

Virtual celebration of Bastille Day by the Department of French and Francophone

Studies

The Department of French and Francophone Studies, Goa University organized a virtual celebration of Bastille Day on 14 July 2020. The Coronavirus pandemic and rules of social distancing failed to dampen spirits as the celebration was transitioned into the online space. The event was held to commemorate the French Revolution – 14th July 1789 when the peasants and common people revolted against the monarchy, seized the Bastille and eventually overthrew the monarch Louis XVI and established the first Republic. As a part of the celebration, an online quiz “14 juillet, 14 questions” was organized which received a roaring response from 521 participants from all over the world including countries like South Korea, Romania, Philippines, Russia, Greece, Kuwait, Abu Dhabi and Qatar. The quizmaster Ms. Kshama Dharwadkar discussed the answers to the questions.

Dr. Irene Silveira, Faculty In-Charge, Department of French, made a video presentation showcasing the activities organized in the department over the last three years. She presented the exchange program with Sciences Po, Lyon, France- an elite school and premier institution of higher learning in political science, social sciences, and humanities. Students studying MA French at Goa University are given an opportunity to pursue a semester in Sciences Po, Lyon and obtain credits as well as a DFES- Diploma of French and European Studies. 4 students from Department of French have availed of this opportunity-Nishad Prabhudessai, Anthony Gomes, Sanghita Dey and Lynstel Fernandes. Anthony and Sanghita were awarded the prestigious Charpak scholarships by Campus France to pursue their studies in Sciences Po, Lyon. Anthony Gomes, Sanghita Dey and Lynstel Fernandes made video presentations in which they spoke about their experiences in Lyon and the impact of the exchange program.

The highlight of the evening was the screening of video snippets of the play “Pyaar sans frontières” staged by the BA and MA students of Goa University. This play was the fruit of a 2 week long theatre workshop conducted in January by Ms. Marion Madelénat, French actress and Ms. Natasha Gomes, faculty of Goa University. The screening of the play was followed by a panel discussion with the actors and the directors conducted by Mr. Anthony Gomes.

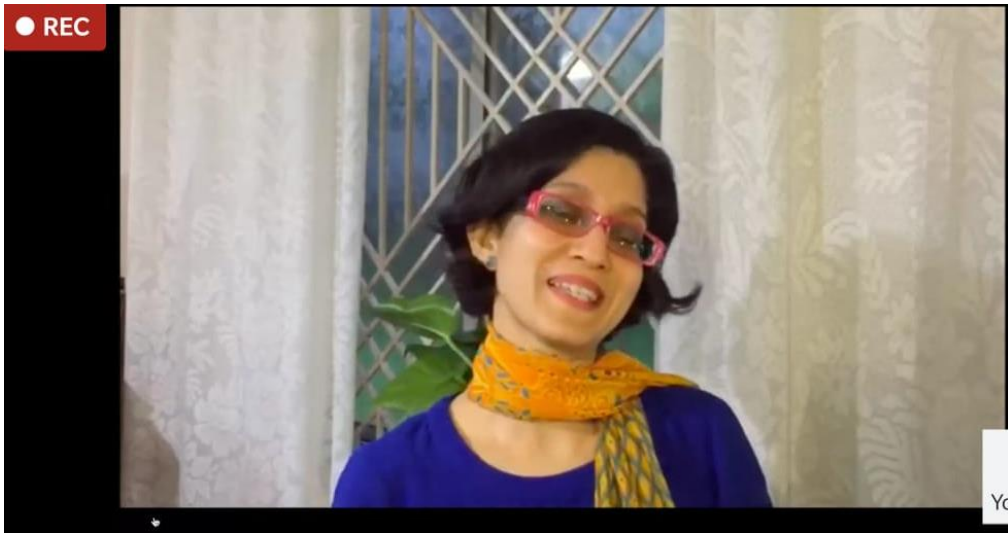
The online celebration was attended by more than 70 teachers and students from schools, higher secondaries and colleges from all over the state. Prof. Carlos Bergeron from Québec and Ms. Marion Madelénat were among the participants. Prof. Anuradha Wagle delivered the vote of thanks and warmly addressed the participating French teachers and students. The event ended with a French musical performance by Myron Fernandes. He enthralled the audience with his original composition “La Tour Eiffel”. The initiative taken by the faculty to take this annual celebration onto a virtual platform was much appreciated by all. The students were applauded for the play and their tireless efforts in organizing this event online.



Renita Alvares, actor- *Pyaar Sans Frontières* speaking about her experiences during the making of the play.



Screen shot of the virtual celebrations conducted via Google Meet



Dr. Irene Silveira presenting the department activities.



Prof. Carlos Bergeron joined in from Quebec



Lynstel Fernandes speaking about her experience in Sciences Po, Lyon, France.



Anthony Gomes conducting the panel discussion on the play *Pyaar Sans Frontieres*



Roshito Cotta, actor, enacting his role in French Québécois accent.

