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New Act to tax professionals' income; entry toll on vehicles

PANAJI: A tax on "professions, trades, callings and employments" is just one of many tax proposals announced by chief minister Digambar Kamat in his additional budget speech to the legislative assembly on Friday.

A hike in the entry fee on casinos, entry toll on vehicles entering Goa, land replenishment cum green environment charge, ground water extraction charge, library cess and infrastructure tax are some of the other tax proposals announced by Kamat "in order to enhance the revenue base of the government".

The government proposes to introduce an Act to provide for the levy and collection of a tax on professions, trades, callings and employments. The state is expected to collect about Rs 65 crore per year from the above proposed tax in the first year.

The proposed tax shall have five slabs based on monthly [incomes](#) - income below Rs 10,000, no tax; Rs 10,001 to Rs 12,500, Rs 150; Rs 12,501 to Rs 15,000, Rs 200; Rs 15,001 to Rs 20,000, Rs 250; Rs 20,001 to Rs 25,000, Rs 300 and Rs 25,001 and above, Rs 350 tax per month.

For the purpose of administration, all professionals such as doctors, lawyers, consultants, architects, hoteliers, vehicle dealers, builders, civil engineers, chartered accountants, brokers, sub-brokers and all such other professionals will be required to register themselves with the government. A one-time registration charge of Rs 5000 will be charged to the professionals.

The government also hopes to get a revenue of Rs 36.50 crore annually from the increased entry fee to casinos in Goa. "My government in an effort to discourage the youth from entering the casinos, proposes to enhance the entry fee

for all casinos from its present Rs 200 per person to Rs 2000 per person," Kamat said. When asked how he would ensure compliance, Kamat said the government is coming out with regulations and might even put up a team to conduct surveys on the field.

The government also proposes to introduce an entry toll on vehicles, except two-wheelers, to be levied on vehicles entering Goa. Light motor vehicles (personal use) will be charged Rs 100 per entry, light motor vehicles (taxi) will be charged Rs 150 per entry, mini trucks and mini buses will be charged Rs 150 per entry and heavy vehicles including buses will be charged Rs 250 per entry. The government hopes to collect a revenue of about Rs 20 crore per year from this entry tax that could help in the repairs and maintenance of roads in Goa, Kamat said.