

RAINS EXPOSE REPEATED CIVIC FAILURES

Same structure, same story: Large pieces of concrete from a building near Gandhi Market fall on parked vehicles — first in 2022 and again on Friday



(Left) A portion of the building which fell on parked vehicle below near Gandhi Market, Margao, on Friday. (Right) Fire and Emergency Services personnel inspecting a vehicle badly damaged by the falling debris

Team Herald

MARGAO: In a chilling repeat of events from two years ago, a portion of the same crumbling building at Pimpal Katta in Margao's Gandhi Market collapsed on Friday afternoon, damaging three parked vehicles and reigniting fears over public safety in the town's busy commercial hub.

This is the second such incident at the site. In 2022, rubble from the same building had crashed down, injuring a woman and damaging a car. At that time, the Margao Municipal Council (MMC) had issued a notice to the owner, Allen Dias, directing him to take immediate safety measures and submit a stability report. Two years later, those warnings appear to have gone unheeded.

While no injuries were



OCTOBER 29, 2022
Rubble from crumbling building in market area comes crashing down
MARGAO: A woman sustained minor injuries when a large portion of the concrete first-floor gallery of one of the oldest buildings located in the heart of Margao collapsed on Friday afternoon. A tragedy was averted as the incident took place when the area was relatively deserted, at 1.20 pm. The falling rubble

reported in Friday's collapse, the incident has once again exposed glaring lapses in enforcement. Fire and Emergency Services personnel rushed to the spot, swiftly clearing debris and cordoning off the site to prevent further danger. Access to the area has now been restricted. The building, already de-

clared unsafe by the MMC, has shown visible signs of structural deterioration. Despite earlier warnings and past incidents — including a similar collapse in 2021 at another building in the Gandhi Market area — residents and shopkeepers say authorities have failed to act decisively. "A similar incident was reported in the past at the

same building, where the Margao Municipal Council (MMC) had asked for a structural stability report. Unsafe buildings were issued demolition notices, but no action has been taken. Shockingly, the local MLA was seen inaugurating a business in one such unsafe building. This reflects the utter disregard for public safety," remarked Savio Coutinho, former MMC Chairperson.

Local MLA Digambar Kamat, who visited the site shortly after the collapse, issued clear directions to the civic body.

"I have directed the Margao Municipal Council to immediately clean and secure the area, and also take precautionary measures to ensure no further danger to life or property," he told reporters.

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“ Negligence towards the safety and security of citizens has led to a complete collapse of administration in Margao. The collapse of a portion of a building in the heart of the Margao market is a glaring danger signal, now forcing the closure of an internal road and adding to the ongoing inconvenience caused by the already shut Power House Rawnfond Road. Innocent Madganvkars continue to suffer due to the failure and irresponsibility of the authorities

— Prabhav Naik, Margao Resident

“ A similar incident was reported in the past at the same building, where the Margao Municipal Council (MMC) had asked for a structural stability report. Unsafe buildings were issued demolition notices, but no action has been taken. Shockingly, the local MLA was seen inaugurating a business in one such unsafe building. This reflects the utter disregard for public safety

— Savio Coutinho, Former Chairperson, MMC

CCP caught napping as solar plan for Panjim market gathers dust



Vendors at the Panjim municipal market take cover under tarpaulin sheets

Team Herald

PANJIM: It's been almost a year since strong winds and heavy rains blew away roof sheets at the Panjim municipal market, but when the unseasonal rain hit earlier this week, the civic authorities were caught napping as the water streamed in, forcing vendors to scurry for cover under tarpaulin sheets.

It now emerges that the intended repairs have been stuck in a limbo over a government decision to install solar panels on the roof — which, again, have not moved forward since the roof was damaged in July 2024.

Now, with the roof leaking again, CCP is scrambling

to repair the damage — quite literally. "The file took time to clear but now, with mounting complaints by traders and vendors, the Corporation has decided to proceed with the repairs immediately," a CCP official said.

All this while, the damaged roof had been temporarily covered with plastic sheets, but that proved unequal to the task of protecting the vendors from the fury of the recent rains. "This is our livelihood. Wet goods mean no sales," said a fruit vendor, expressing the concerns shared by many.

A senior CCP official confirmed that the repair work will begin shortly and is expected to be completed by June 15. He added that

the estimated cost has been approved and the tender process will soon be underway. The project will involve replacing around 40 roof sheets, with each sheet estimated to cost Rs 1.5 lakh. A consultant from the CCP's empaneled list will oversee the work.

The market's current state has drawn criticism, with issues including leaking ceilings, unsanitary restrooms, and waterlogged walkways — conditions at odds with Panjim's vision of becoming a Smart City.

To expedite the process, the CCP plans to issue a short tender, aiming to bring much-needed relief to both vendors and shoppers before the arrival of the next monsoon season.

Judge halts Trump block on foreign students at Harvard

AFP, NEW YORK: A judge temporarily suspended Friday the Trump administration's move to block Harvard from enrolling and hosting foreign students after the prestigious university sued, calling the action unconstitutional.

On Thursday, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem revoked Harvard University's ability to enroll foreign nationals, throwing the future of thousands of students and the lucrative income stream they provide into doubt.

But Harvard sued, and Massachusetts district judge Allison Burroughs ordered that "The Trump administration is hereby enjoined from implementing... the revocation of Plaintiff's SEVP (Student and Exchange Visitor Program) certification."

There will be an injunction hearing on May 29, a court filing showed.

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GANGA SO CLOSE, YET THEY WANDER FOR WATER



People move to collect water for drinking purposes from a pond that has rain water stored, amidst a shortage in the area located not far from the River Ganga, in Shankargarh on the outskirts of Prayagraj, on Thursday

Missing sewage link leads to bizarre showcase in Margao

Outrage as MMC slaps notice for not connecting to sewage system; residents ask where is the pipeline?

MARCOS GONSALVES

MARGAO: In a peculiar yet telling episode of civic oversight, nearly a dozen households near the old Model English High School in Margao have received show-cause notices from the Margao Municipal Council (MMC) for allegedly failing to connect to a sewage system — that, residents insist, doesn't even exist in their area.

The notices claim the households are discharging wastewater into storm drains, polluting nearby fields and Navelim's Salpema lake. Residents, however, are up in arms, calling the accusations unfair and absurd. "We're ready to connect to a sewage line, but

“ We're ready to connect to a sewage line, but where is it? The Sewerage Department told us there's no public sewer line here. How can we be blamed?

— Antonio Pereira, resident

“ This is classic blame-shifting. Instead of fixing the root issue, the council is targeting residents who are helpless

— local activist

where is it?" asked Antonio Pereira, a long-time resident. "The Sewerage Department told us there's no public sewer line here. How can we be blamed?"

Many of these homes, some predating Goa's Liberation, stand alongside newer buildings — both residential and commercial — that have sewage connections, highlighting glaring inconsistencies in infrastructure planning. "Even the

municipal building once faced the same issue, but now it's connected while we're left out and penalised," fumed another resident.

Locals also point to the MMC's haphazard policies, alleging that new constructions and businesses have been greenlit without ensuring proper sewage or drainage systems, worsening the mess.

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Mumbai-Goa highway to be ready in 3-4 months: Gadkari

Team Herald

VASCO: Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on Friday announced that the long-awaited Mumbai-Goa Highway project is set to be completed within the next three to four months, significantly reducing travel time between the two destinations to just five or six hours. Speaking at the

ground-breaking ceremony of the Observatory Towers and Viewing Galleries on the new Zuari Bridge, Gadkari said, "The four-laning of the Mumbai-Goa highway will be completed within the next three to four months, cutting travel time between Goa and Mumbai to just five to six hours."

Gadkari revealed that over Rs 33,000 crore has been allocated to Goa for highway pro-

jects — exceeding the State's own annual budget. He also announced a proposed ring road from Patradevi to the Karnataka border via the outskirts of Goa, aimed at decongesting traffic. The project, estimated at Rs 16,000 crore, is in response to requests from Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and Union Minister Shripad Naik.

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