

TOURISM NEWSLETTER



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Redevelopment of Colva under Swadesh Darshan 2.0

Tourism Minister Shri Rohan A. Khaunte met shop owners at Colva to discuss the first phase of redevelopment under Swadesh Darshan 2.0, aimed at upgrading infrastructure, amenities, and visitor experience while ensuring local interests are protected. With existing structures in poor condition, a masterplan has been prepared that includes improved facilities, an Arrival Avenue, a pedestrian bridge, enhanced security, and upgraded public spaces. Shopkeepers will be temporarily shifted to designated containers during construction, with the government assuring a smooth transition and restored amenities once redevelopment is complete.

TM holds meeting with Shack Owners

Tourism Minister Shri Rohan A. Khaunte held a meeting with shack owners and associations to address issues related to the shack policy and reported subletting cases. After reviewing complaints, 23 shacks were found to be sublet and initially marked for cancellation. Following representations from stakeholders and consultations with the Chief Minister, the Government has decided to reconsider these cases, allowing licence renewal once issues are resolved and dues are cleared, with strict compliance required on the non-subletting clause.



Oman Delegation Visits Goa

A distinguished delegation from Oman visited Goa on a three-day familiarisation tour that showcased the state's culture, heritage, gastronomy, and immersive local experiences. The group explored historic landmarks such as the Aguad Port and Jail Complex, Old Goa's churches, and the Figueiredo House, while also experiencing Goan hospitality through curated village experiences, backwater boat rides, traditional dining, and interactions hosted by the Hon'ble Tourism Minister Shri Rohan A. Khaunte and Director of Tourism Shri Kedar Naik. The visit strengthened cultural ties and opened new avenues for future collaborations between Goa and Oman.

World Tourism Day Meet

Goa Tourism, along with TTAG and SKAL International Goa, marked World Tourism Day 2025 with its largest-ever Stakeholders' Meet at Grand Hyatt Goa, bringing together industry leaders, government officials, hoteliers, tour operators, students, and community representatives. The event featured felicitation of contributors to Goa's tourism ecosystem, including the Shri Vincent Ramos Scholarship awardees, influencers, professionals, and Yuva Tourism Clubs. The celebrations, part of a month-long series of events, underscored Goa's commitment to "Goa Beyond Beaches," regenerative tourism, cultural experiences, and year-round tourism promotion, culminating with a Film Festival at ESG showcasing the state's cultural and natural heritage.



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Sangod Utsav at Cumbarjua

The centuries-old Sangod Utsav in Cumbarjua, held on the seventh day of Ganesh Chaturthi, brought together communities as vibrant mythological and cultural tableaux floated along the canal on beautifully decorated sangods traditional canoes joined to form platforms for Lord Ganesh's immersion ritual. Led by local leaders and supported by the government, the festival showcased youthful creativity through intricate sets, costumes, and performances inspired by epics and folk traditions. With strong community participation from Marcel, Golwada, Rambhuvanwada and nearby wards, the event reinforced Cumbarjua's identity as a unique cultural and experiential tourism attraction rooted in devotion, heritage, and regenerative practices.

Goa Wins Spiritual Tourism Award at TTF Hyderabad 2025

Goa Tourism received the Spiritual Tourism Initiative award at TTF Hyderabad 2025, where its delegation showcased the state's diverse cultural, heritage, adventure, wellness, and spiritual experiences. The award was presented by Telangana's senior officials and accepted by representatives from the Department of Tourism and GTDC. With strong engagement from visitors and dignitaries, the participation reinforced Goa's growing reputation as a leading destination committed to sustainable and regenerative tourism.



Goa Wins Festival Tourism Award

Goa received The Week's Special Editorial Award for 'Promoting Tourism through Festivals', recognising the state's efforts in showcasing its rich cultural calendar and strengthening its identity as a destination that offers diverse experiences beyond the coastline. The award was accepted in New Delhi by Secretary (Tourism) Shri Sanjeev Ahuja, IAS, and highlighted the collaborative work of the Department of Tourism in positioning Goa as a vibrant cultural hub where festivals enhance visitor engagement and support the state's broader tourism vision.

Goa Tourism at OTDYKH 2025

Goa Tourism participated in OTDYKH Leisure 2025 in Moscow from 10-12 September, showcasing the theme "Sunshine and More in Goa" to highlight the state's diverse tourism experiences beyond the coastline, including wellness, heritage, adventure, hinterland discovery, and community-based tourism. The pavilion at B13 presented Goa as a responsible, year-round destination while strengthening global outreach and fostering partnerships aligned with regenerative and sustainable tourism practices.



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GTDC–NFSU Training Partnership

GTDC has signed an MoU with the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) to utilise its Farmagudi Residency in Ponda for the Cyber Commando Training Program, marking a collaboration that supports national cybersecurity initiatives while showcasing Goa's hinterland. The agreement, executed in Panaji by senior officials from both organisations, highlights how GTDC properties can serve multiple purposes from tourism to specialised training reinforcing the "Goa Beyond Beaches" vision and promoting sustainable, diversified tourism development.



World Tourism Day Activities

As part of World Tourism Day 2025, Goa Tourism, along with TTAG, SKAL International Goa and the Yuva Tourism Club, organised a series of experiential events including a heritage walk at Aguad Port & Jail Complex, a forest-stream picnic in Bicholim and a nature experience at Carambolim Lake. The initiatives promoted regenerative and experiential tourism by engaging students, stakeholders and visitors with Goa's heritage, ecology and "Beyond Beaches" vision, leading up to the upcoming stakeholders' meet and film festival celebrating the state's cultural and natural wealth.

Culinary Celebrations in Goa

As part of World Tourism Day 2025, IHM Goa, in collaboration with the Department of Tourism, TTAG and SKAL International Goa, hosted two vibrant culinary events on 22nd and 23rd September, celebrating Goa's food and beverage talent. The Susegad Spirits beverage competition brought together hotel professionals showcasing creative mixology, while the Goencho Svaad culinary contest saw enthusiastic participation from students and homemakers across Goa. With expert judges from the industry and strong participation from institutes and hotels, the events highlighted Goa's rich culinary traditions and strengthened its positioning as a thriving culinary destination.



Unity Mall to boost local employment

Tourism Minister Shri Rohan A. Khaunte highlighted that the upcoming Unity Mall in Chimbol, part of the Central Government's "One District, One Product" initiative, will generate significant employment and support local entrepreneurship. He noted that environmental clearances and community consultations will be prioritised, with presentations planned for Panchayat members and local MLAs to ensure clarity on the project. He also stated that the Prashasan Stambh will further create job opportunities, with both projects aimed at ensuring local communities benefit directly from the state's development efforts.

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20 Refurbished Toilets Handed Over to Sulabh International

The Department of Tourism, Government of Goa, has handed over the operation and maintenance of 20 refurbished public toilet facilities at key tourist locations to Sulabh International, strengthening sanitation services under the Swachh Bharat vision. After terminating the previous operator due to non-compliance, GTDC regained possession of the blocks and refurbished them, ensuring they remain functional for visitors. The facilities located across major sites including Baga, Colva, Morjim, Varca, Cavelossim, Mobor, Siridao, Sernabatim and Fatorda will now be managed on a pay-and-use basis, while one block has been given to the Candolim panchayat for refurbishment and operation.



Inclusive Mandovi Boat Cruise

As part of World Tourism Day 2025, Goa Tourism, in collaboration with Rotary Club of Panaji, Paradise Cruises, TTAG, and SKAL International Goa, hosted an inclusive River Mandovi boat cruise for senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and children from orphanages. The initiative celebrated community, inclusion, and sustainability, offering participants a memorable experience on the river while reinforcing Goa's commitment to "Tourism for All" and regenerative tourism principles.



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GALLERY

