

Goa scores on productivity, quality of life

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PANAJI: Giving a boost to Goa's efforts to attract industries, the National University of Singapore has found that the state scores higher than India's average when it comes to productivity, [quality of life](#) and connectivity. The results are part of a survey of macro indicators conducted by the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy of the National University of Singapore across 35 states and Union territories.

"Productivity in Goa is significantly stronger than India's average and Goa is not too far from the best rank in terms of productivity," co-director Asia Competitiveness Institute Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy Tan Kong Yam said. "At the same time it is weak in generating interest among foreign investors," he said.

Yam, who was speaking at the Confederation of Indian Industry office, went on to add that the survey was conducted to not only evaluate each state for ease of doing business but also to help states adopt best practices required for a global economy.

"Ease of doing business itself is not a sufficient condition for drawing foreign account investment, economic resiliency and attractiveness to investors," Yam said.

Asia Competitiveness Institute also conducted a live survey among Goan industry participants to understand the grassroot situation and the data collected will be incorporated into the data gathered earlier to arrive at a comprehensive conclusion, research assistant Evan Tan said. "The data is useful for investors who want to invest in a particular region," Yam said.

The live survey showed that land acquisition and allotment, regulatory clearances and taxation were vexing issues for the local industry. Goa's Investment promotion board got a thumbs up from the industry participants for the ease of getting approval to start businesses.

The data will be analyzed and specific target areas will be identified by the Singapore-based institute to help states come up with master plans to improve their state-wise ranking on ease of doing business. Based on early data, Goa ranked 13 among Indian states on ease of doing business, Yam said.

States were evaluated on various parameters including setting up a business, labour laws, timeline for clearances, quality of life, skilled labour availability, land acquisition and taxation among others.