

### Goa University

### Discipline of Philosophy, School of Sanskrit, Philosophy and Indic Studies

## Report on Online Guest Lecture "Towards a Metaphysical Anthropology"

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1. Title of the Program	Monthly online guest lecture "Towards a Metaphysical Anthropology"	
2. Date and Time	19 September 2025 (Friday) – 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM IST  Online: meet.google.com/meq-pgaw-qbv  School of Sanskrit Philosophy and Indic Studies (SSPIS)	
3. Mode of conduct		
4. School		
5. Detail of the Resource Person (Brief biodata)	Prof Predrag Cicovacki is Professor Emeritus at the Department of Philosophy at the College of the Holy Cross (Worcester Massachusetts, USA), and Senior Research Fellow at the University of Cambridge (Cambridge, UK). He is the author of thirteen books, among which are: Gandhi's Footprints; Barefoot in Benares; God, Man, and Tolstoy; and The Meaning of Life: A Quick Immersion. In the 2012-13 academic year, Professor Cicovacki was a recipient of the Fulbright-Nehru fellowship of the American and Indian governments for a study and research project in India. He is currently working on a four-book project (Personality, Interactions, Values, and Transcendence) that should serve as a foundation of metaphysical anthropology.	
. Number of Participants	43	
. The objective of the Program	This lecture advances the paradigm of metaphysical anthropology as a critical response to prevailing moral and spiritual fragmentation. It investigates the foundational	

	human imperatives of truth and love, analyzing their formative influence on personality, communal life, value orientation, and transcendent aspiration. Through the articulation of these four existential pillars, the presentation offers a conceptual framework for authentic and humane living. It further invites rigorous reflection on the dynamic tensions between vitality and spirituality, truth and pragmatic compromise, and individuality and collective belonging, as essential to sustaining human flourishing.		
8.Description of the Program	The event is organized by the Research Scholars' Forum of Philosophy Programme. Description Intro/ Outro- Sagar Yadav Welcome Address- Diksha Rai Q & A session- Akash Salgoankar Vote of Thanks- Dipanki Saikia		
9. Benefits /Key outcome of the Program	By the conclusion of the lecture, participants had acquired a deepened understanding of metaphysical anthropology as a normative inquiry into the meaning and dignity of human life. They had come to appreciate the dynamic interplay of truth, love, values, and transcendence in shaping both personality and community. The discussion had equipped them to critically engage with contemporary challenges such as alienation, value dissonance, and the pursuit of transcendence. Participants left with conceptual tools for self-reflection, enabling them to recognize the existential costs of neglecting personality development and to consider orientations toward humane, responsible, and elevated modes of living.		
10. Enclosures with report	E- Posture, Screen-shot Photos, Attendance sheets, YouTube link - https://youtu.be/69n5lpNJnzk		

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School of Sanskrit, Philosophy and Indic Studies
Goa University

Date: 16/10/25

## School of Sanskrit, Philosophy and Indic Studies Goa University



# Toward a Metaphysical Anthropology

19 September 2025 (Friday) 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM IST 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM CEST

An online talk by
Prof. Predrag Cicovacki
Professor Emeritus
Department of Philosophy
College of the Holy Cross
(Worcester, Massachusetts, USA)

Meet Link: https://meet.google.com/meq-pgaw-qbv

### **Abstract**

After years of struggling with how to provide a needed structure for a philosophical examination of what it means to be and live like a human being, I have come to believe that we should organize it around four pillars of human existence: personality, values, interactions, and transcendence.

In a nutshell, these pillars deal with the following issues:

- 1. Personality, which centers on the problem of identity: how can we integrate our general humanity with our irreplaceable uniqueness?
- 2. Values, which are concerned with the problem of orientation: how to find our way in the complex flow of reality? What is right and what is wrong, and how can we tell them apart?
- 3. Interactions, which deal with the problem of community, with living together, through exchanges and common rituals: how can we form societies that are not mere aggregates of people?
- 4. Transcendence, which boils down to our commitments: What are our ultimate bonds? What do we hold as most sacred?

I call this novel and ambitious project "metaphysical anthropology." It is not an attempt to establish a new philosophical discipline (like "philosophical anthropology") but to outline a new paradigm of a reflective and responsible, interactive and creative life. In my lecture, I want to explain these four pillars and outline how metaphysical anthropology aims to find out not the truth about human beings but the truth of being human.

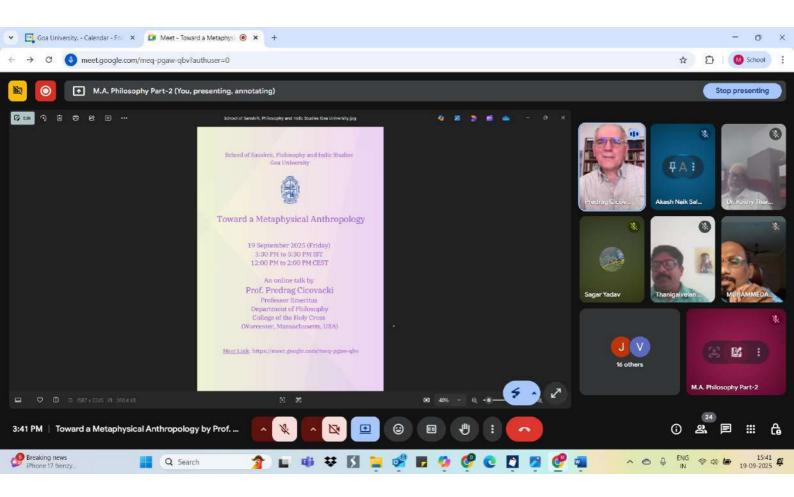
#### <u>Bio</u>

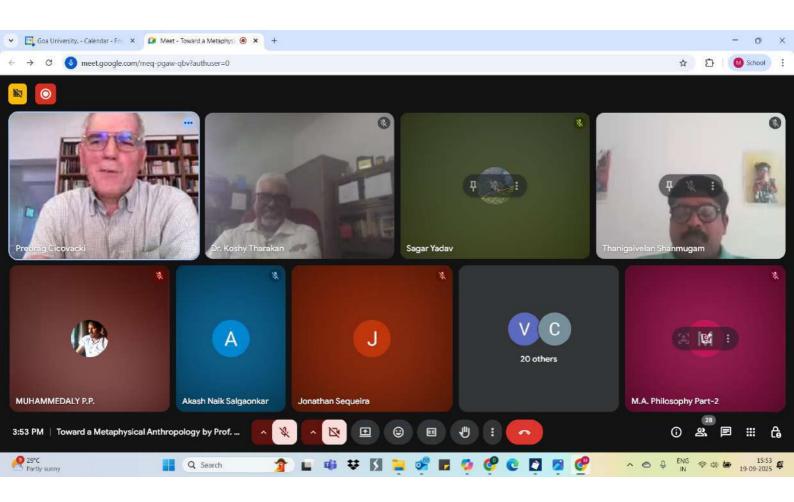
Prof Predrag Cicovacki is Professor Emeritus at the Department of Philosophy at the College of the Holy Cross (Worcester, Massachusetts, USA), and Senior Research Fellow at the University of Cambridge (Cambridge, UK).

He is the author of thirteen books, among which are: *Gandhi's Footprints*; *Barefoot in Benares*; *God, Man, and Tolstoy*; and *The Meaning of Life: A Quick Immersion*.

In the 2012-13 academic year, Professor Cicovacki was a recipient of the Fulbright-Nehru fellowship of the American and Indian governments for a study and research project in India.

He is currently working on a four-book project (Personality, Interactions, Values, and Transcendence) that should serve as a foundation of metaphysical anthropology.





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