

## **Times of India**

### **Government invites views on tourism master plan for creating jobs**

PANAJI: The tourism master plan and tourism policy to improve tourism in the state has entered a participative stage with the tourism department seeking views and suggestions from the general public on the interim plan submitted to the government.

The tourism department, has asked the public, travel and tourism trade, industry associations, NGOs, policy advocacy groups and all stakeholders to contribute views and suggestions to the proposed Goa tourism master plan and tourism policy.

The master plan and policy is being prepared with the objective to provide direction and guidance for sustainable development of tourism in the state over the short term (5 years), medium term (15 years) and long-term (25 years), said a tourism official.

The document in three modules has been uploaded on the department's website [http://www.goatourism.gov.in/images/goa\\_tmp\\_module3.pdf](http://www.goatourism.gov.in/images/goa_tmp_module3.pdf).

Views and suggestions are being sought on what infrastructure and service sector investments are required to provide tourism products and activities for identified tourists. The department has also sought views on which tourism product mix should be employed in the sector and how should the government ensure that tourism growth creates jobs and entrepreneurship opportunities for Goans.

The department wants to know how balance can be brought between the need for economic and entrepreneurial development for Goans with the social and environmental impact of tourism growth in the state.

The government plans to identify the areas of weaknesses in the sector and the remedies to overcome them. It also seeks to know what are the factors limiting Goa's competitiveness as a tourist destination, and which policy, regulatory and institutional interventions are required to ease investment and operating tourism business in the state.

Views and suggestions should be emailed to [goatourismmasterplan@gmail.com](mailto:goatourismmasterplan@gmail.com) within seven days and within 500 words, said the department.