

GTDC moots naming 54 rooms at Old Goa after birds

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GTDC chairman Nilesh Cabral (centre) along with tourism minister Dilip Parulekar (third from left) along with GTDC officials and the author of 'Birds of Goa'

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Panaji: As Goa tourism strengthens its plan to promote avitourism—a type of ecotourism pertaining to birding—an idea is being mooted to name 54 rooms at Old Goa tourism development corporation (GTDC)'s Old Goa Residency, after bird species original to Goa.

The Old Goa residency is located close to Salim Ali

bird Sanctuary and Carambolim Lake—both of which attract different birds.

The idea floated by GTDC managing director Nikhil Desai, was also endorsed by tourism director Ameya Abhyankar at a function held to launch a book, 'Birds of Goa' by Goa tourism on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, tourism minister Dilip Parulekar said that this aspect will promote tourism and the

book will help tourists and people alike to learn about various species of birds found in Goa.

Parulekar said avitourism is expected to attract high-end tourists and bird lovers from all over the world to bird hotspots scattered across the state.

The book, authored by Bikram Grewal, with contributions

from Savio Fonseca, says there are 400-odd species of birds in Goa. The bird institute of Goa will help Goa tourism in developing bird trails in the state, and provide information to bird lovers on its website.

GTDC chairman Nilesh Cabral said that many species of birds can be found in Goa thanks to our "forefathers who took pains to conserve the environment".