

FROM PAGE 1

OVERWHELMING PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR APP-BASED TAXIS IN GOA, SHOWS SURVEY

"There is nearly one death by road accident per day on Goan roads, and the only way to reduce the same is by calming traffic by introducing more mobility options, whether they be public transport or technology in the taxi business."

The survey results come amid ongoing discussions between the government and various stakeholders. Earlier, TTAG had launched the online petition as part of the public consultation process, with the association stating that regulated app-based taxi services are not just a tour-ist requirement but a public utility that many Goans also want. The survey was kept open to allow more citizens to participate and provide their honest feedback on app-based taxi services in Goa.

The survey, which asked participants whether they support the introduction of app-based taxi services in Goa, recorded 4,632 'yes' votes against just 308 'no' votes from the total 4,940 responses collected over the weekend.

However, Sunil Naik, President of the North and South Goa Taxi Operators' Association, questioned the validity of the survey and the role of TTAG in the process. "I think this TTAG is now running the government. No one has asked them to conduct a survey. There are around 16 lakh people in Goa, and out of that only 4,940 responded — so the rest of the people are against app-based taxis. Some channels showed that 98% of people don't want app-based taxis. What about that? I think Goa doesn't need app-based taxis. We Goans can handle the taxi business, and that too with transparency. The CM said they will take all stakeholders into confidence and finalise the taxi issue, so we are waiting for a call."

Despite the pushback, Sukhija reiterated that there is now a realisation on the part of the administration that the use of technology in transport is critical for facilitating mobility for both locals and tourists.

"It has become the norm all over the country, including in cities that are smaller than Goa."

"The present app guidelines were the most progressive in the country, as they balanced customer and driver interests. The CM has indicated that he will arrive at a solution which will balance taxi drivers', hotels', and customers' interests,"

Sukhija added. The TTAG president emphasised the unique nature of Goa's approach, stating: "The Goa guidelines are unique in terms of the app-based services in India and around the world, and if the government is serious about development and progress, then this will be a step in the right direction and more states in India would look into adopting the same guidelines."

"Goa can do what no other state in India has done and adopt these guidelines, which provide for a fair field for aggregators, taxi drivers, and customers for a win-win situation," he concluded.

Chief Minister Sawant recently met with taxi operators and assured them that the draft guidelines would not open doors for companies like Ola and Uber. The draft Transport Aggregator Guidelines 2025, notified on May 20, proposes a regulatory framework for app-based ride-hailing services while ensuring driver welfare, fair pricing, and the use of Goa-registered vehicles with licensed drivers. Public suggestions and objections can be submitted until June 19.

HERALD FINDS GOANS DEBUNK 'TOURIST-ONLY' NARRATIVE

These individual voices echo a broader sentiment in favour of the proposed guidelines that they feel are the need of the hour. The demand is particularly strong among middle-aged and older residents who point to changing family dynamics, health considerations, and lifestyle needs that make app-based services an attractive complement to existing transport options.

"We have a vehicle at home, but that does not mean it is available for all family members, and so not having a convenient app-based taxi service is impractical for us in this day and age when similar options are available in other parts of the country. Why are we being denied? We are not tourists; we want it for our regular use. When one family member takes the vehicle, and another takes the bike, there are still other family members in the house, and for them, simple tasks like going to the market or visiting relatives become complicated, and we are dependent on the person driving/riding the vehicle, as they cannot go independently too, as they could have done via an affordable taxi," said Maria Dias, a 52-year-old bank employee.

Healthcare needs present a compelling case, particularly for older residents who may find driving challenging or impractical during medical situations. App-based services offer a middle ground between expensive private taxis and depending entirely on family members.

"I'm 76 and still drive, but sometimes after medical procedures, I am not comfortable driving myself home," said Ramesh Naik, a retired teacher. "My children work and can't always accompany me. Having a reliable taxi service that I can book easily would give me more confidence to handle my health appointments independently."

If a vehicle owned by the family breaks down, it presents transport challenges to the family members that the app-based services could easily address. "Last month, our vehicle had gone for servicing, but for major repairs which were taking time to be completed," recalled An-thony D'Souza, a 40-year-old businessman. "For around four days, we were completely dependent on friends or expensive local taxis. I even had to pay to travel to the service centre. Having app-based options would have solved our problem immediately."

Airport connectivity has emerged as another area where locals see significant benefits. Many residents currently rely on family members or expensive taxi services for airport transfers, particularly for early morning or late-night flights.

"Every time I travel outside for work, I either have to depend on my wife or a friend dropping me to the airport, or in the absence of these options, as it is not always that they are free, I have to pay hefty taxi charges. Now when I land in the next city, I pay much less. That is why there is not much hesitation to pay for taxis outside Goa, be it via an app-based service or a normal taxi that has its meter running," said Prakash Fernandes, a senior sales manager for his company. "With app-based services, I could book a ride in advance and travel stress-free."

Several residents also believe app-based taxis could play a big role in addressing drunk driving incidents during Goa's vibrant social scene. "Goa has an active nightlife and party culture, but people often end up driving after drinking because there are no reliable, affordable taxi options," said Vinayak Raut, a 37-year-old IT professional. "If we had app-based taxis readily available, people could enjoy their evenings responsibly and book a ride home instead of risking drunk driving. This could actually help reduce accidents and save lives."

Senior citizens who have stopped driving at night cite safety and comfort concerns that make app-based services particularly appealing for evening activities or social visits.

"I don't like to drive long distances at night alone, but that doesn't mean I want to stop my social life," said Sunanda Kamat, a 22-year-old college student. "Having the option to book a reliable taxi through an app would help me maintain my independence and continue meeting friends for dinner or cultural events."

Small business owners have noted how app-based services could benefit local commerce by making establishments more accessible to customers who prefer not to drive for short trips or worry about parking. "I work at a small restaurant, and customers often tell me they would visit more frequently if they didn't have to worry about parking or driving back at night," said Francis D'Mello, an assistant chef from North Goa. "App-based taxis could bring more foot traffic to local businesses."

Professional requirements also drive demand, with working professionals seeking convenient options for client meetings and business travel within Goa. "When I have meetings in different parts of Goa, I either have to drive myself, as I can't keep negotiating with local taxi operators unless I have no other option and my car is not available," said Deepa Shirodkar, an interior designer. "App-based services would provide transparent pricing and professional service for business travel."

The monsoon season presents additional challenges where app-based services could prove particularly valuable. Heavy rains often make driving difficult, especially for older residents or those with smaller vehicles.

"During heavy monsoons, I am hesitant to take my small car out," said Lourdes Sequeira, a 60-year-old homemaker. "Having the option to book a larger, more reliable vehicle through an app would be very helpful during the rainy season."

Many residents draw inspiration from the success of app-based services in cities like Mumbai, where locals routinely use such platforms alongside their personal vehicles for various needs.

"I have relatives in Mumbai who use Uber regularly even though they own cars," explained Ravi Kamat, a 48-year-old entrepreneur. "They use it to avoid traffic

and parking hassles. It's become a normal part of their daily life, and I don't see why Goans can't benefit from the same convenience."

These grassroots voices, none of whom participated in formal surveys but all of whom support the draft guidelines as reasonable, suggest that public backing for app-based taxi services may be even more widespread than captured in official consultations. The cumulative effect of these individual needs suggests that app-based taxi services could address various practical challenges faced by local residents while complementing rather than replacing personal vehicle ownership. For many Goans, the question is not whether they need such services, but how quickly policymakers will respond to this clearly demonstrated local demand — a sentiment that appears to be more widespread than previously recognised.

4 DEAD, 18 INJURED AS PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE COLLAPSES IN PUNE

The incident occurred at 3:30 pm in the Kundamala area, which has been seeing heavy rains over the past few days, giving the river a steady flow, another official said. It was not raining when the bridge collapsed in the presence of at least 100 picnickers, he added.

"In the mishap, so far 38 people have been rescued of which 18 sustained serious injuries and they are currently under treatment in three different hospitals. During treatment, two people succumbed to injuries," a statement from the district administration informed. Shah said teams posted nearby quickly joined the rescue operation.

"Deeply saddened by the tragic incident of the bridge collapse on the Indrayani River in Talegaon, Pune."

"Spoke with Maharashtra Chief Minister Shri Devendra Fadnavis and inquired about the present situation on the ground. NDRF teams posted nearby quickly rushed to the site, joined the rescue operation, and saved several lives with remarkable promptness," the home minister said in a post on X.

Pune district officials said teams of NDRF as well as personnel from the fire brigade, police, and local rescue organisations are involved in rescue and relief efforts.

Maharashtra Minister of Disaster Management Girish Mahajan, who was at the site monitoring rescue efforts, said the bridge collapsed under the weight of a large number of tourists.

"The bridge was meant only for pedestrians and there was a warning board there stating that it cannot be used by two-wheelers. It seems people on the bridge did not pay heed to these instructions, which caused the incident," Mahajan told reporters.

"It has been observed that despite giving constant warnings about dangerous spots during the monsoon, people go and risk their lives. We appeal to the tourists not to risk their lives by visiting such places," he added.

SEVEN KILLED IN CHOPPER CRASH NEAR KEDARNATH

The seven people on board the Bell 407 helicopter, operated by private firm Aryan Aviation Pvt Ltd, included a two-year-old child and the pilot. They hailed from Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.

The Civil Aviation Ministry said it has suspended the operations of Aryan Aviation for the Char Dham Yatra and has directed the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to immediately post officers from airworthiness, safety and operations to actively oversee all helicopter activity in the Kedarnath Valley.

Preliminary indications suggest that the probable cause may be Controlled Flight into Terrain (CFIT), with the helicopter reportedly airborne despite poor visibility and extensive clouding at the valley entry area, the ministry said in a statement.

The exact cause will be determined through a detailed investigation by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), it added.

CFIT occurs when an airworthy aircraft under the complete control of the pilot is inadvertently flown into terrain, water or an obstacle.

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama also ordered a high-level inquiry and suspension of helicopter operations on the Chardham Yatra route for two days.

Rudraprayag District Disaster Management Officer Nandan Singh Rajwar told PTI that zero visibility caused by bad weather apparently led the helicopter to crash between Gaurikund and Trijuginarayan in Kedarghati and catch fire.

"There were five passengers, one infant and one crew member on board. The helicopter took off from Gup-takashi at 05:10 hrs and landed at Shri Kedarnath ji Helipad at 05:18 hrs. The helicopter took off again at 05:19 hrs for Guptkashii and crashed near Gaurikund," an official statement said.

MONTH'S MIND
In Everloving memory of
FRANCISCO RODRIGUES
Born : 09.04.1955 Died : 19.05.2025
There will be an Eucharistic celebration on **Tuesday 17th June 2025 at 7.30am**, Our Lady of Snows Church Raia, followed by prayers and blessings at grave. Tribute of love from his sorrowful wife **Rosaria**, Children and Family.
RELATIVES AND FRIENDS KINDLY ACCEPT THIS AS THE ONLY INTIMATION.

Anita Dhall
May 2, 1945 - 15 June, 2025
Lived fully, loved fiercely, and left this world gracefully on her own terms the way she lived
Loving friend, mum and Ami to Gulab, Avnish, Rajnish, Nonita Moneisha, Mihaan and Mira
No condolences

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY
In everloving Memory of
JOHN PAUL FERNANDES
[EX-ZACL]
The loss came so suddenly, leaving us with unspoken goodbyes. Yet, the cherished memories we hold of you will forever remain in our hearts.
There will be a Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our beloved **John Paul** at **8:00 am on Tuesday, 17th June 2025**, at **St. Francis Xavier Church, Chicalim**, followed by prayers and blessing of the grave. Offered by his sorrowful wife **Holima** and sons **Dr. Shane** and **Shannon**.
Relatives, neighbours and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

THIRD DEATH ANNIVERSARY
In everloving memory of
IDA GOMES
PANZORCONE-CUNCOLIM
There will be an Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our beloved **IDA** at **8:00 am on Tuesday 17th June 2025** at **Our Lady of Piety Chapel Panzorcone**, followed by prayers and blessings of the grave.
Offered by her sorrowful husband **Urbano Mendes**, Children **Kim/Silson D' Silva**, **Karen**. Grand daughter **Chloe**
Relatives and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.
Costy's Ads, Chinchinim, Navelin 9850473904

MONTH'S MIND
Fond and Cherished memory of
JULITA ANUNCIACAO AGONISANTE DIAS FERRAO
(Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania / Varca)
Lovable sister / sister-in-law of Iria / Shigeru, Dr. Valentina / Michael, Marcia, Dr. Antonio / Dierdre.
Beloved aunt of Anri / Andy, Hannah / Herbert, Judah, Micah, Isaiah / Janrica, Josiah. Loving grandaunt of Anson Sugitani Elliot. A Requiem consecrated mass on **Tuesday, 17th June 2025 at 8:30 a.m.** at **Our Lady of Gloria Church, Varca**, followed by prayers at the grave, offered by her family.
Relatives and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
Special thanks to Solon Furtado, Varca Deputy Sarpanch and our friendly neighbour, for his tremendous help to our family during this crisis, and in addition Jack Gonsalves President of Lions Club, Dr. Shikhar Shetty Neuro psychiatrist, Dr. Sainath orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Nidhi Sinha, Melanie and Rita physiotherapists and Richard for the home morgue usage, Theodolina and Succorina and not forgetting the Clergy of Varca Gloria Church and all our dear cousins Bosco, Goretti/Alvero, Proto/Joyce, Brito/Cheryl, Geeta/Zuzinifo, Havelock/Annie, Maria/Leonard for their assistance.
Online Advtg. & Funeral Service, Margo 9823022194

Remembrance
Eufermiana D'cunha
Wife of late Joao Baptista D'Cunha
In everloving memory of late **Chagas D'Cunha**, **Felix D'Cunha**, **Agneta Almeida D'Cunha**, **Braulio D'Cunha**, **Caroline D'Cunha**
We think about you'll always we talk about you'll still, You'll have never been forgotten, and never will. We hold you'll close within our hearts, and there you'll remain, to walk and guide us through, our lives, until we meet again.
Fondly remembered by her loving Son/brother **Remedios D'Cunha and family**
Costy's Ads, Chinchinim, Navelin, 9850473904

RETURNED TO THE LORD
In loving memory of
SANTOS FERNANDES
Shetye wado - Mapusa
"Come to me all who are weary and I will give you rest"
Mathew 11:28
Daddy we love you
Born : 9th June 1946
Died : 14th June 2025
Beloved husband of **Theresa Fernandes**. Affectionate father/father-in-law of **Michael / Tricia** and **Monisha / Dominic**. Adorable Grandfather of **Christian / Michelle, Chris / Melroy / Denzil**.
Funeral Cortège will leave the residence on **Monday, 16th June at 3:30 pm for St. Jerome's Church, Mapusa** for Eucharistic Celebration & burial.
Relatives & Friends kindly accept this as the only intimation

DEATH
Antonio Marcos Noronha
(Bamon Vaddo, Candolim, Bardez - Goa)
"Gone from our sight, but never from our hearts."
DOB: 22/10/1949 DOD: 15/06/2025
Beloved Husband of Rene Theotilda Noronha. Loving Father/Father-in-law of Niven / Ovínia, Nigel / Stephany and Nolan / Rochelle. Son of late Pedro Caridade / late Assumptina Rosaria Noronha. Son-in-law of late John Francisco / Joanita Eufrazia Fernandes. Affectionate Grandfather of Baby Nicole, Nia and Nora. Brother/Brother-in-law of late Marcelino / Lilly Noronha. Brother-in-law of Cyriaco / Felicidade (Rosy), Perpeto / Esparensa and Michael / Jenny. Fondly Remembered by Nephews and Nieces.
Funeral cortège will leave his residence on **Tuesday, 17th June 2025 at 03:00 p.m.** to **Our Lady of Hope Church, Candolim** for Eucharistic celebration at 3:30 p.m., followed by burial.
Relatives & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

CONDOLENCE
We, the MSFS Pune Province Confreres mourn the sad demise of
Fr. Thomas Fernandes
and offer our heartfelt sympathy to his brother **Santana Fernandes**, sister in law **Mary Fernandes**, Nephew **Alexander Fernandes** & Niece **Vallerina Fernandes**.
Born: 22-10-1941
Died: 14-06-2025
The funeral mass will be held on **18th June, 2025 at 1.30 p.m.** (Europe time) at **The Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Davos, Switzerland.**

Returned to the Lord
Born: 29-09-1976
Died: 14-06-2025
CEDRIC D'SOUZA (CHENU)
Son of late **Marcus** and **Anamaria D'Souza**. Husband of **Maria Lonna**. Father of **Celonna**. Brother/Brother-in law of **Christopher/Bernadine**, **Canute/Cleta**. Uncle of **Cassia**, **Carlin** and **Cayden**.
Funeral cortège will leave his residence at **3.30 p.m.** on **Tuesday, 17th June, 2025** to **St. Christopher's Church, Tivim, Bardez, Goa** for Eucharistic celebration at **4.00 p.m.** followed by burial.
Relatives, & Friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

ONE YEAR WITH THE LORD
CRISTALINA DIAS e NORONHA
FRANCIS COSTA WARD, UTORDA
One year has passed Mai since you left us, but not a day goes by without thinking of your kindness, your warmth, your guidance, and your immense love.
You were the heart of our family — the anchor that kept us together — and now we carry forward your values, your spirit, and your generosity in everything we do.
While the pain of your absence is deep, the many beautiful memories we shared bring us peace and comfort. Thank you for lighting up our lives. We will love you today, tomorrow, and forever Mai
There will be an Eucharistic celebration for the soul of **Cristalina Dias e Noronha** on **Tuesday, 17th June 2025**, at **Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Utorda at 8:00 am**, followed by blessing of the grave.
Beloved wife of **Late Augustin Noronha**. Loving Mother/mother-in-law of: **Inacio/late Flora, Annie/ Late Salvador, Angela/ Estaquio & Late Rocky/Flavia**. Affectionate Grandmother of **Austin/ Annette, Clive/Deona, Shirley/Oswin, Jonathan/Blasha, Kevin/Juella, Manisha/Keven, Savio, Reuven, Sanya, Achelle**; Great-grandmother of **Ava, Clayton, Zylin, Kyiv & Kaelan**.
Relatives, friends and neighbours kindly accept this as the only intimation