

Gaping potholes in Porvorim endanger motorists, expose official apathy

Massive potholes stretching from Vadakade in Porvorim to the Guirim-bound road have turned daily commuting into a dangerous ordeal. While visible in dry weather, these craters become invisible traps once

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the rains arrive, posing a serious risk—especially to two-wheeler riders. At night, the situation worsens, as rainwater fills the potholes, making navigation nearly impossible and increasing the chances of accidents.

Injuries from bikers falling into these waterlogged pits are becoming all too common, and the potential for a fatal accident looms large. This situation reflects gross



negligence by the Public Works Department (PWD) and the local panchayat. Despite the potholes being located on a National Highway, authorities have failed to take action. The lack of urgency in addressing such a glaring safety issue has left residents both

angry and fearful. "Why should tax-paying citizens suffer because of poor planning and zero accountability?" questioned a resident. Substandard materials, shoddy workmanship and a complete lack of monitoring continue to

plague infrastructure projects in the State. And when roads fail with the first signs of monsoon, blame is conveniently shifted to the rain. Authorities often promise to blacklist errant contractors, yet many resurface under new names or through

relatives to bag fresh contracts—leaving the public to deal with the consequences. The residents of Porvorim are demanding immediate action and answers. The time for excuses is over—what's needed now is accountability and safe roads.



Broken slab over nullah a death trap in Sangolda

A dangerously damaged slab covering a nullah in the middle of the road at Livrament Vaddo, Sangolda, has become a ticking time bomb—especially for pedestrians and two-wheeler riders. Shockingly, this very stretch of road was recently repaired at the taxpayer's expense. Yet, within barely two months, it has begun to crumble, exposing a gaping pothole capable of swallowing a bike whole. The broken slab and the surrounding road have turned into a hazard, and despite its prime location, the authorities appear blind to the danger.

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With the main Porvorim road in disrepair, many motorists take this Sangolda shortcut to reach Mapusa—only to be met with treacherous road conditions. It's ironic that while the government collects a hefty share from every citizen in the form of various taxes, it fails to provide even the most basic infrastructure in return. One can't help but question why substandard slabs are being placed in the middle of roads, putting public safety at



risk. Who will take responsibility for this gross negligence? Is there no accountability for contractors who endanger lives with shoddy work? The panchayat must act—immediately. A police complaint should be filed against the contractor responsible. If this issue is not rectified without delay, it may lead to a fatal accident. It's time the slab is properly replaced before it claims a life.

Stray cattle turning into a nuisance at Marna



I'm a senior citizen with serious health issues and virtually being kept under house arrest by a herd of cows that squat outside my house every day and sometimes even in the night.

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Every time I try to shoot them way, the bulls keep charging back forcing me to retreat indoors. By the time the bovines leave, there is a huge pile of cow dung at the gate which I'm forced to clean despite my ailing health.

During the night, the bovine rest all over the road and refuse to budge despite the vehicles honking and disturbing the entire neigh-

bourhood. At times, the poor animals are even knocked down by reckless drivers. Two wheeler riders too have often suffered serious injuries after bumping off into stray cattle.

Infact there are hundreds of stray cattle that loiter the streets everyday creating a nuisance, the panchayat seems to be least bothered about relocating these bovines to animal shelters. There are directives issued by the Directorate of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services regarding the relocation of stray cows to gaushalas and one fails to understand as to why the village panchayat of Marna Siolim is dragging its feet on the matter?

Time the animals are sent to the animal shelter—faster the better.

Electricity dept must be held accountable for damaged roads in Sodiem

The Goa Electricity Department (GED) has carried out underground cabling work across Sodiem-Sodiem by digging up village roads, but has failed miserably when it comes to repairing the damage caused.

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Almost every corner of the village now bears the scars of this work, with dug-up roads and "Work in Progress" boards still in place—despite the project having started way back in November. Months later, the roads remain in a dangerous state, riddled with potholes and loose gravel.

Every time it rains, two-wheeler riders are seen skidding or falling into potholes, putting their lives at serious risk. The roads here are already narrow, and this added mess has made commuting a nightmare.

The panchayat too has been a silent spectator. Al-



though a resolution was passed at the gram sabha to issue notices to the violators, no concrete action has followed. Why the delay? Must we wait for a tragedy to spur the authorities into action?

The GED must be held accountable for this mess. Taxpayers have

every right to expect safe, motorable roads in return for their hard-earned money. Public safety cannot be compromised due to official negligence and inaction. Immediate repairs and strict penalties for such dereliction of duty are long overdue.

Government must immediately provide Jaya seeds to farmers

Recently, I visited Krishn Bazar and Goa Bazar in Mapusa to inquire about the availability of Jaya paddy seeds and was dismayed to learn that while stocks had run out at the former, the latter was selling only Jyoti.

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The staff informed me that a single load of Jaya had arrived earlier but was already sold out. Worse still, they said no further stocks would be procured at any of their outlets across Goa. This has left farmers like me in a lurch, especially since Jaya is known to survive in waterlogged conditions—unlike Jyoti—and offers significantly higher yields, making it a lifeline for farming families.

Last year, during the heavy rains, Jaya withstood waterlogging, while Jyoti completely failed. It's tragic that despite such clear evidence, Jaya seeds are not being made available to farmers when they need them most.



We continue to hold farmers' camps in panchayats, serve batata-wadas and chai, and deliver lofty speeches, yet we fail to meet the farmers' actual needs. The Zonal Agriculture Officers (ZAOs) in the State must be proactive and reach out to cultivators instead of waiting for complaints. To date, not a single high-yielding variety has been distributed in time.

One wonders if the Agriculture Department is genuinely interested in supporting farmers. Jaya takes around 140 days to mature, and the sowing window is closing fast. If the seeds are not supplied immediately, many farmers will be forced to abandon their fields, leading to yet another wasted agricultural season.

The time to act is now—before it's too late.

Stray cattle pose threat to Chorao residents at night

On several occasions, the roads from Chorao to Bicholim have been found engulfed in darkness. Though numerous streetlights line this route, it appears they

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are either left switched off or are non-functional.

This lack of lighting, combined with the frequent presence of stray cattle on the roads, poses a major threat to motorists. These



animals become virtually invisible at night, especially during the monsoon, increasing the risk of serious accidents or even fatalities.

This issue has been repeatedly reported to the authorities, yet stray cattle continue to roam free-

ly, particularly during the rainy season. These roads are a crucial link for daily commuters from Bicholim, Valpoi, and Sanquelim heading to Panjim via ferry.

Urgent intervention is needed before tragedy strikes.

Telephone in Cansaulim electricity office out of order

The Linemen of the Electricity Branch Office at Cansaulim are providing yeoman service 24 X 7 to the residents of Cansaulim-Arossim-Cuelim by promptly attending to complaints of power failure due to tree branches falling on power lines, voltage drop or fluctuation, etc.

Unfortunately, this office has been provided with an antique BSNL landline telephone, which is invariably out of order. Repeated

attempts during the last several months to contact the linesmen for recording

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such complaints yields the usual tri-lingual computer recorded response stating that "This telephone is temporarily out of service". It appears that this telephone is permanently dead or out of service and needs to be buried since it probably

cannot be repaired or replaced.

Considering that India has made rapid strides in the digital revolution, it would be in the fitness of things that the Cansaulim Electricity office is provided with a proper functional mobile phone for exclusive use in receiving electricity complaints so that the electricity users do not face any problems or get frustrated in registering their complaints.

Mapusa turning into a living hell

Uncollected garbage, last-minute desilting of gutters, and the careless dumping of sludge and muck by the roadside have transformed Mapusa into a living nightmare—for residents, market vendors, consumers, tourists, and anyone passing through.

Heaps of waste lie rotting in almost every nook and corner, creating a nauseating sight and an unbearable stench. Sadly, public apathy only adds to the problem,

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with people continuing to dump garbage indiscriminately. Civic workers fail to clean up, while the city's elected representatives choose to look the other way.

The result? Swarms of flies thrive on the filth, carrying bacteria far and wide. Crows and stray dogs feed freely on the garbage, spreading it even further across the town.

What's worse, the municipality has chosen the peak of the monsoon to start repairing gutters.



In the process, the sludge removed is left unattended by the roadside. In the Industrial Estate, for instance, every time it rains, the muddy mess flows onto the roads, causing two-wheeler riders to skid and fall.

Frankly, Mapusa Municipality deserves a spot in the Guinness Book of Re-

ords—for being the dirtiest town in Goa, thanks to its shocking indifference to public suffering.

One can't help but ask: Is the civic body waiting for October 2—the symbolic "Cleanliness Day"—to start caring? Or will Mapusa continue to wallow in filth until someone takes responsibility?

SGPDA market, another Sonsoddo

Going to the fruit / vegetable market in SGPDA is an exercise fraught with danger. Besides slippery paths, broken pavers and uncovered drains there is nauseous permanent stink (especially during the monsoons) proximal to the market. Discarded wet / dry waste and stagnant water makes the place a public health hazard. The Sonsoddo like environs serve as a fertile breed-

ing ground for mosquitoes, rodents and vermin. Is this the "Swachh Bharat", "Swachh Goa" our PM and CM keep

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hollering about? The market building itself is a leaky, dirty mess; I request the CM and HM to look into the matter personally.



Shoddy road repairs in Saligao leave locals fuming

The stretch of road in Saligao—from the cross-road circle near the Government Primary School up to Peggy's Corner and further towards the Seminary and Pilerne Industrial Estate—remains in a state of utter disrepair. Residents recall that the MLA had promised temporary restoration of the road

(not via hotmix, due to the monsoon) using tar, concrete, and cement. The road,

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which was dug up multiple times for underground electricity cables and water pipelines, remains a hazard, especially in the rains.



Unfortunately, not only has the road not been fully restored, but the ongoing so-called "concretisation" work—being done during

heavy rains and without halting traffic—is progressing at a snail's pace.

To make matters worse, heavy garbage trucks and construction vehicles linked to upcoming mega-projects are being allowed to pass over freshly laid cement, particularly at night, further damaging the already weak stretch.