Chapter - IV

Adventure Tourism in Goa
CHAPTER IV
ADVENTURE TOURISM IN GOA

4.1 PROFILE OF STUDY AREA

Goa is India's smallest State by area and the fourth smallest by population. Located in South West India in the region known as the Konkan, it is bounded by the state of Maharashtra to the north, and by Karnataka to the east and south, while the Arabian Sea forms its western coast. Goa is India's richest state with a GDP per capita two and a half times that of the country as a whole. It was ranked the best placed state by the Eleventh Finance Commission for its infrastructure and ranked on top for the best quality of life in India by the National Commission on Population based on the 12 Indicators.

Panaji is the state's capital, while Vasco da Gama is the largest city. The historic city of Margao still exhibits the cultural influence of the Portuguese, who first landed in the early 16th century as merchants, and conquered it soon thereafter. The Portuguese overseas territory of Portuguese India existed for about 450 years, until it was annexed by India in 1961 into a centrally administered Union Territory of India. On 30 May 1987, the Union Territory was split, and Goa was made India's twenty-fifth state, with Daman and Diu remaining Union Territories.

4.1.1 Etymology

The name Goa came to European languages from the Portuguese, but its precise origin is unclear. In ancient literature, Goa was known by many names such as Gomanta, Gomanchala, Gopakapattam, Gopakapur, Govapuri, Govem, and Gomantak. The Indian epic Mahabharata refers to the area now known as Goa, as Goparashtra or Govarashtra which means a nation of cowherds.

A native of Goa is called a Goan in English, Goenkar in Konkani, Govekar (in Marathi, Goês (male) or Goesa (female) in Portuguese. Goa has a population of 1.344 million residents, making it India's fourth smallest (after Sikkim, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh). The population has a growth rate of 14.9% per decade.
4.1.2 Geography and Climate

Goa encompasses an area of 3,702 km² (1,430 sq mile). It lies between the latitudes 14°53′54″ N and 15°40′00″ N and longitudes 73°40′33″ E and 74°20′13″ E. Most of Goa is a part of the coastal country known as the Konkan, which an escarpment is raising up to the Western Ghats range of mountains, which separates it from the Deccan Plateau.

Goa, being in the tropical zone and near the Arabian Sea, has a hot and humid climate for most of the year. The month of May is the hottest, seeing day temperatures of over 35 °C (95 °F) coupled with high humidity. The monsoon rains arrive by early June and provide a much needed respite from the heat. Most of Goa's annual rainfall is received through the monsoons which last till late September.

Goa has a short winter season between mid-December and February. These months are marked by nights of around 21 °C (68 °F) and days of around 28 °C (84 °F) with moderate amounts of humidity.

4.1.3 Subdivisions

The state is divided into two districts: North Goa and South Goa. Panaji is the headquarters of the North Goa district and Margao of the South district.

The districts are further divided into twelve talukas – Talukas of North Goa are Bardez, Bicholim, Pernem, Ponda, Dharbadora, Sattari and Tiswadi, the talukas of South Goa are Canacona, Mormugao, Quepem, Salcete and Sanguem. Headquarters of the respective talukas are Mapusa, Bicholim, Pernem, Ponda, Valpoy, Panjim, Chaudi, Vasco, Quepem, Margao and Sanguem.

There are 363 people for each square kilometer of the land. Goa is the State with highest proportion of Urban Population with 49.76% of the population living in urban areas. The literacy rate of Goa is over 82%. The sex ratio is 960 females to 1000 males. The birth rate is 15.70 per 1,000 people in 2007. Goa also is the State with lowest proportion of Scheduled Tribes at 0.04% in India.

Renowned for its beaches, places of worship and world heritage architecture, Goa is visited by large numbers of international and domestic tourists each year. It also has rich flora and fauna, owing to its location on the Western Ghats range, which is classified as a biodiversity hotspot. Tourism is Goa's primary industry: it handles 12% of all foreign tourist arrivals in India. Goa has two main tourist seasons: winter and summer. In the winter time, tourists from abroad (mainly
Europe) come to Goa to enjoy the splendid climate. In the summer time (which, in Goa, is the rainy season), tourists from across India come to spend the holidays.

4.2 TOURISM IN GOA

Goa with its natural scenic beauty, verdant landscapes, enchanting coastline, dotted with golden and silvery beaches, an incredible cultural monument and above all a very hospitable people, has the right tourism profile for an ideal tourist destination.

Goa, the crown jewel in the treasure trove of India is a masterpiece nestled along the warm boundless blue of the Arabian Sea. This tiny state in Western India charms and attract people from across the world and is dubbed as “Paradise on Earth”. It is also popularly known as the “Pearl of the Orient”. Goa is bestowed with natural beauty and lovely beaches. The wide serene beaches are ideal for sunbaths and romantic strolls. Tourism in Goa is essentially recognized as Beach Tourism destination in view of its long beautiful sun drenched and palm fringed beaches; and is also called “Queen of Beaches”. Goa has a coast line of 125 Kms and a shoreline of 105 Kms dotted with beautiful sun kissed beaches. Goa’s long coastline makes it the ideal state for beach holidays and a relaxing vacation. The famous beaches in Goa are Palolem, Agonda, Majorda, Bogmalo, Mobor, Cavelossim, Varca, Benaulim, Colva in the South and Donapaula, Miramar, Sinquerim, Candolim, Calangute, Baga, Vagator, Anjuna and Arambol in the North.

Due to the fascination for the sun, sea and sand, the bulk of tourist activity is concentrated in the coastal region. The real Goa lives in the wild covered with pristine forest, rich in biodiversity. Goa’s hinterland is an explorer’s delight for its virgin natural forest cover, cascading waterfalls, and pastoral inhabitants living with perfect harmony in nature. The jungle beauty and glimpses of wildlife at the wild Life Sanctuaries of Bondla and Cotigao, the migratory birds visiting the Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary, the crocodiles of Cumbarjua canal, tortoises scattered on the Morjim beaches can capture the attention of nature lovers in Goa and offer fascinating locales for a perfect holidays. Besides these attractions Goa is also known for its exotic culture, history and friendly people.

Tourism in Goa has assumed the role of major economic activity having direct and indirect correlations with all sectors. Tourism is the backbone of the Goan
economy and about 40% of its population earns their livelihood directly and indirectly from tourism activities. The tourism industry is the largest contributor of revenue to the state and fifty percent of the revenue collected by the state is contributed directly or indirectly by the tourism industry.

Tourism in Goa is a seasonal activity, as the main thrust of tourism is coastal tourism, which is heavily dependent on climatic conditions. Hence tourism in Goa is concentrated in the months of October to May which are non-monsoon months when the sun, sea, and sand are available.

Tourism in Goa is at its boom and attracts tourist from all parts of the world. Presently Goa is one of the most demanding travel and holiday destinations of India which are popular among both domestic and international tourists.

4.3 GROWTH OF TOURISM IN GOA

Goa was under the domination of Portugal for 450 years and was liberated from Portuguese rule in 1961. The consequential influence of Portuguese culture, presents a somewhat different picture to visitors. In the pre-liberation years, there was no tourism to speak of in Goa. Things began to change after liberation of Goa, which brought this tiny enclave into mainstream national and international consciousness. Intrepid souls began to discover the charms of Goa’s tourism and the word began to spread. A major twist in Goa’s tourism came in the late 60’s when Goa was discovered by the hippies. Over the next 10 years, a group of people from California referred to as the flower children flocked to Goa. The publicity that accompanied the discovery of Goa by the hippies ensured that the potential of Goa as a tourist destination sank into the consciousness of the tourist sector as well as tourist in India and abroad. There was a steady growth for some years after that. The hippies continued to come, but there were also increasing number of middle and upper class tourist both domestic and foreign. And in the mid-70’s the State Government woke up to the realization that here was a sector set to burgeon rapidly. These development prominently placed Goa on the international map and by now Goa was well renowned as a tourist destination and the brand ‘Goa’ was born. Goa now ranks 10th position in terms of foreign tourist arrivals in India. With a percentage share of 2.5%
Table 4.3 Share of Top 10 States/UTs of India in Number of Foreign Tourist Visits in 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>State/UT</th>
<th>Foreign Tourist Visits in 2010 (P)</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage Share (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
<td>5083126</td>
<td>28.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>2804687</td>
<td>15.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Delhi</td>
<td>1893650</td>
<td>10.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Uttar Pradesh</td>
<td>1675123</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Rajasthan</td>
<td>1278523</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>West Bengal</td>
<td>1192187</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Kerala</td>
<td>659265</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Bihar</td>
<td>635722</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Himachal Pradesh</td>
<td>453616</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Goa</td>
<td>441053</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total of Top 10 States</td>
<td>16116952</td>
<td>90.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Others</td>
<td>1735825</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>17852777</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

P: Provisional
Source: (i) Bureau of Immigration, Govt. of India,
(ii) Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India
Note: (i) Figures for Chhattisgarh has been estimated
(ii) For some States data adjusted using the information available with Ministry of Tourism.

4.4 TOURIST ARRIVALS IN GOA

Tourist arrival in Goa have increased manifold after 1961. Although tourism had made its beginning with just a handful of tourist way back in 1961, the tourist inflow in the State of Goa has grown by leaps and bounds since then. Though Goa joined National mainstream only after 14 years of the country’s independence tourist traffic to Goa registered a phenomenal growth. In 1975, the visitors to Goa were only two lakhs, when a decision was taken to promote tourism vigorously through the Department of Tourism and its allied organization, The Goa Tourism Development Corporation.
Table 4.4 shows the figures of tourist arrival to Goa both domestic and foreign for a period 1985 to 2010.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Domestic</th>
<th>Foreign</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>682545</td>
<td>92667</td>
<td>775212</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>736548</td>
<td>97533</td>
<td>834081</td>
<td>7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>766846</td>
<td>94602</td>
<td>861448</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>761859</td>
<td>93076</td>
<td>854935</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>771013</td>
<td>91430</td>
<td>862443</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>776993</td>
<td>104330</td>
<td>881323</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>756786</td>
<td>78281</td>
<td>835067</td>
<td>-5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>774568</td>
<td>121442</td>
<td>896010</td>
<td>7.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>798576</td>
<td>170658</td>
<td>969234</td>
<td>8.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>849404</td>
<td>210191</td>
<td>1059595</td>
<td>9.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>878487</td>
<td>229218</td>
<td>1107705</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>888914</td>
<td>237216</td>
<td>1126130</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>928925</td>
<td>261673</td>
<td>1190598</td>
<td>5.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>953212</td>
<td>275047</td>
<td>1228259</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>960114</td>
<td>284298</td>
<td>1244412</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>976804</td>
<td>291709</td>
<td>1268513</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>1120242</td>
<td>260071</td>
<td>1380313</td>
<td>8.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>1325296</td>
<td>271645</td>
<td>1596941</td>
<td>15.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>1725140</td>
<td>314357</td>
<td>2039497</td>
<td>27.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>2085729</td>
<td>363230</td>
<td>2448959</td>
<td>20.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>1965343</td>
<td>336803</td>
<td>2302146</td>
<td>.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>2098654</td>
<td>380414</td>
<td>2479068</td>
<td>7.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>2208986</td>
<td>388457</td>
<td>2597443</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>2020416</td>
<td>351123</td>
<td>2371539</td>
<td>8.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>2127063</td>
<td>376640</td>
<td>2503703</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>2201752</td>
<td>441053</td>
<td>2642805</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>1087484</td>
<td>217810</td>
<td>1305294</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Department of Tourism of Goa.
The Graph shows the domestic and foreign tourist visiting Goa for the last ten years i.e. from 2001 to 2010.

Goa is visited by a number of tourists each year and this number is growing every year. In 1985, 6.82 lakh domestic tourist and 92 thousand foreign tourist visited Goa. This figure shot up in 2001, during which domestic tourist comprised of 11.20 lakhs tourist and foreigners accounted for 2.60 lakhs. There has been a steady increase in domestic tourist arrival with the exception of the year 2008 where there is a decline which could be on account of the terror attack in Mumbai. The share of foreign tourist visiting Goa has also considerable increased. Though the year 1991 has seen a drastic fall in the arrival of foreign tourist which may be attributed to the unstable socio-political situations in the country. The year 2010 saw 22 lakhs domestic tourist and 4.4 lakh foreign tourist visiting Goa

4.5 FOREIGN TOURIST ARRIVALS BY CHARTERS FLIGHTS

Goa made a small beginning in charter tourism when in 1985-86, Condor-a German airline operated 24 flights bringing in 3568 passengers directly from Frankfurt. After 1990 thanks to Globalisation and liberation era, the Goan skies were
opened up to charter traffic in a big way. The charter flights arrivals start from October month to March month and very few flight arrive in the month of May. It is observed that there has been significant increase in arrival of number of charter since 1985-86. The number of charter flights arriving in the Goa has increased from 24 in 1985-86 to 405 in 1991-2000. During the last season 2010-2011 there were 900 charter flights which arrived bringing in 171367 foreign tourist to Goa as compared to the previous year with 626 flights and 137,790 foreign tourist.

Overall there is a marked and gratifying improvement in the number of flights. Over the 20 years there has been a change in flight patterns in Goa, as foreign tourist arrive by charter flights as well as FITs (Free Itinerary Travelers) using international schedules carriers. This year 2010-2011 the ratio is 50% charters and 50% FITs. The state receives tourist from more than 20 different countries, including, UK, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, Finland, Russia etc. The Table 4.5 shows figures of foreign tourist arrivals by charter flights to Goa from a period 1985-86 to 2009-2010.

Table 4.5 Arrivals by Foreign Charters Flights Season Wise (October to May)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No. of flights</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No. of flights</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1985-86</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>1998-99</td>
<td>356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986-87</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>1999-00</td>
<td>405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987-88</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>2000-01</td>
<td>419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988-89</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>2001-02</td>
<td>279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989-90</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>2002-03</td>
<td>384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990-91</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>2003-04</td>
<td>532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991-92</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>2004-05</td>
<td>690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992-93</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>2005-06</td>
<td>719</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993-94</td>
<td>299</td>
<td>2006-07</td>
<td>720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994-95</td>
<td>313</td>
<td>2007-08</td>
<td>758</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995-96</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996-97</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>626</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997-98</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(upto 15.05.11)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Department of Tourism of Goa
4.6 TYPES OF TOURISM IN GOA

There are basically two types of tourism in Goa:

I. Mass Tourism

II. Alternative tourism

4.6.1 Mass tourism

Mass tourism refers to participation of large number of people in tourism which is a notable feature of most developed countries. Tourism in Goa was essentially Mass tourism or rather Beach tourism. The decision to designate Goa as a major Mass Tourism destination was taken in the mid 80’s by the Central Government. Without considering any of the implications of invasion by such a large number of tourist on the fragile environment of the region. Studies now show that the impact of mass tourism is pressuring Goa. Our beaches which were known for their virginity and serenity are over developed, over populated and encroached upon. Calangute Beach would make a good case study to assess the loss of a beautify natural resource to greed and corruption.

In Goa Tourism is a big industry today. Goa being a small state, large tourist movement is not suited for Goa; rather one should opt for a few high spending tourists to bring in the required revenue. But on the other hand, having more than 75% of its rooms in the budget category, tourism in Goa is forced to cater to mass
tourist movement as against solely high end tourist. As tourism is growing at a high rate, it tends to place a great stress on the diverse habitats and these will be destroyed. Indiscriminate tourism could very easily destroy or at least damage the flora and the fauna of the state.

4.6.2 Effects of Mass Tourism

Mass tourism seems to have had great repercussions on the manmade environment in both positive and negative ways.

Positive Effects

There are a number of positive effects in favour of tourism industry. An analysis of the positive effects makes it clear that Goa need to be more specific and change their priority order and assign due weightage to the development of tourism industry.

- The tourism industry is the largest contributor of revenue to the state. It is found to be efficacious in generating the foreign exchange reserves.
- Tourism is a source of employment and a highly labour intensive industry. The expansion of employment opportunities is an outstanding contribution of tourism industry. The hotels and restaurant and transport sector employs a good number of skilled and semi skilled personnel. Further it also generates indirect employment opportunities.
- The tourism sector contributes a lot to the exchequer in the shapes of taxes which is collected from its different segments.
- The development of tourism industry helps in the revival, strengthening and protection of the monuments and cultural heritage. It helps in boosting growth of art, craft, and culture and provides motivation for the promotion, preservation and maintenance of monument and heritage.
- Tourism being a smokeless industry environment is kept free from the smoke or other industrious hazards. The tourist centers like parks, wildlife and bird sanctuaries, gardens etc help to maintain the ecological balance.
- Tourism helps in the development of backward areas and becomes a significant factor in redressing regional imbalances in employment and income.
The development of new infrastructure and the improvement in the existing infrastructure which are undertaken in order to attract tourist also confers benefits upon the resident population by providing them amenities.

**Negative Effects**

Tourism industry brings disastrous results, if not planned properly. Attracting high volume of tourists can have negative impacts.

- Goa’s tourism belt is becoming over crowded. There has been concentration of tourism development along the coast which is leading to heavy demand for resources in these places. This results in concentration and congestion of people, enormous increase in the density of construction and related infrastructure. Consequently, there has been a decline in the agricultural sector in the State. The large influx of tourist also results in, increase of vehicle population due to large number of tourist visiting Goa creating problems resulting in the pollution of the destination.

- Aggressive promotion of Mass tourism introduces an element of cultural damage. The most serious effect is its effect on the cultural values. Tourist visiting Goa are not able to understand the local cultures so they behave and act according to their own customs and habits which are bound to affect the socio-cultural set up of the destination.

- The economic disadvantages may be the inflationary impact, due to increase in prices, increase in constructions activities due to hotel and other infrastructure and consequent increase in the land prices and house rents.

- Tourist activities are causes of degradation of environment. Many hotels are built directly on the beaches, damaging the dunes and human sewage is put directly into the water without being treated. Small hotels, lodges, guesthouses are often found to be flouting the rules laid down by the Government. They do not adhere to the laws pertaining to hygiene and sewage.

- Tourism related crimes are on the increase, many of them heinous creating panic among tourists thus making it unsafe to visit again. In recent times there has been an increase in number of cases related to law and order problem in the state, with incidents of theft, robberies, rape, pedophiles, child abuse, drugs, molestation, prostitution, murder and the like which are
increasing by the day. These are definite negative attributes of mass tourism as migrant labourers in connivance with locals are engaged in these nefarious and anti social activities.

- Local people are denied access to natural resources. Many villagers face electricity and water shortages with one five Star hotel consuming as much as water as five village. The extent of feeling of exclusion of local people from benefits of tourism has let to the growth of protest against tourism development.

- The concentration of high volumes of tourism in very congested periods of time is a major problem on account of seasonal nature of business. Tourism being highly seasonal in Goa, it is concentrated in the non monsoon months of October – March, whereas from June – August begins the lean month due to monsoons this causes some problems of its own. Facilities are under utilized in the off season while the tourist population outnumbers the local host population in season, putting additional stress on coastal resources. Also employees are laid off during the off season.

- Goa lacks modern treatment and disposal system of both sewage and garbage. The beaches are overcrowded with litter consisting of plastic bottles and bags, packets, cigarette butts, and domestic garbage. Even the internationally famous beach stretches of Baga – Calangute – Sinquerim do not have rudimentary toilet facilities. Tourists, locals, shop owners, and the hordes of migrant laborers who are employed by construction companies along the beaches, have no other option than to use the beaches to answer the call of nature.

- Taxis and buses have multiplied and local public transport has been totally neglected. The condition of public transport is very bad, providing ample opportunities to private transport operators to fleece the tourist. Tourists are then victims of these unscrupulous rickshaw and taxi drivers due to bad public transport.

- The villages of Anjuna and Vagator have surrendered completely to high pitched, monotonous trance music played at the acid parities which invariable begins at 10 am at night and continues beyond sunrise. The residents are faced with blaring music and noise resulting in phenomenal noise pollution adding to the discomfort of the villagers.
Some of the villages in Goa have become concrete jungles. Multi-storied buildings most of them constructed like monotonous apartments blocks with no frontage or garden or even parking facilities or proper approach crowd each other.

It is right to observe that the negative effects can be minimized or removed. In fact almost all the side effects may be removed if tourism is planned and developed according to local conditions. Hence a shift to Alternative tourism may be necessary or more advisable for a better and continuous tourism activity which would benefit both the state as well as the tourists. Also, certain tourists prefer a change from the mass tourism activities and would opt for something adventurous and nature friendly.

4.6.3 Alternative tourism

“Alternative Tourism” is defined as not being mass tourism. It also called as ‘Responsible Tourism’, ‘Sustainable Tourism’. It is used to refer to small-scale, non-conventional, non-mass specialized forms of tourism that are socially and environmentally sensitive and respectful, as opposed to conventional forms of mass tourism.

It is existence of small or medium companies created by families or friends, where there is possibility of more contact with the community and where most of the times there is respect for environment. Alternative tourism gives emphasis to the contact and understanding between the host and the tourist, as well as the environment. It is also consistent with the natural social and community values and that allows a positive relationship among local and tourist.

This diversification of tourism will lead to opening of newer areas and environment for tourism. The diverse tourism types are created from the experiences that tourist want to experience. Each type of alternative tourism is a way to give a denomination to a new market niches for different experience. Keeping in view the various opportunities available the Department of Tourism has taken various initiative to diversify and develop new tourism markets. These products include, Eco-tourism, Adventure Tourism, Pilgrim tourism, Heritage tourism, monsoon tourism. Also there is sufficient potential and it is also possible to divert visitors to hinterlands.
This is an indication that if the Alternative tourism is properly promoted the burden on the beaches and subsequent problems that arise could be minimized and that the state could offer alternative attractions to tourists and still earn substantial revenue besides giving a fillip to the economy of hinterland areas.

4.6.4 Types of Alternative Tourism in Goa

1. **Eco-Tourism**: With focus on Goa’s Western Ghat hillside, wildlife, waterfalls, lakes, riverine system can be promoted on priority bases. This is a very popular tourism product and is a widely excepted form of tourism. This essentially means, tourism activities related to the ecology and natural environment. This may include wildlife observation, trekking, bird watching, study tour on botany and zoology and so on.

   Expert have stressed on the need to conserve marine Eco systems. Local people along with various Government Department should be involved while formulating tourism related policies, for developing real Eco tourism. Presently Goa has been boasting about its crocodile cruise trips, dolphin cruise and bird watching cruise trips without imparting the details of these species to the tourists. Goa having a long coast of around 7600 km, including rocky and sandy beaches, mud banks, coastal dunes, coral reefs and beautiful lagoons and two main group of island and two gulfs can be developed for Eco tourists.

2. **Heritage Tourism**: This from of tourism has immense popularity among the tourists. Goa, being dotted with Old Portuguese churches at every place, can offer excellent opportunities for the growth of heritage tourism activities. As such, a reasonable part of the tourist surveyed, have shown great interest in heritage tourism. The activities under this category include tours to churches, temples and forts, arts and cultural events like carnival, shigmo festivals, etc., this would largely attract both domestic as well as foreign tourists.

3. **Monsoon Tourism**: Monsoon tourism is getting highly popular among domestic tourist. Since the state initiative to launch monsoon tourism, the state has seen unprecedented rush by domestic tourist during monsoons. The tourist simply refuses to get away from the beaches even in the rains. Goan beaches remains flooded with the tourist, even during the wet spell now.
4. **Rural Tourism:** Rural tourism is a relatively new concept and can be developed based on ‘Traditional Goan Village’ concept to attract tourism. Handicraft village, fishing villages can be developed initially as theme villages. This form of tourism may particularly enthuse foreign tourists who love the Goan culture and take a lot of interest in day to day activities, cultural events, and food habits.

5. **Business Tourism:** Business Tourism is another viable form of tourism in Goa. The State is fast emerging as a sought after for political and business conferences, meetings, seminars, workshops and conventions, termed as MICE tourism. Efforts shall be made by the Government to turn Goa into an international business convention centre. Eventually, new themes could be floated such as sea cruise, major convention centre, etc along the lines of Singapore’s experience to attract the world business community.

6. **Leisure Tourism:** Beaches such as Morjim and the coastal of Cavelossim (south) are appropriate places for leisure tourism. Waterfalls, springs, hill resorts could be places of attraction for this category. Recreational facilities should be planned in order to meet the demand and requirements of tourists. It is very important that these facilities should be of a wide variety, revenue generating, socially acceptable and could entertain a wide section of tourists. Recreational facilities that could be offered would include water sports, adventure sports, cultural events, casinos, amusement park, water parks, golf course, etc.

7. **Handicraft Development:** Goa has a rich tradition of handicrafts. Most of the tourists like to take with them souvenirs of Goa in the form of exclusive and typical handicrafts of the State. Development of handicrafts in Goa would go a long way to strengthen the economy of the State. The Govt. could promote the setting up of traditional business through cottage industries from constituencies like clay work, coir work and bamboo work with the help of the National Coir Development Corporation of India on a Co-operative basis. A craft museum as a part of museums and cultural complex may be set up so that the handicraft articles could be displayed for sale. Exhibitions and fairs are to be hosted as well.

8. **Medical Tourism:** Goa has some of the best health care facilities in the country, offering high class specialized health care network with the most
advanced techniques in various fields of medicines. Its major hospitals provide some of the best medical experts and nursing care in the country, combined with state of art medical and electronic techniques. Super specialty hospitals are on the rise, which offer one stop destination for all your health care requirements. World class expertise in cardiac care, cosmetic surgery, joint replacements and dentistry are also available. Most hospitals offer comprehensive preventive health check-ups. The favourable rate of currency exchange means you can avail of expert medical treatment or check-ups at a surprisingly reasonable cost.

9. **Adventure Tourism:** Goa offers excellent scope for adventure sports due to its abundant availability of favourable natural conditions. The beaches of Goa can offer a great underwater experience for scuba divers and marine enthusiasts. Sports activities like scuba diving, snorkeling, para-gliding, para-sailing, yachting, river rafting, trekking and even sea surfing and many other similar activities can be explored. Also there is tremendous scope for aerial and land based adventure tourism options in Goa.

4.7 **ADVENTURE TOURISM IN GOA**

Goa is one of the most the most sought after tourist destination in India. It is nature lovers dream destination. It is also internationally applauded for its beaches. This second smallest state of India is visited by lakhs of foreign and domestic tourist each year and has become one of the most favoured holiday destinations on the tourism map of the world. A tourist visiting Goa can take pleasure in the large assortment of water falls, parks and popular wild life sanctuaries besides the beaches. Goa is an area with great tourism potential, with adventure tourism at the leading edge of development.

Goa is a place whose topographical horoscope is dominated by pristine sands and roaring waves. It is a luxuriant natural bliss bounded on one side by the foothills of the Sahyadris range and on the other side by the Arabian Sea kissing its long western coastline and its placid rivers crisscrossing midland. Goa is also gifted with lakes, waterfalls of matchless exquisiteness. Due to this abundant availability of favourable natural conditions Goa offer excellent opportunities for adventure tourism. There is vast and endless scope for adventure tourism in Goa.
Adventure tourism is one of the segments in Goa which has tremendous scope to grow. Though is still at a nascent stage of development, it is perceived as a fastest growing segment and as turned out to be an immense business opportunity for Goa. It is viewed by the respondents as having great potential for development. However like other tourism business an adventure tourism enterprise relies heavily on the special interest, experience and skill. Therefore, the specialist understanding required for adventure activities is a critical area of experience for a would be adventure tourist entrepreneur. Also adventure may not be possible without the basic services amenities and experiences produced by the tourism industry. Also with improved and enhanced infrastructure and connectivity at adventure spots Goa can become a major destination for adventure tourism.

Adventure Tourism is getting highly popular among tourist. The trend has been showing an increased movement year after years with the development of facilities and greater awareness and adventure tourism options. Goa offers both international and domestic tourist wide choice of adventure.

4.8 TYPES OF ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES IN GOA

Adventure sports in Goa are among the most favoured activities of tourist visiting this magic land. A water sport is the most popular among adventure sports in Goa. Adventure tourism activities in Goa can be classified into three categories:

1. Aerial or Air Based
2. Land Based
3. Water based

4.8.1 Aerial / Air Based Adventure Activities

Parasailing

Parasailing involves a parachute attached to a motorboat. The parachute goes up in the air as the motor boat starts moving and the person tied to the parachute just need to take a step or two forward before sailing in the air. For Para-sailing one must be comfortable with heights, as this sport gives the bird’s eye view of the landscape, the coasts and beaches and the water.
Para gliding

Paragliding offers you the fun of flying with a parachute without actually jumping off an air craft. Para gliding is the experience of zooming over tree tops, feeling the winds against your skin, watching the world in all its glory over you. No special training is required for this adventure sport. The paragliding pilot launches by running down a slope of hill into the prevailing wind, until the canopy inflates over his head, lift him away from the surface of the earth. It is safe, convenient and thrilling way to soar in the air and savor the feeling of being alone. The safety of the para-glider depends entirely on the skill and experience of the instructor who can increase the joys of flying a hundred fold. The wind speed, the speed of the vehicle, and the direction of the wind all these contribute to the experience of flying. Para gliding is a happy mix of sky diving, hand gliding and the best way to conquer your fear of heights.

Bungee jumping

Bungee Jumping is both a spectacular attraction and an exciting experience for all who participate. The average age of jumpers is between 16 and 40, but the limit is 14 to 50 years. It is an unusual sport of jumping off a very high structure with a long elastic rope tied to your feet. The rope pulls you back just before you hit an inflated air bag. The thrill of just jumping of the high cliff is a great experience. The jump entitles you a bungee jump certificate to show to your friends. The Department of tourism has discontinued this activity and hence no licenses are issued.

Microlite-Flying

Microlite flying is a motorized machine with a forty feet wing span, and can accommodate two to three persons including one operator. You need not to know gliding for microlite flying because it is an operator’s job. Microlite flying is a variation of hang-gliding. It was initially introduced by Nikki’s Travel Services at Anjuna, Goa from November, 2004. Ability of being able to assemble a microlite with commercially available parts is half the fun in itself. A single - seater should ideally weigh less than 330 kg and a twin - seater, 450 kg. It can reach a cruising height of around 11,000 feet although most fliers prefer to stick closer to the ground, 3,000 feet or so. But these can’t be flown at night and in unfriendly weather
conditions. These cannot be used for aerobatics also. Microlite Flying Gears includes Headsets, Helmets, Flying Suits, Gloves, Warm Clothing and Thick Pair of Socks during winter.

4.8.2 Land Based Adventure Activities

Hiking & Trekking

Hiking and Trekking involves hard physical work, and it could be potentially dangerous. It can be done individually or in organized groups. The style depends on where the trekker want to go, how much time they have, their level of experience, how much adventure they seek and how much they can spend. Though the goan inland does not have high mountains, small or medium sized hills not exceeding a couple of thousand feet in height offer some chances to go for a short trek.

Birdwatching

A tourist can have a view of some of the rarest species of birds found in Goa. You will find as many birds here as you can imagine. The enrapturing species of birds that inhibit here make its visitor spell bound. Migratory birds seek the verdant landscape of Goa every year to frolic in the natural splendor till the end of the season. During winter, between November and January, migratory birds flock in thousands to feed on the banks of river Mandovi. The variety of colourful resident and migratory birds, mangrove flora and fauna, makes Goa a delightful place for nature lovers particularly in early mornings. Places like Dr. Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary, Carambolim lake, Curtorim, Verna and Borim wetlands have been on a regular basis playing host to several birds.

Go Karting

The outstanding thing about go Karting in Goa is that even though the tracks are built to international specifications and the karts provided are among the fastest and definitely the safest in the country. Go karting at the venues in Goa is the cheapest in the country and that adds value for money for your experience.
Paragliding

Bunjee jumping

Parasailing

Jummaring

Rock climbing

Go karting
Rock Climbing

It is the art and technique of climbing rock or cliffs. It isn’t the easiest adventure sport and can be quite extreme, although with modern techniques and equipment, safety levels have been greatly enhanced. It has become a major sport or leisure activity for thousands of outdoor sports enthusiasts. Though it is a generally risky sport which demands physical strength and endurance, it poses a different kind of challenge, excitement and adrenaline rush. This is probably one of the many reasons why a lot of people are so enthusiastic about this activity.

Rappelling

Rappelling is a technique that allows you to do a controlled descent down a rope from a cliff. Learn here about rappelling and all the climbing skills you need to learn to rappel safely. As oppose to the Rock Climbing the Rappelling is a process of descending, Rappelling is also as serious business as Rock Climbing and most of the Champs make mistakes during descending. Here mentioning about the Figure of Eight, Mittens Etc. besides the items mentioned in Rock climbing shall be justifiable in context of Rappelling or Abseiling.

Jummareing

Is the art of descending a slope using a toothed metal clamp and a rope. It deals more with the techniques of going up a fixed rope on rock, a steep cliff, an overhang or inside cascading waterfalls. Jumaring is generally used to aid a climber attempting a difficult pitch. Jumaring is not typically performed on free climbing routes where a climber uses his or her hands and feet on the rock, climbing the features, edges, cracks and pockets that the route provides without artificial aids. Typically, jumaring is reserved for aid climbing where the climbers are climbing near featureless faces of rock, usually with very thin cracks that a person probably could not get their fingers into to make the holds useful. In aid climbing, the climbers are very dependent on gear placement to ascend the route.
Golfing

Golf is a very favorite pastime sport for most of the visitors in Goa. Apart from being the most desired beach destination, it is also to the interest of Golfers who along with golfing can enjoy the beautiful sandy beaches, mouthwatering sea food and lovely countryside. There are a few wonderful golf courses in Goa. The hotel owners in Goa are aware of the attraction golf offers to the tourist groups in Goa. The hotels in Goa who have gold courses are the Leela Palace, the Taj Exotica, the Ramada and the Intercontinental. The golf course at the Taj had three holes which are around 160 yards in length. There is a regulation 9 hole golf course in Goa called the Grand Greens at Intercontinental. The Leela has a 12 hole golf course very well maintained and landscaped. The golf course of the Ramada is a very thick course with tall palm trees and liberally sprinkled sand bodies placed strategically. Lalit Golf and Spa Resort has international standard golf club plays host to all kinds of golf game and golf tournament year round. Here the seasoned golfers as well as the enthusiastic novice will thoroughly enjoy playing this challenging yet friendly, fair and aesthetically pleasing golf course.

Tyrolean traverse

It is a type of river crossing techniques. It is often referred to as underbelly crawling and can be quite exhilarating. It involves crossing a river, ravine, or even a deep mountain gorge with equipment. The risk involved in this activity is limited as most of the organization that hold such events maintain a high quality of professionalism.

4.8.3 Water based Adventure Activities

The long coastal area offers a wonderful opportunity to indulge in all sorts of water sports activities. There are a number of Governments and private organisations including hotel and tour operators conducting regular water sports activities including training courses at a very nominal rate for tourist. The best season for enjoying water sports in Goa is from October to May when the skies are cloudless and blue and the waters are placid. Water sports have witnessed a stupendous growth all along Goa. There is an array of water sports activities options in Goa.
River cruises

Boat cruises in Goa are considered to be one of the biggest attractions of the state. Visitors especially Indian tourist, largely attend these cruises. The Goa Tourism Development Corporation runs a variety of river cruises on the Mandovi River, daytime, sunset, and moonlight. There are two types of day cruises from the Panaji jetty, down the Mandovi into the Zauri bay and up the Mandovi to Aldona and a mineral water spring. Few private firms also offer a variety of imaginative cruises or boat tours for sunset views as well as for crocodile or dolphin spotting.

Jet Skiing

One of the most adventurous Water Sports in Goa is Jet Skiing. The sport is one of the most popular in Goa and many tourists try this sport to set their adrenalin rushing. Jet skiing requires a jet powered water scooter that are accelerated by a powerful engine. The Jet Ski equipment in Goa has a power of 100-135 horsepower. Up to three people can try this sport on one Jet Ski. It is very easy to operate a Jet Ski, though you are usually accompanied by an instructor. Jet skiing should surely thrill you in Goa. It is a crucial water sports in Goa for speed lovers. Jet skiing is one of the most exhilarating water sports activities. Even then, the operators usually send instructors along so that one should not get carried away with the fun. Usually the pre-defined area for jet-skiing is within operator's sight.

Speed boats

Speed boat is an adventure and craze among the tourist coming to Goa. With a capacity for three to sit, this is a great group activity. These motor boats have a speed of 10 to 15 miles per hour and few with a speed of 30 to 40 miles per hour. They are more powerful and much faster than jet skis. These speed boats are used for water skiing in Goa. These high powered boats offer sensational rides, and be taken for long rides or just a spin around the bay.

Water Scooters

Water scooters can accommodate two people together on a ride. The action sport of water scooters at Goa provides all the thrills associated with a motorbike ride and also make you feel the softness of the seawater.
Rappelling

River Crossing

Water skiing

Water scooter

Wind surfing

Dinghy Sailing
Banana Boat Bump & Ringo Rides

The banana-shaped rider has a seating capacity of six people, which is towed by a speedboat rolling. It is considered to be a favourite water sport in Goa. A banana-shaped inflatable boat is required for this exciting sport with a seating capacity between 4 and 6 which is tied to a speed boat. It is basically a fun boat tied to a larger speed boat. Riders sit astride a large tube which is fastened by two smaller tubes which provide balance and footrests. It allows the riders to experience the thrill of moving really fast. The banana boat ride is by far the most smashingly fun water sport in Goa. Interesting part of the banana boat rides is that it tosses away the seated adventurer as soon as the speed boat catches speed and venture upon to cross the sea. The Adventure sports on Banana boat rides are a constant process of being flung into sea and of carrying yourself back into the banana boat. It is also a test of stamina, as after a couple of bouts of being flung, your muscles can get quite painful. It does give you the excitement of life which you cannot afford to miss. These fun rides are available on all major beaches of Goa.

Ringo rides or Bump rides are a variation, which involves getting flipped at the end of the ride.

Sea Fishing (Angling) Sea Fishing involves going far out in a motor boat to expect some catch including kingfish, tuna and jack fish. Operators take the groups to Bat and Butterfly Islands, much closer to shore, for fishing. Sports fishing or recreational fishing is a famous water sport throughout the world. Keeping in mind the popularity of sports enthusiasts, a set of regulations came into existence. There are specific guidelines for the fishing season in which a certain species can be caught, the permission for minimum catch per day and the choice of fishing sites. It offers an opportunity for the fishing freaks to find out the unexplored territories from vast expanse of the sea housing countless treasures. Fishing also spurs us to challenge our daring and prove our worth. All of us love to transcend our limits. Agonda Beach is the most popular place to enjoy sea fishing as it offers a large variety of Soormai, salmon and mullet. Fishing Equipments includes a barbed metal hook at the end of nylon or Dacron line, a wood, fiber glass or metal rod or pole. Heavier rods and reels of the bait-casting type are used in salt-water fishing. Usual methods are however trolling and casting from the surf.
Swimming

The most common water sport in Goa that is hardly spoken of is swimming. Swimming is one relaxing exercise that relaxes your mind and body and is also extremely advantageous for your muscles is among the most common water sports in Goa. As Goa lies on the warmest ocean in the world there is no end to the fun and frolic of an innocent swim. Requiring no equipment more dramatic than your own swimming costume and the desire to roll in the waves spilling from the Arabian Sea, swimming can be enjoyed by the young, the old, the infirm, the affluent and the budget traveler alike. Almost all beaches of Goa are suitable for swimming.

Scuba Diving in Goa

Scuba diving helps you to unearth the underwater treasure of Goa. The shipwrecks belonging to the colonial period of the Portuguese have become a major shelter of the marine life that is found in the underwater world of Goa. To check out the mysterious marine life of Goa, there are plenty of diving options available in Goa. Most of the diving activities take place around the Grande Island and the most common sites include Suzy's Wreck, Davy Jones Locker, Sail Rock, Turbo Tunnel, Surge City, Uma Guma Reef and Bounty Bay in the Tours To Goa Water Sports. Scuba diving is growing in popularity in Goa. Scuba diving at Goa gives you an opportunity to go deep into the depths of the sea and see attractive coral heads, lobsters, bright colored fish, and other marine life can be conveniently explored in these shallow waters. It is suggested that you should never dive alone and should always take at least one partner with you as can always get help when in need. The underwater visibility in Goa ranges for five to ten meters. You should be totally fit physically and mentally to before going for diving. Scuba Diving Gears include Mask, Fins & Snorkel Buoyancy Compensator Vest Wetsuit Underwater Light & Backup Light Diving Knife and First-aid & Health Kit.

Snorkeling

Snorkeling is one of the most popular and most sought after water sport among tourists visiting Goa. Goa’s clean and pleasant waters and a good underwater visibility make it a perfect destination for the snorkelers. There are lot of facilities for snorkeling in Goa with all the required training and equipments provided by the tour organizers and operators. Bat Island and Navy Island in Goa provides one of the
best snorkeling facilities. Snorkeling, however, is a much easier activity when compared to Scuba Diving. This adventure sport allows a tryst with submarine world and enjoys its splendor without going much deeper into the sea; all you require is a dip. Snorkeling a preferred family activity and children’s first love.

The major snorkeling sites in Goa are Grand Island, Davy Jones, Suzy’s Wreck, Tunnel Shelter Cove and Locker Sail Rock.

**Water Skiing**

Water skiing is flying across water while you attached to the back of motor boat. It is meant for water sports enthusiasts with a ‘need for speed’. Once the basics of water skiing are learnt, skills develop rapidly and an accomplished skier can perform a series of acrobatics jumps, twists, turn and somersaults, all at a high speed. Water skiing requires strength and skill. To water–ski, you need strong leg and back muscles and a relaxed posture, being stiff doesn’t help at all. The operators will train you until you become good enough.

**River Trekking**

River trekking is a combination of trekking and climbing and swimming along the river. It involves particular techniques like knotting, rock climbing, climbing on wet surfaces, understanding the geographical features of rivers and valleys, dealing with sudden bad weather and finding out possible exits from the river. River trekking has a certain level of risks; there are occasional accidents in river trekking, including fall from steep cliffs or water falls, drowning, exhaustion or getting lost.

**Windsurfing**

Windsurfing, a unique combination of surfing and sailing, requires the surfer to balance his body against the changing currents of water and air. Windsurfing is known to be an invigorating experience for the fun seekers who have learnt the art of balancing their bodies with the tides of water and wind. The experts and trainers of windsurfing in Goa claim that Dona Paula beach in Goa is one of the best venues for windsurfing in Goa. According to them, the conditions at this beach are similar to that of a lake that provide best environment for a learner early in the morning. Tourists who are more experienced in windsurfing can look forward to
visiting this beach during afternoons as the winds are strong and offer you an exhilarating experience of windsurfing in Goa.

**White Water Rafting**

White water rafting in Goa takes you to a trip of challenges, excitement and fun. The rumbling roars, pristine waves, river banks and the white foams make river rafting one of the most enjoyed activity in Goa. The white water rafting sport in Goa is famous particularly in the area of Dandeli which is around 125 Kms from main Goa. Although it is at a distance from Goa still one can find various modes of transport connecting you to that area. Dandeli is basically a spot located on the banks of Kali River which is considered to be ideal for white water rafting.

**Canoeing**

Canoeing is one sport, which presents quiet a unique combination of exploration. It is an eco-friendly water sports, it is one of the very amazing and unique water sports of Goa which is not only meant for fun but also is a great way of exploring the state. While canoeing one can paddle the boat comfortably in the placid lake waters or other calm water bodies and glance the wonders of nature. Canoes are made to glide water and because of their conical ends they are easy to operate on water. Canoes can accommodate at least two people with their gear and is usually practiced on lakes and rivers, which have flat and still water, but keep in mind that it should not get very heavy as then it becomes risky to travel in it. With Goa having a vast coastline it provides a good opportunity for canoeing on the beaches, lakes, rivers etc. Canoeing in Goa is basically done for recreation and transportation which gives a calm and thrilling experience of the waters and the surroundings with a natural beauty. Canoeing activity is carried out throughout the year in Goa giving a refreshing experience.

**Dolphin Cruise Trips**

Dolphin spotting trips are very famous in Goa. Some of the prominent beaches have operators providing this activity. The actual trip consists of a brief glance of a timid than playful creature and gets photographs. Dolphin watching trips are offered by many operators on many stretches of Goan’s beaches.
Banana rides

Jet ski

White Water Rafting

Sailing

Speed Boats

Snorkelling
Crocodile trips

The Cumbarjua canal is the only place in Goa where crocodiles can actually be seen in the wild. The canal is 15 kms long stretch of water located about 20 minutes drive away from Panaji. It links the two biggest rivers in Goa-the Zuari and Mandovi. Some crocodiles are also found in places like Chorao, Tivim, and Quepem. The population of crocodiles in the Cumbarjua canal is currently estimated to be between 40-50. The crocodiles found in Goa are actually fresh water crocodiles called ‘freshies’ and they have actually adapted themselves to surviving in the saline waters of the canal. This extremely rare phenomenon does not occur anywhere else on the Indian subcontinent.

Dingy Sailing

A Dinghy is about 15 feet in length; it holds three to four people. It is as fun as wind surfing, yet you need not be agile or youthful to enjoy it. In fact the ride is enjoyable and yet so smooth.

Knee and Wake Boarding

Very similar to water-skiing, knee-boarding has a slot for your knees. It requires less focus on balance than water-skiing and is a very simpler technique. The skier has one broad board instead of two narrow ones on which to maintain balance in wake-boarding. There should always be an observer besides the boat operator. You should be at ease with water and well versed in water skiing.

Wake boarding is a surface Wake Boarding in Goa. The rider in this sport rides a single board and the rider is towed behind a boat. Wake Boarding is quite similar to water skiing sport but the major difference between these two sports is that in wake boarding you require less focus on the balance. If you want to sail through the high sea waters, then wake boarding is definitely worth a try in the Adventure sports. It is also equivalent to snowboarding or skateboarding with great cross over skills. In Wake boarding you will get a single board. In wake boarding more air is involved and it is pursued at a slower pace. In wake boarding a big boat is preferred and Candolim beach and Mobor beach are the most favorite place which offers excellent scope for wake boarding. It will probably cost you Rs. 1000 for a mere 15 minutes ride but the experience is worth a try.
Canoeing

Kayaking
**Catamaran / Hobie Cat Sailing**

Catamaran Sailing is made up of a twin hull with trampoline in between the hulls and a mast for sailing. It has a normal seating capacity of accommodating four persons. A trained professional is required to sail the catamaran for the enjoyment with safety. A high level of skill and training is required. It is important that you understand the emergency signals and procedures of this adventure before you hit the waters. To enjoy this water sport activity you can enjoy on beaches like Calangute, Candolim, Dona Paula, Arossim, Utorda, Benaulim, Colva, and Mober.

**Yacht Tours**

Yachting is one of the most enjoyable water sports offered in Goa. Goa’s wind and weather conditions are very favorable for yachting on the beaches of Goa. Many tour operators conduct several kinds of yacht tours for tourists. Some of these private agencies even rent out and sell yachts to interested buyers. Depending on your requirement they will even provide a trained crew and necessary equipment and all other facilities required by the yachter. Goa is the perfect destination for yachting because of its perfect climate, wind conditions and awesome hospitality. Goa has a number of yacht tours organized by local yacht agencies. Most of the yachts that are used for tours, can seat a maximum of eight people. Many of the yacht tour operators offer, soft drinks, water and beer on the trips. You will have to pay extra for food and snacks on board.

**Pedal Boat and Rowing Boat**

A pedal boat will seat a maximum of four people because of its simple controls this easy to use boat is the family favorite at Mayem Lake. A rowing boat will seat a maximum of four people and is one of the easiest ways for families to go boating.

**Kayaking**

Kayaking provide the best opportunity for sports lovers to come close to nature. Kayaks look like small fishing boat. Kayaking is fastly picking up as a favourite water sport in Goa. A Kayak can accommodate more than two people and
can be done of both flat and white water. The golden sand beaches of Goa offer some excellent facilities for Kayaking.

**Water parks**

Despite being one of the most sought after tourist destinations and the fact that the state is located along the coast, barring a recently developed facility, there is not single water-park in Goa. While Goa boasts of numerous adventure sports operators all along the coast, most of them deal with the adventure segment of sports, they are not exactly fun zones which function in a controlled aquatic environment.

Goa, as a prime, world renowned tourism destination also lacks in theme and amusement parks in the conventional sense. Goa’s only blue-blooded water park is incidentally called the Blue Whale Water Park (BWWP), which is located along the amazingly picturesque Baga river that later empties into the sea at Baga beach. The BWWP promises a great family outing for all age groups. It has six different types of water slides, four swimming pools of varying sizes. But the fun does not end here. Blaster boats, gigantic inflatable slides, an exciting Finding Nemo jumping castle etc. The next best thing to a water park in Goa is the West Zone Beach Resort, located next to Colva, which is arguably one of the longest beaches in South Goa. The West Zone beach resort promises a mini water park in their own large spread. The water park is armed with numerous fun games and slides, but the most popular and thrilling moment would have to be the mind-boggling ride at a height of 40 feet, which runs all the way up to 120 feet. The park however is open primarily to the resort’s guests

**4.9 ROLE OF VARIOUS AGENCIES IN PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ADVENTURE TOURISM IN GOA**

Since tourism is a multi sectoral activity and the industry is affected by many other sectors, the state has to ensure inter-Governmental linkages and co-ordinations. As a result, it becomes common endeavour of all agencies at the Central and State level, public sector undertakings and private sector to create institutional mechanism for ensuring effective coordination among the relevant...
agencies at different levels, though the Government of Goa plays a pivotal role in tourism management and promotion.

4.9.1 Role of the State Government

The state will primarily act as a promoter and catalyst to create an environment for planning sustained development of tourism. The development of tourism in Goa rests with the State Government through its Department Of Tourism and GTDC. Goa is the only state apart from Jammu & Kashmir where a special legislation has been enacted to regulate and control tourism activities. The Goa registration of Tourism Trade Act, 1982 which has been brought into force from 1st April, 1985 makes it incumbent on hotels and travel trade to register their business with the Department of Tourism before commencement and renew the same annually. The Act, inter-alia contains provisions with regard to offences and penalties for false statements, malpractices, obstructing lawful authorities and composition of offences. The legislation has helped in controlling any possible malpractices in trade such as touting, coercion, cheating etc. The Government of Goa, by notification, has also framed the Goa registration of Tourism Trade rules, 1985, for registration of hotel keepers and travel agents, maintenance of books and registers by them.

Conscious of preservation and conservation of environment, ecology and architecture, the state Government had decided that no construction or development shall be permitted on the sandy stretches within the 200 meters of High tide Line in general. Further such development is subject to the restrictions laid down by the Government of India under the environment protection Act and Regulations.

4.9.2 Department of Tourism

The Department of Tourism has been entrusted with the responsibility of planning and providing the tourist infrastructure and basic facilities, publicity, statutory functions under the Goa Registration of Tourism Trade Act, 1982. It provides institutional back up support to appropriate endeavours for creation of desired tourism products. It should arrange funds and ensure speedy clearance and implementations of projects leading to creation of tourist facilities and enhancement of quality of tourism products.
It is involved in policy formulation, planning and development of basic infrastructure, promotion, publicity and marketing of Goa as an ideal round the year tourist destination, both within the country and abroad.

The Department of Tourism in various tourism related events in India and abroad to promote Goa as a prime destination. Besides the Department organizes road shows and releases advertisements through print and electronic Medias to highlight Goa as major World tourism Destination. All possible measure are being undertaken to ensure and promote Goa as a ideal tourist destination.

The Department provides infrastructural facilities such as constructions/improvements of roads in tourist circuits, access roads to tourist spots, provision of lighting arrangements, sanitation facilities at different places of tourist importance, maintenance and cleaning of all beaches, deployment of life guards equipped with life saving equipments, demarcation of areas of beaches for bathing, water sports and adventure sports. It encourages development of new avenues of Tourism such as adventure tourism, hinterland tourism, eco tourism etc. It looks after the dissemination of tourist information through Tourist Information Counters set up at various tourist places of North and South Goa.

4.9.3 Goa Tourism Development Corporation Limited (GTDC)

GTDC was set up on 30th March, 1982 to look after the commercial activities of the Government in the service industry of tourism in the state. The liabilities of the Government in the form of accommodation (hotels), vehicles, tours, boats and other properties were transferred to Goa Tourism Development Corporation Ltd to run and to manage the same with a view of promoting, developing in the state and to carry out business and to manage the welfare of the employees transferred along with the assets of the Government. Goa Tourism Development Corporation. Ltd. has come a long way and completed 25 years of successful operation in tourism sector and is one of the successful Corporations in the service industry in the State of Goa.

GTDC plays an active role in all commercial aspects of tourism, including providing accommodation, organizing sightseeing tours, cruises, organizing events, promoting tourism in hinterland / Eco-tourism, Hiring out of Vehicles /Boats, Housing of Shops, Shopping Complex & Restaurants, Promotional Campaigns and other attractive packages.
Goa Tourism Development Corporation conducts tours by road to cover every nook and corner of places of tourist interest in Goa. Tours are carefully designed to cater to all classes of tourist living at the residencies which enjoy excellent locations all over the state. Tour groups are accommodated in buses and cars. The tours leave from North or South Goa exploring the entire state. Sea and river cruises are very much a part of a visitor's itinerary by GTDC, also four seater rowing/ pedal boats are available at Mayem Lake view for boating purpose.

4.9.4 National Institute of Water Sports

The National Institute of Water sports (NIWS) has been set-up by the Ministry of Tourism as an ‘apex’ body for training, education, consultancy and research to usher in an era of leisure-water sporting segment in the country. The Institute has been established as an autonomous body in 1990 under the aegis of the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India. In 2004, it has been designated as "A Centre under Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management (IITTM)" by the Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India. The Institute is governed by the Board of Governors, Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management. The Board shall be responsible for the organization, general superintendence, direction and control of the activities of the Institute.

It is the first Institute of this nature in the South East Asia covering the entire range of water sport disciplines such as life saving, boat handling, sailing, windsurfing, water skiing, scuba diving, river rafting and kayaking. Since inception, 20 courses have been developed for water sport professionals, managers and the tourists, particularly those visiting Goa.

The Institute is envisaged to function as a model for similar initiatives/entrepreneurs with regard to faculty and staff, training infrastructure, water sport equipment and specialised repair and berthing facilities. Plans are being conceived to expand the activities to encompass other adventure sporting items so as to transform it into an ‘Institute of Adventure Sports’.

With the focused strategies, actions and interventions; it has already established its position as a nodal body for training, consultancy, development, regulation, framing safety norms, bench-marking and promotion of water sports as integral component of the burgeoning tourism business.
**Major Functions**

The Institute performs a variety of functions ranging from imparting training in a wide range of leisure-based water sporting to preparing feasibility studies/development reports for water sporting to state government agencies and corporate/private entrepreneurs, frame safety norms; water sports awareness campaigns, water safety campaigns, inspection and certification of water sports centre’s and so on.

The Institute has set high standards for the practice of the sporting with ‘safety-first’ approach. In addition, it also takes lead in guiding the Government agencies and potential entrepreneurs in matters of water sports business.

Presently, trainings are offered in almost the entire range of water sport disciplines such as powerboat handling, sailing, windsurfing, water skiing, river rafting, kayaking etc. The certification in life-saving techniques for water sport operators, beach life-guarding, pool life-guarding and water-park are very unique in content and pedagogy.

Many innovative training courses have been developed in recent years. These training programmes aim to prepare and empower the persons in all critical facets of rescue activities and also usage of major instruments such as GPS. Safety Norms for Water sports are applicable for water sport centers offering water-skiing, sailing, parasailing, kayaking, canoeing, powerboat handling including water-scooter and Jet Ski rides. Norms have been drafted separately for scuba diving and river rafting. It is mandatory for the operators to fulfill all mandatory requirements before commencement of operation.

The Institute has framed safety and operational Norms for every form of watersports, which the Govt. of India has notified. There are other State Legislations as well, stipulating standards for operation of leisure-water sporting. In observance to those, inspection and certification of the water sports centres are undertaken by the Institute. It is illegal to operate the water sports activities, especially higher versions like Jet Ski, Parasail, Scuba diving etc., without being inspected and certified by the Institute or similar agencies.

Inspections are carried out on the request from the government bodies and/or individual operators. Towards inspection, water sports centre shall have to pay the fees as decided by the Institute from time to time. The Union Ministry of Tourism has identified certain segments of water sporting in the unorganized sector category
for consideration under “capacity building for service providers” scheme (CBSP). This scheme is essentially meant to raise the safety standards of water-related recreational activities and the target group would be those working as part of the unorganized sector.

4.9.5 Drishti Special Response Services Pvt. Ltd.

Drishti Special Response Services Pvt. Ltd is responsible for beach and surf zone safety and rescue services at all coastal beaches of Goa under an Agreement with the Department of Tourism, Government of Goa in July 2008. Drishti has branded its beach lifeguarding services at Goa as SLSG (Surf life Saving Goa), and commenced it operations from October 2008.

SLSG covers the coastal beaches of Goa spread over 105 kms. It is the largest premier water safety and rescue services in India. Their life guards are highly skilled and trained. The beach lifeguards are the human capital of the organization. Without this resource no surf lifeguarding service can exist. The lifeguards deployed are local youths from the State, almost 99% have Goa as their domicile.

These lifeguards were selected and trained by Lifeguard Instructors of the group training company Special Rescue Training Academy Pvt. Ltd. (SRTA) The training Institute oversees the Lifeguard training program and also the routine training program of the SLSG, therefore maintaining an important "arm length" distance to ensure required skill sets of deployed lifeguards. SRTA ensures that the lifeguards receive the appropriate skill sets by calling upon Instructors from Red Cross Hawai, USA, IRIA (International Rescue Instructors Authority) Canada.

Never in the history of any lifeguarding services anywhere in the world was an exercise of selecting, training and deployment of surf lifeguards been undertaken as undertaken for Surf Lifesaving Goa. SLSG has selected and trained as on date 600 plus lifeguards. The work of surf lifeguarding is not for the weak and meek. It entails being on the alert all the time whilst on duty. The work is strenuous and stressful. As most of the beach lifeguards are in the tender age between 18 - 24 years, the distractions are many. Lot of the trained lifeguards have left for easy career opportunities, and SLSG is required to train more and more to ensure the deployment of the minimum number of lifeguards required to attain the objective of the work.
SLSG has been able to make available the best and necessary lifesaving equipments to the Lifeguards to ensure that they are able to attain the work objective of “nil drowning” on the beaches under their watch. The life guards are all equipped with jet skis, Beach patrol Jeeps, Rigid Inflatable Rescue Boat, Surf Rescue Board, Communications Equipment, Buoyancy Aid, Lifeguard Center, Binoculars, First Aid Kit, Oxygen Equipment etc.

At present SLSG employs 429 Certified Beach Lifeguards to provide the Beach Lifeguarding Services from 7.30 am to sunset at the coastal beaches of the State of Goa. Beginning from Keri (Querim) beach in North end of Goa to Galgibag beach in South end of Goa, SLSG provides the beach lifeguarding services to prevent the loss of human life of the tourists and locals who visit. Apart from the human resources it also deploys state of art rescue equipment and rescue aid.

4.9.6 Travel and Tourism Association of Goa (TTAG)

The Travel and Tour Association of Goa is the apex body representing the Hotel & Travel Association of Goa. The association was founded on 4th July 1997 and has completed 34 years. The association is a non-profit, non-Governmental organization dedicated to furthering the cause of healthy and positive tourism in Goa. Its members consist of hoteliers, travel agents, tour operators, airlines and other allied bodies.

The association is active towards protecting the interests of Goa as a whole and more specifically as a premier destination in South East Asia. Over the last 34 years this association has grown with a membership of 190 members and today is the leading apex organization which works hand in hand with the Government on all matters concerning tourism. It caters to members problems and solves the same with the help of governmental agencies. Moreover it gives a platform to members to meet one another during their General Body Meeting which are held in different hotels every quarterly, and also show case their tourism related products.

It envisages cooperation from the Government and spirit of working together so as to help the members solve their problems and work Unitedly with the government for marketing Goa on domestic and international circuits effectively.

4.9.7 Forest Department of Goa.

Around 755 sq. km i.e. 20 percent of the total geographical area of 3702 sq. km of the State has been constituted into wildlife protected areas to afford complete
protection to the natural fauna and flora and to conserve the unique biological diversity of the State. These protected areas are areas are located along the verdant Western Ghats, one of the richest reservoirs of biodiversity in the world. The section that lie within Goa (the Sahyadris) and which dominates its ecosystem, readily reflects this bewildering complexity in plant, animal and bird life.

The sanctuaries of Goa offer majestic moist deciduous and semi evergreen forests, dense and green with tall trees, liana, vines, climbers, ground flora and fauna. The hills and valleys are lush green and cotton like clouds roll freely in the area.

The Forest Department endeavors to serve the people of Goa in many fields. The main objective of the Forest Department is the conservation of the Forests in Goa. Protection of wildlife is an important area in which the Department plays a vital role. As a result the Western Ghats which are abundantly rich in flora and fauna get maximum protection. The Forest Department has taken initiative to promote wildlife/eco tourism to enable people to see and appreciate the rich biodiversity and scenic beauty of the forests in the State. Any Adventure activity carried out within the jurisdiction of the forest would require permission to be sought from the Forest Department.

The main objective of managing the forests are as given below:-

1. Maintenance of the environmental stability and equilibrium and the ecological balance in the region.
2. Conservation of the natural forests with vast variety of flora and fauna for the preservation of the bio-diversity and the genetic resources.
3. Conservation of soil and water resources by checking soil erosion and denudation in the catch-ment areas.
4. Meeting the bonafide requirement of the local people for fuel wood, fodder, non-timber forest produce and small timber and safeguarding their rights and concessions.
5. Increasing the productivity of poor stocked and degraded forests by planting locally available fast growing (indigenous) tree species without adversely affecting naturally occurring trees.
6. A forestation of barren and degraded areas through people’s participation. To check encroachment in the forest area.
4.10 PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF ADVENTURE TOURISM IN GOA

4.10.1 Problems

➢ Local people are encouraged by the revenues gained from adventure activities and display ignorance and show disregard for the environment and indulge in inappropriate behavior.

➢ A range of different pollutions can result from adventure activities, air based, and land based. Pollution from boats and jet skis, noise from motor boats and jet skis.

➢ Corals are placed under threat from excessive development of water sports. The destruction of coral reef not only means loss of biodiversity but also threatens other environment resources upon which tourism depends. Erosion of reefs and coral from divers and swimmers.

➢ The ‘Save The Turtles’ Campaign of the Goa Foundation, a local Non-Government Organization carried jointly with the Forest Department of the Government of Goa, reported the number of sea turtles visiting their nesting sites on different beaches in Goa particularly in Morjim is steadily decreasing.

➢ Motor boats used in shallow coastal waters continuously disturbs the habits of endangered species and a decline in the total annual fish catch has been observed in Goa. More specifically, at Sancoale - Chicalim Bay, the decrease in production of certain varieties of shellfish and crabs both local delicacies is believed to be due to the land reclamation of mangroves swaps and due to the construction of roads.

➢ Water consumed excessively, for swimming and maintenance of golf courses can affect the quantity and quality of fresh water available to indigenous coastal populations.

➢ There are no specific legislation that covers the health and safety of participants in adventure tourism activities.

4.10.2 Prospects

Goa has enormous potential for development of new product ideas some of which are the craze in the western world. More and more choices and destinations are emerging as options that will appeal to a wide cross section of people. As a part
of diversification, interconnecting circuits have been identified covering spice plantations, birds and wildlife sanctuary, lakes, heritage houses, gardens, springs and waterfalls. Though the beaches and coastal area will continue to dominate the tourism activities due to their inherent advantages, the interior areas, do have sufficient potential and it possible to divert tourist to these areas. There are quite a few places, especially in the interior area, which are yet unexplored or have experienced little tourism activity. Further, highly limited tourism activities offer very little in terms of variety of recreation.

It is felt that Goa has sufficient potentials and it is possible to divert tourist to hinterlands areas. Further, to diversify along with existing attractions the Department is in the process of giving more emphasis on adventure sports, like Inland Water rafting, Yachting, Snorkeling, Scuba diving, windsurfing etc. The Department also intends to promote eco tourism jointly with the Forest Department, on the forest identified lands by organising adventure activities like nature walk, bungee jumping etc in the hilly terrain of Western Ghat.

Since tourism activity in Goa thrives mainly on natural tourism resources, these are need to introduce features of modern tourism in Goa. Entertainment complexes such as amusement parks, water parks, cable car rides, aquariums etc. have a great potential in Goa as they will introduce a variety of recreation facilities to tourists. There is also potential for development of artificial attractions (man-made) in the form of amusement parks, nature parks, aquariums etc. at potential sites to sustain tourist flows. These facilities need to be planned and designed to meet tourist requirements most effectively. They should be of wide varieties, revenue generating, socially acceptable and should entertain wide sections of tourists.

Places which are scattered in the central hills and Western Ghats sites having natural attractions like water fall, wildlife, forest, river and man made attractions are capable of drawing tourist in large numbers provided appropriate linkages are developed along with other much need support. There is potential to promote and develop business tourism, cruise tourism, yachting, golfing, ballooning, sky diving, caravan tourism in Goa. Also scope for activities like skating, cycling, and underwater sea exploration.

The state can serve as a major destination for conventions, conferences, industrial trade fair etc. Provided such centre’s with residential facilities, exhibition grounds etc. are created.