

Public mood: Forget **FOOTFALL**, where has Goa's **FEEL GOOD** vibe gone?

The recent wave of criticism about Goa's failing tourism infrastructure has grabbed national headlines, with the media highlighting the basic lapses, like costly rooms and taxis, dirty streets and beaches. Tourism stakeholders spoke about how the Sunshine State is losing its sheen

Team Herald

PANJIM: Are the golden shores of Goa – once the haunt of free-wheeling tourists seeking peace and quiet far from the madding crowd – losing their shine? From the latest buzz doing the rounds on social media, there is every reason to believe so. Some social media commentary recently has opened the floodgates of complaints, with visitors to Goa pouring their hearts out on they had been shortchanged or plain deceived on their Goa trip. Media reports built on the theme and went all out in highlighting how unregulated tourism had taken a toll on Goa, focusing on the factors behind the nosedive.

Stakeholders in Goa's tourism sector have spoken to **O Herald** about the negative image that the state has built up over the years. Once known for its feel-good factor, visiting Goa is like visiting any other crowded beach destination in any part of India. Dixon Vaz, Caveossim Sarpanch and Vice President of the Small and Medium Hotel Owners Association, "To some extent, it's true that Goa has lost some of its former allure as a tourist destination. While it remains popular, we've seen a decline in the quality of tourists we used to attract. In the past, Goa welcomed many families who came to enjoy our beaches, experience our rich Goan hospitality, and immerse themselves in our culture. Now, we see more visitors primarily interested in drugs, alcohol, and late-night parties."



Goa 'taxi mafia', overpriced hotels blamed for declining tourism, Indians say 'Thailand better' *Hindustan Times*



Why Foreign Tourism in Goa is Declining: A Closer Look *Pune Pulse*

'Taxi mafias won't let Goa succeed': Netizens react as foreign tourists ditch India's beach paradise *Business Today*

TOURISM DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENT AFTER THE CRITICISM

Goa, like any other tourist destination, is governed by market forces and at times the air and hotel components make Goa expensive, leaving the potential tourist seeking alternate options.

Goa, being trashed by travellers online, has a response: 'Don't compare an Indian state to country like Sri Lanka' *The Indian Express*

However, Goa has and will always continue to rise to challenge to solidify its position as a top holiday destination for a diverse range of travellers.

though. "The season is looking positive, though growth will not be as good as last year. Foreign tourists are expected to increase compared to 2023 and British charter tourists will double from last year. A new Polish charter is operating, which was not there earlier. Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Russia are expected to register positive growth as well," said Jack Sukhija, President of the Travel & Tourism Association of Goa.

Sancoale Comunidade to move SC to reclaim Zuari land

Team Herald

VASCO: The Sancoale Comunidade will move Supreme Court to reclaim land parcels allocated to Zuari Agro Chemicals, citing long-pending dues and encroachment issues.

At a press conference in Vasco, former Chicalim Sarpanch Pratap Mardolkar and Jayesh Fadte voiced their concern about illegal encroachments and stressed the need to recover rightful revenue from the land. They also revealed plans to utilise some of the reclaimed land for pay parking facilities to generate funds.

The Comunidade emphasized its commitment to preserving its heritage and ensuring the fair use of its assets. They called on authorities to support their efforts in addressing these long-standing grievances.

Mardolkar recalled that the then Chief Minister late Bhausaheb Bhandodkar had leased Comunidade land measuring 50,000 lakh square metres to Zuari Agro Chemical to set up an industry and create jobs for Goan youth at Zuarinagar. The land was leased to the company at a meagre 25 paise per square metre.

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Police's masterful explanation: No mastermind in job scam

Opposition slams police briefing as 'scripted'; officers say case has no political links and there's no need for SIT

Team Herald

PANJIM: Even as the cash-for-jobs scam throws up more names with links to the BJP government, the police top brass on Saturday held a press conference where they tried to please their masters by saying that no political connections had come to light in the investigation so far.

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South Goa SP Sunita Sawant, DGP Alok Kumar and North Goa SP Akshat Kaushal at Saturday's press conference

“Never ever have Goa Police stooped to such low level to prove that they are singing tunes of His Masters Voice... Do you have some spine and independence? Your body language shows what scripted PC is all about. You are answerable to Goans, not your political bosses”

– Amit Palekar, AAP Goa chief

“I am shouting from rooftops that a judicial inquiry should find out if jobs were given on merits or based on other considerations. Then only can charges of the Prevention of Corruption Act be applied”

– Trajano D'Mello, political commentator

Ministers in Sawant Cabinet feel hot under the collar

Team Herald

PANJIM: With 23 arrests and counting in the massive cash-for-jobs scam, pressure is mounting on several ministers in Chief Minister Pramod Sawant's Cabinet as the scandal deepens.

Agriculture Minister Ravi Naik, Revenue Minister Atanasio Monserrate and Power minister Ramkrishna Sudin Dhavalikar have been compelled to comment in the light of increasing media scrutiny.

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RAGING CHAOS: People escape as smoke and flames billow out of vehicles which were set on fire during demonstrations after three bodies were recovered in Imphal, on Saturday

Manipur: Protesters target homes of ministers, MLAs

Curfew imposed in Imphal, internet suspended in several districts

PTI, IMPHAL: Protesters targeted the residences of three Manipur ministers and six MLAs on Saturday as part of their demonstrations across districts over the killing of three persons,

prompting the government to impose curfew in Imphal valley and suspend internet services in parts of the northeastern state, officials said.

They ransacked the houses of three of six

legislators and set their properties on fire, while security forces fired tear gas shells to disperse protesters in different parts of Imphal.

The curfew was imposed for an indefinite period

in Imphal East and West, Bishnupur, Thoubal and Kakching districts of Imphal valley "due to developing law and order situation", they said.

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LAST DAY
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SHOPPING FESTIVAL
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TIME: 10.30am To 9.00 pm

All are cordially invited

AN EVENING WITH JESUS
IN ASSOCIATION WITH OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH, AMBAULIM
Praise and worship Led by Fr. Augustine Valloeran VC
'A Time to be with Jesus,
Reflect with Jesus,
Pray with Jesus, Sing with Jesus'

23rd NOV. 2024 **5.30 pm (sharp) to 8.30 pm** **at EDEN**
Ambaulim, Quepem - Goa.

Scan for event location

Ambaulim, Quepem - Goa.