



Govt identifying reasons for drop in tourists, working with experts and stakeholders, solutions soon: Ajgaonkar

Panjim, Feb 13: The Hon'ble Minister for Tourism, Mr. Manohar Ajgaonkar today allayed anxieties of the tourism & hospitality industry in Goa assuring to work out mechanisms to increase tourist footfalls to Goa and appealed to all stakeholders to co-operate with the Goa government in this direction.

Mr. Manohar Ajgaonkar said, "We had a very fruitful deliberation today with tourism stakeholders and I welcome all their inputs and suggestions for improving tourism in Goa. That there is a drop in tourist arrivals needs to be looked into seriously and whatever the problems identified will be looked into jointly taking into confidence all the tourism associations and stakeholders. Goa government along with tourism stakeholders and its experts will identify all the problems and work out solutions in the coming days on the cause of the drop in tourists to Goa and work out solutions as quickly as possible."

Mr. Ajgaonkar said that he would also work in close tandem with other government departments namely police and local authorities wherever required to ensure a clean and safe environment for tourists visiting Goa.

He also urged the stakeholders to deliberate with Goa Tourism and review the Marketing strategy in terms of its promotions nationally and internationally.

Chairing a meeting at the Secretariat in Porvorim today and attended by various travel and tourism associations, hoteliers and stakeholders, Mr. Ajgaonkar heard issues voiced and solutions slated by the trade bodies & hoteliers which included improving infrastructure, cleanliness and hygiene, better air connectivity, better public transport systems, use of the State waterways, introducing more tourism initiatives, incentives, etc.

The tourism stakeholders urged Mr. Ajgaonkar to look into issues concerning harassment to tourists on various fronts, nuisances caused by organized begging at tourist locations,



unreasonable taxi charges by local operators, high GST, pathetic condition of accesses to tourist locations, parking problems for long halt flights at Dabolim, high visa charges, need for introducing pay back incentives on visa charges, incentives to the hospitality industry etc. The Travel and Tourism Association of Goa (TTAG) led by Mr. Savio Messias assured Mr. Ajgaonkar to submit a report shortly on various problems irking tourism in Goa which would further help the government tackle the problems, and also assured that the tourism stakeholders would jointly work out mechanisms with the government for improving tourism in Goa.

The Director, Dept. of Tourism, Govt. of Goa, Mr. Sanjiv Gadkar, Mr. Rajesh Kale, Dy. Director, Dept. of Tourism, Mr. Gavin Dias, GM – GTDC and members of the State Level Marketing and Promotion Committee, Mr. Nandan Kudchadkar and Mr. Abhijeet Walke were present.