

TOURISM NEWSLETTER



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CM, Minister Meet Tourism Stakeholders

Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant chaired a high-level meeting with Tourism Minister Shri Rohan A. Khaunte, GTDC Chairman Dr Ganesh Gaonkar, police, industry stakeholders and other officials to address key sectoral issues. Discussions focused on trade license renewals, extended operational hours, infrastructure, connectivity, and ease of doing business, alongside initiatives for MICE, wellness, spiritual, and sports tourism. The government assured timely solutions, stronger inter-departmental coordination, and follow-up mechanisms to enhance Goa's position as a cleaner, greener, and more competitive global tourism destination.

Goa Sees June Tourism Boost

Goa recorded strong domestic and international tourist arrivals in June 2025, usually an off-peak season, driven by the Department of Tourism's campaigns promoting monsoon festivals like São João and Chikhal Kalo. Through digital outreach, local partnerships, and regenerative tourism initiatives, the state highlighted its cultural heritage, boosting bookings across hotels, homestays, and experiences. With upcoming festivals, heritage walks, and wellness-focused #GlowOnArrival promotions, Goa is positioning itself as a year-round destination rooted in culture, community, and sustainability.



Chikhal Kalo 2025 Celebrated with Devotion and Community Spirit in Marcel

Marcel, 7th July 2025: The Department of Tourism, Government of Goa, successfully celebrated Chikhal Kalo 2025 at Shri Devki Krishna Temple, Marcel. The three-day festival, held from 5th to 7th July, beautifully showcased Goa's cultural, spiritual, and culinary traditions while fostering a strong sense of community and devotion. The celebrations began with a cooking competition, devotional kirtans, and bhakti sangeet performances, setting the tone for days filled with heritage and harmony. The following days featured bhajan recitals on Ashadhi Ekadashi and concluded with the much-awaited mud play on 7th July symbolising Lord Krishna's playful childhood and uniting devotees, tourists, and families in joyous celebration.

The final day witnessed the presence of the Hon'ble Minister for Tourism, Government of Goa, Shri Rohan A. Khaunte, who joined devotees in celebrating the festival and lauded the efforts of the community in preserving Goa's living traditions. Traditional games, dahi handi, and spirited community participation added to the vibrancy, while photography and reel competitions captured the festival's essence. Through Chikhal Kalo 2025, the Department of Tourism reinforced its vision of promoting regenerative, inclusive, and culturally rooted tourism that celebrates Goa's heritage and community spirit.



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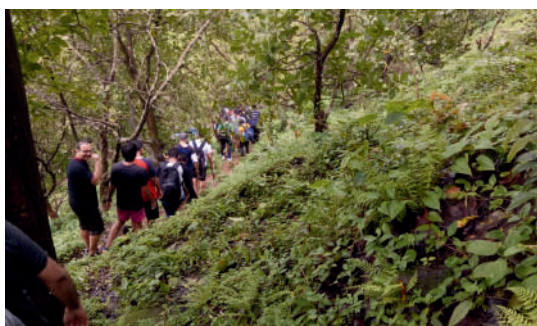


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Goa at TTF Kolkata 2025

Goa Tourism will showcase its evolving identity at TTF Kolkata 2025 from 10th–12th July, highlighting regenerative tourism initiatives that go beyond beaches to include spiritual circuits like Ekadasha Teertha, heritage trails, monsoon and wellness tourism, and community-based experiences. The pavilion will feature interactive elements such as VR displays, QR-based information, and spot holiday bookings, while also drawing cultural parallels with West Bengal. Through its #GlowOnArrival campaign and innovative showcases, Goa aims to position itself as a versatile, sustainable, and immersive year-round destination.



GTDC Monsoon Trek to Charavane

The Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC) will host its next Monsoon Trekking Expedition to Charavane, Sattari, on Sunday, July 13, offering an 8 km trail through forests, streams, and scenic terrain in collaboration with the Forest Department. Transport will be arranged from Margao, Mapusa, and Panaji, with a registration fee of ₹1400 covering travel, meals, and guides. Participants are advised to carry rainwear, trekking shoes, and essentials, while smoking and alcohol are prohibited. Bookings can be made online at www.goa-tourism.com or via GTDC contacts.

Goa Launches Monsoon Rafting

The Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC), in collaboration with Southern River Adventures and Sports Pvt. Ltd., has launched the white-water rafting season on the Mhadei River in Valpoi, offering a 10 km stretch with Grade II–III+ rapids through lush monsoon-fed landscapes. Running June to September with two daily sessions, the activity is guided by certified professionals with full safety gear and facilities. As part of Goa's #GlowOnArrival monsoon campaign and "Goa Beyond Beaches" initiative, the eco-conscious adventure highlights the state's hinterland charm and positions it as a year-round destination. Bookings: www.goarafting.com



Goa Promotes Monsoon Gastronomy

The Department of Tourism, Government of Goa, has announced a gastronomy-led initiative under its #GlowOnArrival monsoon campaign to position the state as a leading food destination. The plan focuses on showcasing authentic Goan cuisine alongside regional and global flavours through curated culinary events that highlight local produce and cross-cultural influences. Part of a broader seasonal promotion running from June to September, the campaign aims to enrich monsoon tourism by combining food, culture, and immersive experiences, further strengthening Goa's image as a regenerative and flavour-rich destination.

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Goa Tourism Shines at TTF Kolkata

Goa Tourism showcased its diverse offerings at TTF Kolkata 2025 with a vibrant pavilion themed around sustainability, cultural immersion, and digital innovation. The pavilion highlighted monsoon-based travel, hinterland trails, spiritual circuits, and immersive local experiences, supported by interactive features like QR guides and VR showcases. Officials engaged with trade professionals and visitors to strengthen partnerships and position Goa as a versatile, responsible, and forward-thinking tourism destination.



Action Against unauthorised tourist-related activities at Mopa

The Department of Tourism, in coordination with Mopa Airport Police, took action against four individuals found engaging in unauthorised tourist-related activities at Manohar International Airport, violating the Goa Registration of Tourist Trade Act, 1982. The move underscores efforts to regulate tourism, ensure smooth passenger movement, and safeguard visitors, with tourists advised to use only registered service providers and report illegal activities.

Goa Tourism Wins Regenerative Tourism Award

Goa Tourism concluded its participation at TTF Kolkata 2025 by receiving the "Best Destination for Regenerative Tourism" award, recognising its focus on sustainable, immersive, and community-driven experiences. The state's pavilion highlighted initiatives such as Goa Beyond Beaches, hinterland trails, the Ekadasha Teertha spiritual circuit, and the Glow On Arrival monsoon campaign, along with interactive VR and digital features. The event drew strong engagement from trade visitors and tourists, reinforcing Goa's position as a forward-looking, culturally rich, and environmentally conscious tourism destination.



Goa Tourism Issues Hospitality Safety Guidelines

The Department of Tourism has directed all hotels, guest houses, and homestays in Goa to implement safeguards for children and women, in line with the Goa Children's Act, 2003, and the POSH Act, 2013. Measures include restricting children's access to rooms and unfiltered content, protecting them from abuse, ensuring a safe workplace for women, establishing Internal Complaints Committees, and providing staff training. Compliance is mandatory to maintain Goa's standing as a safe, responsible, and inclusive tourism destination.

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Goa Tourism at TTF Ahmedabad

Goa Tourism will participate in TTF Ahmedabad 2025 from July 31 to August 2, showcasing the state as a year-round, immersive destination. The pavilion will highlight spiritual tourism, wellness and Ayurveda experiences, adventure and monsoon activities, homestays, community-based initiatives, and Goa's rich cultural calendar including festivals like Sao Joao, Chikhal Kalo, Shigmo, and Carnaval. The event provides an opportunity to engage with travel trade partners, strengthen visibility in key domestic markets, and promote Goa's diverse and sustainable tourism offerings.



Goa Sees Tourist Surge

Goa recorded a record 54.55 lakh tourist arrivals from January to June 2025, with 51.84 lakh domestic and 2.71 lakh international visitors, driven by promotional campaigns, improved connectivity, and diverse offerings beyond beaches. Key attractions included hinterland trails, heritage walks, spiritual and wellness experiences, cultural festivals, and sporting events. Infrastructure upgrades, participation in travel fairs, and the focus on regenerative tourism contributed to sustained growth, positioning Goa as a year-round destination with immersive, culturally rich, and environmentally conscious experiences.

Goa Tourism Unites Stakeholders

Goa's tourism sector is experiencing a boost through close collaboration between the Department of Tourism and industry partners, including hoteliers, restaurateurs, and adventure operators. Focused on safety, upgraded infrastructure, and authentic experiences, the state is expanding offerings beyond beaches to wellness, heritage, spiritual trails, and hinterland exploration. Emphasizing sustainability and regenerative tourism, this approach empowers communities, protects ecosystems, and ensures memorable experiences for visitors, positioning Goa as a responsible, innovative, and year-round destination.



Goa Strengthens Air Connectivity

Goa has become one of India's most accessible destinations, with new international and domestic routes, including charters from Russia, the UK, Kazakhstan, Poland, and Uzbekistan, alongside enhanced services from the Gulf, Iran, and key Indian cities. Upgrades at Dabolim and Mopa airports, combined with targeted promotions and diverse tourism offerings, are driving year-round travel, supporting local economies, and encouraging visitors to explore beyond Goa's beaches.

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Junaswada Footbridge to Repair

Goa Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte assured the Legislative Assembly that the iron footbridge at Junaswada-Mandrem will be repaired before the upcoming tourist season. The bridge, completed in 2021, had deteriorated, affecting daily commute for locals and access to Mandrem Beach, a key tourist spot. The repairs aim to restore seamless movement for residents and visitors, supporting local tourism and livelihoods.



Action Against Unauthorised Operators

The Department of Tourism, in coordination with Mopa Airport Police, has taken action against two individuals found violating the Registration of Goa Tourist Trade Act, 1982, for conducting unauthorised tourism services that disrupted smooth tourist movement. The offence was registered under Section 2(g) read with Section 26 of the Act. Visitors are advised to use only registered operators and report any unauthorised activities, as the Department continues to ensure responsible and law-abiding tourism in Goa.

Goa Tourism Recovery Strong

Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte urged Goans to support a positive narrative about the state's post-Covid tourism revival, noting that Goa has outperformed other states by 50% in recovery. Highlighting infrastructure upgrades, digital promotions, and support for local tourism entrepreneurs, the minister called for unity among citizens and stakeholders to celebrate Goa's successes and foster a forward-looking, optimistic image, while cautioning against misleading narratives spread by external influencers.



Goa Seeks Visa-on-Arrival

Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte urged the Centre to extend the visa-on-arrival facility to Goa, highlighting the state's growing appeal as a global destination and the rise in international arrivals from markets like Poland, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan through targeted promotions. He noted that while e-visas cover 170 countries, visa-on-arrival is limited and stressed coordinated efforts with central authorities to enable smoother international access. The minister also highlighted the use of the TIME digital platform to track tourist arrivals and hotel occupancy, supporting data-driven planning and enhanced visitor experiences.

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Goa Sees Rising Tourism

Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte reported a continued rise in tourist arrivals in Goa, with 57.1 lakh visitors between January and June 2025, including over 3.25 lakh international tourists. Both Dabolim and Mopa airports experienced high footfalls, and hotel occupancy ranged from 70% to 100%, data captured through the TIME software. Highlighting Goa's post-COVID recovery—39% growth in domestic and 50% in international tourism—the minister noted the state's expanding global outreach to markets like Poland, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan, driven by flights and targeted promotions, urging Goans to support a positive tourism narrative.



Goa Govt Considers Mechanised Beach Cleaning

Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte announced in the Goa Assembly that the government is exploring mechanised cleaning solutions to complement manual efforts on state beaches. With cleaning operations already underway on major coastlines, the Department of Tourism is addressing monsoon-related waste and working with local MLAs for site-specific assessments, including Kharewada Beach, to ensure sustainable, hygienic, and well-maintained beach spaces.

Goa Tourism Targets Unregulated Homestays

Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte announced that the Department of Tourism is monitoring accommodations on OTA platforms to ensure proper registration and is urging residents and cooperative societies to report unregulated homestays via the toll-free number 1364. The government is coordinating with municipalities and panchayats to address misuse of second homes for tourist stays and aims to implement a sustainable solution that balances residents' interests with the growth of the tourism sector.



Support for Women Homestays

The revamped Homestay and B&B Policy will provide a direct ₹2 lakh grant to women-led rural homestays, replacing the earlier reimbursement model. Targeting 1–6 room homestays in non-coastal, non-urban areas from Pernem to Canacona, the initiative aims to empower rural women, create livelihoods, preserve cultural heritage, and promote hinterland tourism. The Department of Tourism will support the first 100 homestays and collaborate with platforms like Airbnb and MakeMyTrip to enhance visibility and operational readiness, aligning with Goa's broader Regenerative Tourism vision.

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Baina Beach Amenities Upgraded

Goa Tourism will soon enhance amenities at Baina Beach, including activating toilet blocks and operationalizing changing rooms. These improvements aim to boost convenience, hygiene, and overall visitor experience, reflecting the Department of Tourism's ongoing commitment to better infrastructure and safer, more accessible public spaces across the state.



Goa Tourism Rs 350 Crore Upgrade

Goa is investing ₹350 crore to enhance tourism infrastructure, expand international connectivity, and promote experiences beyond beaches. Key initiatives under the "Goa Beyond Beaches" and regenerative tourism model include spiritual circuits like Ekadasha Teertha, cultural projects, festival promotion, and improved safety and beach monitoring through TIME. With growing arrivals and high hotel occupancy, these efforts aim to position Goa as a year-round destination focused on culture, wellness, nature, and heritage.

Goa Govt Cracks Down on Public Drinking

The Goa government is imposing fines of ₹5,000–₹50,000 for public drinking and littering at tourist spots, with possible restrictions on glass bottles along beaches. A new glass bottle deposit scheme will be introduced, and strict penalties under the Tourist Trade and Tourist Places Acts aim to curb nuisance behavior. Beach cleaning operations covering 50 beaches and 102 dead ends are underway, with potential involvement of Self-Help Groups. Signage on visitor do's and don'ts will be installed, promoting safety, cleanliness, and responsible tourism ahead of the upcoming season.



Goa Tourism Expands Beach Cleaning

The Goa government has enhanced its beach cleaning contract from ₹70 crore to ₹90 crore, covering 50 beaches and 102 dead ends across 82.2 km, up from 39 beaches previously. The workforce has increased from 322 to 525 labourers, with daily working hours extended to 8–12 hours. The expansion accounts for rising operational costs and aims to improve cleanliness, safety, and sustainability along the coastline, with potential participation from Self-Help Groups under the state's Regenerative Tourism approach.

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GALLERY

