

QR code relief for tourists 'harassed' by Goa traffic cops

Murari.Shetye
@timesofindia.com

Panaji: Tourists coming to Goa with vehicles or commuting with rented cars or bikes will not have to show their documents for traffic violations repeatedly. An app developed during the Goa Police Hackathon 2024 will soon be implemented in the state. This app will generate a QR code if there are no traffic violations.

If the tourist is stopped again at a different location, they can show the QR code to police personnel to indicate that they were already checked. Once the QR code is scanned, police personnel will

The app was one of the solutions presented by students who took part in the hackathon organised by Goa police



know that the tourist possesses all the relevant documents, and they will be allowed to proceed without further checks.

Recently, MLAs had raised the issue of tourists being harassed by police at every nook and corner of the state to check documents of vehicles and licences, and it should be avoided in a tourist state.

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Over 450 from 22 institutions took part in hackathon

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Hackathon has come out with the solution to multiple traffic checks, and it will be soon implemented in the state," SP (Crime) Rahul Gupta told TOL.

During the hackathon prize distribution function at police headquarters, here, three standout projects were showcased, highlighting the innovative solutions developed during the event.

The AI/ML system for detecting fraudulent online platforms by Team MAHADEVs from BITS Pilani Goa Campus demonstrated advanced techniques to identify and categorise deceptive websites.

Team NEURO FLEXBOIS from BITS Pilani Goa Campus presented an AI-based tool to analyse religious preaching for radical content, offering a sophisticated solution for monitoring potential threats.

Additionally, Team ALTF4 from Padre Conceição College of Engineering showcased a mobile application for traffic violation checks.

DGP Alok Kumar said, "This hackathon is a testament to the Prime Minister's vision, enabling young innovators to create transformative tools that can revolutionise policing across India."

With 128 teams registering—up from 58 teams in 2022—the hackathon has an impressive rise in participation. Over 450 participants from 22 institutions, including IITs, NITs, BITS and GEC, submitted 102 abstracts, with 32 teams advancing to the final round. The event also showcased its commitment to diversity, with 33 female participants contributing to the competition.

The hackathon focused on three categories of challenges — national security, improving internal efficiency of police, and enhancing public interface. Participants tackled eight pressing problems, with solutions ranging from AI-based fraud detection systems to mobile applications for real-time parking space tracking.

The hackathon, held in Sep at BITS Pilani Goa, provided a platform for young minds to drive transformative change in law enforcement by developing innovative solutions to modern policing challenges.

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