

To promote jungle tourism, forest dept unveils plan for eco-friendly campsites

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Panaji: The forest department is taking major steps to develop sustainable campsites in the state to promote tourism in jungles, said forest minister Vishwajit Rane.

Rane said that several locations including Surla, Colem, and Mollem, have been identified for this ambitious project. These campsites will be designed with sustainability principles in mind, incorporating features such as solar street lights, rainwater harvesting, solar fencing, and other facilities “to improve tourist experience while not disturbing the habitat” at the sites.

“To address the concerns about nature and wildlife conservation, the Goa forest department is taking innovative steps to accommodate tourists while minimising harm to the environment,” Rane said through his social media handle. He added, “By establishing eco-friendly campsites, we aim to make camping in Goa both enjoyable and sustainable.”

Rane went on to say, “In 2024, we plan to offer travellers a unique experience combining wildlife safaris and village tours.” He said eco-friendly gazebos and canteens will ensure that visitors relish the beauty of Goa’s natural landscapes while reducing their ecological footprint.

The forest department said that these developments will not only enhance the tourist experience but also ensure the well-being of the local flora and fauna. The campsites will offer comfortable accommodation, recreational activities, and the exploration of nature trails, while adhering to strict environmental regulations. This approach aims to attract tourists who appreciate and actively contribute to responsible travel practices.

This initiative is expected to have a positive impact on local communities living near the forest areas.