

Exploring the India-Portugal Connection: A Two-Day International Seminar at Goa University

The Shenoj Goembab School of Languages and Literature (S.G.S.L.L.) and the School of Sanskrit, Philosophy and Indic Studies (S.S.P.I.S.), Goa University, in collaboration with the Macmillan Centre, Council on Latin American and Iberian Studies, Yale University, and The Joaquim Heliodoro da Cunha Rivara Chair, Visiting Research Professors Programme (V.R.P.P.), Goa University, is organising a two-day International Seminar on the theme “India-Portugal: Confluence of Cultures”.

This Seminar will be held on the 6th and 7th of January, 2025 at The Conference Hall in the Administrative Block of Goa University and will bring together scholars, researchers, and cultural enthusiasts to discuss and explore the deep and enduring connections between Indian and Portuguese cultures. It will serve as a platform to celebrate and critically engage with the cultural exchanges that have shaped both societies over centuries.

The Seminar will cover a wide range of topics, including:

- The cultural legacy and influence of the Portuguese presence in India
- Intersections in language, art, and culinary traditions
- Philosophical exchanges between India and Portugal
- Comparative insights into Goan and Portuguese literature

The event will feature distinguished speakers and panelists from India, Portugal, and the United States, who will share their expertise through keynote addresses, paper presentations, and panel discussions. These sessions aim to offer fresh perspectives on the shared histories and cultural intersections between India and Portugal. In addition to the academic sessions, the Seminar will include cultural events, exhibitions, and displays that highlight the unique fusion of Indian and Portuguese traditions. This will include the screening of Vince Costa’s documentary *Saxtticho Koddó* at the end of Day 1 which will be followed by a Q&A session. During the Seminar, Margao-based DogEars Bookstore and artist Vaibhav Salgaonkar will also showcase their products, which reflect this theme.

In addition to the Seminar, a day-long series of Masterclasses will be held on the 8th of January, 2025 at the Seminar Hall, Faculty Block B, Goa University. The day will culminate in the staging of an abridged version of Orlando da Costa's acclaimed Portuguese play, *No Flowers, No Wreaths* (original: *Sem Flores Nem Coroas*), translated into English by Dr. Isabel de Santa Rita Vas and published by Goa, 1556. The performance, a collaborative effort between the Shenoi Goemab School of Languages and Literature and The Mustard Seed Art Company will take place at 4:30 p.m. in the Chemistry Auditorium, Faculty Block E, Goa University and aims to deliver a poignant and culturally rich conclusion to the International Seminar, offering attendees an artistic experience that thoughtfully engages with the historical and cultural narratives of Goa.

This Seminar, along with the associated masterclasses and cultural events, promises to be a vibrant celebration of the enduring ties between India and Portugal, offering rich opportunities for cultural and intellectual exchange and collaboration.

Those interested in attending are requested to register for the same. For more information, please contact **Assistant Professor Dhruv Usgaonkar at dhruv@unigoa.ac.in**.