



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF  
GOA

**The Goa Special Courts (Land Grabbing)  
Bill, 2026**

(Bill No. 62 of 2026)

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

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GOA LEGISLATURE SECRETARIAT  
ASSEMBLY HALL, PORVORIM  
AUGUST, 2026

## The Goa Special Courts (Land Grabbing) Bill, 2026

(Bill No. 62 of 2026)

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BILL

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 24<sup>th</sup> 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. 5

**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. 10

(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. 15

(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 Specials Courts without requiring a fresh appointment. 20

**4. Appeal.**— (1) An appeal shall lie against any conviction and the sentence imposed by the Special Court to the High Court. 21

(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: 25

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.

- 5     **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  
10    deemed to have been validly done as if this Act had been in force at all material times.

## **STATEMENT OF OBJECT AND REASON**

Land grabbing and the unlawful occupation of land have emerged as a matter of serious concern in the State of Goa. Such activities often involve the unlawful taking of possession of land by deceit, fraud or force and the creation of unauthorised interests or transactions in respect thereof. Recognising the seriousness of the issue, the Government of Goa, by Notification dated the 9<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2022, constituted a Commission of Inquiry under the chairmanship of Justice V. K. Jadhav (Retd.) to inquire into cases of land grabbing in the State of Goa. The report submitted by Justice V. K. Jadhav (Retd.) observes inter alia that land grabbing activities not only affect the rights of lawful landowners and persons in possession, but also result in prolonged litigation and difficulties in the effective enforcement of criminal law. The Report also recommends the establishment of Special Courts to ensure the expeditious trial and disposal of cases.

It is, therefore, considered necessary to provide for a specialised mechanism for the expeditious trial of offences relating to land grabbing. This Bill seeks to empower the Government, with the concurrence of the High Court, to designate one or more Courts of Session as Special Courts for the exclusive trial pertaining to the activity of land grabbing.

This Bill also contains provisions to remove difficulties that may arise in giving effect to the proposed legislation and to validate actions taken prior to its commencement, which are consistent with the provisions of the proposed Act.

The Bill seeks to achieve the above objects.

**FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM**

No additional financial implications are involved in this Bill.

**MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION**

Clause 3 of the Bill empowers the Government, with the concurrence of the High Court and by notification published in the Official Gazette, to designate one or more Courts of Session as Special Courts for the trial of cases relating to land grabbing.

Porvorim-Goa  
31<sup>st</sup> August 2026.

**(Atanasio Monserrate)**  
Minister for Revenue

Assembly Hall,  
Porvorim-Goa  
31<sup>st</sup> August 2026.

**Smt. Namrata Ulman**  
Secretary to the Legislative  
Assembly of Goa.

