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News

[Home](#)

- [Goa](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Entertainment](#)

'State soft target for terrorists'

BY HERALD REPORTER

PANJIM, AUG 29 - Not ruling out a Bali (Indonesia)-like threat perception for Goa, the "State is a most-likely canvas where terrorists could paint their picture" looking at its bustling tourism industry.

This was pointed out by Dr Dayanand M S, Senior Lecturer, Department of Management Studies, Goa University, at a programme - Terrorism and Civilization Threats to Peace and Stability in Goa - held at the International Centre, Dona Paula, on Tuesday.

Speaking on 'Terrorism and its Impact on Society', Dr Dayanand informed, "In 2004-05, 2.4 million tourists visited Goa and the figure is set to grow considerably by 2009. In the last five years, the State has witnessed an average growth rate of 14% in the tourism sector."

He rued that the State doesn't have a "coherent" tourism policy to tackle the growth that could take care of the infrastructure development in the sector. He stressed there was a need to incorporate "tourism zoning" that could facilitate systematic utilisation of resources.

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Pic of the Day



[A bird flies over the garbage site, in close proximity of the airport terminal \(in the background \) Pic by Elvino Araujo](#)

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Should a red beacon be installed on the official vehicle of a Sub-Divisional Magistrate in Goa?:

- Yes, to help discharge official duty
- No, may lead to abuse of authority
- Can't Say

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- [Edit](#)
- [Opinions](#)
- [Letters](#)

Goa Diary

- [Events](#)
- [Short Takes](#)

Classifieds

- [Matrimonial](#)
- [Situations](#)
- [Accommodation](#)
- [Properties](#)
- [Business Offers](#)
- [Others](#)

Magazines

- [Mirror](#)

- [Insight](#)
- [Sports Watch](#)
- [Junior Herald](#)
- [Friends](#)

Another thing witnessed in Goa is “honey-pot” development. Putting it in plain terms, he explained that honey-pot meant development of tourism in clusters, which could be seen in the Baga-Calangute-Candolim belt. This, he said, was a result of ad hoc decisions at the government level.

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- [Deaths](#)
- [Month's Mind](#)
- [Anniversaries](#)

Outlining similarities between Goa and Bali, Arabinda Acharya of the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, said the State was a “soft target” for terrorists. Bali bombings should serve as a lesson for Goa, which is visited by foreign tourists, he added.

Browse archives

«September 2006

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Your Corner

- [Articles](#)

Another worrying factor for the State, he pointed out, was the Kashmiri insurgents spreading out their fangs to different corners of India to target areas of economic growth. Goa’s tourism sector is one such area, he warned.

Weather

Goa / Panjim, IN

80 °F / 26 °C

Haze

at 8:30 AM



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