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Forget your car, experience NoMoZo tomorrow in Panaji

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A stretch of the road is being designated as no-motor zone

The capital city of Panaji is all set to witness a unique citizen's initiative called NoMoZo (Non Motorized Zone), which will make its debut on Sunday between 9 a.m. and noon on a stretch of road between Kala Academy and 2 Signal Training Centre on the outskirts of the city.

A non-motorized zone is a designated length of the road where adults, children, senior citizens, and differently-abled people can freely walk, cycle, jog, skate, exercise, play, explore, and meet fellow citizens.

Ideated by an enthusiastic group of citizens called Aamchi Panaji working as a team with Corporation of the City of Panaji, it seeks to address the complex issue of traffic congestion and how all city streets are piling up with a burgeoning number of private cars and other vehicles. It seeks to educate citizens that the solution was not in widening roads to accommodate more cars but to replace every 30 cars with a city bus, dedicated cycle lanes and pedestrian paths.

Freeing the streets of private vehicles, NoMoZo will allow people to move freely, decrease vehicular congestion, lower pollution caused by emissions, improve health, and sustain urban mobility.

Many groups, including artists, have supported the initiative and will be participating at NoMoZo. The Sunday Evening Quiz Club will have a quiz session, Book Worm Children's Library will conduct a treasure hunt, book reading session, and an interesting art session with Harshada Kerkar. All these activities have been planned on the side lanes parallel to the main thoroughfare which will be exclusively used by pedestrians, cyclists and skaters.

To experience a car-free street, simply walk or cycle to the Kala Academy Junction on DB Marg. For residents or visitors from the outskirts of the city or outside, you could park at the Parade Grounds, Kala Academy parking lot or the Betim Ferry Point. Citizen volunteers and supporters of this initiative will be working as a team with the Traffic Cell Panaji to help diversions in traffic between 2 Signal Training Junction and the Kala Academy junction. So shop and wrap up all your personal chores early Sunday morning and keep your date with NoMoZo, said a spokesperson of the initiative here on Friday.

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