

# GOMANT

beaches and beyond

# GOA

A Goa Tourism  
Newsletter

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## News in Brief

### GTDC's enthralling Mhadei river rafting commences



GTDC commenced its seasonal White Water Rafting in River Mhadei drawing large groups of tourists from far and wide. With the monsoons in full gusto, two trips of white water rafting are being conducted daily. Both, Deputy Chief Minister & Tourism Minister, Mr. Manohar Ajaonkar and Chairman of GTDC, Mr. Dayanand Sopte welcomed tourists to Goa to enjoy white water rafting and experience the thrills of the adventure activity during the three months of the monsoon season in the State.

### Selaulim garden to be developed into Botanical garden and hinterland tourism attraction

Goa Tourism Development Corporation is all set to develop the Selaulim Dam property as a top hinterland tourism attraction on the lines of the famous Mysore Brindavan Gardens.

The unique project was given the green signal by the GTDC board and project consultant, Pune based, M/s Fourth Dimension Architects Private Ltd. is in the final stages of designing and planning the components to be set up within the project.

The project is estimated to cost Rs. 50 crore and the GTDC is proposing to tap the funds under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme of the the Union Ministry for Tourism.



### Goa Tourism declares war on plastic



The Goa Tourism Development Corporation announced the elimination of plastic bottles/cups/straws starting this practice from its headquarters to its hotels (GTDC Residencies) across the State.

This decision was taken at a GTDC Board meeting where henceforth water, tea, coffee etc will be served in cups of paper or glass. Water dispensers, water filters will be installed at the tourism head office and residencies. Water will be served in metal or glass bottles which will be re-fillable.

## State Tourism Ministers Conference: Goa urges Union Tourism Ministry to ease out visa processes for tourists, App to be launched for tourists



Goa Tourism has requested the Union Tourism Ministry for easing of e- tourist visa processes at the Goa International Airport, Dabolim, under the E-Tourist Visa Facility for foreign nationals opting for Goa as the Port of Arrival.

Speaking at the National Conference for State Tourism Ministers held in the national capital, Mr. Dayanand Sopte, Chairman of GTDC, who led the Goa delegation, also updated the Union Ministry regarding Goa's plans for launching of a Goa Tourism App for tourists which will serve as a platform for information, grievance redressal, bookings etc.

During the day-long conference, the Goa Tourism delegation participated in various workshops, deliberations and presented reports on various aspects concerning tourism and infrastructure development in the State.

Mr. Sopte also urged the Union Ministry for Tourism to sanction funds for development of

Old Goa churches under PRASHAD SCEHME and requested Director General - ASI, Mrs. Usha Sharma to ensure that ASI grants timely permissions to all projects so that all facilities for pilgrims and tourists can be created through central assistance. Goa Tourism also briefed delegates about steps taken in the field of adventure tourism where Goa is emerging as a national leader. The Hon'ble Minister of State for Tourism and Culture, Mr. Prahlad Singh Patel addressed the Conference. The Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India, Mr. Yogendra Tripathi also spoke. This was followed by the Sadhbhavana Diwas Pledge taken by all state dignitaries.

A Hindi version of Incredible India website was launched by the Hon'ble Minister of State for Tourism and Culture, Mr. Patel who thereafter handed over MoUs and Lols signed under the Adopt a Heritage Program.

## Mayem Lake beautification and upgradation works inaugurated by Hon'ble CM of Goa, Dr. Pramod Sawant



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa, Dr. Pramod Sawant inaugurated beautification and up-gradation works undertaken at Mayem Lake in the presence of a host of dignitaries and other officials.

The Rs.16 crore beautification and upgradation works undertaken at Mayem Lake has added new tourism tools and facilities for the benefit of visiting tourists.

Mayem Lake is a popular tourism destination of Goa. The lake is located in the hinterlands at the foothills of Western Ghats near Bicholim Town which is at a distance of 35 Kms from Panaji. Mayem Lake is known for the scenic beauty, leisure activities, as a picnic spot, for boating and photography etc. The works undertaken include development of approach road and parking area for around 57 cars, 40 two wheelers and 10 tourist buses with a 12m wide approach road and grand new entrance.

A proper entrance, ticketing booth and tourist information office has been provided at the entrance for the guidance and benefit of the tourists. A smooth 2m wide walkway has been created with gradient slope of 1:15 for free movement of tourists including the differently-abled. There is a natural trail, where people can feel and experience the lake view and the natural beauty. The existing lake retaining wall and parapet has also been strengthened.

Picnic spots numbering 12 of different capacity have also been developed. A play area for children with a multiunit, swings,

sew saw, slopes etc. adds attraction at Mayem Lake. An air-conditioned mirror maze along the pathway for a hilarious experience including funny mirrors is sure to draw huge crowds. A duck house with 9 pairs of ducks have been provided for entertainment of children. Also, an amphitheatre with a capacity for 120 people which can be increased to 200 is provided for showcasing the local folk and cultural dances. Other facilities include a souvenir shop, potter huts to promote local artisans toilet blocks, landscaping, drinking water facility, restaurants etc. As many as 20 new boats and a jetty with a terminal building for queuing purpose and lake side restaurant for leisure dining has been provided. In addition, a small deck for educational fishing has been set up.

Other infrastructure facilities include a separate 160 KVA substation which will cater to all the electrical needs and a 10 KVA UPS as a backup for all computers and networking systems.

Street lighting for pathways and parking lot illumination is also provided. To ensure safety and security of tourists, CCTV cameras are installed, signage are installed for tourist information and hindrance free movement of the tourists. The entire beautification and upgradation works at Mayem Lake has been undertaken by the Project Cell (SPV) of the Goa Tourism Development Corporation Ltd. The project consultants are M/s Fourth Dimension Architect Pvt Ltd and contractor, M/s. Bagkiya Constructions Pvt Ltd. The total project area developed is 13,333.00 sq. m.

## Curtain unveiled on mega preparations for GITM 2019 to be held in Goa from October 23-25.

The Goa International Travel Mart (GITM) will be held from October 23rd to 25th 2019, at Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukerjee Stadium at Taleigao. This prestigious B2B event promises to bring together travel companies, hoteliers, Eco Tourism, Adventure, Wildlife, Nightlife, Event Managers, Wedding Planners Wellness and other leisure enterprises under one roof to showcase the tourism investment potential in the state.

Announcing plans and preparations for the event, Mr. J. Ashok Kumar, Secretary for Tourism, Govt. of Goa said "We are very happy that Goa Tourism is organizing the third edition of GITM in October this year. The first two editions in 2011 and 2014 had received a good response then and this year the event promises to be bigger and better. When the entire global economy is focused on tourism as a key industry and tourists' thirst to explore and experience continues to grow, events like GITM serve as an ideal platform for stakeholders to engage in dialogue, business opportunities to improve, innovate and initiate. I wish GITM 2019 the very best with the assistance and co-operation of all tourism stakeholders."

This year's GITM is on a larger scale than the previous year as it is expected that over 125 international buyers from USA, UK, France, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Scandinavian, Baltic's, CIS, Australia, New Zealand, Croatia, Bulgaria, Israel,

Jordan, UAE, Middle East, Italy, Czech Republic, Russia, Poland, Norway, Finland, Denmark, Sweden, Malaysia; will fly down to take part in the event. The event is also highly regarded on the domestic front with over 150 buyers confirming their participation. GITM is also well supported by renowned associations in the industry like TTAG, TAAI, TAFI, ADYOI, ATTOI and IATO.

In attendance will also feature International media, around 25 Bloggers as well as around 35 Domestic media from travel trade to cover the event.

The main aim behind GITM 2019 is to serve as a platform for face-to-face networking among travel trade, hoteliers and other stakeholders from Goa with leading travel agents and operators from India and abroad. GITM will also reach out to Trade Associations/National Travel Organizations, Airlines, Travel Agents and Tour Operators, Hotels and Resorts, Adventure Tour Operators, Spice Plantations etc.

A special Goa Pavilion will be created to showcase festivals and nightlife, beaches, heritage trails, UNESCO Heritage sites, Wildlife, Medical tourism, Monsoon tourism, MICE, Wedding Destination, Religious Tourism, Spice Farms and Adventure, Elements like promotion and conservation of heritage, arts, crafts, endorsement of hinterland tourism, exhibiting the state's rich culture and heritage will also be incorporated.

**WELCOME**  
TO THE GRANDEST B2B NETWORKING EVENT IN GOA.



Mr. Gavin Diaz  
General Manager - GITM

Mr. J. Ashok Kumar  
Tourism Secretary

Mr. J. Ashok Kumar  
Tourism Secretary

## Goa Tourism in association with Jumpin Heights launches Bungee Jumping at Mayem in Goa

The Government of Goa, Department of Tourism and Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC) in association with Jumpin Heights, the Bungee People successfully launched India's second Bungee destination in North Goa at Mayem Lake. The event was graced with the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Dr. Pramod Sawant. Other dignitaries present included the Hon'ble Tourism Minister, Mr. Manohar Ajaonkar, Chairman of GTDC, Mr. Dayanand Sopte, MLA, Mayem Constituency, Mr. Pravin Zantye, Secretary Tourism, Mr. J. Ashok Kumar, Director of Tourism, Mr. Sanjiv Gadkar and other officials from Dept of Tourism & GTDC.



The 55 meters bungee jumping platform stands tall over the gorgeous Mayem lake, in North Goa, about a 45 minute drive from the popular Baga Beach. Adventure sports are gaining traction in India and Goa, as India's favourite travel destination, was a natural choice for the next big adventure zone. Jumpin Heights is owned and run by ex-Army officer, Capt Rahul Nigam, who introduced Bungee jumping in India at Rishikesh in 2010. Over the course of this decade, they have successfully operated over 80,000 jumps in Rishikesh - quite a landmark for adventure tourism in India, and changed the way safety is perceived. The team adheres to Australia and New Zealand Safety Standards for operation of the Bungee Jumps.

The service provider has conducted required feasibility study and other mandatory pre-requisites for starting up of the bungee jumping activity at Mayem. This new adventure tourism initiative comes with no cost or investment for Goa Tourism Development Corporation. The GTDC however is assisting the service provider in obtaining required permissions and will be undertaking promotional activities for bungee Jumping which is being launched for the first time in Goa.

## Glimpses of the function marking the launch of Bungee Jumping and Mayem Lake beautification





## Photo of the month

May  
Caption - You cannot always wait for the perfect time  
Photo Credit - @visharad\_veluzkar



August • Caption - Sights You See  
Photo Credit - @boatcruisesdegoa

## Upcoming events



Ganesh Chaturthi (2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019)



World Tourism Day (27<sup>th</sup> September 2019)



Diwali (27<sup>th</sup> October 2019)

## Best tweets and...

**Annup Sonii** @soniianup

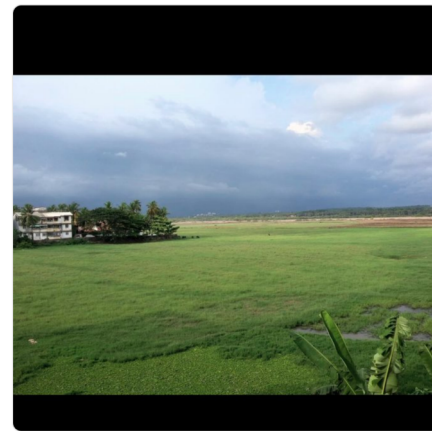
Normally you start things from Monday but as they actors ka koi sunday-monday nahi hota 😊  
..Started shooting today for something new with a new look 😊...  
#Goa  
@Vanita\_ok @OmungKumar @ParaggMehta



11:00 PM - 24 Aug 2019

**Rohini Swamy** @Rohini\_Swamy

The view from my home in Goa. The rains add to the beauty #Goenkar #Goa #AmchemGoem



6:20 AM - 22 Jul 2019 from Bengaluru South, India

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