

Goan tourists return home safely from terror struck Kashmir

Officials reach out to distressed tourists, arrange special flights; airlines advance return tickets without any hassle

Team Herald

PANJIM: All Goans stranded in Kashmir following the recent terror attack in Pahalgam have returned home safely, having cut short their holidays.

Eight couples, who could not reach Pahalgam, returned on Wednesday night, while 23 other tourists arrived back on Thursday.

Tour operator Mahesh Mahambre said, "Eight couples from Goa were lucky as they could not reach Pahalgam on the fateful day, thanks to a two-hour delay at the Gulmarg Gondola ride bookings. They were supposed to visit the same



Members of one of the Goan groups who were in Kashmir during the time of the attack

spot in Pahalgam, which is known as 'Mini Switzerland.'

"In the meantime, I got a call from my Kashmir-based partner about

the attack and was advised to instruct my travellers to stay put in

Srinagar. I immediately informed them. They returned to Goa on Wednesday night, as the government arranged special extra flights and the airline advanced return tickets without any hassle."

Mahambre added, "After their safe return, I spoke to them and they are in shock. They told me this was not about Hindu-Muslim tension but an attack on India. Locals in Srinagar were literally crying because they lost their business and are unsure of regaining it."

Amit Samant of Travel Bug, Sawantwadi, said, "All 23 Goans, including myself, returned home safely on Thursday. We

had visited Chandanwari and were planning to visit Baisaran Point on horseback. While having lunch at a restaurant, we suddenly saw a man running down with blood coming from his hand. We initially thought he had fallen from a horse, but soon we heard gunfire. Army personnel rushed the victim to a hospital in an ambulance. The hotelier pulled down the shutters.

"We were later escorted by army personnel to a nearby location and subsequently moved to a safer place. We had arrived in Kashmir on April 21 but cut short our holidays due to the incident."

High-level meet discusses solution to encroachments in Goa

PANJIM: CMPramod Sawant on Thursday held a high-level meeting with Revenue Minister Atanasio Monserrate, AG Devidas Pangam and Secretary (Revenue) Sandip Jacques to deliberate on the recent High Court

order concerning unauthorised constructions. Sawant said that the government is actively working on a comprehensive response and will soon arrive at a final conclusion so as to give relief to the people of Goa.

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Piled-up garbage opposite Rotary Garden in Mapusa causes unbearable stench. Huge piles of wet and dry garbage have accumulated opposite the Rotary Garden in Mapusa, along the main road leading to St. Xavier's College. Despite daily efforts by workers to clear the waste, the situation remains unresolved. The Mapusa Municipal Council, located just a few metres away from the site, has yet to find a lasting solution

Zone corrections of 6 properties rescinded

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Town and Country Planning (TCP) Department has rescinded the earlier correction of zoning for six properties in the Regional Plan 2021 at Sao Jose de Areal, Verna, Pirna and three properties at Cortalim after property owners failed to pay additional fees demanded by the department.

The rectifications, carried out under Section 17 (2) of the TCP Act, were aimed at changing the land use to settlement zone. While the owners had paid a total of Rs 7.3 lakh, the TCP Department later sought an additional

Rs 84.4 lakh, citing undervaluation of fees by the department officials. Upon failure to pay within the stipulated time, the TCP Department issued a notification cancelling the zoning corrections.

Earlier this month, the TCP department had rescinded zone conversions of Bengaluru-based firm after it failed to pay the additional fee of Rs 7.2 crore as per the revised rates for the property at Chopdem in Pernem taluka. The TCP started reassessing the amount to be paid and initiate recovery proceedings following a writ petition filed in the High Court.

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Green Goa Conclave focuses on sustainable development

Team Herald

PANJIM: The CII Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) hosted the Green Goa Conclave 2025 in Panaji on Wednesday, focusing on "Building a Greener Goa: Sustainable Solutions for Residential & Hospitality Sectors." The event brought together key stakeholders from government, industry, and the design community to deliberate on practical strategies for sustainable development in one of India's most ecologically sensitive states.

The inaugural session featured senior leaders from IGBC and CII, including C Shekhar Reddy, National Vice Chair, CII-IGBC; Swati Salgaocar, Immediate Past Chairperson, CII-Western Region Council; Bharat Kamat, Immediate Past Chair, CII-IGBC Goa Chapter; and K Kula Sekhar, Chair, CII-IGBC Goa Chapter.

In his special address, Shekhar Reddy said, "The Green Goa Conclave is a key moment for Goa's real estate sector to unite for a sustainable future. With tourism contributing nearly 9.6% to India's GDP, Goa's hospitality sector holds great promise, but this growth must be balanced with environmental responsibility. Green Buildings offer energy and water savings, improved air quality, and enhanced occupant well-being. IGBC, through renewed MoUs with CREDAI and the Government of Goa, is committed to providing support and capacity building to make sustainability the norm in Goa."

Vedanta attributes jetty disruption to fresh demands by farmers

Team Herald

PANJIM: Vedanta Limited has clarified that the recent disruption to iron ore transportation operations in the Sarmanas jetty area stemmed from renewed demands by a section of affected parties seeking revised settlement terms.

Responding to Monday's blockade of ore-laden trucks by Pilgao farmers and tenants, the company stated that despite previously agreed settlements, new terms have been initiated in consultation with the parties, under the facilitation of the Deputy Collector.

As part of this ongoing process, approximately 50 per cent of the affected farmers have formally agreed to the revised settlement terms documented during official meetings, with several already receiving their payments.

"The current disruption has arisen from demands by a section

of the affected parties seeking revised settlement terms. Vedanta Sesa Goa continues to actively engage with all concerned stakeholders to address these matters in a fair, transparent, and mutually agreeable manner," the company stated.

Vedanta Sesa Goa added that it holds possession and valid rights over a significant portion of the operational land, which includes tenanted areas

Vedanta Sesa Goa added that it holds possession and valid rights over a significant portion of the operational land, which includes tenanted areas. All relevant agreements and documentation are in the company's possession and have been maintained in line with statutory requirements.

The company reiterated that such unplanned disruptions to transportation operations not only inconvenience the local population but also lead to avoidable losses to the State exchequer and negatively impact the livelihoods of mining dependents and allied businesses in the region.

Hotelier directed to submit retaining wall plan at Bambolim beach

Stop work order to continue till next date of hearing

PANJIM: The Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) has directed a private hotel at Bambolim to submit a detailed plan for constructing a retaining wall along the beach, even as the stop work order issued against the property remains in force.

During a hearing held on Thursday, the GCZMA reiterated that the hotel management must refrain from any civil construction activity until further notice. The coastal body stated that the stop work order would continue until the next date of hearing.

The petitioners opposing the construction voiced strong objections to the use of materials and methods they claim are environmentally damaging, including cement and heavy earthmoving machinery. They also demanded the removal of debris from a collapsed section of the wall that had fallen onto the beach.

Last week, the GCZMA issued a show cause notice to the hotel, halting all ongoing work and questioning why the structure should not be demolished and the site restored to its original condition. The hotel management

has been directed to file a response, along with a compliance report and copies of all relevant licences and approvals—including those from the GCZMA—by April 24.

In a parallel development, the Department of Tourism has also issued a show cause notice to the same star-category hotel, citing unauthorised construction of the retaining wall and indiscriminate dumping of excavation debris along the beach area.

Following credible reports, tourism officials inspected the site on April 16 and observed that the hotel

had constructed a retaining wall approximately 300 metres in length abutting the shoreline. The inspection further revealed that stones, construction rubble, and metal wire remnants had been dumped along the beach.

The case has drawn attention after complaints were lodged by Sant Andre MLA Viresh Borkar, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Ramrao Wagh, and Goa Green Brigade convenor Avertino Miranda, all raising concerns over environmental violations and coastal encroachment.

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