

# Monsoons bring vector breeding hazards

With the onset of the monsoon, the risk of vector-borne diseases has once again come into sharp focus. In a concerning twist, the danger is festering right beside the Mapusa Municipal Council (MMC) building itself. Stagnant water accumulated alongside the civic premises has turned into a fertile breeding ground



**CITIZEN JENIFER FERNADES Aldona**

for mosquitoes—posing a serious health hazard to municipal staff, visiting citizens, and the surrounding community.

Ironically, the very MMC office entrusted with maintaining public hygiene and health standards is now surrounded by conditions that could trigger an outbreak of diseases such as dengue, malaria, and chikungunya. Every day, councillors, mu-

nicipal staff, and the public enter this office for various works, walking past this breeding ground—yet it remains ignored. Despite visible signs of mosquito infestation and foul water accumulation, no steps have been taken to address the issue.

Instead of adopting proactive measures as part of standard monsoon prepar-

edness, the authorities have allowed neglect to seep into their own backyard. The water-logged area within the heart of the civic body's jurisdiction stands as a glaring example of inaction. Health officials have already warned of a potential spike in mosquito-borne illnesses during the rainy season. Awareness campaigns are



being conducted across Goa, yet the Mapusa MMC appears unaware—or indifferent—to the threat developing right at its doorstep.

To add to the concern, a damaged traffic barricade lies fallen into the drain, compounding the danger and raising the risk of accidents and further obstruction.

If the authorities continue to turn a blind eye to the problem brewing beside their own walls, the consequences could be severe—not just for their own staff, but for the public they are meant to serve.

Public health starts with leading by example. It's time the MMC cleaned up its act—before it's too late.

# Vasco's new fish market ready but still unopened

A few years ago, the Vasco fish market near the bus stand was relocated near the vegetable market to make way for a new fish market complex. The new market, built with modern facilities by the Goa State Urban Development Agency (GSUDA) for the Mormugao Municipal Council (MMC), has been completed for several weeks now.



**CITIZEN ADELMO FERNADES Vasco**

However, it has yet to be inaugurated. Meanwhile, the temporary fish market is in a miserable state, causing great inconvenience to citizens, especially during the monsoon. This modern, multi-storey complex, which also has space for fruit and vege-

table vendors, has been a long-standing demand of the people of Vasco. Authorities must clear

all hurdles and open the market to the public without any further delay.

# Crumbling Haturlim-Mayem road after fresh tarring raises safety fears

The Haturlim-Mayem road was tarred only a few months ago. As the road was not properly levelled, motorists felt that the work was incomplete and assumed the levelling would be completed in due course.



**CITIZEN SHAMIN SEQUEIRA Bicholim**

Surprisingly, with just the first few showers of the monsoon, large potholes have appeared on this stretch, as shown in the accompanying photographs. In heavy rain, these potholes become invisible, posing a serious risk to road users, particularly two-wheeler riders who could easily lose balance and suffer accidents.

The uneven surface has become a safety hazard. The concerned authorities must act swiftly to repair the damage and prevent further danger

and inconvenience to commuters using this road daily.

# Structural collapse in Mapusa market signals dangerous negligence

Structural failures have surfaced in the heart of Mapusa, with unsafe buildings becoming a serious concern for both the public and authorities.

A leaking government complex housing key offices, and the collapse of a balcony near the vegetable market, have raised urgent questions about the decaying state of both public and private infrastructure. These failures demand immediate attention from the authorities.

In the first instance, water leakage was witnessed at a government building housing important administrative departments. Computers and other office equipment had

to be covered with plastic, while umbrellas were placed indoors to contain the water. This paints a grim picture of the government's commitment to maintaining its own offices and safeguarding its staff. These offices also see daily footfall from hundreds of citizens.

In another alarming incident, panic struck the Mapusa market when large chunks of concrete from a balcony came crashing down. Thankfully, no one was injured. But it highlights the continued neglect of unsafe structures that are allowed to remain in operation.

Worse still, similar dangerous structures in the Mapusa market continue to be ignored. Shockingly, the municipality still permits vendors to operate from beneath these dilapidated buildings. Fruit and vegetable sellers sit directly under unstable sections, completely



unaware of the imminent threat to their lives. Is the revenue from sopo collection more valuable to the civic body than the safety of the poor vendors who sit below these hazardous structures? And if tragedy strikes, what compensation will the municipality offer to the families of the victims? The writing is on the crumbling wall. It's time the authorities wake up before the market becomes the site of a preventable disaster.

# Broken CCTV at Benaulim beach a serious security lapse

A CCTV camera and its power board have been knocked off their pole and have been lying on the ground at Benaulim beach for over two months now. This is one of the most visited public beaches in South Goa, second only to Colva, yet security



**CITIZEN MISHA Varca**

seems to be an afterthought. Worse still, the exposed power socket resting on wet ground is an accident waiting to happen—a potential electrocution hazard. Will the panchayat take action before tragedy strikes?

# SIGH OF RELIEF



I'm happy to report that local authorities recently sent staff to clear and pick up the hazardous pile of rubbish, including glass and other sharp objects, that had been dumped on the Murda-Agalli road for over 2 months. The neighbourhood is grateful for the action, albeit delayed, and I hope they will continue to support us in keeping our locality neat and tidy.

**CITIZEN STELLA FRANCIS Fatorda**

# Tattered train seats a national embarrassment

I recently travelled by the Janshatabdi Express to Mumbai and was appalled by the state of the seat upholstery. The fabric was in tatters—it looked as if an army of mice had gnawed through the seats.

**CITIZEN REKHA SARIN TREHAN Benaulim**

This shoddy state of maintenance reflects poorly on the Indian Railways. Many foreign tourists use this train while heading to Sindhudurg after their stay in Goa. What impression will they carry of India, supposedly the world's fourth-largest economy? It's disgraceful and disappointing.



# Merces Junction a death trap without signals

The Merces junction has become increasingly dangerous for commuters travelling from Bamolim, Merces, Panjim, and Old Goa. The traffic signals at this critical intersection have been non-functional for over four months.

During peak hours, especially from 8 am to 9 am, traffic surges significantly.

In the absence of functioning signals and with traffic police often missing, vehi-

**CITIZEN LYNN RODRIGUES Merces**

cles rush through the junction unchecked, creating a highly dangerous situation. It is only a matter of time before this area becomes a

confirmed accident zone—if it hasn't already.

Authorities must act immediately. For all the talk of Panjim becoming a "Smart City", such basic infrastructure failures expose a starkly different reality. Immediate repairs and proper regulation are essential to ensure public safety.

# Siolim link road: More a curse than a boon

Ever since the newly constructed link road at Gaunsa Vaddo, Siolim, was opened to the public, it has proved to be both a blessing and a curse—more often the latter—for the villagers.

Heavy vehicles now ply this narrow stretch, endangering not only the lives of schoolchildren but also the very integrity of the road. The route runs perilously close to Holy Cross High School, where the constant noise from passing traffic



**CITIZEN SABINA DE SOUSA Siolim, Sodiem**

severely disrupts teaching and learning. Teachers can barely hear themselves during classes, and when especially noisy vehicles pass by, they are forced to shut the windows to block the din. As a result, students are left to study in stuffy classrooms with little ventilation—particularly unbearable during the summer.

The widened road now almost touches the school building, leaving barely any space for parents to safely drop off or pick up their children—raising serious child safety and rights concerns.

As night falls, the road transforms into a speedway for high-powered bikes, whose roaring engines disturb the peace of the entire neighbourhood. Worse still, the stretch becomes a hot-spot for anti-social activities—drunken brawls, public indecency, and littering of the most disturbing kind. Parents are left horrified in the morning, forced to walk their children past broken



glass bottles, empty liquor cans, and used condoms—leaving lasting impressions on young, impressionable minds.

This is not the kind of development the village needs. Development should never come at the cost of children's safety and well-being.

Those who stood proudly for photo-ops during the bridge's inauguration—especially the Marna and Sodiem panchas—must

now take full responsibility for the consequences. The child committees of both villages must wake up and take up this issue with the authorities rather than paying lip-service to children.

It is high time, the Anjuna and Mapusa police intensify patrols in the area and take strong action against all anti-social elements. After all, it's the lives and minds of our children that are at stake.

# Stray cattle creating nuisance at Cunchelim

The much-publicised scheme announced by the Directorate of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services (AHVS) to impound stray cattle appears to remain only on paper in Goa. Despite the department issuing public notices and urging cattle owners to take preventive steps, stray animals continue to roam the streets during the day and squat in the middle of roads

at night—posing a serious risk to motorists.

In Cunchelim, stray cattle frequently occupy the stretch

**CITIZEN ELIZABETH FERNADES Cunchelim**

of road opposite the cemetery, causing regular nuisance. During the monsoons, the situation worsens, as poor visibility makes it difficult for motorists

to spot the animals on the dark, slippery roads. This often results in injuries to both people and animals.

Farming in the village has taken a hit, with many farmers abandoning their fields. Grazing grounds have rapidly diminished due to a spurt in construction activity, leading cattle owners to abandon their animals on the streets. The construction of the

Tillari Irrigation Canal has further fragmented the grazing land by cutting across the hill and blocking access to the plateau above.

To add to the problem, several cattle sheds have been converted into rental rooms for migrants—seen as a more profitable venture than maintaining livestock, which is both time-consuming and costly. It is reportedly learnt that

a majority of these stray animals belong to cattle owners from the neighbouring village of Sodiem.

It is high time the Mapusa Municipal Council and the Directorate of Animal Husbandry act decisively. Stray cattle must be impounded and relocated to a proper gaushala where they can be cared for humanely and safely—before this public hazard grows into a crisis.