

Goa Reviews Action Against Unregistered Tourist Rentals in Residential Properties

The Goa Tourism Department is reviewing enforcement action against residential apartments, villas and flats being operated as short-term tourist accommodation without registration, Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte has confirmed. The move aims to bring unregistered holiday rentals within the state's regulated tourism framework and address concerns around safety, security and compliance.

The review follows a Supreme Court order directing authorities to take action against residential premises being used for commercial activities. Goa is examining the implications for properties rented to tourists in violation of applicable zoning and tourism registration requirements, which could face enforcement measures, including closure or sealing, subject to the implementation of the relevant directions.

The state has also directed online travel aggregators (OTAs) to ensure that only properties verified and registered with the Goa Tourism Department are listed on their platforms. The government has raised concerns about unregulated rentals, potential tax leakages, disturbances for permanent residents and the impact on registered C- and D-category hotels operating within the regulated sector.

The proposed measures signal tighter scrutiny of Goa's short-term rental market as the state seeks to improve compliance, strengthen guest safety and create a more transparent operating environment for registered tourism accommodation providers.

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