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Year Ending News

New Director appointed for Tourism Dept - an interview with him



Mr. Sanjeev C. Gauns Dessai
Director of Tourism

Mr. Sanjeev C. Gauns Dessai has taken over as the new Director of the Department of Tourism with effect from December 15.

Mr. Dessai will oversee the department's role in the maintenance of the State's beach cleanliness, beach safety, tourist policing, master plan and all other tourism policies. Mr. Dessai belongs to the Goa Civil Service cadre and was the Deputy Collector (Revenue), North Goa, before his promotion to (Grade I) Senior Scale and appointment as the new Director of Tourism.

Mr. Dessai was promoted to Sr. scale of the GCS on November 27, 2015. He was inducted in the GCS Jr. Scale in

2004 and was the Deputy Collector (Revenue), South Goa as well.

Mr. Dessai said on the appointment, "I am happy to take up this new assignment and I am looking forward to reviewing and strengthening all the necessary measures and steps needed to make Goa a top tourist destination. It will be my endeavor to ensure safety and security of tourists, in addition to providing better facilities, activities and give tourism a boost that will also benefit the State's economy and give local Goans engaged in this industry, directly or indirectly, added benefits."

The year 2015 ended on a splendid note for Goa as the Electronic Tourist Visa (ETV) facility saw a huge surge. A total of 49,626 ETVs were issued to foreign tourists at the Goa airport Dabolim cumulative from the time the ETV regime began issue from the Goa airport on December 4, 2014. Out of a total of 113 countries on the ETV list, foreign nationals from as many as 65 countries availed of this facility here in Goa.

On top of the list of beneficiaries was Russia with 25,770 ETV issued followed by UK at 11,748 and Ukraine 6,692.

Foreign nationals from other countries namely Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Norway, Sweden and USA also availed of the ETV facility in a big way during the year. Goa is expecting to get more international tourists to avail of the ETV facility. The line-up of activities, events,

facilities in the State for tourists for 2016 is expected to draw more international footfalls and the Goa airport is also ensuring that the ETV facility is provided in a smooth and expeditious manner.





Achievements in Nov-Dec 2015

- Goa was featured in the Atlas Choices' 10 of the Best Winter Sun Locations of the World.
- Goa was rated as the 'Most Popular' Domestic Destination this Winter' by the Winter Vacation Value Report released by Trip Advisor.
- Goa was voted 'Favourite Leisure Destination - India' at the Readers' Travel Awards organized by Condé Nast Traveller India. (pic)
- Goa Tourism's campaign to promote Goa as the perfect Wedding Destination bagged Gold in the Public Sector category at the India PR & Corporate Communications Awards (IPRCCA) 2015. The campaign was conceptualized by Adfactors PR, who projected Goa as the perfect wedding destination through aggressive campaigns, nationally and internationally.



Other Highlights of Nov-Dec 2015

Goa Tourism launches Registration Center at the South Goa Collectorate



The Department of Tourism, Government of Goa opened a Registration Facilitation Centre at the Collectorate South Goa, Mathany Saldanha Administrative Complex to facilitate issue of e-registration certificates for tourism trades and services for stakeholders from South Goa.

The RFC was inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister for Tourism, Mr. Dilip Paarulekar in the presence of Hon'ble Chairman of GTDC, Mr. Nilesh Cabral, Director of Tourism, Mr. Sanjeev C Gauns Dessai and others.



GTDC sponsors holiday for 32 cancer affected children

Thirty two children undergoing treatment for cancer at the Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai were given a GTDC sponsored holiday in Goa. The children visited various tourist spots, enjoyed a cruise boat ride and were provided lodging at boarding by GTDC during their three-day stay.



Watch Out for ... Goa Tourism's theme Calendar for 2016.

Goa Tourism's theme calendar for 2016 Kenna Spicy, Kenna Sweet is all set to add a new flavor to the new year. The calendar is being designed to present the top 12 culinary wonders which includes an exotic mix of coastal specialties.

The calendar will showcase the best of Goan cuisine with a blend of Indian and Western culture.

Vicky Ratnani - India's distinguished chef has also joined hands with Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC) to promote exquisite Goan cuisine. Chef Ratnani's signature dish is also being featured in GTDC's Calendar for 2016 and will be the first of the 12 signature delicacies.



Prawns with fenji and goan spices



New Year Greetings from Tourism Captains



Mr. Dilip Parulekar
Minister for Tourism

I take this opportunity to wish one and all a very Happy New Year 2016.

The year 2015 was one filled with new tourism initiatives in the segment of adventure and leisure tourism. We launched the Hot Air Balloon, Seaplanes, Amphibious vessels, and we are setting the stage for full fledged operations of all these new initiatives in the year 2016 commencing from January itself. This is just the beginning. Tourists visiting Goa will be further enthralled by other new initiatives such as ropeways, bungee jumping, horse riding trails, scuba diving and more. In the year 2016, we will also ensure that tourism infrastructure is further augmented and we have various tourism amenities set up like toilets, changing rooms, locker facilities on the beaches. Top priority will also be given to safety and security of tourists, while also ensuring clean beaches, proper accesses to tourist spots, better illumination and beautification of tourism locations and structures. We have also launched Registration Facilitation Centers (RFCs) for North Goa and South Goa to facilitate e-registration of tourism trades and services. Many more such facilities will be added on to the tourism bouquet in 2016. I wish everyone a very Happy and Prosperous New Year 2016 and appeal to young and enterprising Goans to come forward and assist Goa Tourism in serving as its ambassadors.



Mr. Nilesh Cabral
Chairman of Goa Tourism
Development Corporation

The Goa Tourism Development Corporation has had a very successful year 2015. From launching new tourism services, to infrastructure projects through the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) Cell and other tourism offerings, the GTDC machinery has been working round the clock to give Goa Tourism a new perspective. As the year 2016 draws to a close, the new year 2016 is also going to be filled with lots of surprises for its visitors to the State. I am optimistic that all the tourism products unveiled in 2016 and the existing ones will give tourists a memorable holiday and make Goa the favourite holiday destination for domestic and international tourists. We bagged several awards in 2015 and I am confident that we will continue to do so in 2016. Our Tourism Master Plan will also be unveiled and our tourism properties will be given new dimension. Goa Tourism Development Corporation promises to keep 2016 as exciting as entertaining for one and all. We will shortly be launching an all new e-commerce portal and interactive website, an App and a Call Center facility that will ensure that tourists have access to information and all our products and services at the click of a button. This is going to be one of our major highlights for 2016. This new initiative will also help us get feedback from tourists visiting Goa so that we can further improve on any grey areas if any. I wish everyone a bright and prosperous Happy New Year 2016.

In the month of November-December 2015, Goa celebrated various festivals, feasts and events. This includes Diwali with the traditional Narkasur parades, the traditional .Tripurari Boat Festival at Sanquelim and added more fervor to the Feast of the Immaculate Conception by illuminating the Panjim Church. Here are glimpses of Goa during Nov-Dec 2015.



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