

Soon, app for traffic rule violation checks

Staff Reporter

Panaji

In some relief for tourists visiting the state, Goa police will soon start using a mobile application that will help ascertain if a vehicle was stopped for police checks with regard to traffic violation or for any other purpose.

A senior police officer said this will put to rest allegations against police, especially traffic police, that

tourists using rent-a-bike/car or non-Goa registered vehicles are harassed by being stopped frequently.

The application is the outcome of the recently held 'Goa Police Hackathon 2024' in collaboration with BITS Pilani, Goa. Apart from this application, there are seven more that include mobile applications and artificial intelligence (AI)-based tools developed by students.

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These tools and apps are aimed at addressing real-world challenges faced by law enforcement agencies.

However, at the moment, police will only use the 'Mobile Application for Traffic Violation Checks,' while other applications and AI tools will be taken up in due course of time.

Emphasising the critical role of such initiatives in fostering innovation and collaboration, Superintendent of Police Cyber crime, Rahul Gupta said the hackathon focussed 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," said Gupta.

Over 450 participants from 22 institutions, including IITs, NITs, BITS and GEC, submitted 102

abstracts, with 32 teams advancing to the final round.

The hackathon was held from September 27 to 29 at BITS Pilani, Goa. On Thursday, prizes were distributed to the teams during an event held at the police headquarters in Panaji.

Director General of Police (DGP) Alok Kumar, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Omvir Singh, Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Ajay Sharma and others were present on the occasion.

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."

Praising the participants, Singh said, "The technical creativity displayed here highlights the immense potential for technology to reshape the future of law enforcement. Goa police is committed to supporting such initiatives that bridge technology with policing."

Winners were awarded trophies and certificates during the function. The winners include NIT, Goa for social media monitoring tool (team name: Webstart); BITS Pilani, Goa for AI/ML system for detecting fraudulent online platforms (team name: Mahadevs); BITS Pilani, Goa for AI-based tool to analyse religious preaching for radical content (team name: Neuro Flexbois); BITS Pilani, Goa for AI-based tool to assist visitors at police stations

(team name: Bits Bytes); Padre Conceição College of Engineering for mobile application for traffic violation checks (team name: ALT F4); BITS Pilani, Goa for mobile app for real-time parking space information (team name: Ring Works); Padre Conceição College of Engineering for mobile app to locate nearest CCTV cameras for investigators (team name: 3O1S) and NIT, Goa for e-bandobast application (team name: The Team).