

TRAFFIC CHALLANS: Body cams a must now for officers

CM makes announcement to address motorists' complaints, all eyes on implementation on the ground

Team Herald

PANJIM: Long accused of harassing motorists in the name of checking, traffic police will now have their work cut out, as only those wearing body cameras will be allowed to issue challans for traffic violations across the State.

The announcement in this regard was made by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Friday. Going forward only officers wearing body cameras at the rank of Police Inspector (PI) and RTO officers (during the day), as well as Police Sub-Inspectors (PSIs) (at night), will be authorised to issue-traffic related challans.

Motorists and tourists alike have frequently voiced concerns over being stopped on Goa's roads, often under



HC rejects parents' plea, upholds Apr 7 school start

Team Herald

PANJIM: The High Court of Bombay at Goa has paved the way for the new academic year to begin on April 7, dismissing a petition by three parents challenging the state government's March 28, 2025, notification.

The division bench, hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by Savio Norvin Meneses and two others, rejected claims that holding classes during peak summer would harm students' health, finding no merit in their arguments.

The court accepted the government's assurance that classes would run only until 11.30 am till April 30 to mitigate summer heat concerns. As per the notification, Classes VI to X and Class XII will start on April 7, while Classes I to V and Class XI will begin in June.

The early start aligns with the state's efforts to synchronize Goa's academic calendar with national standards, a move officials say will benefit students in competitive exams.

This ruling follows an earlier dismissal on March 24 of a separate PIL by Manuel Sidney Antao and seven other parents. That petition had contested a January 30, 2025, Directorate of Education circular, arguing it violated Rule 21 of the Goa Education Act 1984 and Rules by advancing the academic year start. The court had similarly found no grounds to intervene.

The public interest litigations followed protests by parents, activists and a section of the academic community to the revised calendar, which they claimed was taken without proper consultation with key stakeholders.

CRACKDOWN ON CORRUPTION

■ Only officers wearing body cameras at the rank of Police Inspector (PI) and RTO officers (during the day), as well as Police Sub-Inspectors (PSIs) (at night), will be authorised to issue-traffic related challans

■ If a police officer of a rank lower than PI is found stopping motorists and soliciting money, the driver should take a photograph of the officer and report it to the Goa police, the CM said

■ The decision will take effect immediately, though an official



notification will follow in the coming days

■ Police would also press into service dash cameras, signal cameras, and AI-based tools to capture traffic violations, ensuring that challans are directly sent to the violator's residence

dubious circumstances, with allegations that the police were more interested in extracting bribes than enforcing traffic rules.

The Chief Minister suggested that if a police officer of a rank lower than PI is found stopping motorists and soliciting money, the driver should take a photograph of the officer and report it to the Goa police. "Any such officer found engaging in these practices will be suspended immediately," Sawant said. He emphasised, however, that officers could still stop vehicles for major traffic violations but would not have the authority to issue challans.

Similarly, only RTO officers posted as taluka nodal officers,

equipped with body cameras, will be authorised to issue challans. The decision will take effect immediately, though an official notification will follow in the coming days. Sawant also noted that the police would press into service dash cameras, signal cameras, and AI-based tools to capture traffic violations, ensuring that challans are directly sent to the violator's residence.

This measure, the Chief Minister emphasised, was designed to curb corruption and alleviate the harassment faced by motorists and tourists. Allegations of police officers extorting money from drivers have been widespread, and this step aims to put an end to these practices.

Goa to crack down on roadside cooking, littering by tourists

Team Herald

PANJIM: In a bid to preserve the pristine beauty of Goa's beaches and landmarks, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant announced tough measures for tourists who engage in roadside cooking and littering. On Friday, Sawant declared that such visitors will face strict penalties.

The Chief Minister made it clear that cooking by the roadside or dumping waste in public areas will no longer be tolerated. Tourists who bring cooking equipment, such as LPG cylinders and stoves, will have their gear confiscated at border checkpoints or in open spaces. They will also face fines.

"From now on, tourists arriving in buses and other vehicles will not be allowed to bring cooking equipment. If caught cooking along the roadside, they will be taken to the police station, along with their equipment," Sawant stated. However, he clarified that fines would not be issued on the spot but emphasised that tourists could opt to hire a hall for dining instead.

Expressing his concern over the growing issue of litter, Sawant stressed the importance of keeping Goa clean and green. "If we want to maintain the cleanliness of our tourist destinations, we must adhere to these rules strictly," he stated.

In addition to tackling cooking and littering, the Chief Minister announced that the state will take firm action against touts, unauthorised beach side masseurs and beggars, all of whom may face arrest as part of the new move.

682 Indians deported from US since January: MEA

PTI, NEW DELHI: A total of 682 Indians have been deported from the US since January, a vast majority of whom had attempted to enter the country illegally, the government told parliament on Friday.

Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh informed Lok Sabha about steps taken by India to support its citizens facing deportation or other legal consequences due to their undocumented status in the US. A total of 682 Indian nationals have been deported from the US since January 2025 till date, the minister said in a written response to a question.

Cont on Pg 12 >>

BIGGEST SHOPPING FESTIVAL

TIMING
10.00 AM TO 8.30 AM



LOCATE US



4 | 5 | 6 | 7 APRIL 2025

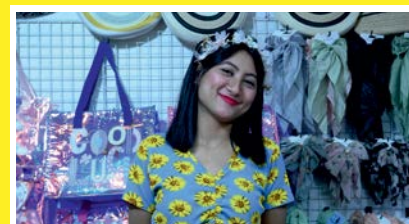
**DR. SHYAMA PRASAD MUKHERJEE STADIUM,
NEAR GOA UNIVERSITY, BAMBOLIM, GOA**



THAILAND ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS & PEARL JEWELLERY
THAILAND WOMAN'S ACCESSORIES



UGANDA HANDICRAFT



KOREA WOMEN'S ACCESSORIES



AFGHANISTAN DRY FRUITS

• THAILAND ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS & PEARL JEWELLERY • THAILAND WOMAN'S ACCESSORIES • IRAN SILVER JEWELLERY, SAFFRON, DATES & HANDICRAFTS • AFGHANISTAN DRY FRUITS • MALAYSIA FRAMES & MASSAGE CHAIRS • TURKEY BAKLAVA & TURKISH ICE CREAMS • DUBAI PERFUMES & ITTAR • KOREA WOMEN'S ACCESSORIES • UGANDA HANDICRAFT • SINGAPORE BAGS & ACCESSORIES AND MUCH MORE...

www.iadsandevents.com | exhibitions_iadsandevents | iadsandevents | ENTRY ₹50 | +91 9011058876 | iads & events

UNIQUE DESIGNS & MORE STYLES TO REFURBISH YOUR HOME!

FURNITURE FAIR

TIMING
10.00 AM TO 8.30 PM

New Look

New Season



LOCATE US



4 | 5 | 6 | 7 APRIL 2025

**DR. SHYAMA PRASAD MUKHERJEE STADIUM,
NEAR GOA UNIVERSITY, BAMBOLIM, GOA**



LIVING ROOM • DINING SET • BEDROOM • POTTERY • HOME DECOR • BRASS & ARTIFACTS
• RECLINER SOFA SETS • CARPET & CUSHIONS • MATTRESSES • CURTAINS • WATER FOUNTAINS
www.iadsandevents.com | exhibitions_iadsandevents | iadsandevents | ENTRY ₹50 | +91 90110 58876 | iads & events



SUNDATES
at Bambolim Beach Resort

**12 Noon Onwards
6th April, 2025**

Beat the heat

with a refreshing swim in the pool. Then, shake off the water to the lively beats of **Jazz, Reggae and SKA music.**



WALBRUE

Enjoy a scrumptious meal at
La Bamba Restaurant

along with refreshing cocktails by
Walbrue, making your Sunday
afternoons the perfect summer escape.

For Bookings & Reservations, Call: 9823020999 / (0832) - 6748004