

TOURISM NEWSLETTER



Issue: August 2025

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Goa wins 'Best Destination for Resort Weddings'

Goa was honoured as the 'Best Destination for Resort Weddings' at the Wed In India 2025 Awards held in New Delhi. The recognition highlights the state's unique blend of luxury, culture, and natural beauty, as well as its growing infrastructure to support the wedding industry. The award underscores Goa's appeal as a preferred destination for domestic and international weddings, contributing to the local economy and promoting community-driven tourism.

RFC India Thrills Goa Hinterlands

The Rainforest Challenge (RFC) India 2025, supported by the Department of Tourism, concluded after a week of intense off-roading action in Goa's hinterlands from July 28 to August 3. Featuring over 77 teams from across India, the event showcased categories like '4x4 Extreme', '4x4 Modified', and '4x4 Stock'. The 11th edition not only tested endurance and skill but also spotlighted Goa's rugged terrain as an ideal setting for adventure sports, reinforcing the state's focus on promoting diverse, high-energy tourism experiences beyond its coastline.



Goa Tourism Holds Tiranga Yatra

The Department of Tourism, Government of Goa, organised the Tiranga Yatra in alignment with the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign, marking the eve of India's 79th Independence Day with a spirited bike rally from Vidya Prabodhini College to Art Park, Porvorim. The event saw enthusiastic participation from riders and youth groups carrying the National Flag under the theme "Nation First, Safety Always," celebrating unity, patriotism, and Goa's vibrant cultural identity.

Goa Tourism Promotes Women-Led Homestays

The Department of Tourism, Government of Goa, organised an Awareness and Training Programme on the Homestay and Bed & Breakfast Scheme at Novotel Goa Panaji, encouraging women to become entrepreneurs and boost rural tourism. The initiative focuses on empowering women in hinterland talukas to convert parts of their homes into homestays, promoting authentic Goan experiences while strengthening local economies. Supported by partners like Airbnb, SEWA, and the IT Department, the scheme aims to create sustainable livelihoods, preserve Goan traditions, and expand the 'Goa Beyond Beaches' vision.



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Dept of Tourism Tightens Tourism Law

The Government of Goa has strengthened its tourism legislation by passing the Goa Tourist Places (Protection and Maintenance) (Amendment) Act, 2025, aimed at ensuring cleaner, safer, and more responsible tourist destinations. The amendment expands the definition of public nuisance to include activities such as unauthorised hawking, littering, ticket touting, and illegal water sports operations, while increasing penalties for violations. It also empowers the Tourism Department to periodically revise fines, reinforcing the state's commitment to sustainable and regenerative tourism practices.

TM Khaunte Reviews Kharewada Restoration

Tourism Minister Shri Rohan A. Khaunte, fulfilling an Assembly assurance, reviewed the restoration of Kharewada Beach along with local MLA Shri Krishna Daji Salkar, Director of Tourism Shri Kedar Naik, and officials. The visit aimed to assess waste, infrastructure, and environmental issues while planning a phased, sustainable revival. The initiative focuses on restoring the beach's natural charm, addressing civic concerns, and involving the local fishing community in its upkeep, aligning with Goa's vision for regenerative and community-driven tourism.



TM Khaunte Reaffirms Visitor Safety

The Department of Tourism, Government of Goa, organised the Tiranga Yatra in alignment with the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign, marking the eve of India's 79th Independence Day with a spirited bike rally from Vidya Prabodhini College to Art Park, Porvorim. The event saw enthusiastic participation from riders and youth groups carrying the National Flag under the theme "Nation First, Safety Always," celebrating unity, patriotism, and Goa's vibrant cultural identity.

Tourism Minister Calls for Departmental Coordination

The Department of Tourism has reaffirmed its focus on strengthening cultural tourism under the 'Goa Beyond Beaches' initiative, promoting festivals like Chikhal Kalo, São João, Intruz, and Ghode Modni to highlight Goa's traditions year-round. Tourism Minister Shri Rohan Khaunte emphasised the need for coordinated efforts among departments to support cultural stakeholders and address public concerns, particularly regarding ongoing highway works affecting connectivity between North Goa and Panaji, ensuring timely resolution and minimal inconvenience to the public.



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Goa Tourism Wins Excellence Award

The Department of Tourism, Government of Goa, received the Excellence Award for its 'Goa Beyond Beaches' campaign at TTF Ahmedabad 2025, held at the Mahatma Mandir Convention & Exhibition Centre, Gandhinagar. Showcasing Goa's diverse experiences beyond its coastline, the campaign highlighted heritage, hinterlands, wellness, festivals, and community-led tourism. The award underscores the Department's commitment to promoting sustainable, year-round, and regenerative tourism while strengthening Goa's position as a culturally rich and future-ready destination.



Goa Wins Best Wedding Destination Award

Goa Tourism has been awarded the 'Best Wedding Destination' title at TTF Mumbai 2025, recognising the state's growing appeal as India's preferred destination for weddings. The Department of Tourism team received the honour at the Jio World Convention Centre, where Goa's pavilion drew strong interest for its Regenerative Tourism showcase featuring community-led ventures, heritage trails, wellness circuits, and cultural experiences, reinforcing Goa's position as a premier destination for weddings and sustainable tourism.



The Department of Tourism, Government of Goa, made a strong impression at TTF Mumbai 2025, highlighting its Regenerative Tourism initiatives through community-led ventures, heritage village trails, and cultural programmes supporting local artisans. The Goa pavilion showcased crafts, cuisine, and sustainable travel experiences that reflect the state's evolving tourism model focused on culture, community, and the environment, while engaging with key industry stakeholders to strengthen partnerships and promote year-round tourism.



Action Against Unauthorised Operators at Mopa

The Department of Tourism, in coordination with Mopa Airport Police, took swift action against three individuals for conducting unauthorised tourist activities at Manohar International Airport, Mopa, in violation of the Goa Tourist Trade Act, 1982. The offenders have been produced before the Department for further proceedings under relevant provisions of the Act. The Department continues to strengthen enforcement to ensure safe, seamless, and lawful tourism services in Goa.



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Goa Celebrates Vibrant Bonderam Festival

The island of Divar came alive with colours, music, and community spirit on August 16, 2025, as the Bonderam Festival was celebrated at Malar, organised by St. Mathias Sports Club in collaboration with the Department of Tourism, Government of Goa. Featuring traditional parades, floats, folk performances, and Goan cuisine, the event highlighted Goa's rich cultural heritage and community participation. Through initiatives like 'Goa Beyond Beaches', the Department continues to promote such festivals as authentic cultural experiences for visitors.



The island of Divar came alive with colour, music, and tradition as thousands celebrated the 41st Bonderam Festival 2025, organised by the Piedade Youth Association with support from the Department of Tourism and the Directorate of Art & Culture. Featuring flag parades, float processions, fancy dress competitions, and live performances, the festival highlighted Goa's cultural heritage and community spirit, reinforcing the success of initiatives that promote authentic, regenerative tourism experiences beyond the coastline.



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GALLERY

