

Restore Saligao roads for safety of schoolchildren

The condition of the road stretch in Saligao (starting from the crossroad circle/Government Primary School and heading right up towards Peggy's Corner and going on to the Seminary/Pilerne Industrial Estate), which was dug up around two months ago to lay underground electricity cables, has gone from bad to worse. With the sudden heavy pre-monsoon showers since Tuesday, the road has turned extremely slippery and has become very dangerous and unsafe for those using it.

CITIZEN JERRY FERNANDES
Saligao

Of course, the local MLA has now promised to restore the said road at the earliest, and work has even commenced. (I hope that this last-minute effort is not just another attempt to pacify or bully the people of Saligao and that the same road won't be bombarded or dug up again after a few months with new excuses or justifications.)



It is worth noting that this work is being carried out at the very last minute, right in the middle of the ongoing pre-monsoon showers. The MLA has also appealed to those who depend on this road to bear with the inconvenience for a little longer, claiming that the reason the government dug up this road stretch—and many others in

and around the village—is to solve the electricity and water issues faced by the villagers of Saligao (which includes Sangolda) for the next fifty years. Now, whether the government has genuinely undertaken this exercise to permanently resolve the water and electricity problems for the locals of these two villages for the next fifty years, or whether it's a slow ploy to

pave the way for mega-projects—to benefit the builders' lobby, the "Delhiwalas," and to ensure uninterrupted power and water supply for hoteliers along the coastal belt in the long run—only time will tell. But the one important question I would definitely ask is: don't those using the above-mentioned road stretch and other dug-up

roads in the Saligao area pay their road taxes to the government on time? Then why is the government treating the people of Saligao—and others who use these badly damaged roads—as guinea pigs and making them suffer unnecessarily for no fault of theirs?

I believe the local MLA should stop testing the patience of all Saligaokars in particular—and those working in the Pilerne Industrial Estate—for no valid reason. Instead, he should ensure that all the dug-up roads in and around the village are fully restored without offering any more lame excuses. This must be done before schools in the Saligao area reopen, or else he should be prepared to witness serious mishaps and accidents during the grand arrival of this year's monsoon season in our already turned "Garbage-dumping-gao," and now newly christened muddy "Chicol/Rebho-gao" called Saligao.

Reconstruct speed breaker at Aradi, Parra

Speed breakers must be constructed before the onset of the full monsoon season to ensure safety and minimise accidents near the Parra-Verla-Canca Credit Society at Aradi, Parra (Bardez, Goa).

CITIZEN RAJESH BANAULIKAR
Arpora

Considering the importance of speed breakers, the PWD should rebuild the ones that existed prior to the recent hotmixing of the road. These are crucial to slowing down vehicles, especially since there are two junctions with heavy pedestrian traffic and speeding is a serious concern.

Several accidents have occurred at this junction due to the heavy flow of traffic, making it an accident-prone zone.

The earlier speed breaker was destroyed during repeated excavations to lay water pipelines. At present, only a road marking with radium paint exists—there is no actual hump.

Local residents, being aware of the road, often don't brake at the marking, while unfamiliar riders apply sudden brakes, leading to rear-end collisions and posing a danger to public safety.

Again, Chogm road overrun with potholes

The rains have arrived, and our newly tarred roads—built with much pomp—are already showing their flaws. Contractors rushed the job, without proper planning or execution.

Chogm Road, in particular, is riddled with large potholes, posing a serious danger to motorists, especially at night. This road is heavily used by tourists heading to Candolim, Calangute, and Anjuna. Unaware of the risks, they are vulnerable to accidents. And this is only the result of pre-monsoon showers—

conditions will worsen with the full monsoon.

CITIZEN SANDRA FERNANDES
Sangolda

The government always blames the rains, like a bad carpenter blaming his tools. But the truth is that using sub-standard materials has a human cost. Families wait anxiously for loved ones to return home safely.

Let us search our conscience before prioritising profit over lives. What goes around, comes around.



Road to Benaullim beach makes for hellish drive

The Benaullim beach road has become a nightmare to traverse. Recently, the road was dug up till the Maria Hall junction to lay a pipeline, but no attempt was made by the contractor to refill the pits

CITIZEN VINAY DWIVEDI
Benaullim

or re-tar the surface. Loose metal and laterite aggregate was laid over the dug-up portion, but the recent unseasonal rains have washed that away as well. The drains are filled with silt, and the authorities seem least bothered. Will the panchayat or municipal authorities take any action?



Replace the damaged bench

Due to the unseasonal rains witnessed recently, a bench near the Holy Trinity Church in Benaullim has toppled over and suffered damage. It served as a resting spot for

CITIZEN REKHA SARIN TREHAN
Benaullim



senior citizens waiting to board buses to Maria Hall. May I request the village panchayat authorities to install a new bench? Missives to the local MLA have elicited no response.

Clean up Mapusa town, make it more liveable



Mapusa, the busiest town in North Goa, is in dire need of attention. Every corner is filled with garbage, the roads are in poor condition, and the gutters are worse.

CITIZEN SHUBANGI GADKAR
Mapusa

One open gutter on the road leading to the Old Asilo Hospital is a glaring example of civic failure. It is filled with filth, garbage,

and plastic waste, which has now spilled onto the road, obstructing both motorists and pedestrians.

Besides decayed sofa sets lie abandoned next to the Vailankani Chapel too.

The road to Remanso Hospital is just as bad, filled with potholes. Navigating this road is like dodging moon craters.

The authorities seem indifferent—these roads to reach hospitals.

With pre-monsoon preparations delayed, the city and its residents are paying the price. All it takes is a focused clean-up effort. Why does Mapusa Municipality always act at the last moment?

We pay taxes. We deserve better.

Garbage transported in open trucks

It has been observed that both dry and wet waste is being collected in open trucks from the Vasco market by the civic body. Besides being an eyesore, the garbage emits a terrible stench, and waste and leachate often spill onto the road. This causes inconvenience to shoppers and



CITIZEN ADELMO FERNANDES
Vasco

the general public and may even spread airborne diseases. The waste must be collected in closed garbage trucks specially designed for the purpose. If the Vasco civic body does not possess a sufficient number of such trucks, it needs to procure them immediately.

Stray cattle still roam free in Mapusa

Despite orders from the Directorate of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services (AHVS), stray cattle continue to roam Mapusa freely, especially in the busy market.

CITIZEN JUHI SILVEIRA
Thivim

Aggressive bulls have knocked over vehicles and injured vendors. Cows raid market stalls, damaging produce and vendors' livelihoods.

Why does the municipal workforce fail to take action?

At night, these animals lie in the middle of roads, causing fatal accidents. Two-wheeler riders are



particularly at risk.

In the monsoon, the cattle take shelter under public buildings like the Mapusa bus stand and RTO office, creating unsanitary conditions. Senior citizens have even been attacked. All strays must be relocated to gaushalas, and owners penalised for abandonment. Enough is enough.

Pigeons and peafowl continue to plunder Guirim, Sangolda fields

Open Letter to the Forest Department

For over three decades, we, the few remaining senior citizens of the village, have continued cultivating our fields despite many challenges. As the sowing season approaches, pigeons and peacocks have once again become a major nuisance.

After sowing, we are forced to stand in the wet and mucky fields from dawn to dusk without a break to keep the birds away. Pigeons arrive in thousands, making them hard to manage. When we chase them from one section, they simply move to another, leaving a trail of destruction in their wake.

Peacocks, too, cause significant damage. Driven out of their natural habitat—largely due to unchecked development and official apathy—they have taken shelter in our fields. Though they are our national bird and undeniably beautiful, they become a menace in an agricultural setting.

They feed on our grain from sowing until harvest, leaving little for us farmers. Their population has also increased substantially in recent years.

Some farmers, who have taken loans to cultivate their crops, end up in tears after losing everything to these birds.

As you're aware, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has enhanced ex-gratia relief under centrally sponsored schemes



CITIZEN P. L. SOUSA AND OTHERS
Guirim/Sangolda

for victims of crop damage, property loss, or fatalities due to wild animals. The Forest Department is expected to protect wildlife while also compensating farmers for losses.

We urge the department to either trap and relocate the peacocks to Bondla at the earliest, depute forest guards to protect our fields until harvest, or compensate us accordingly.

Peafowl are protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, and anyone found hunting or killing them can face up to seven years in prison. Therefore, we farmers from Guirim and Sangolda appeal to you to act immediately, especially with the kharif season fast approaching. If our plea is ignored again, we will be forced to seek relief from the Court. Let better judgement prevail.



Fix retaining wall before disaster strikes

A damaged retaining wall near the home of a senior citizen in Chuna Vaddo, Siolim-Sodiem, is on the verge of collapse. If it gives way, the culvert may break under rainwater pressure, potentially cutting the village in two.

CITIZEN SABINA DE SOUZA
Siolim

Besides, nullahs in the village are yet to be desilted despite the incessant downpour. Despite the panchayat's claims of development, such urgent issues remain unaddressed. Is this neglect or something more sinister?

Where are the development funds? Can a few lakhs not be set aside for essential repairs?



Both ruling and opposition members of the panchayat support major projects. Why

can't they unite for basic infrastructure? The pre-monsoon show-

ers have already caused damage. We urge authorities: repair the culverts,

restore retaining walls, and desilt the nullah before Morod floods again.