

# TOURISM NEWSLETTER



Issue: October 2025

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## Unveiling of key tourism projects by Hon'ble Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah

Goa marked a major step in its tourism development with the foundation stone laying of four landmark initiatives—Town Square in Porvorim, the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Museum in Farmagudi, the PM Ekta Mall in Chimbél, and the Eco-Tourism Project at Harvaless—by Hon'ble Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah in the presence of the Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant and Hon'ble Tourism Minister Shri Rohan A. Khaunte. These projects collectively aim to enhance urban leisure spaces, strengthen cultural and heritage tourism, support local artisans and entrepreneurship, and promote sustainable nature-based experiences, reinforcing Goa's long-term vision for diversified and future-ready tourism.

## Goa Tourism presents Tourism roadmap at the National Tourism Ministers' Conference in Udaipur

Goa Tourism showcased its forward-looking tourism roadmap at the National Tourism Ministers' Conference in Udaipur, outlining regenerative, sustainable, and community-led development as the core of its strategy. The state highlighted major upcoming projects including the Mega Performance Arena at Mandrem and the Lord Parshuram Statue and Museum with the Lifescape Project in Canacona aimed at diversifying tourism and strengthening Goa's positioning as a year-round experiential destination. Goa also presented its progress in international connectivity, expanding charter operations from Russia and Kazakhstan, and reaffirmed its commitment to enhancing tourist safety, infrastructure, cultural heritage, and digital engagement while contributing to India's broader tourism vision.



## Goa Tourism shows growth

Goa's tourism sector recorded 6.23% overall growth from January to September 2025, with domestic arrivals up 5.36% and international arrivals rising 29.33%, marking strong performance even during the monsoon months. Enhanced connectivity through new international flights, including charter services from Russia, Central Asia, and the UK, along with regulatory improvements in shacks and watersports, are supporting year-round tourism. The Department of Tourism is promoting inclusive and sustainable initiatives under "Goa Beyond Beaches," including eco, wellness, MICE, and adventure tourism, homestays, women-led enterprises, certified tourism facilitators, and local entrepreneurship schemes, while major infrastructure projects and policies further strengthen Goa's position as a diverse and globally competitive destination.

## Launch of Feels Like Goa' campaign

Goa Tourism has launched its year-end campaign, "Feels Like Goa", celebrating the state's cultural richness, spiritual essence, community traditions, and regenerative tourism approach. Designed to evoke nostalgia and emotional connection, the campaign positions Goa as a feeling rather than just a destination, highlighting its heritage, festivals, and local experiences beyond its coastline. Alongside this initiative, the Government has also laid the foundation for key tourism projects such as the Unity Mall, Porvorim Town Square, and the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Digital Museum, strengthening Goa's vision of a multi-dimensional, people-centric tourism model for the festive season and beyond.



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## Goa Tourism streamlines watersports operations

Tourism Minister Shri Rohan A. Khaunte chaired a meeting to streamline watersports operations across Goa, with MLAs, senior officials, and watersports associations in attendance. The discussion focused on ensuring safety, transparency, and consistent service standards through measures such as uniform rates, curbing unauthorized sales by travel agencies, standardising kiosk designs, issuing ID cards for staff, and strengthening enforcement with Tourist Police and the Transport Department. The Department will also integrate official operator websites on the Goa Tourism portal, while the Captain of Ports has been directed to withhold permissions for tourism activities during the monsoon ban to protect marine biodiversity.

## Deepotsav held across major towns in Goa

Goa Deepotsav 2025 brought festive vibrance to Porvorim, Saligao, and Mapusa through two days of cultural showcases, creative competitions, and community participation, with the first-ever Mapusa edition drawing an impressive turnout. Held across three venues, the celebrations featured activities such as clay modelling, rangoli, cooking and fugdi contests, Veshbhusa Spardha, the All Goa Akash Kandil Competition, and musical evenings including Sur Taal, Suron Kee Deepawali, and Rhythm of Lights. With strong participation from local residents and dignitaries, the festival highlighted Goa's rich cultural identity and reinforced the Department of Tourism's vision of promoting cultural tourism and community-led celebrations under the Goa Beyond Beaches initiative.



## First charter flight arrives

Goa's year-end tourism season began on a strong note with the arrival of the first international charter flight from Novosibirsk, Russia, at Manohar International Airport, Mopa. The welcome featured traditional Goan performances and greetings, marking the start of an expanded charter schedule that includes additional weekly flights from Novosibirsk, Yekaterinburg, and Moscow, along with new services from Kazakhstan beginning 25 October 2025. This enhanced connectivity is set to boost international arrivals, support the state's hospitality sector, and widen economic opportunities as the peak travel season unfolds.

## Department of Tourism commends swift action of Drishti lifesavers

The Department of Tourism has commended the swift, coordinated efforts of Drishti lifesavers and local fishermen who rescued 27 fishermen from a drifting trawler near a rocky river mouth at Mobor beach on the night of 27 September 2025. Acting promptly despite difficult conditions, the team monitored the vessel through the night and safely brought all fishermen ashore the next morning with support from backup teams and jetskis. The Department recognised the exemplary dedication of the lifesavers involved and reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring safety along Goa's coastline.





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## GTDC Upgrades Miramar Residency

GTDC has upgraded facilities at Miramar Residency by converting three rooms into specially designed, accessible spaces ahead of the International Purple Fest, Goa 2025. Miramar and Panjim Residencies will host participants and guests, both offering Divyang-friendly rooms as part of the state's ongoing inclusivity efforts. The enhancements were inaugurated by GTDC officials, reinforcing the Corporation's commitment to improved accessibility and hospitality across its properties.



## Goa Tourism Shines at ITB Asia

Goa Tourism showcased its Regenerative Tourism model at ITB Asia 2025, positioning itself as a year-round destination focused on sustainability, culture, and connectivity. The delegation from the Department of Tourism and GTDC engaged with key global stakeholders to strengthen international outreach, diversify source markets, and explore collaborations across leisure, adventure, wellness, MICE, and film tourism. Highlighting Goa's commitment to responsible growth and community benefits, the state's presence at the event reinforced its reputation as a forward-thinking destination creating meaningful, inclusive tourism opportunities on the global stage.

## First Kazakhstan Charter arrives in the state

Goa Tourism welcomed the first charter flight of the 2025–26 season from Almaty, Kazakhstan, operated by SCAT Airlines, marking a strong start to the new season as travellers arrived at Dabolim Airport to experience Goa's diverse offerings. The inaugural flight was greeted with a festive reception featuring a brass band, garlands, and a cake-cutting ceremony organised by the Department of Tourism along with Concord Exotic Voyages and TTAG. With more charter operations expected in the coming weeks, the arrival underscores Goa's growing international connectivity and supports its focus on cultural, adventure, wellness, and heritage experiences under the "Goa Beyond Beaches" initiative.



## Goa's Homestay model recognised

Goa's Homestay and Bed & Breakfast Scheme has emerged as a national benchmark in community-based tourism, inspiring Delhi to revive its own B&B initiative based on Goa's successful model. The scheme blends financial support, simplified registration, quality standards, and promotional assistance to empower local entrepreneurs, strengthen rural and regenerative tourism, and encourage authentic visitor experiences across Goa's hinterlands. Its growing influence highlights Goa's leadership in creating inclusive, sustainable hospitality frameworks that other states are now adopting to revitalise traditional tourism sectors.

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## TUI UK Charter Flights

TUI Airways has launched charter services from the United Kingdom to Goa for the 2025–26 winter season, operating direct flights from Manchester and London Gatwick to Mopa Airport. Beginning 5th November 2025 under Freedom Holidays Pvt. Ltd., the service includes four weekly flights, totalling 83 for the season. The Department of Tourism, Government of Goa, is facilitating seamless arrivals and emphasises sustainable, community-led tourism, showcasing the state's hospitality, diverse offerings, and growing appeal as a long-haul destination for international travellers.



## Charter Flights Boost Arrivals

Goa's international connectivity received a significant boost with the arrival of multiple charter flights from Russia—Novosibirsk, Yekaterinburg, and Moscow—bringing steady inflows of travellers to Manohar International Airport, Mopa, between October 3 and 5, 2025. Further strengthening access from key markets, charter services from Kazakhstan will commence on October 25. The Department of Tourism is working closely with stakeholders to ensure smooth operations and an enriching visitor experience, reinforcing Goa's growing appeal as a preferred global destination.

## Stop Work Notice to M/s Goan Hotels & Realty Pvt. Ltd.

The Department of Tourism, Government of Goa, has issued a Stop Work Notice to M/s Goan Hotels & Realty Pvt. Ltd. for alleged construction of an illegal retaining wall at Bambolim. Based on site inspections and reports, the company has been directed to halt all work, maintain status quo, and show cause under the Goa Tourist Places Protection and Maintenance Act, 2001. The Department reiterated its commitment to safeguarding Goa's natural assets and ensuring all tourism-related activities adhere to regulatory norms.



## Action against illegal watersports

The Department of Tourism has issued a Show Cause Notice to a watersports operator for illegally operating a boat in a non-demarcated and unsafe zone near Aguada Fort, violating the state's watersports policy and the Goa Tourist Places Rules, 2005. The operator has been directed to appear before the Prescribed Authority on November 4, 2025, failing which action will be taken under the Goa Registration of Tourist Trade Act, 1982. This enforcement forms part of the Department's ongoing efforts, in coordination with the Tourist Police and coastal authorities, to curb unauthorized activities and uphold safety and accountability in Goa's tourism sector.



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## Strict action against the International Oceanman event organisers

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## GALLERY

