

Cable menace persists in port town

There has been considerable concern expressed regarding the issue of overhead cables hanging from electric poles throughout the state. We have noted instances of cables being cut down in Panaji as part of efforts to address this problem.

**CITIZEN
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Vasco**

It is evident that these dangling cables not only detract from the aesthetic appeal of our towns and cities but also pose a significant safety hazard to the public. While we acknowledge the work done in Panaji, it has come to our attention that the problem persists in Vasco da Gama. Specifically, despite the installation of underground ducts along Swatantra Path, numerous cables continue to be suspended from elec-



tric poles along FL Gomes Road and, notably, along the main road leading to Dabolim Airport.

We urge the relevant authorities to take immedi-

ate and effective measures to address this ongoing cable issue in Vasco, ensuring both the safety and the visual appeal of the port town.

Lawlessness on Chogm Road: Time for traffic police to step up

The glaring absence of traffic police in many parts of Goa, particularly along the Chogm Road at Porvorim, is proving to be a serious problem for law-abiding citizens. While commuters grapple with chaos, traffic violators seem to be having a field day.

**CITIZEN
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Porvorim**

What was once a well-planned stretch has now descended into disorder. Roadside violations are rampant—vehicles are parked indiscriminately, often right under 'No Parking' signs, with no fear of reprisal. A number of kiosks have mushroomed along the road, with authorities conveniently turning a blind eye to these blatant illegal-



ities. What's worse, a mini fish market and fruit vendors have taken over these no-parking zones, converting public space into private business spots.

The situation begs a question: If the traffic department claims it has been issuing challans to violators, how is it that a mango vendor has been allowed to park his vehicle in a clear-

ly demarcated no-parking zone for over a month without consequence? Can the Porvorim police or the traffic department justify their inaction? Or are we to believe that selective enforcement is being allowed for pecuniary reasons?

These violations are not only mocking the law but also causing frequent traffic jams. It's always the every-

day commuter who ends up suffering due to the lack of accountability.

It's high time the traffic cell deployed officers along these roads to actively monitor and penalise violators, as well as evict illegal vendors occupying the roadside. The argument that junior cops are not authorised to issue challans should not be an excuse for complete



inaction. Even their visible presence on the road can serve as a deterrent, instilling discipline among drivers and reducing the risk of road accidents.

The current situation is a clear breakdown in basic civic management. The authorities must act swiftly to restore order and show that the law still holds meaning on Goa's roads.

Peacocks, pigeons forcing Sangolda farmers to abandon crops

Farmers in Sangolda have been grappling with an unexpected but persistent problem over the past decade: flocks of peacocks and pigeons are increasingly making agriculture a losing battle.

In recent years, many ryots have been unable to cultivate paddy successfully, as peafowl and pigeons destroy large swathes of crop during both sowing and harvesting seasons. The birds descend in large numbers, pecking away at the seeds and mature grains, leaving little be-

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Sangolda**

hind for the farmers. The scale of destruction has been so severe that many cultivators are left in tears, unable to salvage a season's worth of hard labour.

The problem is not limited to paddy. During the rabi season, these birds invade fields of chilies, watermelons, and pulses as well, wiping out what little income the farmers hope to earn



from selling their produce. The repeated losses have demoralised villagers who were once able to sustain themselves through seasonal farming.

But the solution is not simple. Peafowl, being protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, cannot be harmed. Harming, hunting, or killing them can invite strict punishment, including imprisonment of up to seven years. Understandably, this puts farmers in a helpless position—they are not legally allowed to act

against the very creatures that are destroying their livelihoods.

With no support in sight, some farmers now spend entire days standing guard in their fields from dawn till dusk, trying to shoo the birds away. Despite their efforts, they are often unable to prevent the loss of their crops.

"Who do we even complain to?" say villagers. "We try everything we can, but these birds just keep coming back. We don't know how to deal with this."

While other birds have always

been part of the agricultural landscape, farmers say that peafowl have only become a serious problem in the past decade. The number of birds seen in and around human settlements has increased significantly over the years, raising concerns not only for the farmers but also for the safety of the birds. Peacocks are frequently attacked and killed by stray dogs—an unfortunate and violent end for a bird revered in Indian culture.

There is also a growing belief

among locals that peafowl are not native to Goa and that their growing presence may be an indicator of changing climate patterns or ecological imbalances. Whatever the reason, the sudden rise in their numbers and their aggressive foraging behaviour has caught farmers off-guard.

This is yet another challenge in a long list of difficulties Goa's farmers already face, from rising input costs to erratic rainfall and shrinking agricultural land. The peafowl menace, as they now call it, is pushing more and more farmers to abandon their fields.

Many farmers believe that it is time for the Forest Department to step in. Farmers are urging the authorities to relocate the birds to forested areas where they are less likely to interfere with human activity.

If action is not taken soon, farmers fear that more fields will be left fallow, and the tradition of farming in Sangolda may slowly fade away—not due to lack of will, but because of a problem they were never prepared to face.

Dilapidated state of bus stop at Bamon vaddo in Siolim



The bus stop shed situated at Bamon vaddo in Siolim, along the MDR10 road, is currently in a state of disrepair. While a notice has been affixed to the structure's walls, it notably lacks any letterhead or signature from the relevant department.

**CITIZEN
GREGORY E D'SOUZA,
Siolim**

Regardless of established procedures, we trust that the appropriate authorities will identify and implement a suitable and durable replacement for this bus shelter. The existing structure has sustained

damage, exacerbated by its potentially unsafe location as determined by the Regional Transport Office, Public Works Department, and Traffic Police.

We respectfully request that the Deputy Collector of Bardez acknowledge this report and undertake prompt action to replace and relocate the aforementioned bus shelter in Siolim.

Furthermore, we note the proactive efforts of the Siolim MLA, Delilah Lobo, and the Sarpanch, Sandesh Hadfadkar, in establishing modern bus stops within the constituency. It is our hope that this matter will receive their urgent attention.

Fraught with danger

Numerous transformer enclosures in Benaulum are being improperly utilised as advertising spaces. Various flammable materials, including plastic, flex, cloth, PVC, and paper banners, have been affixed to the chain-link fences surrounding these critical electrical installations.

This practice presents a significant fire hazard. Should sparking occur within a transformer, the presence of these highly

**CITIZEN
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Benaulum**

combustible materials would very likely lead to a fire. Given that these units are frequently located near buildings and power or internet cables, such an event could result in extensive damage and disruption.

Furthermore, the apparent disregard for the infrastructure of the Goa Electricity Depart-



ment and the misuse of electricity poles for the placement of internet cables is concerning. It is our belief that a more decisive approach is required from the government to address this issue effectively, beyond the occasional issuance of warnings, to deter such unauthorised and potentially dangerous activities.

Culvert road at Chandor needs attention

I would like to inquire about the lack of action from the concerned authorities regarding the unsafe and structurally unsound culvert road at Gadde voll, near Jack Inacio field on the Chandor - Guddi Road, and the reasons for the delay in its reconstruction. Furthermore, I seek clarification on why the department has not yet initiated

**CITIZEN
RONNIE D'SOUZA,
Chandor**

ed the tendering process for the rebuilding of this essential culvert, which is crucial for the safety of vehicles using this route. Could you please provide insight into whether the department is awaiting a serious incident before addressing this critical infrastructure issue?

This matter was formally brought to the attention of the Village Panchayat office on two occasions, specifically on September 23, 2021, and subsequently on De-



cember 17, with a request for the reconstruction of this precarious section of the road. Despite these notifications, the relevant authorities have seemingly not prioritized the complete rebuilding of the culvert. The application of temporary hot mix patches appears to be a superficial measure that has proven ineffective, as these repairs deteriorate repeatedly. It is unclear why a more permanent solution has not been implemented to ensure the safety of Goan citizens.

The existing culvert, constructed during the Portuguese

era, has developed a significant and hazardous depression in the road surface. Given that this road is a frequently used thoroughfare with substantial vehicular traffic, the current condition presents a constant risk of collapse. While the Village Panchayat office has indicated that the project is approved, there remains uncertainty regarding the timeline for the government to commence the tendering process and subsequently rebuild the culvert to guarantee the safety of passing vehicles.

Traffic island in a mess

The traffic island located at the Rawanfond junction in Margao is in a dilapidated state.

This is a prominent and busy location, especially given its close proximity to the Margão railway station.

**CITIZEN
HAZLITT VIEGAS,
Carmona**

The structure of the traffic island has unfortunately collapsed and is in dire need of immediate repair. Furthermore, the visual appeal of the area is significantly marred by internet cables that are precariously hanging from the nearby electric pole. The electric pole it-

self, along with its lights, appears to be in need of replacement. Adding to the overall disarray, the traffic island is overgrown with wild weeds and shrubs.

It is important to remember that these small structures contribute significantly to the character and identity of our city. Maintaining them properly reflects our civic pride and ensures a positive first impression for visitors arriving at the railway station.

I urge you to consider the urgent need for repair and maintenance of the Rawanfond junction traffic island to restore its appearance and ensure the safety of the area.



Invitation for disaster

There is a serious public safety issue concerning the state of electrical infrastructure in Benaulum. Numerous junction boxes and major transformer enclosures across the area are currently un-shuttered and exposed to the elements.

**CITIZEN
VINAY DWIVEDI,
Benaulum**

This negligence poses a significant risk of electrocution, particularly to unsuspecting members of the public, including children and animals. Furthermore, the open access to these installations also creates opportunities for sabotage and the theft of essential



components such as fuses and cables, which could lead to power disruptions and further endanger the community.

Despite repeated reminders to the Goa Electricity Department regarding this hazardous situation, no action has been taken to

rectify the issue. Therefore, we urgently request the intervention of the government to address this matter with utmost priority. We believe it is crucial to secure these electrical installations promptly to prevent a potential fatality or other serious incidents.

Baina residential quarters in bad shape

The residents of the government quarters at Baina have expressed significant concerns regarding the structural integrity of their building and are requesting immediate repair work. Approximately 100 families currently reside in these premises, and the deteriorating condition of the structure is a matter of

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Vasco**

growing concern.

It is understood that while construction guidelines may suggest a structural guarantee of over 90 years, practical experience indicates that the

actual lifespan can be considerably shorter, influenced by factors such as the quality of construction. Given Goa's seasonal rainfall, issues like leakage and the effectiveness of waterproofing are critical priorities.

In accordance with established protocols, it is imperative that the government conduct a thorough structural audit of these older buildings, which is typically mandated after a certain period. As these quarters are currently occupied, ensuring the safety of the residents should be the foremost consideration. Rather than undertaking recurring annual repairs, a comprehensive,

one-time solution would be a more effective and sustainable approach to address these issues.

Therefore, we urge the State to initiate audits of all old government-occupied structures to ascertain their current status and condition. Obtaining detailed reports will be instrumental in safeguarding lives and ensuring judicious allocation of resources for necessary repairs or renovations.

In the long term, consideration should be given to either undertaking extensive renovations of these older buildings or developing new quarters to adequately accommodate government workers.