



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF
GOA

**The Goa Panchayat Raj (Amendment)
Bill, 2026**

(Bill No. 7 of 2026)

(To be introduced in the Legislative Assembly of the State of Goa)

GOA LEGISLATURE SECRETARIAT
ASSEMBLY HALL, PORVORIM
JANUARY, 2026

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A

BILL

*further to amend the Goa Panchayat Raj Act, 1994 (Goa Act No. 14
of 1994).*

5 Be it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of Goa in the Seventy-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. Short title and commencement.— (1) This Act may be called the Goa Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Act, 2026.

10 (2) It shall come into force at once except sections 3, 4, 5 and 6 which shall be deemed to have come into force on the 12th day of November, 2025.

15 **2. Insertion of new section 4-A.**— After section 4 of the Goa Panchayat Raj Act, 1994 (Goa Act No. 14 of 1994 (hereinafter referred to as the “principal Act”), the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

20 **“4-A. Right of member of the Legislative Assembly and member of the Zilla Panchayat to associate in the meetings of Gram Sabha.”**— (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the member of the Legislative Assembly of the State and member of the Zilla Panchayat, representing the Constituency within which a Panchayat area is encompassed, either wholly or partly, shall have right to associate in the meetings of Gram Sabha of the concerned Panchayat and take part in the proceedings of the meetings but shall have no right to vote unless their names for the time being are entered as electors in the electoral roll of such Panchayat.

25 (2) The notice of an ordinary meeting of the Gram Sabha shall be given at least seven clear days before the date of such meeting and in case of an extraordinary meeting at least four days before the date of such meeting, by the Sarpanch to the member of the Legislative Assembly and member of the Zilla Panchayat referred in sub-section

(1), by clearly specifying the date, hour and place at which such meeting is to be held and the business to be transacted thereto.”

3. Amendment of section 47.— In section 47 of the principal Act, for the expression “Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act and the rules framed thereunder, the Secretary shall also exercise the powers on the following matters namely:—”, the expression “Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act and the rules framed thereunder, the Secretary shall exercise the powers on the following matters, namely:—” shall be substituted.

4. Amendment of section 54.— In section 54 of the principal Act,— 10

(i) in sub-section (1), for the words “fifteen days”, the words “seven days” shall be substituted;

(ii) in sub-section (2), for the words “within fifteen days”, the words “within seven days” shall be substituted;

(iii) in sub-section (3), for the words “seven clear days” and “three clear days”, the words “three clear days” and “two clear days” shall be respectively substituted. 15

5. Amendment of section 66.— In section 66 of the principal Act, in sub-section (1), after the existing proviso, the following proviso shall be inserted, namely:— 20

“Provided further that a building which is reflected in the record of rights and the first promulgated survey plan prepared under the provisions of the Goa Land Revenue Code, 1968 (9 of 1969) shall be deemed to have been erected with due permission of the Panchayat.”.

6. Repeal and savings.— (1) The Goa Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025 (Ordinance No. 1 of 2025) is hereby repealed. 25

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the principal Act, as amended by the said Ordinance, shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the principal Act, as amended by this Act. 30

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Bill seeks to amend the Goa Panchayat Raj Act 1994 (Goa Panchayat Raj Act No. 14 of 1994) (hereinafter referred to as the “said Act”) so as to insert section 4-A to give right to the elected representatives of the Legislative Assembly and Zilla Panchayat to attend meetings of the Gram Sabhas of Village Panchayats within their Constituencies and to take part in their deliberations with right to vote only if they are members of the Gram Sabha of the concerned Village Panchayat.

The Bill further seeks to amend section 47 of the said Act so as to remove the ambiguity due to existence of the word “also” which gives an interpretation that besides Panchayat Secretary there also exist another authority to exercise powers under section 47. The present amendment seeks to remove aforesaid ambiguity and give clear interpretation that Panchayat Secretary is the sole authority to exercise powers in respect of the matters mentioned in section 47.

The Bill further seeks to amend section 54 of the said Act to enable the Village Panchayat to hold four ordinary meetings in a month by reducing the time period of service of meeting notice.

The Bill further seeks to amend section 66 of the said Act so as to give protection to the buildings which are reflected in the record of rights and the first promulgated survey plan prepared under the provisions of the Goa Land Revenue Code, 1968 (9 of 1969) against demolition.

The Bill also seeks to repeal the Goa Panchayat Raj (amendment) Ordinance, 2025 (Ordinance No. 1 of 2025) promulgated by the Hon’ble Governor of Goa on 12th day of November, 2025.

This Bill seeks to achieve the above objects.

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FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

No Financial implications are involved in this Bill.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

No delegated legislation is envisaged in this Bill.

Assembly Hall
Porvorim–Goa
12th January, 2026

Shri Mauvin Godinho
Minister for Panchayats

Assembly Hall,
Porvorim-Goa,
12th January, 2026

NAMRATA ULMAN
Secretary to the Legislative
Assembly of Goa

**(Annexure to the Goa Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2026
(Bill No. 7 of 2026)**

THE GOA PANCHAYAT RAJ ACT, 1994 (ACT 14 OF 1994)

4. Gram Sabha.— As from the date appointed under section 3, all persons whose names are for the time being entered as electors in the electoral roll for a Panchayat shall be deemed to constitute the Gram Sabha for that Panchayat.

THE GOA PANCHAYAT RAJ ACT, 1994 (ACT 14 OF 1994)

47. Executive powers and functions of the Secretary.— Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act and the rules framed thereunder, the Secretary shall also exercise the powers on the following matters, namely:—

- (i) to issue the licences for construction, repairs, modification, alteration, so also occupancy certificate in pursuance of the resolution of the Panchayat;
- (ii) to issue the permission/license for trade, business, industry, hotel, restaurant, eating house, coffee house, sweetmeat shop, bakery, boarding house or lodging house (other than a hostel recognized by the Government) or a dharmashala or for manufacturing ice or aerated water or any other permission/license under section 68, 69, 70 or 71 of this Act, in pursuance of the resolution of the Panchayat;
- (iii) upon an order of the Block Development Officer to issue permission/licence for construction, repairs, modification, alteration, or to issue permissions license for trade, business, industry, hotel, restaurant, eating house, coffee house, sweetmeat shop, bakery, boarding house or lodging house (other than a hostel recognized by the Government) or a dharmashala or for manufacturing ice or aerated water or any other permission/license under section 66, 68, 69, 70 or 71 of this Act, or any occupancy certificate.
- (iv) to initiate action for stopping and or demolishing an unauthorized structure/ building constructed without the permission of the Panchayat after resolution is passed to that effect;
- (v) to execute the resolution passed by the Panchayat body.

THE GOA PANCHAYAT RAJ ACT, 1994 (ACT 14 OF 1994)

54. Meeting of the Panchayat.— (1) A Panchayat shall meet for transaction of business at least once in fifteen days at the office of the Panchayat and at such time as the Sarpanch may determine.

(2) The Sarpanch may, whenever he thinks fit, and shall, upon the written request of not less than one-third of the total number of members and on a date within fifteen days from the receipt of such request hold a special meeting.

(3) Seven clear days notice of an ordinary meeting and three clear days notice of a special meeting specifying the place, date and time of such meeting and the business to be transacted thereat, shall be given by the Secretary of the Panchayat to the members and such officers as the Government may prescribe, and affixed on the notice board of the Panchayat.

(4) The officers to whom notice is given under sub-section (3) and other Government officers having jurisdiction over the Panchayat area or any part thereof shall be entitled to attend every meeting of the Panchayat and take part in the proceedings, but shall not be entitled to vote.

(5) If the Sarpanch fails to hold a special meeting as provided in sub-section (2), the Block Development Officer shall hold such a meeting within seven days upon the receipt of the written request of not less than one-third of the total number of members of the Panchayat.

Explanation: For the purpose of this section, the date of presentation of written request in the office of the Panchayat or the Block Development Officer, as the case may be shall be the date from which the period is to be counted.

THE GOA PANCHAYAT RAJ ACT, 1994 (ACT 14 OF 1994)

66. Regulation of the erection of buildings.— (1) Subject to such rules as may be prescribed, no person shall erect any building or alter or add to any existing building or reconstruct any building without the written permission of the Panchayat. The permission may be granted on payment of such fees as may be prescribed.

Provided that alteration of a building which consists of a single dwelling unit constructed or in existence before the commencement of this Act shall be permitted to the extent of replacement of tiles roofing with the R.C.C. slab roofing upon production of certificate of stability of such building issued by the Registered Structural Engineer.

(2) If the Panchayat does not, within a period of fifteen days from the date of receipt of the application under sub-section (1), determine whether such permission should be given or not and communicate its decision to the applicant, after expiry of such period of fifteen days, such permission shall be deemed to have been granted to the applicant and the applicant shall be free to execute the work strictly in accordance with the technical clearance and plans as approved by Town and Country Planning Authorities and in conformity with conditions laid down by all other statutory authorities but not so as to contravene any of the provisions of this Act or any rules or bye-laws made under this Act or of any other law for the time being in force:

Provided that the observations, if any, of the Panchayat in respect of the application under this section to be complied by the applicant shall be communicated by the Panchayat to the applicant compulsorily in one single communication and within a period of seven days from the date of receipt of such application. The period between the date of dispatch of such communication by the Panchayat and the date of compliance by the applicant shall not be considered for calculating such period of fifteen days specified for the purpose of determination of application by the Panchayat.

(2A) Where the permission under sub-section (1) is deemed to have been granted under sub-section (2), before proceeding with execution of the work, the applicant shall give intimation notice in such form as prescribed, to the Panchayat, the Block Development Officer and the Town and Country Planning Authorities and he shall also deposit with the Secretary the fees payable under sub-section (1). The Secretary shall be

duty bound to accept such fees and issue proper receipt to the applicant and credit such fees to the Panchayat Fund.

(2B) The applicant after complying with the provisions of sub-section (2A), shall be entitled to execute the work strictly in accordance with the technical clearance and plans approved by the Town and Country Planning Authorities and in conformity with conditions laid down by all other statutory authorities and the applicant shall follow the procedure as may be applicable for obtaining the completion certificate within the validity period.

(2C) Subject to such rules as prescribed, no building erected, re-erected or altered in pursuance of sub-section (1), (2) or (2B), shall be occupied in whole or part until an occupancy certificate is issued by the Panchayat after confirming that such building is in conformity with approved plans.

(2D) The occupancy certificate shall be issued by Panchayat on payment of such occupancy fees as prescribed.

(2E) If the Panchayat does not, within a period of fifteen days from the date of receipt of application for occupancy certificate, determine whether such occupancy certificate should be issued or not and communicate its decision to the applicant, after expiry of such period of fifteen days, such occupancy certificate shall be deemed to have been issued if the applicant has obtained necessary completion certificate from the Town and Country Planning Authorities as per the provisions of the Goa (Regulation of Land Development and Building Construction) Act, 2008 (Goa Act 6 of 2008) and the Regulations framed thereunder:

Provided that the observations, if any, of the Panchayat in respect of the application under this section to be complied by the applicant shall be communicated by the Panchayat to the applicant compulsorily in one single communication and within a period of seven days from the date of receipt of such application. The period between the date of dispatch of such communication by the Panchayat and the date of compliance by the applicant shall not be considered for calculating such period of fifteen days specified for the purpose of determination of application by the Panchayat.";

(2F) Where the occupancy certificate is deemed to have been issued under sub-section (2E), before proceeding to occupy the premises, the applicant shall give intimation notice in such form as prescribed to the concerned Panchayat and the Block Development Officer and he shall also deposit with the Secretary the occupancy fees as payable under sub-section (2D). The Secretary shall be duty bound to accept the occupancy

fees and issue a proper receipt to the applicant and credit such fees to the Panchayat Fund.

(3) Whenever any building is erected, added to or reconstructed without such permission or in any manner contrary to the rules prescribed under sub-section (1) or any conditions imposed by the permission granted, the Panchayat may,—

- (a) direct that the building, alteration or addition be stopped; or
- (b) by written notice require within a reasonable period to be specified therein, such building alteration or addition to be altered or demolished.

(4) In the event of non-compliance with terms of any notice under clause (b) of sub-section (3) within the period specified in the notice, it shall be lawful for the Panchayat to take such action as may be necessary for the completion of the act thereby required to be done, and all the expenses therein incurred by the Panchayat shall be paid by the person or persons upon whom the notice was served and shall be recoverable as if it were a tax imposed under this Act.

(5) Where the Panchayat fails to demolish the building which is erected, added to or reconstructed without the permission of the Panchayat, or in any manner contrary to the rules made under the Act or any conditions imposed in the permission, within a month from the date of the knowledge, the Deputy Director shall assume the powers of the Panchayat under sub-sections (3), (4) and (5) and take such steps as may be necessary for the demolition of such building.

(6) Notwithstanding anything contained in the foregoing provisions, the Block Development Officer concerned may, by notice addressed to the person responsible, stop any construction which is being constructed in violation of the provisions of the Act or rules or bye-laws made thereunder and refer the case to the Deputy Director of Panchayat. On receipt of the notice, such person shall forthwith stop the same.

(7) An appeal shall lie to the Director, within a period of thirty days from any order of direction or notice issued under any of the provisions of this section and the decision of the Director on such appeal shall be final.

Explanation:— For the purpose of this section, failure to communicate the decision by the Panchayat under sub-section (2) and failure to demolish the building under sub-sections (3) and (4) shall be deemed to be ‘remit’ in the performance of duties by the Panchayat.

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