

Tourists capturing 'Insta moments' leave Fontainhas residents fuming

Photography sessions, flying of drones, littering of garbage have led to verbal and physical confrontations between tourists and residents of the 'Latin Quarters'

Team Herald

PANJIM: To capture that perfect 'Insta moment', domestic tourists embarking on photography sessions, have disturbed the peace of the once serene 'Latin Quarters' by flying drones, dirtying the walls of houses and littering garbage in Fontainhas, leading to verbal and physical confrontations with the residents.



Tourists stand in the middle of the road to click photographs

Fontainhas, the picturesque hub of Portuguese-style architecture, has been drawing hordes of tourists from far and wide. Residents of the Latin Quarters say they are not against tourists or clicking of photographs, but they are against those who display indiscipline behaviour. Despite "No Photography" signboards, the domestic tourists in particular often disregard community concerns and privacy in pursuit of the perfect shot.

Anil Kumar Rivonkar, a local resident, said, "The tourists have made the walls of our houses dirty. We have no issue with them clicking pictures, but the issue arises

when they dirty the walls and also dump garbage. Sometimes students also come. There is the issue of noise as well. At times it is unbearable. However, when it becomes unbearable I tell them to be quiet or I will contact the police. One has to appreciate foreign tourists for their disciplined behaviour. There is no need to tell them to behave properly. Till date, I have not witnessed any incident of a foreign tourist behaving rudely and most of them are very polite. It is not that all domestic tourists are bad, but most do not know

how to behave. The problem will be sorted out if there is police patrolling in the area, especially during peak hours." "The tourist guides too should advise the tourists on the dos and don'ts, what is right and what is wrong. Tourist guides have failed in this regard. They release tourists like a herd of animals," Rivonkar complained.

Clifton Afonso, another resident of the area, said, "We have put up posters asking people not to take photographs is not because we are against photography. The kind of crowd visiting Fon-



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tainhas does not know how to click photographs and that is the reason we have put up banners asking not to click photographs. They stand in the middle of the road, scream, shout, right from morning till late evening. They put their legs on the wall and enter the houses. Imagine what the residents are going through. Everyone is fed up. It is a terrible and complete invasion of privacy."

Afonso said, "We have spoken to a lot of authorities. The problem is people com-

ing individually. When they come here, they do not behave responsibly. They think this area is like Calangute or Baga where they can scream or shout."

Vasco Savio Dias, another resident said, "It is not a good site for us especially because it is a heritage area. We are compelled to do this because the tourists do not listen to us. We tell them that it is a heritage area and they should maintain discipline. But they disturb the peace and serenity of the place.

Se Old Goa opposes mega projects, cites water scarcity concerns

SOGAC demands master plan to save the world heritage site

Team Herald

PANJIM: The gram sabha of Se Old Goa Village Panchayat on Sunday opposed mega projects, citing water scarcity concerns in the village.

Speaking to reporters, sarpanch Medha Parvatkar said the panchayat has decided to write to Town and Country Planning (TCP) and Public Works Department (PWD) urging them to ensure adequate water supply provisions when approving mega projects.

Parvatkar said, "There is an issue of water crisis due to mega projects. Actually we have not approved these projects. The permissions were early, new permissions have not been given."

Deputy Sarpanch Ambar Amonkar said, "People have started facing water issues. So we will be writing to PWD and the TCP. They should first have provision for water and then licences should be given."

Amonkar said, "There is an issue of water, especially at Kadamba plateau and

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Medha Parvatkar, Se Old Goa sarpanch

we have been requesting the government to ensure that people staying there get water. But it has been ten years now and people are still struggling for water."

The members of Save Old Goa Action Committee demanded a master plan to save the UNESCO World Heritage site at Old Goa.

A member of the gram sabha demanded that an ambulance be stationed at the panchayat to attend to accident victims or those who may require it.

No respite from heat for Goa, IMD extends yellow alert

Team Herald

PANJIM: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has extended the yellow alert heat warning for Goa till March 11, and predicted that hot and humid conditions are very likely to prevail over isolated pockets of the State during this time. "Weather is very likely to be dry over North Goa and South Goa districts of the State. Maximum temperatures are very likely to prevail between 35 and 37 degree Celsius over Goa. Shallow to moderate fog is very likely in the morning. Hot and humid conditions are very likely to prevail over isolated pockets of North and South Goa," the IMD said.

Earlier, the yellow alert was only until March 10. According to the IMD, heat wave criteria for Goa state (Coastal station) is when maximum temperature departure is 4.5 degree C or more from normal. Heat wave may be described provided the actual maximum temperature is 37 degree C or more.

Meanwhile, the maximum and minimum temperature recorded at Panjim during the last 24 hours ending at 8.30 am of March 9, was 34 degree Celsius and 23.5 degree Celsius, while at Mormugao, it was 34 degree Celsius and 23 degree Celsius respectively.

Polls in Cuncolim, Areal peaceful

MARGAO: Voting for the by-elections in a ward of Cuncolim Municipal Council (CMC) and Sao Jose de Areal Village Panchayat were held on Sunday.

For CMC, the bye-elections were held for Ward 10 whereas in the Sao Jose De Areal village panchayat, it was for Ward 2.

The elections in both these places went off peacefully with a sizeable turnout. The results of both these elections are expected to be announced on Monday.

MAX. TEMP 33.2 °C
MIN. TEMP 23.5 °C

idharudhar



Uncle, spare me just one guard?

Shigmo festivities begin in Ponda

Team Herald

PONDA: The beating of dhol and tashas marked the beginning of Shigmo festivities in Ponda on Saturday.

The five-day Shigmo is celebrated in all villages of the taluka with each panchayat having five to six Dhazan Mand (common place of worship for the community) where people unite and offer naman (prayer) on the first day of the celebration.

After offering prayer to the local deities, the villagers then cross the village boundary for next five days for Shigmo celebrations in neighbouring villages where the members of Shigmo troupes offer rice and coconut to the deities.



Traditional Shigmo at Savoi Verem

Taking inspiration from this traditional festival, the government has also started a festival at official level which will commence from March 15 to 29 commencing from Ponda town.

Expert panel to address coastal erosion

Team Herald

PANJIM: The State Environment Department has established a 15-member expert committee to study and tackle the increasing problem of coastal erosion along Goa's shoreline.

The panel, chaired by the director of CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), will assess existing reports,

conduct field surveys, and formulate a comprehensive mitigation strategy.

The committee comprises specialists from reputed institutions, including Deltares based in Netherlands, NIT Chennai, NCCR, CWPRS Pune, Anna University, and ISRO Dr R Mani Murali from NIO Goa has been designated as the member convener.

Workshop to focus on balanced question paper preparation

Team Herald

PANJIM: As part of its efforts to effectively implement the National Education Policy, the Goa Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education, in collaboration with the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), Delhi, will organise a four-day State-level workshop on "Standardised Format for Comprehensive Progress Report and Question Paper" from March 10 to 13 at the Goa Board premises, Alto-Porvorim, from 9.30 am to 5 pm.

The workshop aims to bring together secondary and higher secondary school teachers from across the State. The event will focus on balanced question paper preparation, covering aspects such as principles and methods, question paper structure, question formation, as-

essment scheme, question paper analysis and compilation, and question paper evaluation.

Renowned education experts will provide guidance throughout the workshop, which will conclude with a discussion on the standardised format for question papers.

According to GBSHSE chairman Bhagirath Shetty, the workshop is crucial for effective implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) at the State-level. "The policy aims to provide skill-based education to students, enabling them to become knowledgeable and self-sufficient individuals. Teachers play a vital role in this endeavour, and the workshop will provide them with the necessary guidance and training," he said.

Over 100 teachers from across the State are expected to attend the workshop.

AICC Goa desk in-charge Thakare's visit successful: Cong

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) has claimed that AICC Goa desk in-charge Manikrao Thakare held productive and positive meetings in four blocks — Mormugao, Santa Cruz, Cumarjua, and Saligao.

Reacting to news published by O Herald under heading 'Turmoil in Congress during block panel meeting' the party in a statement, claimed that Thakare expressed satisfaction with the work being carried out by the local blocks, especially in the face of adversity since the defection of MLAs in September 2022.

Thakare appreciated the resilience and dedication shown by the Congress workers, who have continued their efforts despite the challenges posed by defections. His meetings were marked by constructive discussions, and he commended the leader-

ship and grassroots workers for their continued commitment to the party's values and progress, the party said.

Thakare has always worked closely with the state leadership, MLAs and MP and the relationship remains strong, it added.

Thakare also requested that the media refrain from reporting false information that could create unnecessary demoralisation among grassroots workers, who are the backbone of the Congress party, states the official statement.

German philanthropist injured in hit-and-run, locals rush to his aid

Kindness repaid: Left bleeding on the road by reckless tourists, Rudolf Schwartz was rescued by the citizens of Baga

Team Herald

CALANGUTE: For the past 35 years, German national Rudolf Schwartz has been more than just a tourist in Goa—he has been a guardian angel to many. Through his philanthropic work, Schwartz has helped establish three technical institutes in Siolim and Pernem, empowering countless young Goans with education and skills. But on what was meant to be another peaceful holiday, the 76-year-old found himself on the receiving end of reckless driving that left him seriously injured and battling pain instead of enjoying his visit.

Late one night in February, Schwartz and his wife, Elfie, were returning to their hotel in Baga after dinner in Calangute. The couple, riding their Activa scooter at a slow and cautious speed, never saw the danger coming. In a flash, another scooter carrying two tourists rammed

into them from behind before speeding away, leaving them sprawled on the ground. Elfie suffered minor scrapes, but Schwartz bore the brunt of the impact, unable to move as pain shot through his body.

Thankfully, a group of locals rushed to their aid. They attempted to call an ambulance, but the only available one was from a small hospital, which Schwartz, wary of inadequate facilities, declined. Understanding the urgency of his condition, the locals instead arranged for a taxi to take him back to his hotel, ensuring his scooter was also returned safely. The Good Samaritans even carried him up to his first-floor room, where he spent a restless night in pain, trying to contact friends for help.

Back in Germany, Schwartz's orthopaedic neighbour advised him to seek immediate medical attention. By morning, a local contact arranged for his ad-



mission to a private hospital in Dona Paula, where doctors diagnosed him with a fractured hip bone. Surgery was the only option. After a successful procedure, Schwartz was discharged on the third day and returned to his hotel to begin physiotherapy. What was meant to be a rejuvenating three-week vacation had turned into a painful ordeal. "Rudolf has done so much for the youth here, and

it is heartbreaking to see him suffer due to someone else's irresponsibility," said Dr Shekhar Salkar, Nikita Narvekar, CEO of Sunshell Digital Marketing and a past beneficiary of the ISEAF, also visited him to express her gratitude and check on his condition. "His contributions have changed lives, and we all wish him a speedy recovery."

While locals showed exemplary kindness in helping Schwartz, the hit-and-run incident raises serious questions about traffic enforcement in Goa. As Schwartz continues his recovery, he remains hopeful that his beloved Goa will take steps to improve road safety—so that others do not have to endure what he has.

For now, the 'guardian angel' of many young Goans finds himself relying on the very community he has spent decades helping, a bitter-sweet twist to his enduring bond with the State he calls his second home.

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