

Goa strengthens tourism law to curb nuisance and promote responsible travel

The Goa Legislative Assembly has passed the Goa Tourist Places (Protection and Maintenance) (Amendment) Act, 2025, introducing stronger legal provisions to protect the state's tourist destinations and enhance the visitor experience.

The amendment expands the definition of “nuisance” at tourist locations and imposes harsher penalties for violations, reinforcing the government's commitment to responsible and sustainable tourism.

Broader Scope of Public Nuisance

Activities now classified as public nuisance at tourist spots include:

- Pestering tourists to buy goods or services
- Consuming alcohol in unauthorized areas
- Littering or open-air cooking
- Unauthorized hawking and ticket touting
- Illegal operation of water sports and boating activities

These measures target practices that have disrupted public order, degraded the environment, and diminished the experience for both visitors and locals.

A Stronger Enforcement Framework

Tourism Minister Rohan A. Khaunte said the growth of tourism has brought with it an increase in unauthorized and disruptive activities. “This legislation is a step in the right direction to address growing concerns and to maintain Goa's reputation as a responsible and world-class tourism destination,” he stated.

Revised Penalties & Dynamic Fine Structure

- Minimum fine: ₹5,000
- Maximum fine: ₹1,00,000 (up from ₹50,000)

- Offenders may also face prosecution under Section 223 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita in severe cases.
- Fines will be reviewed every two years, with possible increases of up to 10% to keep penalties relevant and effective.

Protecting Goa's Tourism Legacy

The legislation is designed to safeguard the integrity of Goa's tourist places, encourage responsible and regenerative tourism, and protect the interests of local communities. By aligning stricter enforcement with visitor-friendly measures, the government aims to balance growth with sustainability.