in it being choked and causing water to over-

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flow into the fields, damaging and destroying crops during the monsoon. It is truly disheartening to see standing crops ruined year after year.

The nullah is clogged with weeds, plastic, and raw sewage, which flows into the fields with the first rains, destroying crops. It is unfortunate that neither the Agriculture Department, which compensates farmers for crop loss annually, nor the village panchayat takes any initiative to desilt the nullah. One wonders what the panchayat does with the funds it receives to clear water bodies in the village.

With the monsoon just two months away, the

nullah must be desilted immediately in the best interest of farmers—otherwise, they may be forced to abandon their fields due to the negligence of the authorities. It is distressing to witness destructive development in the village, with illegal structures mushrooming in green fields while the government fails to address farmers' woes.



Need to clean up and upgrade Bicholim Municipal Park

Bicholim is a bustling town with a focus on new infrastructure for the growing population. Recently, a new park was inaugurated at Vasudev Nagar near the bus stand here which brought great joy to the children in the neighbourhood. With spanking new swing sets and a multi-play station with slides, the children will be able to play with their buddies to their hearts content. With the soft cushioning cover-

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ing the entire playground, there are no chances for any injuries to the children.

On the contrary, the Municipal Park which is in the heart of the town and right opposite the Municipality is completely in disarray. While parents would like to sit and relax as the children play, the safety hazards force the parents to move around their children. The swing set had one part broken for over

two years. While it might teach the children the lesson to be patient and wait for their turn, it can also lead to fights. In the last two months, the second of the only two swings in the park also broke. It is now temporarily fixed with a piece of cloth, probably tied together by a child itself.

The multi-play station with slides is rusted and its panels which prevent a child from falling were kept aside. They were recently fixed. The railings on the steps leading up to the slides are rusted and a portion has broken off. The sand in the park has not been cleaned as children recently spotted some broken glass pieces too which were kept aside. There is sand and leaves filled in the crevices of the rock climbing portion of the station, giving little grip for preschoolers and younger children. Many children come to the playground soon after they finish their tuition classes and are unsupervised while



playing. If the playground is safe, the children can enjoy their play time without any cuts and bruises.

As the children will soon be on their summer break, this is an important time to keep all the playing equipment in the best condition as the little ones will spend more time on the playground. The Bicholim Municipal Park should have caught the attention of the authorities earlier, but it's



not too late before any tragedy strikes.



Tree leaning dangerously near Dabolim airport

It is observed that a roadside tree along the busy Airport road in Vasco is tilted precariously onto one side. From the looks of it, one half of the tree appears to be dead and hence it poses risk to the citizens who

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travel in their vehicles along the road as well as the pedestrians. It could uproot and fall on a moving vehicle or a pedestrian, especially during the

strong wind that accompanies the pre-monsoon showers.

The authorities concerned need to examine the state of the tree and cut it if necessary before an untoward incident occurs.

