



PUBLIC SEMINAR

on

Goa in Transition:  
Economic, Social and Political Trends 2007

Organised by

The International Centre, Goa

February 17, 2007

Venue:

The International Centre, Goa  
Dona Paula, Goa, INDIA

## **CONCEPT NOTE**

Goa with a population of 1.34 million is one of the smallest states of India. Liberated on December 19, 1961, Goa attained statehood in May 30, 1987. Since then Goa has witnessed unparalleled growth. Goa's statistics are most impressive when compared to the national average: about 50% of the population is living in urban areas as compared to 28% for the rest of India; 82% of the population is literate (compared to 65%); and a sex ratio of 961 females per 1000 males (as compared to 933 females).

Despite these impressive statistics Goa, however, has still a long way to go to prove its real potential – economic, social and political – which will add great value to the development and quality of life of its people. Human development is about creating an environment in which people can develop their full potential and lead productive, creative lives in accordance with their needs and interests. Development is thus about expanding the choices people have to lead lives that they value. How far or close is Goa to achieving the Human Development goals?

How can Goa cope with the demands on land and counter pose it with the process of development? What does development mean for this small state within the Indian Union? How should Goa handle the unavoidable reality of migrations - of not only the working class from neighbouring states as well as the 'rich and famous' and the migration of Goans for better opportunities elsewhere? How does Goa retain, reinvent and redefine its identity? How does Goa reclaim its soul and maintain its singular identity within the Indian Union and yet be a vibrant federating unit?

The seminar will seek to engage with these vital and other fundamental issues. It will seek to look at Constitutional issues surrounding small states such as Goa, sketch political trends and throw up some disturbing and discomfoting realities. The challenge therefore is not to shy away from these realities but to arrive at an understanding of what needs to be done and how to make governance accountable to the 'demos' to deliver the greatest good of the greatest number.

## Programme

**9:00 – 10:00 am      Registration of Participants**

**10:00 – 10:10 am      WELCOME REMARKS BY**  
**M Rajaretnam**, Director/ Chief Executive, The International Centre,  
Goa

**10:10 am – 1:15 pm      Session I: POLITICAL & ECONOMIC TRENDS**

Chairperson: **Rahul Tripathi**, Faculty, Department of Political Science, Goa University

*Goa and the Indian Union*

**Peter deSouza**, Chairman, Knowledge Commission of Goa and Visiting Senior Fellow at the  
Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), New Delhi

*Reforming Bureaucracy, Improving Public Services and E-governance*

**Ramesh Negi** (IAS), Finance Secretary, Government of Goa

11:05 – 11:25 am      Tea Break

*Environmental Issues in Goa*

**B S Choudri**, Fellow, TERI – Western Region Centre, Goa

*Tourism in Goa: Potential and Future Directions*

**Charles Bonifacio**, CEO, Alfran Group of Hotels and Immediate Past President, Travel and  
Tourism Association of Goa

12:15 – 1:15 pm      Discussion

1:15 – 2:15 pm      Lunch Break

**2:15 – 5:30 pm      Session II: SOCIAL TRENDS**

Chairperson: **M Rajaretnam**, Director/ Chief Executive, The International Centre, Goa

*Criminalisation of Public Sphere*

**Preetu Nair**, Journalist and Peter de Souza, Journalist

*Social Mobilisation and Politics in Goa*

**Jagdish Wagh**, Editor – Media Trust & Senior Journalist

3:10 – 3:30 pm      Tea Break

*Goa in Transition: But Where Has That Left Women*

**Shaila Desouza**, Research Officer, Centre for Women's Studies, Goa University

*Urbanization, Growth and Future of Goa*

**Dean D'Cruz**, Architect

Discussion

**5:35 pm      CONCLUDING REMARKS**  
**End of Seminar**

## About The International Centre, Goa (ICG)

The International Centre, Goa (ICG) was founded in June 1987 under the Societies Act (1860) “to promote understanding and amity between parts of the country and with different communities of the world” through a multiplicity of activities. The Centre is an autonomous institution. It relies on grants and donations from local and international institutions to fund its programmes. Residential and non-residential conferences, seminars and training programmes are organized by local, national and international organizations. The Centre also has 44 guest rooms, 3 seminar rooms, a restaurant, and several lawns of different sizes that are used for private functions, which could range from small get-togethers to elaborate parties. The ICG’s facilities are located on 8 acres of land on the Taleigao Plateau at Dona Paula, Goa. The plateau overlooks the confluence of the famous Zuari and Mandovi Rivers.

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