

GOA UNIVERSITY TO LAUNCH VISITING RESEARCH PROFESSORS PROGRAMME

The Goa University is in the process of launching a new programme, Visiting Research Professors Programme, that will bring doyens in the fields of liberal arts, social and natural sciences, and other fields to the university. The visiting professors are expected to interact with students, deliver lectures, offer courses, and work on collaborative research projects, or stimulate the creation of art installations and music performances with faculty and students. It is hoped that while blurring boundaries between traditional disciplines, the visiting professors will generate a creative environment in learning and contemporary knowledge production practices with their intellectual and aesthetic endeavours.

The programme is being supported by Department of Art and Culture, Government of Goa. The first of the visiting professor chairs was mooted by the Department in the name of Goan polymath Prof. D.D. Kosambi during his birth centenary year, 2007. This was followed by institution of professorships named after the well known Goan poet B.B. Borkar, and the first Chief Minister of Goa Shri Dayanand Bandodkar during their birth centenary years in 2010 and 2011, respectively. In 2012 the Department instituted three more chairs in the names of three eminent Goans, Shri Mario Miranda, Shri Anthony Gonsalves, and Shri Nana Shirgaokar.

The original idea behind instituting of the professorships was to attract academics around the country to serve as full-time professors at the campus of Goa University. It turned out, however, that well established academics were reluctant to relocate to Goa. The Executive Council of Goa University, in consultation with Department of Art & Culture, then decided to initiate the Visiting Research Professorship Programme under which an academic would spend approximately six to twelve weeks at Goa University every year for about three years. This format has received good support from respected academics from around the country. The Executive Council oversees this programme through its recently created Standing Committee on Visiting Research Professorship Programme. The committee is chaired by Dr. Maria Couto and has Shri. Ramachandra B. (Dinar) Bhatkar, Prof. Y.V.B. Reddy, Shri. P.F.X. de Lima, and Shri. Ranjit Hoskote as members. The committee works in close collaboration with Shri. Prasad Lolayekar, Director, Art & Culture. The committee has benefitted from advice from Prof. Govardhan Mehta in formulation of the programme.

The activities that are being planned under the programme have emerged because of the foresight, generous support, and flexibility provided by Government of Goa, through its Department of Art & Culture. It is hoped that besides students and faculty of the university and colleges in Goa, the programme will allow public at large to interact with the visiting professors by attending their courses, lectures, performances, etc.

The visiting professorship programme is being launched with a lecture by the doyen of Indian historians, Prof Romila Thapar. The lecture entitled “Contours in Reading Early Indian History” will be held in the main auditorium in the recently inaugurated New

Science Faculty Block (Block-E) of Goa University on Friday, July 5th at 3.30 p.m. Shri Bharat Vir Wanchoo, Hon'ble Governor of Goa will preside over the function.

Professor Romila Thapar has recently accepted D.D Kosambi Visiting Research Professorship in interdisciplinary research at Goa University. She is expected to spend about six weeks every year during the next three years at the university. As a part of the professorship she will be at the university 1-7 July 2013 during which time she will have meetings with students and faculty to plan her lecture series and other interactions over the next three years.

The table below summarizes the names of well known academics who have agreed to participate in the Visiting Research Professorship Programme of the university:

D.D. Kosambi Visiting Professorship in interdisciplinary studies	Prof. Romila Thapar Prof. Madhav Gadgil Prof. Sudhir Kakar
Dayanand Bandodkar Visiting Professorship in political economy	Prof. Amit Bhaduri Prof. Ashok Chandra Lord Meghnad Desai
Kavivarya Bakibab Borkar Visiting Research Professorship in comparative literature	Jeet Thayil
Mario Miranda Visiting Research Professorship in Fine art/painting/illustrative cartooning, etc.	Prof. Jyotindra Jain Shri. Orijit Sengupta Shri. Atul Dodiya
Anthony Gonsalves Visiting Research Professorship in western music	Prof. Santiago Lusardi Girell, University of Seville, Spain + his group
Nana Shirgaokar Visiting Research Professorship in traditional music	Smt. Shubha Mudgal

Besides Prof. Romila Thapar, Prof. Madhav Gadgil, the well known ecologist of the Western Ghats is already active on the campus; Professor Santiago Lusard Girelli, Seville University, Spain, the conductor who participated in the revolutionary El Sistema in Venuzuela taking classical music to children in the slums is also on the campus. Prof. Amit Bhaduri, Professor Emeritus in Economics at the Jawaharlal Nehru University will arrive at the end of July. Amongst others, Smt. Mudgal and Shri. Orijit Sen are expected

on the campus during September-October, Jeet Thayil in the second week of August, Prof Jyotindra Jain in November and Shri. Atul Dodiya in February 2014.

Prof. Madhav Gadgil, who has started working as a Visiting Professor in June has proposed to create over the next three years *Peoplescape: Fifty Years of Goa's Environmental History* with help from students, faculty and the people. In addition to seminars and lectures on the Campus, which the public are welcome to attend, he will also initiate long term environmental monitoring in Goa. He has also proposed bird and insect census on the campus of the university to be able to tell how the campus is faring in environmental concerns.

Prof. Santiago Lusard Girelli, current occupant of the Anthony Gonsalves Visiting Professor of Western Music and his team of musicians are here till mid August, will teach the history of the West through Music, a program which is also open to the public. In keeping with the theme of democratizing Classical Music, Prof Girelli is exploring the possibility of establishing a Goa University Choir (which incidentally will have its first performance in August 2013). Along with his team of Musicians he will also give two public chamber music concerts and interact with Indian Musicians.

Professor Amit Bhaduri, occupant of the Dayanand Bandodkar Visiting Professorship in Political Economy will arrive in Goa in July. He will offer a short introductory course on Globalisation and the Indian Experience of Liberalization. This course will be open for registration not only to MA/MSc/MCom students, but to others who are not registered students of the university but are interested. The course will require no background in Economics. Professor Bhaduri will also mentor researchers in the Faculty of Social Sciences

The Goa University is eager to seek the participation of the people of Goa in the activities, courses, events and functions generated by these visiting professors. Over the next three years the Goa University will explore the integration of the activities of the Visiting Professors with the curricula in its choice-based credit system.