

# GOMANT

beaches and beyond



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## Launch of Tourism Projects, Hot Air Balloon and Amphibious Vehicles



The **Hot Air Balloon and Amphibious Vessel**, in addition to new tourism projects were inaugurated in Goa at the hands of Shri. Laxmikant Parsekar, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa, in the distinguished presence of Shri. Dilip Parulekar, Hon'ble Tourism Minister of Goa, Shri. Nilesh Cabral, Chairman GTDC and other dignitaries.

The Hot Air Balloon venture plans to cover the entire State of Goa in the months to come. This adventure project will be operated by Camping Retreats of India Pvt. Ltd, a Delhi based agency.

The Cameroon 180 will be part of the **hot air balloon** fleet that will be in operation in Goa taking tourists atop Goa's picturesque landscaping and offering spectacular aerial displays of the state's tourism sites. This was followed by the unveiling of the first of its kind in India for civilian use, **Amphibious Vessels**. This new

venture is all set to give tourists a thrilling experience in Goa's inland waterways, with tours to the State's backwaters, crocodile dandies, bird watching trips and more. The 33-seater passenger vessels can operate both on land and sea and will operate throughout Goa in over seven routes across five talukas. The vessels are manufactured in Goa by Amphibious Design India.

Shri. Parsekar thereafter inaugurated **Paryatan Bhavan** at Patto, which houses offices of the Goa Tourism Department and Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC).

Chief Minister Shri. Parsekar and Tourism Minister Shri. Parulekar inaugurated various other tourism projects which included the Mega Tourism Circuit Development pathway from O-Coqueiro Circle to Amrekarnath Temple, Mega Tourism Circuit Development and Beautification along Saligao-Mapusa Road, and Beautification of Saligao Traffic Island.



## Sea Planes



Goa Tourism witnessed the successful maiden test flight of the Seaplane recently. The Seaplane landed in River

Mandovi on 23rd May amidst much excitement and fan-fair.

The event, which marks the beginning of a milestone for Government of Goa, was presided by Shri. Dilip Parulekar, the Hon'ble Minister of Tourism, Government of Goa and Shri.

Nilesh Cabral, MLA & Chairman – GTDC Ltd. Other distinguished guests present included, Shri. Ameya Abhyankar – Director of Tourism, Shri. Nikhil Desai – MD, Goa Tourism Development Corporation.

The aircraft used for the trial run was a nine-seater Cessna which flew from Dabolim airport to Mandovi jetty. Goa Tourism had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Maritime Energy Heli AIR Services Pvt. Ltd. (MEHAIR) to launch Seaplane services in Goa in 2012. The promoters have identified several places to fly the seaplane; from Vasco to Dona Paula, to Coco beach (Nerul), Miramar and the Siolim river.

## White Water Rafting

The fourth edition of white water rafting has begun in Goa from June 24, 2015. The stage is set for the much awaited monsoon season adventure activity on river Mhadei!

The river rafting facility will be available till October 2015, subject to availability of rapids and adequate water currents, and suitable weather conditions. There will be two trips beginning at 10.30 am and 2.30 pm every day. The program is open to both adults and children above 10 years.

The river rafting will commence from Ustem village and will end at Sonal village in Sattari taluka covering a distance of approx ten kilometers in 90 minutes. This facility is operational this year on a fee of Rs. 1800/- per head (ex-Valpoi).





## Sao Joao Festival



One of the major draws of Goa for tourists during the monsoon season, the Sao Joao festival was celebrated with grandeur and gaiety onboard the Santa Monica cruise boat, Panjim by Goa

Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC). The GTDC received an overwhelming response for the Sao Joao celebrations on board the Santa Monica.

The occasion was marked by cultural programmes such as live Goan song and dance performances, along with traditional Goan cuisine and several exciting games and competitions for all ages.

As per tradition, this festival witness's young man jump into wells and then distributing fruits among villagers wearing 'kopel'-crowns made of leaves, which is a real treat to watch.

GTDC is now preparing to celebrate the annual Bonderam festival on the Island of Divar in August. The 'Bonderam' is a festival of flags and the colourful event is a treat for tourists.

## Dubai – Arabian Travel Mart

Goa Tourism participated in the Arabian Travel Mart at Dubai in May. The delegation comprised of officials from the department which included the Director Mr. Ameya Abhyankar, Deputy General Manager, GTDC, Gavin Dias and others. Prominent hoteliers and travel and tour operators of Goa participated in the event. It was held from 4th May to 7th May 2015. The ATM - Dubai is a popular annual travel and tourism event designed to unlock the business potential within the Middle East for inbound and outbound tourism professionals. Goa tourism put up an impressive stall showcasing some of its latest initiatives to the Middle East. Promotion of monsoon tourism along with Wellness and Yoga tourism was one of the major highlight at the event. A Goa evening was organized showcasing Goa's rich and diverse culture and cuisine.



## Poland Road Show



Goa tourism organized a road show on 12th May at Warsaw, Poland. This road show received very good response from travel and tour operators in that region. several B2Bs and

tie-ups were panned during this road show and a lot of interest

was generated from this region on Goa Tourism's on-going initiatives and the newer ones. The ambassador of India to the republic of Poland his excellency, Mr. Ajay Bisaria hosted a dinner for the Goa delegation attended by the Minister of tourism, Mr. Dilip Parulekar, Director of Tourism, Mr. Ameya Abhyankar, B2B travel operators, officials of India tourism and the Indian Embassy. During this event, there was an interaction with top travel agents from Poland.

## Best Value Destination Award

Goa attracts tourists from all over the world. Some come here to let their hair down at the beaches, others to sample some delicious cuisine and some others who just want to soak in the 'susegaad' vibe of the state. But what all tourists seem to find in common is that they take back a lot more than just memories when they return. Perhaps this is why Goa has been chosen as 'Best Value Destination (India)' by the Lonely Planet Magazine

India Travel Awards, which were held on June 22 in Mumbai. The awards felicitated 32 of India's favourite experiences.

For the fourth year running, Lonely Planet Magazine India called upon the country's discerning travellers to choose their favourite destinations and hotels. Nominations for the awards were shortlisted by a panel of travel experts and professionals, and LPMI readers voted both online and in the magazine.

## Green Warriors Initiative

Comprehensive Beach Cleaning Initiative has been introduced by Goa Tourism since September 2014, This comprehensive beach cleaning initiative is proposed to be strengthened further with a new initiative called **"Green Warriors"**. Green Warriors is an initiative being introduced under the Swachh Bharat campaign. The objective is to create awareness and sensitization of tourists for inculcating discipline on use of dustbins and against littering

of waste on the beaches. It is proposed to crack the whip against habitual offenders who fail to pay heed to the Green Warriors and continue littering on the beach instead of using the litter bins. Introduction of Incentives for tourists who voluntarily come forward and deposit waste at kiosks proposed to be set up along the beach stretches. This initiative by Goa Tourism will maintain and keep Goa as beautiful as ever.



## Top tweets

### Photo of the month



Goa Tourism witnesses the successful maiden test flight of the Seaplane service on the Mandovi River

**Goa Rocks** (@thegoarocks) Follow  
 Yaaay: The @TourismGoa finally allows #Goa's 1st Amphibian #Seaplane landing in River Mandovi [Igoo.gl/fb/cHvVXb](http://goo.gl/fb/cHvVXb)

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