



The Goa Special Courts (Land Grabbing) Act, 2026

Act No. 20 of 2026

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Notification

7/22/2026-LA/175

Date : 18-Sep-2026

The Goa Special Courts (Land Grabbing) Act, 2026 (Goa Act 20 of 2026), which has been passed by the Legislative Assembly of Goa on 02/09/2026 and assented to by the Governor of Goa on 11/09/2026, is hereby published for the general information of the public.

Dnyaneshwar Raut Dessai, Joint Secretary (Law).

Porvorim.

The Goa Special Courts (Land Grabbing) Act, 2026

(Goa Act 20 of 2026)

[11-09-2026]

AN

ACT

to provide for special courts in the State of Goa for the trial of offences of land grabbing and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

BE it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of Goa in the Seventy-seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows:-

1. *Short title, extent and commencement.*— (1) This Act may be called the Goa Special Courts (Land Grabbing) Act, 2026.

(2) It shall extend to the whole of the State of Goa.

(3) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 24th day of June, 2025.

2. *Definitions.*— In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) “Government” means the Government of Goa;

(b) “High Court” means the High Court of Bombay at Goa;

(c) “land grabbing” means the activity of taking possession of any land forcibly, violently, unscrupulously, unfairly or greedily, without any lawful entitlement, with the intention of or with a view to,—

(i) take possession of such land illegally; or

(ii) enter into or create illegal tenancy, leave and licence agreements, or any other illegal agreements in respect of such land; or

(iii) construct unauthorised structure thereon for sale or hire; or

(iv) give such land to any person on rental basis, or on lease, or on leave and licence basis for construction, or for the use and occupation of unauthorised structure,

and the expression “grabbed land” shall be construed accordingly.

Explanation.—The activity referred to in this clause shall include every act done, every omission made and every document made, executed, used, presented, registered or caused to be registered, in the course of, or in furtherance of, or in relation to such activity;

(d) “Special Court” means a Special Court designated under Section 3 of this Act.

3. *Designation of Special Courts.*— (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, the Government may, with the concurrence of the High Court and by notification published in the Official Gazette, designate one or more Courts of Session as Special Courts for the trial of cases relating to land grabbing.

(2) Every land grabbing case shall be tried exclusively by the Special Court having jurisdiction over the area in which the land is situated.

(3) In addition to the powers of a Court of Session, the Special Court shall have all the powers of a Magistrate, including the power to take cognizance of offences.

(4) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, any public prosecutor or additional public prosecutor already appointed for the Court of Session which is designated as a special court under sub-section (1) of Section 3 of this Act, shall be deemed to be a public prosecutor for the purposes of this Act, and he shall be authorized to conduct prosecutions before such Special Courts without requiring a fresh appointment.

4. *Appeal.*— (1) An appeal shall lie against any conviction and the sentence imposed by the Special Court to the High Court.

(2) An appeal against an acquittal may be filed to the High Court in terms of Section 419 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (46 of 2023).

5. *Power to remove difficulties.*— (1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to any of the provisions of this Act, the Government may, by order not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, remove the difficulty:

Provided that no such order shall be made after the expiration of a period of two years from the date of commencement of this Act.

(2) Every order made under this section shall, as soon as may be after it is made, be laid before the Legislative Assembly of Goa.

6. *Validation.*— Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, or any judgment, decree or order of any court or other authority, any order issued, any action taken, proceedings initiated and continued, or anything done before the commencement of this Act, which is consistent with the provisions of this Act, shall be deemed to have been validly done as if this Act had been in force at all material times.

Secretariat,
Porvorim-Goa.
Dated: 18-09-2026.

SANDIP JACQUES
Secretary to the Government of Goa,
Law Department (Legal Affairs).

Notification

7/23/2026-LA/176

Date : 18-Sep-2026

The Goa Land Revenue Code (Amendment) Act, 2026 (Goa Act 22 of 2026), which has been passed by the Legislative Assembly of Goa on 02/09/2026 and assented to by the Governor of Goa on 11/09/2026, is hereby published for the general information of the public.

Dnyaneshwar Raut Dessai, Joint Secretary (Law).

Porvorim.
