

Bill No. 149 of 2024

THE COASTAL TOURISM DEVELOPMENT BOARD BILL, 2024

By

DR. HEMANT VISHNU SAVARA, M.P.

A

BILL

*to provide for establishment of Coastal Tourism Development Board for the
Development of Coastal tourism in the country and for matters
connected therewith.*

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-fifth Year of the Republic of India
as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Coastal Tourism Development Board
Act, 2024.

Short title,
extent and
commencement.

5 (2) It extends to the whole of India.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by
notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

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

Definitions.

10 (a) “Board” means the Coastal Tourism Development Board constituted
under section 4; and

(b) “prescribed” means prescribed by rules made under this Act.

Declaration of
an area as
Coastal Tourist
Destination.

3. (1) The Central Government may, if it is of the opinion that an area has tourism potential in view of its location, coastal environment, natural and cultural resources, coastal and marine archaeology, sub-aquatic tourism and culinary traditions, by notification in the Official Gazette, declare that area to be a coastal tourist destination.

5

(2) An area declared under sub-section (1) as coastal tourist destination shall be developed by the Board as per international standards.

Constitution of
Coastal Tourism
Development
Board.

4. (1) The Central Government shall, by notification in official Gazette, constitute a Board to be known as the Coastal Tourism Development Board for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

10

(2) The Board shall consist of—

(a) The Union Minister of Tourism who shall be Chairperson, *ex-officio*;

(b) The Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism shall be Vice-Chairperson, *ex-officio*;

(c) The Minister of Tourism of States representing each State shall as *ex-officio* member;

15

(d) One member from each State having expertise in the field of tourism development or coastal tourism to be nominated by the Central Government in consultation with State Government.

(3) The nominated members shall hold office for a period of three years.

20

(4) The salary and allowances payable to and other terms and conditions of nominated members shall be such as may be prescribed.

Appointment
of Secretary
and Chief
Accounts
Officer and
other staff of
the Board.

5. (1) The Central Government shall appoint the Secretary and the Chief Accounts Officer, respectively, of the Board in such manner as may be prescribed.

(2) The Secretary and the Chief Accounts Officer shall exercise such powers and perform such duties as may be specified by the Central Government.

25

(3) The Central Government shall provide such number of other officers and staff to the Board as may be required for its efficient functioning.

Headquarter
and other
offices of the
Board.

6. (1) The headquarter of the Board shall be at New Delhi.

(2) The Board shall have its State offices in every State capital or at such other coastal area as it may deem fit for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

30

Meetings and
procedure of
the Board.

7. The Board shall meet at such times and places and shall observe such rules of procedure in regard to the transaction of its business at its meetings, as may be prescribed.

Constitution of
Fund.

8. (1) The Central Government shall, by notification in Official Gazette, constitute a Fund to be known as the Coastal Tourism Development Fund for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

35

(2) The Central Government shall, after due appropriation made by Parliament by law in this behalf, provide requisite sums to the Fund for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

40

Objectives of
the Board.

9. The objects of the Board shall be to —

(a) promote and develop coastal tourism in the country;

(b) improve and strengthen the existing infrastructure in and around coastal tourist area, marine archaeology, subaquatic tourism and culinary traditions of coastal area;

(c) develop new coastal tourist destinations with all basic amenities;

5 (d) co-ordinate, support and interact with other departments and agencies for streamlining services and amenities in and around coastal tourist destinations;

(e) issue guidelines for safety and security to tourists visiting in coastal tourist area;

(f) facilitate and enhance the experience of the tourists;

10 (g) prepare Master Plan for development of each Coastal Tourism destination; and

(h) publish at least in one local newspaper having circulation in that area for inviting objections and suggestions from general public for development of a master plan of each coastal tourist destination.

15 **10.** The Board shall, as soon as may be, prepare a separate Master Plan for the development of each coastal tourist destination:

Master Plan
for
Development
of tourist
destination.

Provided that the Board shall, before finalizing a Master Plan, take into consideration all objections and suggestions from general public made under clause (h) of section 9.

11. The Board shall—

Functions of
the Board.

20 (a) prepare a calendar of activities including annual coastal festival, beach fest, melas, haats to be organized in the each forthcoming financial year for the development of coastal tourism at different coastal areas/tourist destinations;

(b) advertise such activities as it considers necessary to promote tourism at different coastal tourist destinations;

25 (c) interact once in three months with the stake holders including representatives of the hoteliers, local authorities, police and the Tourism Department of the State Government concerned for proper co-ordination to develop and strengthen coastal tourism infrastructure in and around coastal tourist destinations in the area;

(d) provide amenities at such rate and in such manner to the visitors as may be notified by the Central Government in this regard;

30 **(e) provide such other amenities as it may deem fit for the development of coastal tourist destination;**

(f) recommend to the Central Government the measures to be taken for the development of coastal tourist destinations; and

35 **(g) maintain a website containing all essential information regarding the coastal tourist destinations including hotels, beaches and heritage sites, water sports, cruise on sea, tourist maps, help desk, district administration and tour operators with a view to provide necessary information and help to the tourists.**

40 **12. (1)** The Board shall prepare every year an annual report in such form and manner, as may be prescribed by the Central Government, giving a full account of its activities during the previous year, and copies of the report shall be forwarded to the Central Government.

Annual Report.

(2) A copy of the report forwarded under sub-section (1) shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is received, before each House of Parliament.

Removal of
Difficulty.

13. If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Central Government may, by order published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as may appear to it to be necessary or expedient for removal of the difficulty:

(1) Provided that no such order shall be made after the expiry of a period of two years from the date of the commencement of this Act. 5

(2) Every order made under this section shall, as soon as may be after it is made, be laid before each House of Parliament.

Power to
make rules.

14. (1) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act. 10

(2) Every rule made under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both the Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both the Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule. 15

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Beaches in India are popular tourist destinations round the year. The coastal areas of Mumbai, Palghar, Ratnagiri, Konkan, Sindhudurg, Visakhapatnam, Gujarat, Chennai, Goa, Kerala, Odisha have gained significant attention from tourists worldwide, leading to a substantial influx of visitors. The presence of these pristine beaches not only serves as a source of income for many coastal communities but also plays a crucial role in boosting the local economy. The coastal tourism industry in India plays a big role of significant economic multiplier and becomes critical since India has to grow at rapid rates and create jobs.

The objectives of coastal tourism development are to create employment opportunities and bring about socio-economic benefits to the community, particularly in the interior and remote areas and to strive towards balanced and sustainable development and preserve, enrich and promote India's cultural heritage. One of the major objectives is the preservation and protection of natural resources and environment to achieve sustainable development. India offers geographical diversity, world heritage sites and niche tourism products like cruises, adventure, medical, eco-tourism, etc. Promotion programmes like Incredible India has spurred growth in Tourists' Arrivals and Employment.

India is currently ranked 39th in World Economic Forum's Travel and Tourism Development Index (2024). The Government has also said that the country's tourism sector will recover to the pre-pandemic level by end of 2024. Keeping present scenario in view, the proposed board empowered by an Act is needed to cater to the demand of coastal tourism development.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;
July 22, 2024

HEMANT VISHNU SAVARA

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 4 of the Bill provides for the constitution of the Coastal Tourism Development Board by the Central Government. Clause 5 provides for appointment of Secretary, Chief Account Officer and other staff of the Authority. Clause 6 provides for headquarters and other offices of the Authority. Clause 7 provides for meetings and procedure of the Authority. Clause 8 provides for constitution of a Coastal Tourism Development Board Fund. Clause 11 provides for the development of coastal tourism through advertisement, maintaining of website and providing amenities for development of tourist destinations. The Bill, therefore, if enacted, would involve expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India. It is estimated that a recurring expenditure of about rupees five hundred crore will be involved per annum.

A non-recurring expenditure of rupees two hundred crore is also likely to be involved.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 14 of the Bill empowers the Central Government to make rules for carrying out the purposes of the Bill. As the rules will relate to matters of detail only, the delegation of legislative power is of a normal character.

LOK SABHA

A

BILL

to provide for establishment of Coastal Tourism Development Board for the
Development of coastal tourism in the country and for matters
connected therewith.

(Dr. Hemant Vishnu Savara, M.P.)