

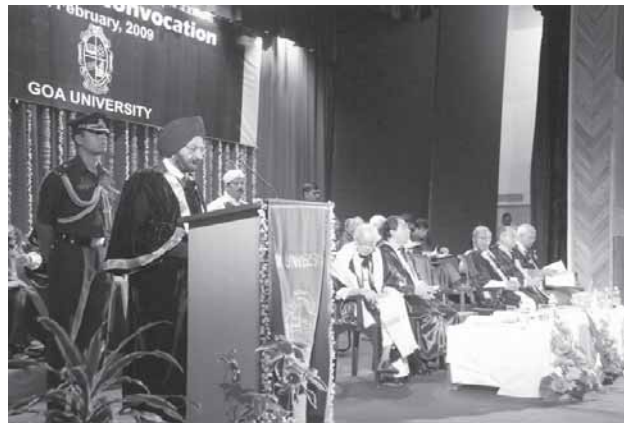


Goa University

News Bulletin

21st Annual Convocation

**Education should be accessible
to all who deserve it:
His Excellency Dr. S. S. Sidhu**



H.E. Dr. S. S. Sidhu addressing the 21st Annual Convocation

Education should be accessible to all who deserve it, irrespective of their economic, social and ethnic status. There cannot be any distinction between boys and girls or men and women. Ethical considerations will have to guide human behaviour in relation to their fellow citizens from all walks of life, as also in its relation to the surrounding ecology and natural resources and their exploitation, said His Excellency Dr. Shivinder Singh Sidhu, the Governor of Goa and the Chancellor of Goa University at the 21st Annual Convocation held on 8th Feb., 2009.

As the only University in the state of Goa, Goa University should explore the possibility of introducing a course in Tourism and Hospitality Management, Dr. Sidhu suggested. "The two areas of Tourism and Hospitality Management are very relevant to Goa and its economy. Besides, it is a known fact that Goa is an acclaimed tourist destination across the globe," he remarked. "The University has secured fruitful and mutually beneficial engagements with the Goa Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Goa Science Centre, Institute Menezes Braganza and also a number of NGOs, along with the captains of Goan industry and has established a Nehru Study Centre, where academicians, philosophers and technocrats from around the country and outside will deliberate, interact and exchange ideas, concepts and visions with the students, as well as the general public," he said. Goa University, in its 24th year, has increasingly become an integral part of the people of Goa, the Chancellor said and urged that the vast potential of the knowledge base, natural beauty, heritage, culture and art should be incorporated into the future programmes of Goa University.

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21st Annual Convocation

The Convocation ceremony conferred PhDs on 42 students from different faculties, 565 postgraduate students received their masters degrees, including 223 from science, 203 from Social Science, Arts and Commerce and 139 from professional streams. A total of 7757 students were conferred various degrees and diplomas. The Chancellor also conferred the 'Honoris Causa' of Letters (D.Litt) on three Goan luminaries, Gen. (Retd.) Sunith F. Rodrigues, presently the Governor of Punjab and Administrator of the Union territory of Chandigarh, Padma Bhushan Dr Raghunath A Mashelkar, eminent scientist, fellow of Royal College of Science, and noted litterateur Padma Bhushan Shri Ravindra Kelekar.



Prof. Dileep N. Deobagkar, Vice Chancellor, addressing the 21st Annual Convocation

Meaningful Autonomy a Necessity: Prof. Dileep N. Deobagkar

Speaking at the 21st Annual Convocation, the Vice Chancellor of Goa University, Prof. Dileep N. Deobagkar in his address, remarked that it was important to maintain autonomy of Universities without any interference or compromise with quality of teachers and infrastructure. Universities, too, need to utilise such autonomy with responsibility and effectively, he said.

The Vice Chancellor lamented that deficiency of qualified and talented teachers was one of the major shortcomings of the academic field in India. Somehow, the teaching profession does not gravitate the best talent. It does not carry the glamour, to an extent that this profession is sometimes considered a thankless job, he said, but held the hope that change in attitude would enable to achieve quality. He stressed upon the need to revitalize the teaching profession, revamp teaching methodologies, reform course structures and curricula, upgrade infrastructure and develop partnership with industries and among universities. He called for a comprehensive restructuring of the contemporary education system. A University should facilitate the student -- whatever be the subject and the background -- to learn from many diverse fields and areas of knowledge, the Vice Chancellor said, and strongly backed an inter-disciplinary "cafeteria" model for higher education.

Prof. Deobagkar reviewed the commendable work undertaken at the University, notably in the arena of funded research projects. He pointed out that several Departments had been recipients of Special Grants from several funding agencies. The Vice Chancellor also stated that the University has undertaken an initiative in developing new state-of-the-art human resource development courses that offer significant career opportunities, notably Certificate and Diploma courses in Clinical Research, PG Diploma in Clinical Genetics, Medical Lab Techniques, and Masters in Financial Services. Goa University, he said, not only caters to the needs of the students and the people of Goa but has remained sensitive to the future requirements of the country. Taking a realistic view of the requirements of the society, the capabilities of students and the skills actually taught, it had become imperative to reorganize some Departments, consolidate some, and generate newer ones, he said.



21st Annual Convocation

Hon. D.Litt. Degrees Conferred

At the 21st Annual Convocation, Goa University conferred honorary D.Litt. degrees on three eminent sons of the Goan soil -- Padma Bhushan Shri Ravindra Kelekar, Gen. (Retd.) Sunith F. Rodrigues and Padma Bhushan Dr. Raghunath A. Mashelkar.



The Chancellor of Goa University
Dr. S. S. Sidhu
confers honorary D.Litt on
Shri Ravindra Kelekar

Shri Ravindra Kelekar is a prolific litterateur who has been honoured with several national awards, including the prestigious Dnyanpeeth Award. He is also a Fellow of the Sahitya Akademi.

Intimately connected with Goa's liberation movement, he firmly believed in the development of the Konkani language to promote nationalist aspirations of Goans.

A disciple of noted Gandhian Kakasaheb Kalelkar and a devout adherent of Gandhian ideals, principles and values, Shri Kelekar's formidable contribution to Konkani literature played a significant role in the growth of the language and her recognition by Sahitya Akademi and inclusion in the 8th Schedule of Languages in the Indian Constitution.



The Chancellor of Goa University
Dr. S. S. Sidhu
confers honorary D.Litt on
Gen. (Retd.) S. F. Rodrigues

Gen (Retd.) Sunith F. Rodrigues, presently the Governor of Punjab and Administrator of the Union Territory of Chandigarh, is a decorated soldier.

During his four and a half decades service to the nation, Gen. Rodrigues held several coveted posts before he reached the exalted position of the Chief of Army Staff. A distinguished soldier, he is also renowned as a perceptive thinker on strategic affairs and a noted defence strategist.

Accepting the honour bestowed upon him, Gen. Rodrigues exhorted the youths to contribute to nation-building. "It is not enough to just talk and pontificate, but we need to be involved," he said, "especially in view of the global meltdown and what is going on."



The Chancellor of Goa University
Dr. S. S. Sidhu
confers honorary D.Litt on
Dr. Raghunath A. Mashelkar

Padma Bhushan Dr. Raghunath A. Mashelkar is one of India's most eminent scientists and institution builders. Fellow of the Royal Society (UK), Dr. Mashelkar has stewarded many scientific and technological institutions, notably the Council for Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR).

In full recognition of a lifetime dedicated to pioneering scientific and technological advent and excellence, he has been commended with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Indian Science Congress in 2004.

At the Convocation, Dr. Mashelkar dedicated the honorary D.Litt. conferred by Goa University to his late mother, and said that of the 27 honorary doctorates conferred on him, this one was cherished as the most valuable.



NEWS ROUND-UP

Honour for Dept. of French

Dr. Anuradha Wagle, Head, and Dr. Edith Noronha e Melo Furtado, Reader, Dept. of French and Francophone Studies, have been honoured with appointment as "Chevalière des Palmes Académiques" (Knight of the Order of Academic Palms) by the Prime Minister of the Republic of France. The Order of the Academic Palms is one of the oldest civil distinctions in France. Originally created by Napoleon in 1808, it honors those who render important services to French National Education and contribute to the intellectual, scientific and artistic influence of France in the world.

Dr. Wagle has been teaching French at the Masters' level for 14 years and has been a member of the faculty of Goa University since 2000. She has a PhD in Translation Studies from the Jawaharlal Nehru University and has been a recipient of scholarships awarded by the UGC and the French Government and fellowships from the Universities of Grenoble (France), Lausanne (Switzerland) and Montreal (Canada). Currently President of the Indian Association of Teachers of French, she has been recently elected President of the Asia-Pacific Commission of the International Federation of Teachers of French.

Dr. Edith Noronha e Melo Furtado has also been honoured for "rendering important services to French National Education and contributing to the intellectual influence of France in the world." Dr. Furtado has been instrumental in setting up Francophone Studies in the Department of French at Goa University.



Guest Lectures at Department of History

The Department of History conducted guest lectures by Dr. Sangeeta Sonak, Area Co-ordinator TERI, Goa, and Mr. Tomazinho Cardozo.

Dr. Sonak shared her expertise on the topic, *A History of Khazan Management Institutions*. She discussed the pre-Portuguese and Portuguese periods, organizational structure of the village communities in coastal Goa with special reference to the 'Old Conquests'. The lecture also highlighted the significance of Khazan lands to the village economy, their neglect under the Portuguese rule and reasons for their decline in the post-Liberation period.



Shri Tomazinho Cardozo addressing students in Dept. of History

Mr. Tomazinho Cardozo, former Speaker of Goa Legislative Assembly, educationist and acclaimed tiatrist, who has contributed in many diverse ways to the field of politics, education and Tiatro discussed the topic *Language and Goan Identity*. His lucid analysis reflected on the notion of Goan identity and its constituents, and the positive acculturation that has taken place with other cultures. He argued on the role of language in forming identity and emphasized how linguistic identity is undergoing metamorphosis in dialectical relation to the local, national and international developments and influences.



Goan Diaspora Youth visit Goa University

Nine Goan diaspora youth, under the 'Know Goa Programme' formulated by the office of the Commissioner for NRI Affairs, visited Goa University and acquainted themselves with its functioning.

During the course of their visit to the University, they interacted with the Deans of Faculties on various issues such as research, courses offered to the students, University's role in conservation of environment, promoting job oriented education and tourism, MBA programmes in Goa and Study India Programme, among other issues. Some MBA students of Goa University also participated in the deliberations. Earlier, Shri Dattesh Parulekar, Lecturer, Centre for Latin American Studies gave a presentation and explained the youth of Goan origin about the functioning and the research services offered at Goa University. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dileep Deobagkar also interacted with the visiting students.



National Workshop on “Techniques in Arbuscular Mycorrhizal (AM) Fungal Research”

UGC-SAP Department of Botany, Goa University organized a National Workshop on “Techniques in Arbuscular Mycorrhizal (AM) Fungal Research” from 25-27th February, 2009 under the UGC-SAP Programme in the Botany Department.

Arbuscular Mycorrhizal (AM) fungi are ubiquitous and form symbiotic association with most terrestrial plant species. Besides nutrient uptake (mainly P) and plant growth, they play a vital role in natural ecosystem by influencing the plant composition and succession, nutrient cycling, influencing the soil microbial population and exudates in the mycorrhizosphere.



Prof. P. V. Dessai, Dean,
Faculty of Life Sciences & Environment,
releases a publication at the National Workshop.

Sustainable farming system strives to minimize the use of inorganic fertilizers and to optimize the use of biofertilizers. Because of the benefit of mycorrhizal symbiosis, there is an interest on how AM fungi can manipulate the agricultural system. Therefore, AM fungi offer a great potential for sustainable agriculture in increasing plant growth and yield.

As AM fungi are obligate symbionts, there are problems in preparing and maintaining the pure cultures of these fungi. This is attributed to the lack of basic training and practical knowledge in the field. Taxonomic identification of these fungi is entirely dependent on the spore morphology. The workshop imparted a state-of-the-art training to the participants and helped them to familiarize with various techniques used in AM fungal research.

The faculty for the workshop included Dr. T. Muthukumar from Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, Dr. Rupam Kapoor, from Delhi University, Dr. Archana Thakur from M/s Codon Life Sciences, Taleigao and Prof. B. F. Rodrigues from Goa University. 11 participants were selected from 6 states viz., Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Delhi and Goa. Prof. P. V. Desai, Dean of the faculty of Life Sciences and Environment inaugurated the Workshop and released the book entitled “Arbuscular Mycorrhizae of Goa – A Manual of Identification Protocols” published by Prof. B. F. Rodrigues, a well known mycorrhizologist in the country and abroad. Prof. D. J. Bhat, Head of Botany Department welcomed the guests. Prof. A. V. Afonso, Dean of Social Sciences was the chief guest for the Valedictory. Mr. Sally D’Souza, Assistant Managing Director of NABARD was the guest of honour. The programme was coordinated by Prof. B. F. Rodrigues.



Eminent Biophysicist Prof. Govindjee visits Goa University

Prof. Govindjee, Emeritus Professor at Center of Biophysics and Computational Biology, Department of Plant Biology and Department of Biochemistry, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, visited Goa University on 4th February 2009 at the invitation of the Department of Botany.

Prof. Govindjee is a global authority on photosynthesis. His 15 volume series ‘Advances in Photosynthesis’ is an encyclopedic work of great international merit. Prof. Govindjee has taught at both the undergraduate and the graduate levels on biophysics, photobiology, plant physiology, plant ecology and organismic biology, photosynthesis and bioenergetics of photosynthesis. The Rebeiz Foundation for Basic Research USA has presented to him the first Lifetime Achievement Award for his scientific achievements, original research in the field of Photosynthesis, promotion of Photosynthesis Research and his continuing efforts to document the history of Photosynthetic Research as an Editor par excellence. At Goa University, besides academic interactions with faculty members, research scholars and students, Prof. Govindjee delivered a lecture on “Two light reactions and two pigments of oxygenic photosynthesis.” Prof. Govindjee also delivered a public lecture at Goa Science Center on “Photosynthesis - a precious solar gift to mankind.”

Distinguished Lecture by Prof. Brinsley Samaroo

The UGC Centre for Latin American Studies, Goa University, organised a Distinguished Lecture on "The Influence of Mahatma Gandhi in the Caribbean" by Prof. Brinsley Samaroo, Prof. Emeritus of History at the University of Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies. The Lecture was held under the auspices of the UGC Nehru Studies Centre established at the University.

Prof. Samaroo spoke on the Influence of Mahatma Gandhi and how his teachings and perceptive ideas have materially influenced the people of the Caribbean. Having strived for the rights of the immigrants as well as for the cause of racial equality, the Mahatma corresponded with the people of Indian origin to reassure them and to express his moral support. The freedom movement started by Gandhiji in the 19th century, greatly inspired the PIOs living in the Caribbean, South East Asia and Africa, Prof. Samaroo said.

Responding to queries during the interaction session, Prof. Samaroo emphasised how the PIOs in the Caribbean are scrupulously preserving their traditions and retaining their steadfastness to their religious faith, ironically much more than the people here in India.

Prof. V. Shivkumar, Director of the Centre in his welcome remarks, delineated the importance of the study of Indian diaspora. Mr Dattesh Parulekar, Lecturer at the Centre, proposed the Vote of Thanks.

**National Seminar on Inclusion of Tribal Communities in Developmental Processes**

The UGC Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy and the Department of Sociology organized a two day National Seminar on 'Including the Tribal Communities in the Developmental Process: Contemporary Concerns of an Old Debate,' on 15-16 January 2009. The Vice Chancellor of Goa University, Prof. D. N. Deobagkar delivered the Presidential Address while Prof. Uttam B. Bhoite, President of the Indian Sociological Society gave the Key-note address.

The seminar included two technical sessions. The first session comprised five prominent speakers from the field of Sociology and Anthropology in India. The

papers discussed various aspects relating to tribal welfare in different parts of India.

The second technical session was dedicated to delineating issues pertaining to the tribal situation in Goa. Resource persons from various disciplines such as law, medicine, bureaucracy and academics presented papers. While Shri A V Kajarekar, Managing Director, Goa State Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation Ltd. spoke on policies and programmes of the Government of Goa towards the development of tribal communities, Adv. B S Gaunker and Shri Shanu Gaonkar elucidated the Government's approach to tribal issues. Dr. J N Zore, lecturer in Biochemistry, Goa Medical College, highlighted the need for improving the life situation of the Dhangars in Goa.

The seminar concluded by putting forth policy decisions relating to inclusion of tribals in the development process. It also made a plea for the inclusion of Dhangars in the ST list of Goa.

**Foreign Diplomats visit Goa University**

Participants from the 47th Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) from the Foreign Services Institute, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, visited the Centre for Latin American Studies (CLAS) at Goa University on 5th March 2009.

At the Centre, the diplomats participated in a half day workshop on "Diplomacy in the Era of Globalization." Dr. M. M. Sangodkar, Registrar, Goa University, presided over the function and introduced the participants to the multi-cultural nature of Indian society. Dr. Aparajita Gangopadhyay, Sr. Lecturer, CLAS, made a brief presentation on the Centre's activities. Dr. Rahul Tripathi, Reader, Department of Political Science, discussed the opportunities and challenges contemporary diplomats face in the globalising world. Mr. Yasir Sheikh, an M.A. student of International Studies made a presentation on types of non-conventional diplomatic practices visible in the context of South Asia in general, and India-Pakistan in particular. The PCFD consisted of diplomats from countries of Latin America, Africa, Middle East and Central Asia.



Study India Programme concludes

Seven students of College of International Relations, Nihon University, Japan, concluded their five month stint at Goa University under the Study India Programme (SIP), on 20th February 2009.

The exchange programme included the study of Indian Culture through Language & Literature, Indian History, Indian Philosophy, Indian Economic Development, Indian Politics & Foreign Policy and Social Issues in India, interspersed with two study tours, one to South India and one to the North. The Programme also included non-credit courses in Indian music, dance and Yoga, and visit to NGOs.



SIP students on a visit to the Taj Mahal

At the valedictory ceremony of the SIP 2008-09 held on 20th February, the visiting students presented an overview of their learning at Goa University in particular and their impressions about India in general. Impressed by the cultural diversity, the students vividly captured in frames the socio-cultural ethos of India and expressed their gratitude to Goa University for their enriching and wholesome experience through the Study India Programme.



Cuban Ambassador Visits GU

H.E. Mr. Miguel Angel Ramirez Ramos, the Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba in India, visited Goa University on 17th February. In Goa at the invitation of the UGC Centre for Latin American and International Studies at Goa University, his visit also included a talk at Goa Chamber of Commerce & Industry (GCCCI), and inauguration of the Cuban Film Festival at Entertainment Society of Goa.

At Goa University the Ambassador delivered a Distinguished Lecture on '*Indo-Cuban Relations: Retrospect and Prospects.*' H.E. Mr. Ramos traced the historical trajectory of the Castro Revolution, and stated that national pride and self respect had bred resilience amongst ordinary Cubans, leading Cuba to sterling accomplishments in the fields of health, primary education and other social sectors, and in more contemporaneous times, the sophisticated domain of biotechnology and allied sectors. He also recounted the relationship that prevailed between Fidel Castro and Indian leaders in the context of the Non-Alignment Movement.

At the Centre for Latin American and International Studies, Mr. Ramos interacted with faculty and students and expressed interest in exploring the possibilities of academic exchange programmes between Goa University and Universities in Cuba.

Later, at the lecture organized at GCCCI in collaboration with the UGC Nehru Studies Centre at Goa University, the Ambassador focused on the potential for Indo-Cuban trade and commerce. He delineated the dynamics of Cuban core competencies in areas of biotechnology, pharmacology, scientific advents and biodiversity, besides emphasizing the areas of oil and natural gas exploration in the realm of energy security.



Guest Lectures on 'Plant Biodiversity and Bioprospecting'

The Department of Botany, under its UGC-SAP programme, organized two guest lectures on 'Plant Biodiversity and Bioprospecting', by Prof. Uma Shaanker, Dept. of Crop Physiology, GKVK, Bangalore. The first lecture was on 'Medicines from leeches to lizards: An introduction into the exciting world of bioprospecting nature's wealth', while the second lecture was on the topic 'Can we hasten the search for novel biological activities and molecules: Some intelligent and non-random approaches to bioprospecting?'

Prof. Uma Shaanker is an expert on plant biodiversity studies and bioprospecting. Working mostly in the forests of Western Ghats, his team has contributed immensely in this area. With valuable examples and clues from traditional knowledge, he explained how search for medicines is done and how research should proceed in the future in these areas. Besides the staff members and officers of the University, students from all Life Science Departments attended the lecture.

National Seminar on "Media Aur Loktantra"

The Department of Hindi & Dr. Arvind Manch jointly organized two day national seminar on the topic "Media aur Loktantra" in the Conference Hall of Goa University.

In his presidential address at the inaugural function, Dr. Mohan Sangodkar, Registrar, Goa University emphasized the role of media in a democracy. Shri Chandrakant Barve, Director, Doordarshan Panaji, was the Chief Guest at the inaugural function.

Special Invitee Prof. Ajay Tiwari, Dept. of Hindi, Delhi University, expressed his opinion that media has tilted towards the capitalists and does not highlight the problems of the *aam adami*. Well-known media scholar and former editor of Maduri Patrika Shri Vinod Tiwari and Shri Anurag Tripathi who is associated with NavBharat Times, shared their experiences in the media.

Seminar on Advances in Chemical Synthesis

The Department of Chemistry, Goa University and the Faculty & Alumni Association jointly organized a one day State Level seminar on **Advances in Chemical Synthesis** with the support received through Special Assistance Programme (SAP) of UGC.

The seminar was inaugurated by Prof. Dileep Deobagkar, Vice-Chancellor, Goa University. Prof. Deobagkar, in his inaugural address, stated that science education should enable the student to acquire problem-solving and decision-making skills and to re-discover its relation with health, agriculture, industry and other aspects of daily life.

Eminent resource persons from National Chemical Laboratory, Pune, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur and University of Pune delivered innovative lectures covering recent advances in organic and nanomaterial synthesis. Dr. V. P. Kamat, convener of the seminar welcomed the gathering and Prof. J. B. Fernandes, SAP co-ordinator introduced the seminar theme. Prof. A.V. Salkar, HoD Chemistry, proposed the vote of thanks. The seminar was attended by local college teachers and post-graduate students in large numbers.

Women's Day Commemorated at GU

Centre for Women's Studies, Goa University organised a programme on 9th March on the occasion of Women's Day, in collaboration with Goa

State Commission for Women. Smt Jyothi Kunkolienkar and Smt Ethel Da Costa spoke on their work and experience as women writers. Dr. Chandralekha D'Souza, Reader and Head, Dept of Konkani was the chairperson of the function. Ms. Shaila Desouza, Research Officer, welcomed the guests and Dr. Anuradha Wagle, Head, Dept. of French proposed the vote of thanks. Ms Anita Gauns and Ms Susheela Naik, members of Goa State Commission for Women, were also present on the occasion. Results of the poster, essay and poetry competitions organized on the theme of 'gender equality' were also announced.

National Seminar on Elections

The Department of Political Science, Goa University conducted a national seminar on 'Elections, Cabinet Formation and Party Politics in India' in association with Indian Council of Social Science Research.



Shri Eduardo Faleiro inaugurating the Seminar

Speaking at the inaugural session, Commissioner of NRI Affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro expressed the opinion that unless present trends change dramatically India was headed for another hung Parliament after the forthcoming general elections. He dealt on various aspects of secularism, elections, political parties and economy. The voting pattern of young voters below 35 years of age will have a major impact on the election, he said.

Mr. Faleiro also argued that the last two decades witnessed profound changes in the political system. "The caste hierarchy is beginning to crumble and Indian democracy has become more inclusive, rooted and mature," he said.

Speaking about foreign policy, he said that India had come closer to the United States but was also conscious of the sharp differences in the national interests of both the countries.

