

CHOCK-A-BLOCK: RESTAURANTS, ESTABLISHMENTS CONGEST SAO TOME WITH 'ILLEGAL' BARRICADES

Restaurants' 'illegal' barricades in front of their entrances is adding to commuting woes along 31st January road; two-third of the area is occupied by the vehicles of casino staff and rent-a-bikes used by tourists

Team Herald

PANJIM: With the State's capital city already "bombed" with the road digging activity as part of the Smart City works, some restaurants and business establishments in the city's heritage area of Sao Tome, have now added to the city's commuting woes by installing "illegal" barricades in the parking lots in front of their entrances thereby blocking the free movement of motorists and pedestrians.

Two-third area of the 31st January road is already occupied with the vehicles of casino staff and the rent-a-bikes used by the tourists.

The barricades have been installed in such a manner that one cannot even park a two wheeler in front of the entrance of these business establishments.

The residents of

Barricades illegal: CCP assures action

We have not given any permission to the restaurants or shops to install barricades in front of their entrance. However, some have installed them. We will take action against them and ensure that these barricades are removed

— Senior CCP official

heritage areas of St Tome and Fontainhas have been complaining about their peace being disturbed by unruly visitors, especially domestic tourists. Last year, they had launched a signature campaign to address growing concerns over unregulated tourism.

Under the banner of the 'Community Association of Residents and Establishments (CARE)' they presented their petition to Rohit Monserrate, Mayor of the Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP).

The petition outlined numerous grievances, including severe traffic con-

gestion and parking issues. Residents argued that tourists and casino vehicles have turned their peaceful neighbourhood into a chaotic zone, blocking the narrow streets and access for emergency services.

Haphazard parking and driving in no entry zones are daily occurrences.

The residents also complained about the growing menace of touts, hawkers, and anti-social elements, making them feel unsafe in their own homes.

Incidents of trespassing, damage to property, and open defacement have escalated. Noise pollution,

especially from rowdy tourists and group photography, is irritating the elderly residents.

Amongst the many suggestions they had put forward to the authorities include a ban on entry of tourists and casino vehicles, restricted parking for locals and establishments, road barriers, the deployment of traffic police and installation of surveillance cameras for effective monitoring.

When contacted a senior CCP official said that the barricades put by the shops and restaurants are illegal and action will be taken against them.

"We have not given any permission to the restaurants or shops to install barricades in front of their entrance. However, some have installed them. We will take action against them and ensure that these barricades are removed," he said.



Illegal barricades installed by restaurants and business establishments along the 31st January road, two-third area of the route is already occupied with vehicles the casino staff and the rent-a-bikes by tourists

IN THE WAIT



An ice-cream vendor eagerly waits for customers on the eve of the Aqua Goa Mega Fish Festival 2025. The festival commences today, January 10 and will conclude on January 12

Goa govt seeks Rs 32.7K cr from Centre's tax pool

Team Herald

PANJIM: Goa government has put forth demands for funds to the tune of Rs 32,706.45 crore before the 16th Finance Commission for executing 13 proposed projects under sectors such as tourism education, health, information technology, climate change, Chairman of the Commission Dr Arvind Panagariya said on Tuesday.

Addressing a press conference, he said the state has sought increase in share in divisible pool of funds

which was 0.386 % under 15th Finance Commission to 1.78 % under 16th Finance Commission.

The State has sought four fold increase, he added. The Chairman said the State has also proposed to raise its share of the divisible pool from 41% to 50% and reducing the income distance parameter from 45% to 30% to better reflect its economic needs.

Dr Panagariya said it has sought inclusion of achievements in Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs) as one of the criteria while deciding

on the percentage share of fund devolution.

"This is 15 per cent change of which Goa has given 12.5 per cent to SDGs and remaining 2.5 per cent to tax and fiscal efforts. According to the calculations provided by the government, this will raise Goa's share from 0.386 per cent of the overall divisible pool under the 15th commission to 1.76 per cent under the 16th Finance Commission. That is practically more than four per cent increase in the share of Goa," he said.

MLAs.

"We are here to celebrate the present and past legislators and want to them them for the services rendered. You have raised important issues such as Mhadei and Green Goa initiative and the Govt is committed to address them fully. Please send your suggestions and in the State's interest, I will take them forward," the CM said.

On Legislators' Day, government to focus on Mhadei, greening Goa

Members vent ire against River Mhadei dispute, rampant sale of land and casino menace

Team Herald

PANJIM: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant assured to take up the issues and suggestions raised by the Goa Legislators' Forum on the burning issue of River Mhadei besides the clean and Green Goa initiative.

Speaking at the celebration of the Goa Legislators' Day observed at the Secretariat in Porvorim, Sawant commended the Forum for collectively meeting and assured the Members said that the government would look into the issues and suggestions raised by the Forum such as the issue of Mhadei river, clean and green Goa etc. Informing that the government is working on introducing reforms, and would provide financial provisions for these reforms, he sought cooperation of both, sitting and former MLAs.

"We are here to celebrate the present and past legislators and want to them them for the services rendered. You have raised important issues such as Mhadei and Green Goa initiative and the Govt is committed to address them fully. Please send your suggestions and in the State's interest, I will take them forward," the CM said.

The members vented their ire during the Goa Legislators' Day celebrations organised by the Goa's Legislators' Forum at the Goa Assembly Complex, Porvorim.

The members pointed out the illegalities committed by the Karnataka government, reckless sale of Goa and the casino menace.

Former Minister and Mhadei Bachao Abhiyan (MBA) Nirmala Sawant said that though the House Committee met only on two occasions, it did not decide to go to the spot and see the works undertaken by the Karnataka government. "The House Committee should visit

Mhadei is our lifeline. The casino industry is parading today as the proprietor at least by the certificate given by the State government to remain in Mandovi waters till 2027.

— Yuri Alemão, Oppn leader

Kankumbhi and take photographs of the works," she said informing that Karnataka had already diverted Mhadei waters in its Malaprabha basin.

Former MLA Adv Radharao Gracias said that though the Goa government had raised serious objections to Karnataka's attempt to divert Mhadei water, all these objections were largely rejected.

On the occasion, former Ministers Dr Carmo Pegado, Vinaykumar Usgaonkar and Dominic Fernandes and MLAs Dharma Chodankar, Victor Gonsalves, Mohan Amshekar, Fareel Furtado e Gracias and Adv Radharao Gracias who served during 1989-1994 were felicitated.

ZODIAC ANNUAL SALE

Opens Today

M.G. Road, Opp. Azad Maidan: 7208953727

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS to
VISHNUDAS VAMAN VERNEKAR
 Margao - Goa

—Best wishes from:—
 Wife- Lata Vishnudas Vernekar,
 Son- Vivek V. Vernekar, Daughter-in-law- Malvika V. Vernekar,
 Daughter- Varsha Vikas Kirtani, Son-in-law- Vikas Kirtani,
 Grandsons- Adith V. Kirtani, Mrugank V. Vernekar
 & Vernekar Family (Mangeshi- Margao)

Forum slams Tourism Dept as garbage piles keep getting bigger at Colva beach

Team Herald

MARGAO: The Colva Civic and Consumer Forum (CCCF) has hit out at the Tourism Department for remaining a silent spectator as garbage keeps mounting along the coastline here despite complaints being filed against the stinking nuisance.

The forum highlighted the heaps of garbage that had accumulated on the beach during the New Year period, creating an eyesore for locals and thousands of domestic and international tourists visiting the popular destination.

CCCF president Judith Almeida slammed the authorities for their failure to implement scientific waste



SEEING IS BELIEVING: Uncollected waste piled up at the beach is an eyesore and health hazard

management solutions, stating, "Goa has capable local experts who can address these issues, but the government continues to ignore their expertise." She also criticized the administration for prioritizing unsustainable development over the state's

natural heritage.

While CCCF's complaints reflect a larger problem of neglect, workers were seen clearing the waste. A worker at the site explained that waste bags had been transported to a treatment plant earlier in the day, and efforts



were ongoing to address the remaining backlog.

Locals, however, pointed out that such lapses have become routine, tarnishing Goa's image as a world-class tourist destination. The situation, they said, demands urgent and consistent attention

from the authorities.

The situation along the Colva stretch has worsened over the last fortnight. The pristine coastline is lined up with plastic, glass and plastic bottles, bags, sringes and other waste which makes it look very messy.

AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT SWAYAMPURNA GOA

Directorate of Fisheries Government of Goa

Aqua Goa Mega Fish Festival 2025
 CELEBRATING GOA'S RICH FISHING CULTURE

Cordially invites you to the Inaugural Ceremony of 8th edition of the
AQUA GOA MEGA FISH FESTIVAL
 Today, 10th January 2025, 6:30 p.m.,
 at the SAG Open Field Ground, Campal, Panaji - Goa
 in the hands of
Dr. Pramod Sawant
 Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa
 in the distinguished presence of

Shri Nilkanth Halarankar
 Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, Factories and Boilers

Shri E. Vallavan, IAS
 Secretary, Fisheries

Shri Atanasio Monserrate
 Hon'ble Minister for Revenue, Labour, Waste Management & MLA Panaji Constituency

Mrs. Yashaswini B. IAS
 Director of Fisheries

For Today, 10th January 2025
SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS

- The Aquarium Gallery - Showcasing over 100 fish species from around the world
- Commercial Arcade for B2B & B2C
- Seminars by prominent Speakers & Experts Protecting endangered marine species and Ornamental Fisheries - The art of designing beautiful Aquarium
- Entertainment & Food Court
- Variety of Entertainment programs That include Music performances by Arambh, Goan Folk Dances, Bollywood Dance performances, Live Music performance by renowned International Fame Goan Singer Sonia Sirsat & Band by Alkatraz

Mrunmayee Deshpande
 Renowned Marathi Film Actress

Sonia Sirsat
 International Fame Goan Singer

ALCATRAZZ