

GOA UNIVERSITY

Shenoi Goembab School of Languages and Literature

Discipline of French and Francophone Studies

&

Discipline of Portuguese and Lusophone Studies

Report on FIELD TRIP CUM TREASURE HUNT

The students from the Disciplines of French and Francophone Studies and Portuguese and Lusophone Studies went on a field trip cum treasure hunt on 16 December 2025 to Old Goa and Panaji. In Old Goa, they visited the Heritage sites, and the Museum of Christian Art (MoCA), and in Panaji, the Instituto Camões, Panjim

A total of 24 students, including 4 faculty members, participated in the field trip. The resource person was Prof. Delfim Correia da Silva, Assistant Professor (Visiting Lecturer, UGC-appointed) in the Discipline of Portuguese and Director of Camões I.P.

The trip aligned with several B.A. and M.A. courses taught by the Disciplines of French and of Portuguese, namely FRE 5002 French Heroines: from Classicism to Symbolism; FRE 621-Representation of French History in Visual Art and Literature; POR 301 Goan Culture and Heritage, and POR 5005 Goan Literature in the Portuguese Language.

The trip commenced with a visit to the Gate of the Colégio de São Paulo, where students were informed about the college's renown, which was on par with European universities. and the presence of the first Printing Press in Asia. Students were then taken on a walk through the Viceroy's Arch, and shown the sites and vestiges of the earlier existing Adilshah's/Viceroy's Palace, the Rua Direita, St. Cajetan's Church, the Se Cathedral, and St. Catherine's Chapel. The next visit, to the Museum of Christian Art (MoCA), involved a guided tour led by museum staff who explained the history and syncretism of the exhibits to the students. The group visited the Church of Our Lady of the Rosary and the ruins of St. Augustine-Santa Monica Complex in the vicinity. At the sites, Prof. Delfim Correia da Silva, presented aspects of historical and cultural interest through an interactive delivery involving historical anecdotes, fun facts and music. This was followed by a drive through Ribandar, with a focus on the historic Linhares bridge. The trip concluded with a visit to the Instituto Camões in Panjim, featuring a guided tour of the Camões-themed exhibits and a quiz conducted by Prof. Delfim Correia da Silva to assess the knowledge acquired during the trip. Students were provided a snack box during the visit to Old Goa and lunch at the Instituto Camões.

The visit to Old Goa, the Museum of Christian Art, and *Instituto Camões* strengthened students' ability to grasp the concept of the Indo-Portuguese by bringing them into contact with spaces where Goan and Portuguese cultural elements visibly intersected. Through the observation of hybrid architectural styles, religious iconography, bilingual inscriptions, and artistic motifs that weave together Indian and European traditions, as well as contemporary cultural collaborations, students gained a concrete, experiential understanding of how Indo-Portuguese identity was shaped and how it continues to evolve. Students were offered

notepads, courtesy of Instituto Camões, Panjim, and encouraged to take down notes and work in teams of two to facilitate discussion and understanding of cultural aspects related to the heritage sites.

The previous day, 15th December 2025, Dr. Irene Silveira had initiated preparation for the visit through a special interactive session, 'Renaissance Crossings', to prepare students to observe Renaissance legacies in the Old Goa sites. She put forth to participants that literary movements are not isolated, but part of a transnational circulation of aesthetics and ideology across Europe, and demonstrated that Goa heritage sites permit to examine how French artistic principles find parallels in Portuguese colonial cultural production. This was followed up with a task-based assignment that students performed during the trip, involving close observation of architectural features, documentation, and discussion with peers and Dr. Silveira. Thus, students of French history and literature courses were able to synthesise observations from the field visit and interpret them through the conceptual tools of French and Portuguese literary-cultural movements. The concluding visit to *Instituto Camões* provided students with an understanding of the ongoing diplomatic and cultural engagement of Portuguese institutions in Goa today.

The trip was coordinated by Mr. Anthony Gomes, Ms. Loraine Alberto, Dr. Irene Silveira, Ms. Jemima Fernandes and Mrs Munira De Souza.

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16 December 2025

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