

## Dangerous barricades on Colva-Benaulim-Margao junction

The tri-junction at the Colva-Benaulim-Margao road is a critical point for vehicular movement, with constant traffic throughout the day. Recently, police authorities have placed rolling barricades at this junction, intended for use during vehicle checks.

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While the need for such checks is understandable, the careless way in which these barricades are handled when not in use poses a significant safety hazard.

Instead of being properly stored or moved to a secure location, many of these barricades are left on the shoulder of the road, and shockingly, some remain right in the middle of the traffic lane even when no checking is taking place. This is espe-



cially dangerous at night, when visibility is low. A vehicle crashing into one of these barricades could result in serious injuries—or worse, fatalities.

It is imperative that the authorities concerned

take greater care in managing these barricades. Road safety should not be compromised in the name of law enforcement. A little more circumspection could go a long way in preventing a tragedy.

## Chandor-Cavorim market drainage choked with filth



The drainage system around the market area in Chandor-Cavorim is in a deplorable state. Most drains are fully clogged with mud, plastic bags, bottles, palm fronds, and even broken concrete slabs. With the monsoon fast approaching, the risk of flooding is very real, yet the village panchayat seems to be turning a blind eye.

Many of these drains are damaged and require immediate repair. Concrete blocks have fallen into the channels, and in several locations, natural debris and market waste are obstructing the flow of water.

Chicken waste is reportedly being dumped into the paddy fields near Alma Khuris, causing a terrible stench and posing a serious health hazard.

If not addressed swiftly,

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ly, this could lead to severe water logging, outbreaks of vector-borne diseases, and further degradation of the local environment. It is the responsibility of every panchayat member to ensure that their ward is monsoon-ready, especially when issues like this are so visible.

## Sewerage pit on Colva-Margao road: An accident waiting to happen

A large pit has been dug up for laying sewerage connection chambers on the busy Colva-Margao road. While infrastructure upgrades are necessary, the manner in which this work is being executed is nothing short of negligent. There are no barricades, no warning signboards, no reflective cones, and no hazard lights installed to alert motorists—especially those trav-

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eling at night.

To make matters worse, the excavated soil from the pit has been heaped right in the middle of the road, narrowing the carriageway and obstructing visibility. This stretch sees traffic round the clock, including tourists, locals, and heavy vehicles. Minor accidents have already taken place here, and it's only a matter of time before a major tragedy occurs.



Goa is already grappling with a high rate of road accident deaths. Do we really want to add to that grim statistic due to sheer carelessness? I urge the local panchayat and the Public Works Department (PWD) to immediately take corrective action and compel the contractor to adhere to basic safety protocols.

## Non-functional lifts at Junta House causing hardship

The lifts at Junta House, Panaji, are frequently found to be non-operational. This government building houses several important offices spread across multiple floors and receives a large number of visitors daily, including senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and others who find it difficult to use the stairs.

Lifts are not a luxury in such buildings—they are a necessity. When they are out of order, it causes tremendous inconvenience, especially to people who are physically challenged or elderly. Some are forced to climb the stairs with great difficulty, while others abandon their visit altogether.

Despite the importance of accessibility in public offices, the au-

thorities seem apathetic. Regular maintenance appears to be absent, and accountability is lacking. The lift is reportedly maintained by the PWD, yet its condition suggests otherwise. The government's

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promise of making offices Pwd-friendly rings hollow when such basic infrastructure is left neglected.

There is a pressing need for a law to regulate the safety, inspection, and maintenance of lifts in Goa. The Goa Law Commission had even proposed such legislation. It is time the state government acts on it before someone pays the price for this continued apathy.

## Vasco children's park wall poses a grave threat



The boundary wall of the children's park in Vasco is in an alarmingly poor condition. Large sections are broken, and in some places, loose concrete slabs hang precariously. This poses a serious danger to children who visit the park—especially during weekends when it is crowded—as well as to pedestrians using the adjoining footpath

along Swatantra Path. The wall has been neglected for far too long. With the monsoon season approach-

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ing, the risk of collapse increases significantly. If the wall were to fall, it could result in grievous injuries or even fatalities.

Public parks are meant to be safe spaces, especially for children. The current state of the boundary wall makes a mockery of that. Civic authorities in the port town must act immediately to repair the wall before tragedy strikes.

Negligence is not an option when lives, especially those of children, are at stake.

## Shouldn't power dept be pulled up for criminal negligence?

For over five months now, a shoddily constructed speed breaker at Chuna Vaddo in Siolim-Sodiem has posed a serious risk to commuters. Built by the Goa Electricity Department (GED) during underground cable-laying work in December, it has become a silent hazard. On May 11, at around noon, a woman riding pillion on a two-wheeler was thrown off due to the uneven hump and suffered grievous head injuries. She had to be rushed to the district hospital by a 108 ambulance, thanks only to the timely help of Good Samaritans who assisted her and stemmed the bleeding until help arrived.

This is not an isolated incident. Numerous people have fallen victim to this dangerous bump, but neither the village panchayat nor the ward member appears to be concerned. Despite repeated complaints



and even discussions at the gram sabha, no action has been taken to fix the road.

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GED has been carelessly digging and re-digging the same stretch of road since November. The road remains in disrepair, and the rains are just around the corner. Once it starts pouring, conditions will only worsen, with more acci-

dents likely as the damaged road becomes slippery and treacherous.

Why is the panchayat turning a blind eye? Will they act only after someone dies? It is imperative that the local body files an FIR against GED for gross negligence. This kind of reckless, never-ending digging cannot continue without accountability. The lives and safety of the people must come first.

## Garbage nuisance in Mapusa and along the Highway



The monsoon is almost here, yet the authorities have done little to initiate any sort of pre-rain cleanliness drive along the highways in Mapusa. One wonders if the only time they take cleanliness seriously is on October 2, when they don white clothes, pose with brooms for the cameras, and flood social media with staged Swachh Bharat posts.

For months, garbage

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continues to pile up along the highway — plastic bags full of waste dumped by miscreants. What's worse is that the authorities have allowed this garbage to rot in the open, releasing a stench that makes the air unbearable and creating a serious health hazard for nearby residents and commuters. Soon, this waste will get washed into adjacent fields and water bodies, choking drains and contaminating water sources. This kind of official negligence is an insult to the idea of public hygiene and environmental responsi-



bility. Why haven't CCTV cameras been installed to monitor dumping spots? Why aren't violators being penalised?

A similar scene plays out near the Zonal Agricultural Office at Duler, where garbage lies uncollected despite the Mapusa municipality having a sizeable workforce for sanitation. The reality is stark — the government and local authorities have failed in their fundamental duty to ensure a clean and safe environment.

## Potholes near Socorro junction affecting traffic, causing accidents

The road at the Socorro junction, situated under the Porvorim Highway corridor is currently riddled with numerous potholes.

These potholes are not only causing significant delays in traffic flow but are also responsible for a growing number of accidents and damage to vehicles. It is concerning that this road has deteriorated so rapidly,

seemingly with just the initial pre-monsoon showers, suggesting standard workmanship that has transformed what was once a smooth road into a hazardous, pothole-filled path.

As the monsoon progresses and the rains intensify in the coming days, we



anticipate that the existing damage will worsen, further highlighting potential issues with accountability and governance regarding our infrastructure. The apparent neglect of this road by the responsible authorities raises questions about the oversight and integrity of public works.

Local residents have reported that frequent repairs are conducted using inferior materials, leading

to the road's premature degradation. This cycle of poor repairs causes ongoing inconvenience and presents safety risks for both drivers and pedestrians. There is increasing frustration among the public regarding the poor quality of this road, which has already begun to erode with the first rains.

While the government often announces substantial expenditures on develop-

ment projects, the fact that these works appear to be washed away with the initial rainfall speaks volumes about the standard of repair work being done.

I urge the authorities to take immediate action to repair the damaged road and fill the potholes before the heavy monsoon rains begin. Addressing this issue promptly is crucial for the safety and convenience of all citizens.

While the government often announces substantial expenditures on develop-

## When will the authorities stop digging roads?



Is the PWD and electricity department exempted from the order that bans digging of the road from May 15 onwards?

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The electricity department and water supply division of the PWD are still busy digging the roads on the pretext that their work is not complete. In Assagao, a hot-mixed road has been badly damaged as the wa-

ter supply section has dug up the road at various spots leading to such mucky road conditions. Monsoons are just round the corner and one would like to know whether the PWD is serious in implementing it's order of a ban on road digging or will digging continue and people would be forced to put up with sinking or dug up and mucky roads, or will the water supply and power depts be penalised for violating the order of a ban on road digging

## Clogged Xelpem-Duler gutter overflows with first rains

Following the first showers in Xelpem, Duler, a significant overflow from a clogged gutter was witnessed, spilling debris such as twigs, leaves, plastic bottles, plastic-packed waste, and dirt onto the road, creating an unhygienic sight.

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Gutters are prone to accumulating debris, which can lead to blockages and impede the free flow of water. This results in water backing up and overflow-



ing, potentially causing damage and creating unpleasant conditions.

I urge the Mapusa Municipality to pro-actively address this issue by imple-

menting a routine cleaning schedule for gutters, rather than waiting until the situation becomes critical. Additionally, the installation of gutter guards could

significantly prevent debris from entering and causing blockages.

I would also like to emphasise the proximity of a hospital to this location,

which serves numerous patients daily. Neglecting the maintenance of public areas in such close proximity to a healthcare facility demonstrates a lack of con-

sideration for public health. Considering the resources available to the Municipality through public taxes, citizens have a right to expect a clean and healthy environment.

Furthermore, clogged and dirty gutters not only pollute water bodies but also create breeding grounds for mosquitoes and germs, posing additional health risks to the community.

I request prompt action to resolve this matter and implement preventative measures to ensure such incidents do not recur.