

PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IS IMPORTANT FOR NATION'S PROGRESS: KHAUNTE

Panaji: August 15, 2025

Independence Day is not a one day celebration. It's about working each day towards becoming self-reliant, said Minister for Tourism, Shri Rohan Khaunte after unfurling the tri-colour flag at Mapusa on the occasion of Independence Day.

Shri Khaunte said that the State Government was doing its best to implement steps to make Goa Swayampurna. Speaking of the significance of India's Independence, Shri Khaunte said that freedom has given us the opportunity to progress in varied fields like science, technology, health, sports etc. "People's participation is very important in the progress of a nation," he stressed.

Giving examples, he spoke of how the Goa Government has worked for providing job opportunities especially in rural areas through tourism with its latest Homestay and Bed and Breakfast policy. "Through this we will empower and encourage entrepreneurship and develop hinterland tourism," the Minister said.

He further said, "I am proud to say that the Goa Government is aligning itself with Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision for a Viksit Bharat and development for youth, women, farmers and poor has been the thrust."

The Government has worked for the good of Goa and Goans, he said highlighting the Government's recent decision to regularize unauthorized houses built on comunidade lands.

Shri Khaunte came down heavily on negative campaigns by social media influencers to tarnish Goa's image. "Their attempts didn't work. In fact, the footfalls in tourism have increased."

Listing out the achievements in the Tourism sector, the Minister cited the Swadeshi Darshan scheme, stating that several places in North and South Goa are getting a face lift under the scheme.

"We have moved beyond beaches. Goa is a place of historical religious places also and has vibrant festivals too, which is being promoted."

In the field of Information Technology, the Minister said that the Government is strengthening its net connectivity and its digitization of online services has made a difference in the lives of the common people.

The Minister further spoke of how the Government has offered incentives to create the right ecosystem for start-ups to flourish.

He urged the gathering to remember the country's freedom fighters like Lokmanya Tilak and his dream for Swaraj and the revolutionary zeal of Subhash Chandra Bose, and others and asked them to draw inspiration from these great leaders to build India.

Various people from different fields such as agriculture, sports etc were felicitated on the occasion.

Present on the occasion were Additional Collector, Shri Pundalik Khorjuenkar, Deputy Collector Varsha Parab and Shri Pandurang Gad, Mamlatdar, Shri Anant Malik, PI Nikhil Palekar, senior Government officials, freedom fighters, and others.

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