

Tillari canal turning into a death trap for humans and animals

The Tillari Irrigation Project, which was constructed to bring water for irrigation from Maharashtra, has turned into more of a curse than a boon, particularly in Siolim-Sodiem. The Water Resources Department and Goa Tillari Irrigation Development have built canals and distributory channels in Pernem, Bicholim, and



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Bardez talukas without the application of mind and without ensuring proper crossings for wildlife. These canals now pose a danger as they have turned into death traps for wild animals since their passage and corridors have been ignored. No thought has been given to wildlife crossings, and no mitigation measures have been taken.

In Siolim-Sodiem, very often, carcasses of deer,

wild boar, and other animals are found floating in the channels. There are cases of bison and calves falling and drowning in Pernem taluka as well.

Of late, youth too plunge into the waters to beat the summer heat, with one young man meeting a watery grave here last week.

Many youth end up along this road, drink, party, and even end up smoking and throwing cigarette butts, thus torching huge cashew plantations within the area. The Sodiem vil-

lage panchayat has taken up the issue various times during the gram sabha, with former sarpanch and present deputy sarpanch Nilesh Vaigankar demanding that the canal area be fenced and a gate placed at the threshold of the entrance to keep miscreants and youth at bay. The Tillari officials, however, prefer to turn a Nelson's eye to the issue. Complaints and gram sabha resolutions have fallen on deaf ears. Tillari has destroyed hills and fields in

the area, and this time the officials are solely responsible for the death of the young man here. Had they fenced the area, installed a gate, and manned the place, a precious life would have been saved. The panic stricken officials installed a gate and locked it only after locals raised a hue and cry over the issue.

The Mapusa Police should take suo motu cognisance of the case and file an FIR against all Tillari officials for criminal negligence. The area, which partly falls under the jurisdiction of the Mapusa Municipality, should also be fenced. Life is too precious to be lost due to criminal negligence.

One wonders whether the Tillari officials even inspect the place. If they did, houses would not have been constructed in the CADA area destroying ecology and biodiversity of the village.

Absence of no-entry boards in touristy Fontainhas likely to cause accidents

Two busy no-entry stretches in Panjim — Rua João Castro (the narrow road skirting the newly beautified PWD building near the old Patto bridge) and Rua Emidio Gracia (the one-way link from the Immaculate Conception Church to Rua de Ourem) — have no visible signage to alert commuters.

This area sees hundreds of tourists



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daily, and the absence of proper signs is causing confusion, wrong-way driving, and traffic chaos. Tourists on bikes — and even locals unfamiliar with Panjim's roads — unknowingly drive down these one-way streets.

I have had several close calls with speeding bikes, especially

late at night, when casino-goers race toward the bars and nightlife in Fontainhas via Rua João Castro.

It's only a matter of time before a serious accident happens.

I urge the traffic authorities to urgently install large, clear, and well-placed signage to guide motorists before they enter these stretches. Let's prevent a disaster before it's too late.



Speed breaker painted after O Heraldo highlights issue



**HERALD
IMPACT**

Unpainted speed breakers pose hazard to commuters

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Immediately after the letter regarding unpainted speed breakers at Siolim-Sodiem was highlighted in the Citizen Herald on April 14, the PWD promptly painted them the very next day, resolving the issue much to the relief of commuters.

The Public Works Department (PWD) recently constructed two speed breakers overnight at Xeli-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

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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 unpainted speed breakers. Passengers were



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 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

Seraulim underpass road cleaned up but garbage bags still remain

I am happy to report that the local authorities cleaned and bagged the garbage strewn along the Seraulim underpass road immediately after my letter

**HERALD
IMPACT**

**CITIZEN
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was published in the Citizen Herald last Sunday. However, I urge the panchayat to have the garbage bags picked up at the earliest. On the first day, the bags were neatly lined up for collection and the area was free from litter. However, as days have passed, the bags have now been torn apart by dogs



Seraulim underpass road now turning into garbage dump

The Seraulim underpass 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



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

and cattle, and the area is beginning to turn into a dump again — all the hard work done by the sweepers and sanitation workers is being undone simply because the bags were not picked up in time. Finish the job, please!

Benaulim roads crave for a coat of tar before rains

The roads of Benaulim which were in fairly good shape now resemble a raw uncovered wound. There is digging everywhere being carried out by drill machines. A water pipeline is being laid for a beach proximal starred resort for which a substantial width of the road till Maria Hall junction



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has been excavated and the contractor has not bothered to re-tar the surface but has left a right royal mess for others to clear. Elsewhere roads have been cut across to lay cables of some sort and the should-

ders have deep pits to accommodate junction manholes. Not one engineer from the PWD or the contractor is seen supervising the work. The approaching monsoon will turn these areas into hellholes.

Whatever happened to our CM's instructions permitting road cutting only in specified months?

Playground needs urgent attention



The village playground next to the Holy Cross Chapel at Mena Cavorim and owned by the

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Chandor**

Panchayat of Chandor Cavorim is in a desperate condition. The slides, swings and other playing equipments are damaged, in an unsafe condition and needs

urgent maintenance for the safety of the children.

There are many state and central government schemes and the Panchayat should approach appropriate authorities in order to repair the ground.

The authorities should keep the safety and security of the little children in mind and repair the ground on an urgent basis.

Repair potholes, clear garbage at KTC bus-stand

The KTC Mapusa bus-stand has innumerable potholes, and the tar has disappeared, causing problems for commuters and vehicles. These potholes pose a danger to bikers and damage their vehicles too. Uncollected garbage too lies all over the place. Thousands of commuters move in and out

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of the bus-stand every day, with many senior citizens and pregnant women falling and thereby getting injured. Some even end up getting fractures and have to be shifted to hospitals in 108 ambulances. Sometime back, it was really a heart-wrenching sight to see an elderly woman fall and fracture her leg. Good Samaritans, however, called for an ambulance to shift her to the District Hospital. The lady claimed that she had come for shopping as she lived alone and had no one to help her at home. There are innumerable incidents that happen here on a daily basis, but the authorities seem to be insensitive to human suffering.

The Municipality and the government definitely collect taxes from the people, and the public has the right to travel comfortably and also breathe clean air.

Thousands of people make it to the market every day, with most coming on Fridays to the State's largest market to shop. In summer, the number doubles, with tourists and the Goan diaspora making their way home and visiting the market to take things back with them. With the rains around the corner, the city fathers and mothers should wake up from their slumber and repair the bus-stand and clear the grabage here immediately.



Traffic rules should be put in place

We have seen rise in road accidents almost on a daily basis. Still, how many of us are following traffic rules seriously, so as to avoid losing our lives and those of others through our irresponsible behaviour? If we minutely observe the traffic on the roads, we see several riders totally engrossed in typing messages or speaking on their phones even

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while riding, least bothered about the others. In doing this, not only are they putting their own lives at risk but also that of others. Many commuters who are in a mad rush end up overtaking others, sometimes on narrow roads like Ribandar causeway, causing accidents. No wonder, why those riders/drivers who are totally engrossed in their phones either in conversation or typing messages end up banging stationary vehicles or colliding with others. It is high time that traffic rules should be enforced to put a tab on the rise in road accidents almost on a daily basis. Hope the concerned authorities look into the seriousness of this issue.

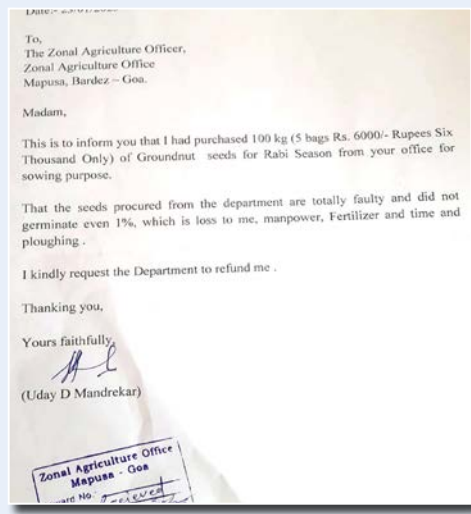
Groundnut seeds purchased from Agri Dept fail to sprout; farmers face big losses

In December, the Agriculture Department, through its Zonal Agricultural Offices, supplied a variety of seeds to farmers, which unfortunately failed to germinate, causing significant losses to the ryots. I, along with a few other farmers, purchased the so-called "high-yielding" groundnut seeds from the Zonal Agricultural Office at Mapusa, paying Rs 6,000 for 100 kg, in the hope of reaping a bumper harvest during the Rabi season. After investing heavily in manpower, fertilisers, and ploughing of the fields, not a single seed germinated, putting us into colossal loss. This experience was not unique to me; several other farmers faced the same fate.

Interestingly, ryots who sourced seeds from the open market reported high germination rates and went on to reap bumper harvests.



We lodged a written complaint with the ZAO at Mapusa, but we are yet to receive any compensation. When summoned, the seed provider claimed that the crop required drip irrigation, a facility most of us lack. Here in Goa, seeds typically grow relying on soil moisture and residue. The authorities should have tested and demonstrated the seed's per-



formance before distributing it to farmers. By the time a farmer realises that his crop has failed, valuable time, money, and labour are already lost. The Agriculture Department must conduct field demonstrations before recommending any new seed variety to farmers.

**CITIZEN
UDAY MANDREKAR AND OTHERS,
Sangolda**

ers, rather than leaving them to face ruin.

Similar issues have been reported with jumbo watermelon and other seeds supplied by the Department, with seeds failing to germinate and causing losses. Even when replacement seeds are provided, it is often too late to salvage the season.

A thorough probe must be conducted into

this matter. In the future, the Agriculture Department must trial each seed variety in their respective zones before encouraging farmers to cultivate them. As it is, farmers suffer enough during the Kharif season when their fields are waterlogged. The Rabi season is the only time they manage to earn some income, and it is unfair that they should be forced to suffer further losses due to no fault of their own.

We, farmers from Sangolda, demand a full enquiry into this fiasco and suitable compensation for the crop losses incurred. Agricultural officers must come to ground zero, interact with farmers before the start of the new season, and ensure that seeds being distributed can withstand the vagaries of nature, especially given the worsening waterlogging issues due to highway expansion.