citizenherald

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FDA should raid fruit markets throughout the year

or the last few days, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has been raiding fruit markets across the State, seizing and destroying chemically ripened fruits. The FDA team seems to be doing a fairly good job at the moment, but the million-dollar question is: what are these officials doing for the rest of the year when fruits-particularly papayas and bananas—are routinely and forcefully ripened using chemicals and sold openly?



The largest violations take place at the agricultural yard in the Mapusa market. Tonnes of green papayas and bananas are unloaded here, only to miraculously turn yellow overnight. This appears to be the biggest "miracle" happening in the





world right now. The ripened fruits are then dis-

patched across the State. only to be replaced by a fresh batch. These yellow papayas taste like soap, smell foul within a day, and develop black patches by the third day. One can only imagine what kind of impact such fruit has on human health.

The FDA shouldn't wait until mango season to suddenly wake up and conduct raids. Instead, it must consistently monitor markets throughout the year to crack down on violators. Authorities must also visit mango dealers in Siolim and surrounding areas to check for violations. Many of them pluck raw mangoes and artificially ripen them to meet the high demand in the market.

The authorities must not allow merchants to take the public for a ride. After all. health is wealth—and it's high time the system acted like it truly believes in that.

Well begun is half done



would like to thank the O Heraldo as after constantly highlighting the issue of fallow fields through the Citizen Herald, the authorities have finally begun to de-weed the long abandoned land in Siolim-Sodiem. The fields were rendered uncultivable for almost three decades after they were flooded with the release of Tillari waters. Farmers in the area have heaved a sigh of relief that the fields are finally being cleaned in the area. The authorities should also press in more tractors into service and see to it that the work is expedited before the rains.

How long will the government abandon fields in Siolim-Sodiem?

For the last three dec-ades, the once lush and green paddy fields in the picturesque village have turned into a swamp today. Thanks to the leaking Tillari Irrigation Project (TIP) which has been more of a curse than a boon to the Siolkars. The TIP has de-

CITIZEN SABINA DE SOUSA

stroyed the hills by dividing it into two much to the annovance of cashew farmers

to be interested in bringing the land under the plough for reasons best known to them. Wonder if they have water sports in mind?

The migratory birds which would arrive in hordes and attract hundreds of ornithologists are nowhere to be seen today. All one can see today is some migrants who fish from the Gaunsa Vaddo link road for huge invasive species of catfish. At night, the same area turns into a safe haven for drug dealers and peddlers- both local and

Place railings on the Duler culvert immediately

🗖 he retaining wall of the culvert on the main road leading to the famous Dr Jose's clinic has collapsed, and as a stop-gap measure, some genius from the PWD has fenced the area with bamboo sticks and iron pipesperhaps as an austerity move or an eco-friendly way of "repairing" it.

People, mainly senior citizens and women, would

CITIZEN DEVANAND PARSEKAR Arambol

wait for the bus and often sit on the bench placed there. With the retaining wall knocked off by a speeding vehicle, the area now poses a serious danger to motorists, with unsuspecting riders ending up in the dirty water squirming with maggots-waste released into the culvert by nearby residents. When the government receives crores of rupees for development,



traffic that moves along what is stopping the authorities from properly rethis road to Camurlim, pairing and reconstructing Siolim, and Pernem, the need of the hour is to carthe retaining wall here? This amounts to nothing ry out proper repairs. The short of criminal negli-Mapusa MLA and the congence on the part of the aucerned councillor must sit thorities. The public pays road across the table and see tax and most certainly has the that the culvert is repaired right to travel safely. immediately in the public Given the volume of interest.

Unpainted speed breakers pose hazard to commuters

he Public Works De partment (PWD) recently constructed two speed breakers overnight at Xell-Siolim, reportedly to curb speeding, enhance road safety. and reduce accidents in a densely populated area. While speed breakers serve as vital safety measures by forcing vehicles to slow down, on Saturday, April

CITIZEN IRENE NORONHA Siolim

19, they became a hazard due to negligence.

As I was travelling by bus to Mapusa, the vehicle suddenly jolted on hitting one of the unmarked speed breakers. Passengers were thrown in various directions, and the driver nearly lost control of the bus — a moment that almost ended in tragedy. The root cause? Neither of the two speed breakers had been painted by the authorities, making



them nearly invisible to oncoming traffic.

All the PWD had to do was paint the speed breakers in a chequered pattern — a standard practice to alert motorists in advance and ensure safety. Instead, due to the lack of basic precauriders. tion, commuters were put through unnecessary hard-

ship. It is deeply disappointing that the authorities appear to lack both the funds and the inclination to complete even the most essential aspects of public infrastructure work. Poorly maintained and badly designed roads are a major cause of road accidents in Goa. Painted speed breakers are just as important to road safety as helmets are to bike

It is imperative that the government acts swiftly and responsibly in the public interest — the Siolim speed breakers must be painted immediately before a serious accident occurs.

Margao wholesale fish market

Chaos outside



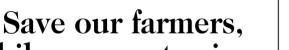
he wholesale fish market at Margao attracts huge crowds of fish-eaters during the mornings which is understandable. These citizens expect to lay their hands on fresh fish which is available at the wholesale market at an affordable price.

CITIZEN ADELMO FERNANDES Vasco

However it is observed that outside the market, several vendors sell various types of goods along this hurt in an accident.

stretch of the road. These vendors occupy almost half the roads making it a nightmarish experience for road-users who have to pass through this road. This huge crowd is normally seen during the morning session probably because there are no checks by the civic authorities on road encroachment.

The Margao municipal authorities need to see to it that the roads are not occupied by these street-vendors in the morning or someone could get badly



One rule for citizens, another for vendors?

OHERALDO

hike support price for paddy

paddy has remained stagnant at Rs 22 per kg, while the price of fertiliser has soared to Rs

1,650 per bag. Incidentally, whenever a farmer goes to purchase a bag of high-yielding Jyoti seeds from the Agricultural Yards, they have to

pay Rs 725 per bag, which works out to around Rs 29 per kg. One fails to understand the government's logic—why ask the farmer to pay Rs 29 per kg for seeds when the same produce is lat-

CITIZEN NILU TANDEL Sangolda

er procured by the very same authority at Rs 22? The cost of labour stands at Rs 1,200 per day, and transplanting an acre of land comes to about Rs 10,000. By the time the produce is harvested, a farmer ends up spending roughly Rs 22,000 per acre. Even if the yield is good, the farmer takes home only about 800 to 1,000 kg of produce from an acre. If the cost of cultivation outweighs the return, what is the incentive for a farmer to continue tilling the land?

Moreover, the support price has remained unchanged for over a decade, while inflation and input costs have

or many years now, the support price of der many in Goa have abandoned their fields. If the government is seagriculture in the State,

rious about promoting



example is the mobile tenit must immediately revise the support price for rice and simultaneously ensure the availability of high-yielding seeds to maximise output. Every time input costs rise, the procurement price must be revised accordingly to the space to do brisk busi-

keep the ryots motivated. The Department of

Agriculture must stop functioning solely from offices. Officers need to get out into the villages, especially to inspire youth to take up farming. They should also survey fields to understand why certain areas flood during the monsoon. Instead of compensating farmers for crop loss after the fact, Zonal Agricultural Officers must work with panchayats to identify and desilt culverts and clear natural drainage paths blocked by highway expansion. Development should not come at the cost of the farmer or the environment. Otherwise, Goa's green fields will

soon turn grey.



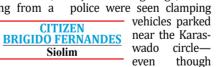
t seems like the Maness. Beside him, another pusa Municipality and hawker selling mangoes seems equally undisturbed, the local traffic police are vying for a spot in the casually operating from a Guinness Book of World Republic parking

cords—for turning a blind spot. eye to what's right in front Meanwhile, of them while cracking the average citizen is left circling the city, desperately looking for a down elsewhere. The prime

place to park. If a private der coconut cart parked right in the middle of the vehicle dares stop in a retwo-wheeler parking zone, stricted area, it is promptopposite the taxi stand in ly clamped or towed away Mapusa. This area is clearly to the police station, and demarcated for two-wheelthe owner has to cough up ers, but that hasn't stopped a hefty fine to retrieve it. a vendor from occupying That's how the rules apply to the common man. But some-

how, those rules don't seem to apply to these hawkers. Just a fortnight ago, traffic

even



there were no clear restriction signs there. They were quick to show off their efficiency by uploading photos of their enforcement drive on social media. But when it comes to dealing with illegal vendors occupying public parking space just a stone's throw from the police station and municipal office, their

enthusiasm vanishes. One is left wonder-

ing-are the authorities simply oblivious to these vehicles parked violations taking place unwado circle though

der their noses, or is this selective enforcement? Shouldn't the same rules apply to everyone? If the public is expected to follow traffic and civic regulations, so too should vendors who illegally occupy parking zones and public spaces. The authorities must act evict these vendors and restore fairness and order in Mapusa's already congested town centre.

road now turning into garbage dump

Seraulim underpass

pass has been a persistent problem ever since it was constructed. Intended to provide a smooth link between the Western Bypass and the Margao-Colva road—thus

he Seraulim under- individuals have turned the stretch into a dumping ground. Both sides of the road are now strewn with garbage-bags of trash flung carelessly from moving vehicles, often bursting open upon impact. The



saving commuters from the delays at the railway crossing near Seraulim church it has instead turned into a source of endless frustration.

CITIZEN A T FERNANDES Seraulim

The underpass is functional only during the dry months. Even in summer, a mysterious leak keeps the area perpetually waterlogged. During the monsoon, the situation worsens drastically. The water level rises to such an extent that even SUVs cannot pass through. Year after year, despite several inspections by various departments, no one seems to have been able to determine the cause of the leakage or find a lasting solution to the flooding.

To make matters worse, the underpass is poorly lit. Taking advantage of this lack of visibility, some

contents are then scattered further by stray animals, making the entire stretch not only unhygienic but also an evesore. What was meant to be a convenient route has now become an embarrassment.

If authorities are unable to resolve the waterlogging issue despite repeated visits and evaluations, can they at least make an effort to keep the area clean? The first step should be to install proper street lighting along the entire stretch of the underpass. This will act as a deterrent to those attempting to dump waste in the dark. If possible, surveillance cameras should also be installed to catch and penalise offenders.

It's high time the authorities acted decisively-not just to fix the drainage issue, but also to restore basic cleanliness and dignity to this vital stretch of road.

Need for focused action on noise pollution control in commercial establishments

would like to bring attention to an important issue concerning noise pollution in commercial areas and the actions being taken to address it. While the installation of CCTV cameras in these establishments is often seen as a measure for security, it seems to be a misplaced focus that diverts attention from the real concern at hand: noise pollution. This issue has been raised in the context of PIL/WP 7 of 2021, and it is crucial that we approach it with the seriousness it deserves.

Instead of relying on CCTV cameras. a more effective solution would be to collaborate with the Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB) to monitor and assess the ambient noise levels in and around commercial establish-

ments. According to the Revised Noise Action Plan of May 2024, the permissible noise limits for commercial areas are set at 65 dB(A) during daytime hours and 55 dB(A) at night. These limits are established to mitigate the harmful effects of noise pollution and protect public health.

CITIZEN ANTONIO D'SOUZA Member of Noise Committee Calangute - Candolim

To ensure compliance with these standards, it is essential to conduct noise level measurements during the operational hours of these establishments, specifically at the boundaries of commercial properties. This would provide a more accurate representation of the noise generated by business activities, while excluding non-activity periods when noise is less likely to be an issue.

By adopting this approach, we can focus on the core problem - excessive noise — and ensure that businesses are held accountable for their environmental impact. The primary goal should be to safeguard the health and well-being of the public, which can only be achieved through effective monitoring and enforcement of noise regulations.

I urge relevant authorities to prioritize this matter and take the necessary steps to ensure that noise pollution is effectively controlled in our commercial zones.