

GOA GOVT GIVES WINGS TO STATE ECO-TOURISM PLAN

GTDC, Bird Institute of Goa to publish guidebook for bird watching

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Panaji: In a unique initiative to conserve nature and promote eco tourism, Goa government has tied up with the Bird Institute of Goa (BIG)

in Panaji, for publishing a photographic field guide on 'Birds of Goa' for nature lovers across the world, which would give them an insight to Goa's rich natural heritage. More pics on Pg 3

BIG promotes ornithological interest in the State. As a part of this initiative, Goa Tourism has given a special grant of Rs 10 lakh for publishing this aforesaid guidebook co-authored by Bikram Grewal and Savio Fonseca.



Brown headed Gull and Eurasian Curlew clicked at Arrossim beach.

The BIG will also help Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC) in developing bird trails in the State, and provide information to bird lovers on the GTDC website.

Goa Tourism has decided to undertake massive promotion of Goa as a leading destination for Ornithologists and bird lovers from all over the world.

While everyone relates Goa with only beaches, our tiny State has an amazing bird diversity boasting of almost 400 documented bird species out of the total 1100 for entire India, Managing Director, GTDC Nikhil Desai told Gomantak Times.

■ Contd on pg 2

BOOK HIGHLIGHTS:

- 480 photographs of 400 bird species in Goa
- Photos taken from 40 locations around Goa
- Total 70 contributors to the book
- Bird species include Frog Mouth Bird, Blue Eared Kingfisher, the State bird - Flame Throated Bulbul
- Intended for general readers and ornithologists
- Different plumages or flight shots are included
- Vital information on plumages, voice and habits of each species
- Locations include Chorla Ghat, St Inez, Pilerne, Alto Porvorim, Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary and others

Goa govt gives wings to State eco-tourism plan

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This is expected to give a big boost for eco and hinterland tourism. Avi-tourism is expected to attract high-end tourists and bird lovers from all over the world to its bird hotspots scattered across the State.

Goa has four important bird areas namely, Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhagwan Mahavir Wildlife Sanctuary, Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary and Carambolim lake, in addition to the Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary.

Goa offers the perfect setting for ornithologists and bird watchers. Many in the mainstream tourism industry in Goa tend to see Avi-tourism as a relatively specialised niche sought after by tourists from the West," Desai said.

The months of October-February offer a wide spectra of birds with migratory birds invading Goa's wetland hotspots for the season.

'Birds of Goa' gives meaning to birds and bird watching in Goa. Our ultimate aim is to attract nature lovers, whose presence would also bolster the local economy, Fonseca said, adding, "this, according to him would automatically spur the locals to protect the nature, for protecting their own financial interests."

One crew member of a trawler drowns, another goes missing

■ **Contd from pg 1**

boat 'Charlie 148' and a chopper 'Hello' was deployed for the operation. According to the Vasco police, the fishing boat named 'Durga Mata' had left Karnatka on September 4 and entered the Goan waters on the Sunday near Khariawado jetty.

Garden space in a mess

Dorvorim is a satellite town and there is a thoughtful provi-
... and an area of about

ITORS KEEP FLYING TO GOA

ts some of the selected photos of bird species clicked in various places
rt of the forthcoming photoguide on 'Birds of Goa', which would be
ber 10 at Paryatan Bhavan.



Vigors Sun Bird in St Inez, Panaji.



Old Goa.



Little Egret found in Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary.

WINGED VISITORS KEEP F

GOMANTAK TIMES presents some of the selected photos from Goa, which would be part of the forthcoming photoguide officially released on September 10 at Paryatan Bhavan.



Western Reef Egret clicked in Cortalim.



Vigors S



Indian Pitta seen at Capela de Monte in Old Goa.



Little