

STATE COMMITTED IN DECRIMINALISATION & SIMPLIFICATION IN EoDB

The centre, in a mission to improve the Ease of Living and Ease of Doing Business has initiated the exercise to reduce the compliance burden on businesses and citizens with the objective of having a transformative and multiplier effect on the lives of citizens. The initiative is driven by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). States and UTs were directed to identify burden compliances with an aim to simplify them through online services or eliminate, if found redundant and decriminalize minor criminal offences that put the entrepreneurs and citizens at risks. The state of Goa has been actively participating in the reducing Compliance Burden Exercise since its inception in 2020.

In the previous year, the State has identified and reduced 129 compliances. The compliances mostly comprised of increasing periodicity of licenses, introducing auto-renewals of licenses and making inspection procedures online. Periodicity of licenses was increased upto 5 years for Excise licenses (Manufacturing, Wholesale, Bottling, Private bonded warehouse, Retail sale – consumption & packed and Lease of manufacturing unit) and Tourism licenses (Travel, Hotel, Photographers, Travel agents, Dealers, Online travel agents, Spice plantation and Private shacks/huts/tents). Similarly, auto-renewals were introduced pertaining to licenses under Labour & Employment (Shops & establishment, Contract labour and Inter-state migrant workmen), Legal metrology (Manufacturers/Dealers/Retailers of weights & measures) and Factories & Boilers (Factories license).

As a result of increasing periodicity of renewals, now citizens/businesses don't need to run to government offices for renewal of these licenses/permissions every year. Similarly many inspections have been made online so citizens/businesses don't need to visit government offices. This will lead to a vastly improved ease of living and ease of doing business.

In the current year, The State of Goa has added one more feather to its cap when it comes to improving the business ecosystem and ease of living in the State. Little less than a month ago, in the rankings released by DPIIT, the State has jumped 8 places to secure 16th position in Ease of Doing Business and emerged as a Leader in Start-up destination in the country. Now, in a massive exercise of reducing compliances on businesses and citizens, the State has successfully decriminalized 59 minor criminal offences (including 5 which were decriminalized earlier this year) across 29 State Acts/Rules. It was first of its kind that the cabinet has approved so many amendments to various Acts/Rules in record two sittings held on 13th and [20th of July](#). These sections (containing criminal provisions) are primarily spread across various Acts and Rules pertaining to Health, Municipality, Education, Excise, Industry,

Labour, Public Works Department, Information Technology, Revenue, Town & Country Planning among others. As part of decriminalisation process imprisonment has been replaced with monetary fines for minor offences.

The provisions finalized for decriminalisation are shortlisted from an exhaustive list of 290 provisions from 84 Acts that have undergone numerous rounds of stakeholder consultations, department meetings and weekly review meetings held under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary.

The exercise of decriminalisation and simplification is going to be a continuous process and the state is committed to simplify more compliances in future.

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