

Panjim mkt has no fire safety, shows inspection

7,000 daily shoppers are unaware of the hazard as CCP and Fire Dept have missed annual inspection of firefighting infra for eight years

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EIGHT YEARS ON, PANJIM MARKET FIRE HYDRANTS STILL DEFUNCT



Fire Department officials inspecting the infrastructure at the Panjim market, on Monday

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PANJIM: A long-overdue inspection of firefighting equipment at the Panjim municipal market has revealed a complete breakdown of critical safety systems, raising serious concerns over public safety in one of the city's busiest commercial hubs.

An estimated 7,000 people visit the Panjim market daily and the compromised state of fire safety apparatus like fire pump, hydrants, smoke extractors, and hoses means that the thousands of shoppers would be at God's mercy if a fire broke out at the market.

However, Monday morn-

A JOKE OF AN INSPECTION?

❖ **O Herald** had highlighted the serious lapse in fire safety preparedness in a report on May 14, after which inspection was announced

❖ The inspection had been postponed a number of times over the past month before it finally happened on Monday

❖ The water pump, vital for firefighting, was found to be non-functional. The fire hydrants were out of service, smoke extractors in the basement were not

working, and many rubber hoses were either damaged or missing entirely

❖ The lack of coordination during the inspection was even more alarming. A CCP engineer present at the start of the visit left midway due to other commitments, and was replaced by a Town and Country Planning Department representative who admitted she was unfamiliar with the task

❖ A member of the inspection team confirmed that the firefighting system was completely dead

ing's inspection — jointly conducted by the Fire Department and the Corporation of the City of Panaji

(CCP) — has confirmed that the fire safety infrastructure at the market has not been maintained or tested for eight years.

The inspection came after **O Herald** had highlighted the serious lapse in fire safety preparedness in a report on May 14. The

inspection had been postponed a number of times over the past month before it finally happened on Monday, when a three-member Fire Department team examined the fire pump, hydrants, smoke extractors, and hoses. Their findings

were alarming. The water pump, vital for firefighting, was found to be non-functional. The fire hydrants were out of service, smoke extractors in the basement were not working, and many

rubber hoses were either damaged or missing entirely. "The system is completely dead," said a member of the inspection team, speaking on condition of anonymity. "It will need to be

fully repaired. I cannot comment further; you'll have to file an RTI to access the report." Compounding the issue was the lack of coordination during the inspection.

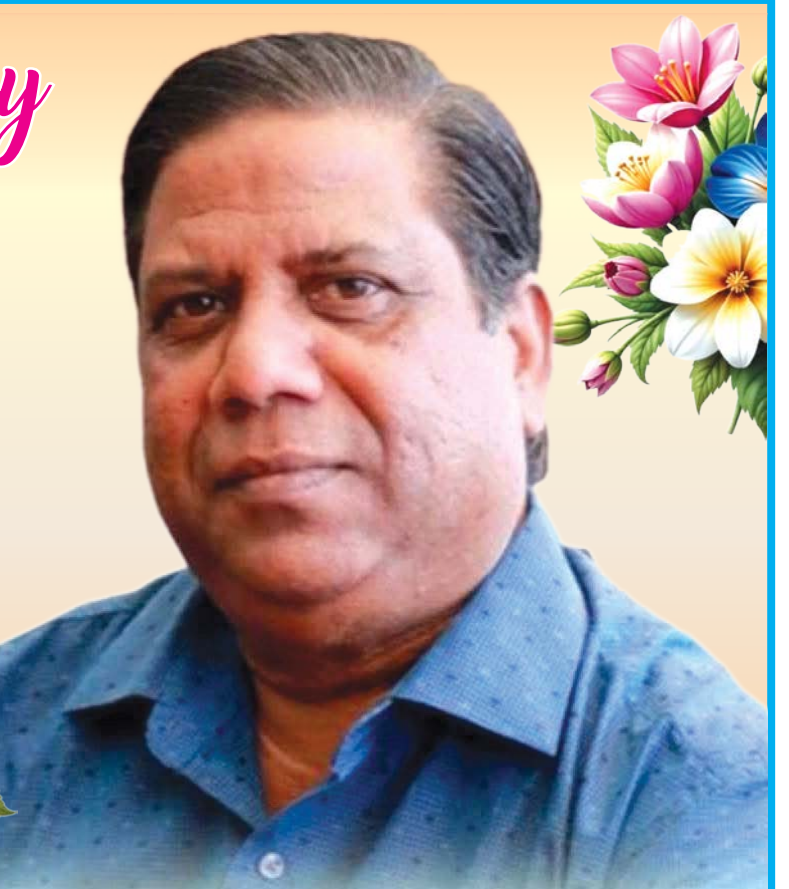
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