

TTAG pins hopes on tourism board for constructive resolutions to issues

TNN / Updated: Feb 2, 2023, 01:04 IST



The GTB has already acted on several suggestions made by the TTAG Panaji: While there were some murmurs about the slow functioning of the Goa Tourism Board (GTB), the Travel and Tourism Association of Goa (TTAG) said this was not the case.

The GTM being a new entity, things may not happen at a fast pace in the beginning, but several suggestions of the TTAG have been acted upon, said TTAG president Nilesh Shah.

"The tourism department has started cracking down on illegal hotels and other operators. Our other suggestions are also being seriously considered by the department after they were raised at the board meeting," said Shah.

One of the stakeholders said that considering that there has been much delay and that several projects were conceived and taken up before the GTB came into being, they want the board to assert itself. There should be no delays in holding board meetings or allocating funds for its functioning, the stakeholder said.

"When there are no funds, nothing can be done," he said.

The GTB is slated to meet every quarter, while four different empowered committees meet more often with a mandate to discuss and decide on various topics. Other than senior government officials, subject experts have been appointed on the committees.

The recommendations of the expert committee are then placed before the GTB, which is headed by chief minister Pramod Sawant with tourism minister Rohan Khaunte as its co-chairperson.

A third meeting of the GTB was held in mid-December and several issues were taken-up. It was the most constructive meeting since the board had started functioning, said Shah. "I agree, there is still time for the first quarter to end, but I want the GTB to meet early so that decisions on important issues are not delayed. While the first board meeting was held in 2021, it was nominal, and last year it met only twice," he added.

