

# President's Message

Dear Member,

*Greetings from The International Centre Goa!*



The International Centre Goa has emerged as a vibrant hub of high profile intellectual activity that has witnessed a symbiosis and convergence of minds on a wide range of issues relevant to Goa, India, South Asia and the world around, over the years. No wonder, therefore, that ICG is being viewed as the nerve-centre of interaction of some of the best brains across the globe, meant to address the hopes and aspirations of the people. The spin-off of this exercise is the emergence of solutions to some of the knotty problems - current and futuristic. Having been associated with ICG, since its inception, I have witnessed positive growth of this institution on the lines of the vision of its founders. The hallmark of the approach to the diverse problems handled by it, so far, has been to break barriers - emotional, traditional or geographical - and search for avenues of co-existence by casting aside prejudices and suspicions, if any, for the sake of mutual benefit and well-being. ICG has done this by bringing together thinkers, scholars, academics, journalists, politicians, administrators, public leaders, sociologists, industrialists and above all the youth from India and around the world.

For example, a wide range of events organized by ICG during 2010-11, include topics like Health Care, Prevention of Suicides, Celebrating Women for Empowerment of the Society, Falling Sex Ratio and Girl Child, Food for Heart, Women in Media in South Asia: Partners in Development, Italian Film Festival, Golden Jubilee of Goa's Liberation, Yoga, Pranayama, Development of Infrastructure, Goa Arts and Literary Festival, Role of Judiciary in Strengthening Democracy, Treatment of Cancer, Political System of Germany and India: A Comparison, Right to Information: Strengthening Participatory Democracy, Media and Terrorism in South Asia, etc. A number of organizations like Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Ministry of External Affairs - Government of India, Goa University, Indian Medical Association, American Centre - Mumbai, Oxford Brookes University, Sahitya Akademi, Indian Ateliers, Alliance Francaise, Instituto de Camoes, Media Information and Communication Centre of India, Jamia Milia Islamia - New Delhi, Indo-Italian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Goa Union of Journalists, etc. collaborated in organizing the events.

ICG's prime interest is the contemporary society and particularly the youth. It keeps itself abreast of the global developments and the institutional framework available to tackle the emerging problems. Major development like Globalization and Liberalization across the world and aberrations like terrorism have greatly revolutionized the perceptions of the societies across the world. New manifestations on the economic, social and security fronts are the order of the day. Even democratic institutions and concepts like secularism and pluralism seem to have been absorbed in the vortex of the changing global scenario. Public morality and good governance are major issues in civil societies. Planning for eradication of glaring economic inequalities and removal of gender bias are the priorities before the power that be. The key to solutions of such issues is constructive dialogue between people who matter. ICG would want to continue to provide a platform for positive interactions on such matters.

Success of any institutions ultimately depends upon the quality of commitment on the part of those, who plan for the future and carry out the day-to-day affairs. ICG is lucky to have a live-wire Director in the person of Ms Nandini Sahai. Endowed with abundance of vision she is keen on putting ICG on the world map, something which the founders had envisioned years ago. She is the best face of ICG. I also acknowledge the steadfast commitment of the Trustees and other senior members of the staff. I am confident that ICG will scale greater height of committed service to the world community in the general and Goan society in particular.

With regards,

Pratapsingh Raoji Rane  
President - The International Centre Goa.