



ISMC 2026

10th International Soft Matter Conference

May 25-29th, 2026

Venue: BITS-Pilani K K Birla Goa campus

How to reach us

Our location: The BITS-Goa campus is located on a highway (NH 17B bypass road), linking Vasco da Gama city and Dabolim airport (GOI) with the rest of Goa. It is at a considerable distance from any residential/commercial area. The nearest city is Vasco da Gama (10 km) while the nearest major hub in the north is Panjim (Panaji) (25 km) and in the south is Margao (Madgaon) (21 km).

Note: Most buses to Vasco and Dabolim take an older highway and will not come to BITS. So, avoid taking regular buses to BITS. Also note that walking on the highway is not recommended.

To reach the BITS campus, the following options are available from different points:

1. From Margao railway station (MAO), (Konkan Railway / South Western Railway):

There are prepaid taxi booths available in front of the railway station. Taxi fare to BITS will be approx. Rs. 700-900. The distance to BITS is about 24 km. **Avoid the taxi drivers who will be approaching at the platform as well as at the entrance.** Prepaid taxi service is not available at the back side of the railway station.

2. From Vasco-da-Gama railway station (VSG), (South Western Railway):

The distance to BITS is approx. 10 km. Taxi-fare to BITS will be approx. Rs. 400-500. One can avail taxi service from the prepaid taxi counters available in front of the railway station. Avoid the taxi drivers who approach at the platform or at the entrance.

3. From Dabolim airport (GOI):

The distance to BITS is 5 km. There are prepaid taxi counters available in front of the airport. The taxi fare is in the range of Rs. 400-500.

4. From MOPA airport (GOX): The distance to BITS is 60 km. There are prepaid taxi counters available at the exit terminals. The taxi fare is in the range of. Rs. 2000-2400.

5. From Kadamba bus stand Panjim (North Goa):

One has to hire a taxi from here. Taxi services will be available near the bus stand. There are non-stop buses that connect Panjim and Vasco-Da-Gama. From Vasco-Da-Gama one can hire a rickshaw taxi (auto) which will charge approximately Rs 150. BITS from Vasco is 10 km away.

6. From Kadamba bus stand Margao (South Goa):

The distance to BITS is 19 km. One will get a rickshaw-taxi (auto) or car taxi from the Kadamba bus stand.

Modes of Transport and approximate costs

1. **Buses:** There is a bus-stop outside (and left) of the main gate of the BITS-Goa campus. However buses are infrequent, and regular buses will not go via BITS.
2. **Taxis:** The best way to get a taxi is to inform your hotel and they will arrange it at a reasonable price. Remember that the normal taxi rates in Goa are significantly higher than many other places in India. Stopping a running taxi, especially on the highway, is difficult. There is a taxi stand outside the BITS main gate. Taxis are either yellow-black or white in color.
Note: Due to the construction of a new flyover on the highway, the taxis will take some diversions from the highway while coming to BITS from Vasco/ Dabolim side.
3. **App-based cab services:** Uber and Ola services are absent in Goa. GoaMiles app is available, which offers relatively cheaper prices than standard taxis, but is often unreliable. Additionally, it is much more difficult to get an app-cab to go from the BITS campus to a designated destination, than to come from one of the main cities to the BITS campus. GoaMiles is more reliable in major hubs like Panjim and Margao.
4. **Rental cars/bikes:** Rental cars and bikes are available in Goa. With rental bikes we strongly suggest precaution on the highways. There have been recent accidents because of bike speeding on the highways. Also remember that due to the construction of a new flyover, parts of the highway have become more constricted and difficult for two-wheelers.
5. **Rickshaw-taxi(auto):** Rickshaw-taxis are available from Kadamba bus stand Margao, Kadamba bus stand Panjim, and Vasco (near KTC bus-stand). Ensure you confirm the fare with the driver before starting the journey.

6. **Transport arranged by ISMC:** Transport (hotel-BITS and BITS-hotel once a day only by bus) for visitors booking their hotels through DPSC hospitality (official ISMC 2026 hospitality partner) will be provided at no extra cost. Further information regarding this will be made available to the participants.
7. **Buggies:** The distance from the BITS-Goa campus main gate to the conference venue is approx. 800 m. A buggy will be available for reaching the conference venue, but this is subject to availability in high demand situations.

Approximate Travel Fare From Vasco

- By Bus - Rs 10/- (Till MES junction, which is about 1.5 km from BITS campus)
- By Taxi - Rs 400-500/-
- By Auto-Rickshaw - Rs 200/-

Travel From Margao

- By Bus - Rs 30/- Rs. 40 for Non-stop
- By Taxi - Rs 700-900/-
- By Auto-Rickshaw ~Rs 400/-500/-

Travel From Panaji

- By Bus - Rs 30/- There is no direct bus. One has to walk around 1.5 km to the nearest bus stop.
- By Taxi ~Rs 800/-1500/- (depending on the vehicle size)
- By Auto-Rickshaw - Rs 500/-

Travel From Dabolim Airport

- By Taxi - Rs 400-500/-

Note: Above rates are approximate rates only. The rates may vary according to the private transport agencies. Moreover, the above rates are to give you a rough idea and organizers are not responsible for any complaints.

General Instructions about Goa

1. Goa is generally a safe place. As with any popular tourist and party destinations, standard precautions follow. You can check the Goa Tourism Department (GTDC) website for detailed travel safety information:
(<https://goa-tourism.com/media-room/travel-safety/>).
 2. We strongly recommend bringing an umbrella, both for sun/rain during this period. There is a possibility of occasional rain/thunderstorms near the end of May. Watch out for yellow/red alerts for weather if you are staying outside the campus. Inside the campus there are covered pathways (near D (Men's) and C (Women's) hostels) which can be used during rain to walk from the hostels to the conference venue.
 3. Due to moderate-high temperatures and humidity near the end of May, visitors are advised to stay hydrated, wear protective clothing, and avoid being exposed to the sun during peak sun hours.
 4. Be cautious of unauthorized agents organizing accommodations, transport or tours.
 5. UPI based payments are widely used in Goa. If UPI is not available on your phone, we recommend carrying a reasonable amount of cash, because credit cards may not work everywhere, especially with regard to obtaining transportation.
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