

Tourists divided on CCP crackdown to restore order in Sao Tome, Fontainhas

Team Herald

PANJIM: The decision of Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP) to deploy inspectors from Monday to keep a tab on unruly domestic tourists in the heritage areas of Sao Tome and Fontainhas has evoked mixed response from visiting tourists.

The initiative aims to manage public disturbances and protect the cultural and residential sanctity of the Latin Quarters.

When **O Herald** sought reactions from tourists here's what they had to say.

Sudha, one of three girls visiting Goa from Bengaluru felt the deployment could help if paired with

Some people get very excited by the idea of being in Goa and tend to forget basic commonsense

— Shalini, a tourist from Maharashtra

Since tourists are here only for a short visit, it would be nice if everyone adopted an attitude of 'live and let live' principle. Some tourists could be noisy, a certain level of noise should be tolerated, especially in a place reliant on tourism

— Sudesh, a tourist from Delhi

dedicated tourist spaces.

"I understand the local sentiments, and I believe tourists should follow the rules. In fact, I feel cameras should be installed around the area to ensure that rules are followed. We came to Panjim because we learned about the Latin Quarter. It's lovely and needs

to be preserved so that future generations can come and enjoy it too," she said.

Shalini, a tourist from Maharashtra visiting with her family, empathised with the residents' concerns. "Some people get very excited by the idea of being in Goa and tend to forget basic

commonsense," she said. "The urge to make the most of every minute is very strong. I hope tourists will reduce their boisterous behaviour and remember that this is a residential area."

Sudesh, part of a group of young men from Delhi, felt the CCP's action was excessive. "Since tourists are here only for a short visit, it would be nice if everyone adopted an attitude of 'live and let live' principle," he said.

While admitting that some tourists could be noisy, he argued that a certain level of noise should be tolerated, especially in a place reliant on tourism.

Radhika, visiting from Rajasthan with her family,

strongly supported the CCP's decision. "I love this area. I've been visiting every time I come to Goa, and I'm sometimes quite shocked by the antics of young couples making reels. They stand in the middle of the road and create a lot of commotion. Everyone seems focused on having a good time, without caring much about how the locals feel. I hope this move will tone down the behaviour of these tourists. I've been coming to Goa for ten years, and I'd really like to see some of the charm of those earlier days return."

The residents hope that the presence of inspectors will help preserve the charm and tranquillity.

Cyber fraudster held in Rs 2.6 cr scam

Team Herald

PANJIM: In a significant breakthrough, the Cyber Crime Police have apprehended a key accused in a high-value cyber fraud case involving over Rs 2.6 crore, executed through impersonation and psychological intimidation.

The case was registered on June 9 at the Cyber Crime Police Station, Panjim, following a written complaint from a woman residing at Aquem Road, Margao. The complainant reported that between May 20 and June 2, 2025, she received several phone calls and WhatsApp messages from individuals posing as senior officials of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Mumbai.

Using mobile number +91 90xxx85182 and WhatsApp numbers +91 967xxx2769 and +91 814xxx0910, the accused falsely informed the victim that a police complaint had been filed against her name and Aadhaar number. They further escalated the pressure by sending a forged order allegedly issued by the Supreme Court of India, coercing her into transferring a total of Rs 2,60,33,634 into various bank accounts.

Investigations revealed that on May 22, 2025, two transactions totalling Rs 76,35,760

(Rs 55 lakh and Rs 21,35,760) were credited to a bank account held by one Rijas K, a resident of Kozhikode, Kerala.

A Cyber Crime Police team comprising PSI Navin Naik and constables Shantaram Narse and Yash Kole, under the supervision of PI Deepak Pednekar, ASP Akshat Ayush, IPS, and SP (Cyber Crime) Rahul Gupta, IPS, travelled to Kozhikode. With assistance from the local police, Rijas K (35) was apprehended and placed under arrest.

During custodial interrogation, Rijas was found to be a habitual cyber fraudster, allegedly involved in at least 11 cyber crime cases across India. The total estimated fraud attributed to him amounts to Rs 22,77,93,773.

The case has been registered under Sections 318(4), 319(2), and 336(3) read with Section 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), and Section 66-D of the Information Technology Act.

Reaffirming its commitment to combating cyber-crime, Goa Police urged citizens to remain alert and avoid falling prey to fraudulent calls or messages impersonating government authorities. Any suspicious communication should be reported immediately to the Cyber Crime Helpline at 1930 or the nearest police station.

Gaundalim-Old Goa route to be closed from June 23

Road overbridge to replace railway crossing

Team Herald

OLD GOA: To alleviate daily traffic congestion at the railway crossing in Old Goa, the Goa State Infrastructure Development Corporation (GSIDC) has commenced construction of a new road overbridge.

As part of the project, the road connecting Old Goa to Gaundalim will be closed to all traffic from June 23 (Monday) until further notice.

The proposed over bridge is expect-

ed to provide a long-term solution to the persistent traffic snarls at the level crossing, which is particularly congested during peak hours.

Once completed, the bridge will streamline vehicular movement and significantly reduce travel time.

Authorities have urged the public to use alternate routes and have assured that adequate traffic management arrangements will be in place throughout the construction period.

Ammonia gas leak at Tuem industrial estate contained swiftly

Team Herald

PERNEM: An ammonia gas leak occurred at an ice factory located in Tuem Industrial Estate, Pernem, at approximately 3 pm on Friday. The Fire Department was informed and arrived at the site within eight minutes, successfully bringing the situation under control.

Upon receiving the alert, fire officers Namdev Parwar and Prashant Dhargalkar responded promptly, warning nearby residents. The leak involved a substantial quantity of ammonia gas, and firefighters managed to neutralise the fumes by spraying water. As a precautionary measure, all surrounding residents were evacuated to a safe distance. Fortunately, no injuries were reported. The timely response of the fire services averted a major disaster.

Mapusa market bandh called off

Team Herald

MAPUSA: The Mapusa Merchants Association on Saturday called off its proposed market bandh scheduled for Monday, June 23, following a meeting with Chief Minister Pramod Sawant.

Deputy Speaker Joshua D'Souza, flanked by Association president Jitendra Falari, secretary Sidhesh Raut and other office-bearers, announced the withdrawal of the strike in the presence of Mapusa Municipal Council Chief Officer Chandrakant Shetkar.

D'Souza stated that all issues raised by the Association had been resolved.

Association members confirmed that their demands had all been accepted.

With their grievances addressed, the merchants

confirmed they would resume normal operations and that Monday's proposed shutdown stands withdrawn.

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Govt plans 'no-concrete zones' around trees following NGT directive

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Goa Government is preparing to implement 'no-concrete zones' around roadside trees in line with a National Green Tribunal (NGT) directive issued on May 21, 2025. The initiative aims to prevent damage to tree roots and facilitate water percolation, thus enhancing tree health and longevity.

The Forest Department has been tasked with examining Delhi's model, which mandates a one-metre radius around trees be kept free of concrete and filled with natural soil instead.

"The Chief Secretary, who also serves as Chairman of the Tree Authority, is actively looking into the issue," a senior official told the media. "Most roadside trees in Goa are encased in concrete or interlocking pavers, which suffocate the roots and prevent water absorption. This leads to diseases, pest infestations,

and in some cases, trees being uprooted," the official added.

The issue gained urgency after several trees along Miramar Road were found diseased and uprooted, with inspections revealing compromised root systems caused by surrounding concrete.

Even prior to the NGT directive, the Forest Department had begun preparing a state-specific proposal based on the Delhi guidelines. Other states such as Delhi and Karnataka have already adopted the one-metre clearance rule.

The State Government is also expected to direct local bodies and the Public Works Department (PWD) to begin de-concretisation efforts around roadside and highway trees.

Environmentalists have welcomed the initiative, citing it as a crucial step in mitigating urban tree stress and promoting ecological sustainability.

Vasco police register rape case against Curchorem man

VASCO: The Vasco Police have registered a case against Sarvar Khan, a resident of Curchorem, for allegedly raping and assaulting a woman at a resort in Bogmalo.

The case was initiated based on a Zero FIR received from the Curchorem Police, following a complaint lodged by the woman. She alleged that on June 9, 2025, the accused raped her at the resort and subsequently physically assaulted her by hitting her on the face. A case has been registered under Sections 64 and 115(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.

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