



GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

No. TOR 134 TDO 2025

Karnataka Government Secretariat,
Vikasa Soudha,
Bengaluru, Dated:27.04.2026.

CIRCULAR

Subject: Implementing upgraded protocols for operations, safety and security for Homestays and Bed & Breakfast Establishments.

1. Context and Objective

Homestays are a key part of Karnataka's tourism ecosystem, enhancing the availability of quality and affordable accommodation for tourists. The Karnataka Tourism Policy 2024-29 also recognizes the key role played by Homestays in enhancing the accommodation inventory, particularly in areas where it may not be possible to create such infrastructure on a large scale. Homestays also have an important role in community-driven tourism and act as a key platform in promoting the local culture and heritage. The policy has also differentiated between "Homestay" (*where the owner / immediate is residing*) and "Bed & Breakfast" (*where the owner is not residing and is managed through an operator / agent*) establishments.

Karnataka is generally perceived as a safe and welcoming destination, and homestays are a popular choice among visitors to the State. However, two recent criminal incidents in Koppala district (March 2025) and in Kodagu district have highlighted the need for strengthening the current operating, regulatory and monitoring framework for private tourism accommodation.

To maintain a secure environment for visitors, a co-ordinated response spanning multiple government agencies should be executed at the district level. District Administration should structure the execution of the following directives to best suit local conditions.

2. Guidelines for Operation of Homestays and Bed & Breakfast Establishment

All Homestays and Bed & Breakfast establishments shall follow the guidelines for operation of such establishment. District Tourism Development Committee shall ensure awareness of these guidelines.

A copy of the *Guidelines for Operation of Homestays and Bed & Breakfast Establishments* is enclosed at **Annexure I**.

A copy of the *Offences Accommodation Units Must Avoid (with Punishments)* is enclosed at **Annexure II**.

3. Mandatory Display of Registration Certificate and License

The certificate of registration with Tourism Department and the applicable licenses for the Homestay / Bed & Breakfast establishment should be displayed at the reception / main entrance of the Homestay / Bed & Breakfast establishment so that is clearly visible from a distance and the validity of the certificate / license is clearly visible.

4. Listing of Homestays and Bed & Breakfast Establishments (Tourism Department)

The Tourism Department shall maintain the list of registered Homestays and Bed & Breakfast establishments in Karnataka on their website.

It is recommended for tour operators, travel agents, online travel agencies, and tourism service providers to work only with establishments registered with the Tourism Department.

The Tourism Department shall also publicize this registry to enable tourists to make an informed decision prior to travel.

Tourism Department shall also work to establish protocols to ensure any non-compliant units are automatically and immediately delisted by tourism service providers until compliance is restored.

5. Display and Publicity of Emergency and Helpline Numbers (District Administration and Tourism Department)

Emergency and Helpline Numbers should be displayed at all accommodation units providing details of the following -

- Single Emergency Helpline Number: 112
- National Tourist Helpline Number: 1800-11-1363 or 1363
- Women Safety: 181
- Child Helpline: 1098
- Nearest Hospital / Primary Healthcare Facility
- AD / DD, Tourism Department
- DC Office
- Disaster Management Authority
- Gram Panchayat / ULB Office
- Sakhi One-Stop Centre

Important emergency and helpline numbers shall be publicized by the Tourism Department and District Administration.

Standardized signage should be created by Tourism Department in consultation with relevant authorities for display at accommodation units.

6. Mandatory Verification of Antecedents (Police Department)

The background of all staff employed by the accommodation units must be verified at the local police station. Verified credentials must be maintained physically / digitally at the property and made available during routine inspection by police or tourism officials.

This requirement is applicable to both permanent and contract staff.

7. Integration with E-Beat System (Police Department)

The geographic co-ordinates of all registered accommodation units must be mapped as mandatory checkpoints in the Karnataka Smart E-Beat System, generating an automated GPS-verified trail of police visits. The Department of Tourism and Police Department shall work together to automate the integration between their respective databases and automate processes and information flow.

All police stations with jurisdiction over areas containing registered accommodation units must maintain a dedicated beat register.

Beat constables are required to physically visit these properties, verify guest logs and officially log their visits using GPS through the application. This generates an unalterable, timestamped audit trail that senior police officials can monitor centrally.

8. Outreach with Homestay Owners (District Administration and Police Department)

The District Tourism Development Committee and the Station House Officer (SHO) or higher must conduct formal meetings with homestay owners within their jurisdiction at least on an annual basis, particularly before the start of the tourist season.

These sessions will focus on operation of accommodation units, guest etiquette and assessment of local security risks, evaluation of safety & emergency readiness of properties, providing guidance on identifying suspicious activities or potential threats to guest safety, awareness of relevant laws and legal provisions and any other topics of relevance.

9. District Tourism Inspection Committee (District Administration)

The Deputy Commissioners of all districts must establish joint inspection task force comprising Police, Tourism and any other relevant officials.

This task force will be responsible for conducting randomized physical inspections of properties to verify compliance with the guidelines and SOPs. Additionally, the task force shall also identify and report on unregistered properties operating within their respective jurisdiction for necessary action.

10. KSP SOS Mobile Application (Police Department)

QR code for downloading the Karnataka State Police SOS App must be prominently displayed at reception desks.

The establishment's owners / staff should be trained on providing information on the app to guests during check-in.

11. Safety of Women Travellers & Staff (Department of Women & Child Development)

The Department of Women & Child Development shall take up the design and delivery of mandatory training for all hospitality staff on important aspects such as gender sensitization, the *Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) Act* and the *Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act* as well as mechanisms to deal with incidents.

In the event of a crisis involving female tourists, the Sakshi One Stop Centres can provide immediate legal, medical, and psychological support. Department of Women & Child Development and Tourism Department shall work together to publicize this platform.

12. Record of Foreign Tourists (Police Department)

Training must be provided to property owners / operators / managers to ensure that accommodation units accurately log data on foreigners staying at the property using the prescribed system of the Police Department.

Randomized checks may be conducted to ensure compliance.

13. Optimization of 112 Helpline for Emergency Response System (Police Department)

The Police Department may work towards enhancing the 112 emergency response system by pre-populating the system with the exact geo-location data of all registered Homestays and Bed & Breakfast units.

Distress calls originating from these specific coordinates may be algorithmically classified as priority tourist emergencies, triggering rapid dispatch from the nearest response vehicle.

Deputy Commissioners of all districts in Karnataka as well as concerned officials from Tourism Department, Police Department and Department of Women & Child Development are requested to initiate the necessary actions to execute these directives immediately.

A compliance report on action taken shall be submitted to the Department of Tourism by 15th May 2026 by email to Commissioner, Tourism Department at director@karnatakaturism.org


(Rafeek.A)

Under Secretary to Government (I/c),
Tourism Department.

To: 1. All Deputy Commissioners & Chairman, District Tourism Development Committee.

2. Commissioner, Department of Tourism, Bengaluru.

Guidelines for Operation of Homestays and Bed & Breakfast Establishments

Annexure I -

All Homestays and Bed & Breakfast establishments operational within Karnataka shall adhere to the following operational guidelines to ensure a safe and comfortable stay for guests.

1. All existing and new Homestays and Bed & Breakfast establishments are required to register with the Department of Tourism, Government of Karnataka. The list of registered Homestays shall be displayed on the website of the Department of Tourism.
2. Homestays / Bed & Breakfast establishments must provide at least 1 (one) and maximum of 6 (six) lettable rooms. The establishment may have a maximum of 12 (twelve) beds. A room cannot have more than 3 (three) beds excluding cots for children. No room in the establishment may be operated as a dormitory and bunk beds cannot be provided in a establishment. At any point of time, a maximum of 12 adults can stay as guests in the establishment.
3. The rooms in a Homestay / Bed & Breakfast establishment may be a part of the residence in which the owner (or their spouse or children) is staying or in a separate building / cottage that is part of the same plot of land, i.e., same survey number.
4. It is **desirable** that each room in the Homestay / Bed & Breakfast establishment has an attached bathroom.
5. No rooms can be let out on a time share basis.
6. The owner (or their spouse or children) of the Homestay or the operator / agent for the Bed & Breakfast establishment should clearly explain to the guests the facilities available at the establishment and the rates to be paid for their use. A printed rate card of activities and services should be available.
7. Homestay / Bed & Breakfast establishment shall mandatorily provide breakfast. The establishment may also provide additional meals to guests on request on payment basis. It is recommended that the fixed cost of breakfast is included in the room tariff. It is **desirable** that the meals offered are of the local cuisine.
8. Homestay / Bed & Breakfast establishment shall always keep the accommodation in good condition and clean for the guests. Further, the prescribed safety measures including quality, health, hygiene and fire safety should be followed without fail.
9. Homestay / Bed & Breakfast establishment shall have CCTV surveillance at the reception and maintain the data for at least 30 days.
10. Every Homestay / Bed & Breakfast establishment shall maintain a register (physical or electronic format) for guest check-in and check-out records including scanned / photocopy of ID card with address and date of birth for domestic guests and passport details in case of foreign guests.

The details of all foreign guests should be submitted to the police department as per their prescribed guidelines.



11. Every Homestay / Bed & Breakfast establishment shall maintain the following at the reception / main entrance / reservation office of the Homestay
 - Feedback register
 - Complaint register with action taken
 12. Homestay / Bed & Breakfast establishment shall ensure their guests do not cause public nuisance or disturb the neighbours.
 13. Homestay / Bed & Breakfast establishment should provide a local experience by way of local decor, authentic cuisine, local activities etc.
 14. Homestay / Bed & Breakfast establishment may tie up with reputed local tour operators, travel agents, and transport operators to provide sightseeing and tourism experiences for their guests.
 15. Suitable precautions must be taken for any activities offered outside the Homestay / Bed & Breakfast establishment premises after sunset.
 16. Homestays having poor cellular network coverage should provide guest-accessible communication infrastructure such as landline phone.
 17. Contact details for the following should be displayed -
 - Single Emergency Helpline Number: 112
 - National Tourist Helpline Number: 1800-11-1363 or 1363
 - Women Safety: 181
 - Child Helpline: 1098
 - Nearest Hospital / Primary Healthcare Facility
 - AD / DD, Tourism Department
 - DC Office
 - Disaster Management Authority
 - Gram Panchayat / ULB Office
 - Sakshi One-Stop Centre
- The contact details and address for the key authorities including police, fire, forest, health, local body, tourism, and DC office should be provided to the guests upon check-in.
18. The background of all staff employed by the Homestay / Bed & Breakfast establishment must be verified at the local police station. Verified credentials must be maintained physically / digitally at the property and made available during routine inspection by police or tourism officials.
 19. QR code for downloading the Karnataka State Police SOS App must be prominently displayed at reception desks and the unit's staff should be trained on providing information on the app to guests during check-in.
 20. The owner / staff of the Homestay / Bed & Breakfast establishment should undertake the training provided by District Tourism Development Committee from time to time.



21. Homestay / Bed & Breakfast establishment should follow sustainable practices and responsible tourism practices for their operations.
22. Homestay / Bed & Breakfast establishment should have proper waste management facilities as per applicable laws and are encouraged waste segregation, recycling, use of renewable energy sources and proper disposal of waste.
23. If the Homestay / Bed & Breakfast establishment owner undertakes other activities besides running the accommodation unit (such as plantation, beekeeping, dairy etc.), it shall not hinder the accommodation and hospitality operations.
24. Homestay / Bed & Breakfast establishment are encouraged to engage locals for providing tourism and hospitality services and to procure from local vendors where feasible
25. The certificate of registration with Tourism Department and the applicable licenses (if any) for the Homestay / Bed & Breakfast establishment should be displayed at the reception / main entrance of the Homestay / Bed & Breakfast establishment so that is clearly visible from a distance and the validity of the certificate / license is clearly visible.
26. Establishment / houses operating as a Homestay / Bed & Breakfast establishment without valid registration and approval are considered illegal and legal action will be taken against the owners / promoters of the illegal establishments.
27. Any illegal activities of the guests of a Homestay / Bed & Breakfast establishment must be brought to the notice of the Police Department for necessary action.


(Rafeek.A)

Under Secretary to Government (I/c),
Tourism Department.



Annexure II -OffencesAccommodation UnitsMust Avoid (with Punishments)

1. Sexual Offences (Very high priority)

Sl. No.	Offence	Law	Action	Punishment
1.	Voyeurism	Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023	Watching / recording women in private acts (bathroom, room, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Offence: 1-3 years + fine • Repeat: 3-7 years + fine
2.	Sexual Harassment		Unwanted touching, comments, gestures	Up to 3 years imprisonment + fine
3.	Assault to Outrage Modesty		Physical assault with sexual intent	3-5 years imprisonment + fine
4.	Rape		Non-consensual sexual act	Minimum 10 years to life imprisonment

2. Offences Against Children (Strict liability – no excuse accepted)

Sl. No.	Offence	Law	Action	Punishment
1.	POSCO – Any Minor Involved	Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO Act)	Any sexual act, touch, or even intent involving minor (<18 yrs)	3 years to life imprisonment (depending on severity)

3. Privacy & Technology Crimes

Sl. No.	Offence	Law	Action	Punishment
1.	Illegal Recording / Sharing	Information Technology Act, 2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recording guests secretly (CCTV misuse, hidden cams) • Sharing photos/videos without consent 	Up to 3 years imprisonment + fine
2.	Publishing Obscene Content		Uploading/sharing private or obscene content	3-5 years imprisonment + heavy fine

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4. Theft & Property Crimes

Sl. No.	Offence	Law	Action	Punishment
1.	Theft (Guest belongings)	Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023	Stealing cash, jewellery, gadgets	Up to 3 years imprisonment
2.	Criminal Breach of Trust		Misusing property given in trust (e.g., luggage custody)	Up to 5 years imprisonment + fine
3.	Cheating		Fraudulent billing, fake services	Up to 7 years imprisonment + fine

5. Criminal Intimidation & Misconduct

Sl. No.	Offence	Law	Action	Punishment
1.	Criminal Intimidation	Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023	Threatening guests	Up to 2-7 years imprisonment
2.	Wrongful Restraint / Confinement		Blocking exit, locking guests inside	Up to 1-3 years imprisonment

6. Drugs & Illegal Activities

Sl. No.	Offence	Law	Action	Punishment
1.	Drug Possession / Supply	The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (NDPS Act)	Drugs on premises or facilitating use	Rigorous imprisonment (varies: 1 year to 20 years depending on quantity)
2.	Prostitution / Trafficking Facilitation	Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956	Allowing illegal sex trade	1-7 years imprisonment + fine

7. Alcohol & Public Order

Sl. No.	Offence	Law	Action	Punishment
1.	Serving Liquor Illegally	• Karnataka Excise Act, 1965	Without licence / to minors	Fine + imprisonment (state laws apply)
2.	Public Nuisance / Disturbance	• Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 • Karnataka Police Act, 1963	Loud parties, disturbance	Fine / minor imprisonment

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8. Foreigners-Related Violations

Sl. No.	Offence	Law	Action	Punishment
1.	Helping Foreigner Violate Rules	Foreigners Act, 1946	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hiding foreigner• Not reporting	Up to 5 years imprisonment + fine

9. Golden Rules for Staff

- Do NOT enter guest rooms without permission.
- Do NOT touch or interact inappropriately.
- Do NOT record anything secretly.
- Do NOT handle guest belongings unnecessarily.
- Do NOT allow illegal activities.
- Do NOT ignore suspicious behaviour.


(Rafeek.A)

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