

## **From mangroves, to MSMEs, and the economic impact of cancer... studies from GU**

Taleigao, Jan 9: Over six hundred Goa University students are at various stages of working on their PhD thesis, data put out by the varsity indicates.

Topics take up for study range from mangroves and Brazil's foreign policy, to MSMEs (micro, small and medium enterprises) and banks' lending in Goa.

The list is available at the university website [[http://info.unigoa.ac.in/phd\\_univ\\_yrwise.php](http://info.unigoa.ac.in/phd_univ_yrwise.php)] and points to work being undertaken by a range of scholars, under diverse guides in the various varsity departments as well as affiliated institutions.

These studies have been undertaken in a range of fields, including Mathematics, Earth Sciences, History, Sociology, Political Science, Konkani, oceanography, various languages, international relations, commerce, malaria research, microbiology, biotechnology, physics, chemical sciences, electronics, women's studies, philosophy, among a range of other fields.

Quite a few of the research topics focus on regional issues.

Some of the themes being recently taken up for study include the Carmelites in Goa in the 17th-18th centuries; catchment sediment composition of some rivers in Goa; customer satisfaction towards postal services in Goa; tourism land management and livelihood dynamics in coastal Goa; and the Dhangars of Goa.

Likewise, other researchers are looking at insurance companies; green tourism; eco-farms in tourism; educated unemployment in Goa; the *Sahyadri Khanda*; Western Ghats fungi in Goa; salt-stressed rice plants; and smart tourism, among many other topics.

The economic impact of cancer; the government budget on the social sector in Goa; perceptions on e-filing of income tax; agri-ecopreneurs in Goa; mutual funds in Goa; ferry transport in the State; and the people's movements to protect their land in Goa.

Some studies travel as far as Antarctica, or to Tripura and the impact of migration there.

Yet, local themes also get their attention. These range from accounting and reporting in cooperative societies in Goa; to retail segments in Goa; tribal population employability; and the influence of the social media on marketing in Goa.

CRM, or customer relationship management, and its possibility as a "step towards sustainable tourism in Goa" is also looked at in an empirical study.

Some other local topics touched on include public distribution system, smartphones in online shopping, tax planning, the CM's Rojgar Yojana, Ayurvedic products, handicrafts in Goa, home-stays, traditional occupations, and a range of other fields.

Meanwhile, the admissions for the GU PhD programme of January 2020 is underway. Online applications are being accepted from January 6 to January 24, 2020. Interviews will be conducted in February, and the results of the admission process declared by Feb 14.

Details are available at

[https://www.unigoa.ac.in/uploads/config\\_docs/20200106.174101~Notification\\_PhD\\_2020\\_06\\_Jan2020.pdf](https://www.unigoa.ac.in/uploads/config_docs/20200106.174101~Notification_PhD_2020_06_Jan2020.pdf)