

Academic Conference at Goa University marks Half-Millennium of the Birth of Camões

As part of the global commemorations marking the 500th anniversary of the birth of Luís de Camões, the III Congress of the Half Millennium of the Birth of Camões explored the poet's enduring legacy, with particular emphasis on his time in the East. This event marked the third in a series of international conferences dedicated to this milestone and conceived around the geographies that shaped Camões' travels and writings: the first in Macau in 2024, the second in Mozambique in 2025. The first day of the III International Congress took place on 12 March 2026 at Goa University, organised jointly by the Discipline of Portuguese at Goa University, Instituto Camões, CLP-Camões, Goa, and *Rede Camões na Ásia & África*.

The highlight of the conference's inaugural was the keynote address delivered by Prof. Felipe Saavedra, who explored Eastern influences on the life and work of Luís de Camões. During his address, he also introduced the Camões Network in Asia and Africa and invited scholars to contribute to the *Revista dos Estudos Camonianos*, a journal dedicated to research on Camonian studies and the Renaissance period. The cultural exchange between Camões and India was further illustrated through an original portrait of the poet by Goan artist Shailesh Dabholkar, featured on the Conference memento.

The academic session that followed featured paper presentations by local scholars - Mr. Aren Noronha, Mr. Dhruvan Nair, Dr. Irene Silveira, Ms. Loraine Alberto, covering a variety of topics ranging from Camões' presence in contemporary Goan writing and discourse, a comparative analysis between *Os Lusíadas* and the Mahabharata, comparisons between the episode of Inês de Castro in the works of Camões and French dramatist Henry de Montherlant, and an in-depth look into *O Vaticínio do Swârga* (a local Goan rewriting of *Os Lusíadas*) through an interview with author Ave Cleto Afonso.

The evening session at Instituto Camões saw more presentations highlighting elements of Chinese and Indonesian influence in the Portuguese epic, followed by readings of Camonian texts in Portuguese, Konkani, Malayalam, English and French. The event concluded with the release of the book *Os Rostos de Camões* by Savia Viegas and Delfim Correia da Silva. The conference offered participants and students in Goa valuable exposure to scholarship on Portuguese literature and provided local researchers with opportunities to engage with international scholars and explore new perspectives on Camonian studies.



Group photograph with conference participants



Lively discussion following academic paper presentations.



Presenters and artist showcasing the Conference memento featuring original artwork by Shailesh Dabholkar.



Keynote address by Prof. Felipe Saavedra