

DIRECTOR'S LETTER



Dear Friends,

Season's Greetings!

As we step into the new year-let me just sit back and reflect on the year gone by. I am happy and gratified with the amount of things we managed to pack into just 365 days. There

were talks, seminars, plays, art camps, lectures and panel discussions, on fields as varied as kitchen gardens to good governance!

We had a stream of eminent visitors gracing our premises some of whom we had invited and some who came on their own. In the invited list we had Gulzar Saab, Aruna Roy, Justice J.S.Verma, J.M.Lyngdoh, Pavan K. Varma to name just a few.

We managed to meet quite a few of our infrastructure targets this year, namely remodelling the Reception and Reservation area, putting the Water Harvesting system in place, building a small children's park and most of all getting our swimming pool going! It will be a month till the full complex, comprising of changing rooms, a spa, steam room, gym, recreation room and a multi-purpose terrace is ready and formally inaugurated, but till then our swimming pool is fully functional for our room guests!

The last quarter of the year was like a roller coaster ride - it was one event after another. In November we had a very successful inhouse 3 day international seminar - the VIII Annual South Asia Media Summit. This year the theme was 'Intra State Conflict' and the 'Role of Media' - we had senior journalists academics and activists from Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Myanmar, Afghanistan, Nepal, Pakistan and India participating. While the days were for brainstorming, the evenings were for relaxing with good music and good food.

No sooner had this got over when we were neck deep in preparation for our 5 day Goa Arts and Literary Festival. This was a mammoth task involving all the skills and patience of an earth mover! Tickets were bought and cancelled at the last minute because of some illness or the other, some writers from Pakistan could not make it because their visas arrived late, even though the process had started months in advance, menus, brochures, posters, memorablias were to be designed-the list goes on and on, there is no end to it and one needs nerves of steel to handle it all. Unlike other such events which are done on a 'money is no problem budget', with an event management company handling it all professionally-ours was on an absolute shoe string budget where me and my core team of 4 people were multi tasking like mad - but despite all this it went off smoothly, even though there were some grumblings of thin attendance.

Well no doubt there was a lot happening over that weekend, but our satisfaction was that we too were part of the Liberation day celebrations! For those who missed it all not to worry, major excerpts are all there on youtube- '[goa art lit fest](#)', please watch and send us your feedback.

We ended the year with a bang literally-with two live bands taking turns in keeping the crowds on their toes till the wee hours, tons of good food and good wine-our New Year's Eve party was a grand success, if I may say so modestly!

Anyway time has come now not to sit on our past laurels but to move on to even bigger and better things in the new year .To quote Robert Frost, "*The woods are lovely, dark and deep, but I have promises to keep, and miles to go before I sleep...*". Let me thank all those who were part of our lives in ICG in 2011, hope to see you all in 2012 as well!

Wish you once again peace, good health, wealth and loads of happiness!

Nandini Sahai

NANDINI SAHAI



LECTURES ON “GOOD GOVERNANCE”

Lecture on 'Role of Electoral Reforms in Good Governance'

J M Lyngdoh, Former Chief Election Commissioner of India in his lecture on “Role of Electoral Reforms in Good Governance”, said that currently in India, the people were electing their representatives; while in other countries it was the political parties who choose these representatives based on the votes polled by them during elections. He felt that the Election Commission should be more proactive in the internal elections of political parties.

Mr. Lyngdoh however welcomed some of the measures taken by the Election Commission in an attempt to bring about transparency in the election process. He felt that the decision to ask candidates to open a separate bank account to record their transactions during elections is a good sign.

This Lecture was held on 8 October, which was preceded by an interactive session on “Role of Youth in Participatory Democracy” chaired by J M Lyngdoh in the morning.



*Above Left: J M Lyngdoh delivering his lecture
Below Left: Dr. M. Modassir introducing the speaker
Above: Q & A round
Below: An attentive audience during the lecture*

Lecture on "The Challenge of Fighting Corruption and Redressing Grievances"

Continuing with our Series of Lectures on Good Governance, Aruna Roy and Nikhil Dey delivered a Public Lecture on “The Challenge of Fighting Corruption and Redressing Grievances” on 15 October.

Nikhil Dey is the Co-convener of National Campaign for the Peoples Right to Information (NCPRI) and Aruna Roy is the Founder of Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathana, Ramon Magsaysay Awardee for Community Leadership in 2000 and Member of National Advisory Council.

Aruna Roy felt that the idea behind RTI was not just fighting corruption but misuse of power and arbitrary use of power while Nikhil Dey said that RTI has empowered the citizens in many ways. Both Roy and Dey felt that reforms in various sectors on anvil are the beginning of the transformation process and action for transparency has been put forth by RTI.



*Top: Aruna Roy and Nikhil Dey delivering their lecture
Left: Q & A round
Right: Audience during the evening lecture*

CONFERENCES, SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS



Left: J. M. Lyngdoh & Ms. Nandini Sahai



Right: The participants during the interactive session

Seminar on “Role of Youth in Participatory Democracy”

J M Lyngdoh, Former Chief Election Commissioner of India in an Interactive Session on “Role of Youth in Participatory Democracy”, on 8 October, said that it was time the Election Commission enforced its authority to ensure that internal democracy was really

implemented in political parties through genuine organizational elections.

He felt that today's youth needed to be engaged in politics and also needed to share power and authority to address their concerns. He also mentioned that democracies in large parts of the world are decided by a small group of people. If the society can do something to break such stranglehold on political parties and restore democracy, then it will really help engage youth in politics and democracy.

Seminar on 'Strengthening Participatory Democracy: Role of RTI'

A two-day seminar on ‘Strengthening Participatory Democracy: Role of RTI’ was inaugurated by noted RTI activists Aruna Roy & Nikhil Dey on 15 October. The seminar was organised in association with FES-India and MICCI. The sessions of the seminar were RTI and Good Governance, Role of Media & NGOs in Promoting RTI and Major Challenges Facing RTI & RTI Activists: Need for Whistle-blowers Act, followed by an Open Forum of Suggestions and Recommendations.

Nikhil Dey said that the Whistleblowers Protection Act should cover all commissions in the country, including the Lokpal, national human rights commission, the grievance redressal commission and the national women's commission.

While Aruna Roy felt there is still a lot to be done, specially the implementation of the RTI Section 4, which states that government buildings and offices must follow a proactive disclosure, which will give the public broad information related to departmental works.



Top Right: Aruna Roy delivering her Inaugural address

Bottom Right: Nikhil Dey delivering his special remarks

Left: The participants of the seminar

Bottom: The Inaugural function. Seen (L-R) Nikhil Dey, Collin Curry, Nandini Sahai, Aruna Roy and Rajeshwar Dyal



VIII ANNUAL SOUTH ASIA MEDIA SUMMIT 2011

The VIII Annual South Asia Media Summit - 2011 on “Intra-State Conflict in South-Asia: Role of Media”, was organized from 23 - 25 November 2011, in association with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung-India and Media Information Communication Centre of India.



The Inaugural function. Seen (L-R): Jamila Mujahed, Rajeshwar Dyal, Nandini Sahai, Pratapsingh Rane, Colling Curry, Sarah Hees

The main aim of this year’s Summit was on Intra-State conflicts that have witnessed armed struggle between two groups of which one is the State, and where violence has been used resulting in human and material casualties.



Participants of the Summit

The sessions of the Summit were:

- Why Intra-State conflicts are more and protracted in South Asia?
- Changing nature of political discourse and conflicts in South Asia and challenges for media
- Dealing with plants: Can conflict reporting be non-partisan?
- Legal challenges of reporting conflict: Coverage of resistance and human rights concerns
- Do media and conflict feed on each other?

The recommendations of the Summit were:

1. Frequent content analysis of media coverage of conflicts -by whom?
2. Need to develop a handbook of conflict reporting.
3. More national dialogues in South Asia.
4. Media and Media manpower must become organized as a sector.
5. Media ethics need to be given priority.



Q & A round

6. Training of journalists in conflict reporting and exchange of journalists in South Asia.
7. There should be transparency in the working of the armed and security forces.
8. There should be clear separation between news and views.
9. There should be strong and easily accessible Right to Information all over South Asia with institutional provision for the protection of RTI seekers.
10. Media should report issues of alienated and marginalized people before they become full blown conflicts.
11. Conflict of interest policy should be clearly defined for journalists.
12. Mechanisms must be found to define and enforce media ethics (not government control) stringers.



Q & A round

13. Journalists should take a position but facts and objectivity should form the basis of all reporting. They should ensure professional ethics to preserve credibility of the profession.

VIII ANNUAL SOUTH ASIA MEDIA SUMMIT 2011

- 14. Journalists should be trained while newspapers should have proper pro-people policy to report conflict.
- 15. Journalists should get financial and physical protection.



Rinzin Wangchuk, Carmen Wickramagamage, Babita Basnet

- 16. Journalists should be provided with opportunities to upgrade their skills, enlarge scope of experience by mutual exchanges and interaction with professionals from other conflict zones.
- 17. Journalists must undertake regular and formal exercise towards thorough introspection.
- 18. Training for journalists working in conflict zones to make them understand the nature of conflict, human rights issues, ethical values and objectivity.
- 19. Certain privileges to be given to journalists, so that freedom of press is ensured.
- 20. Journalists should be trained to get information through RTI if the information is not otherwise available and to make news more authentic and fact wise correct.
- 21. Series of joint training of field and desk journalists for conflict regions of South Asia.

- 22. Legal training and safety of journalists.
- 23. South Asia web portal for journalists to improve skills and exchange views.
- 24. Funds to help journalists to become owners/alternative non profit platforms Protective law for journalists
- 25. Suggestion to media houses to rotate journalists and desk people.
- 26. Ethical committee of media persons.
- 27. Encourage women journalists. Increase gender sensitivity
- 28. Media should play a pro-active role in protecting whistle blowers
- 29. Media literacy for common people.
- 30. Should promote democratization of media and increase people's participation using democratic tools like mobile phones and voice based platforms.



Session 1: Seen (L-R) Gautam Sen, Mohsin Babbar, Faseih Iqbal, Rajeshwar Dyal, Anthony David, Randeep Singh Nandal & Mazhar Hussain

*Top Left: Sarah Hees
Left: Session 2: Seen (L-R) Gautam Navlakha, Carmen Wickramagamage, Rinzin Wangchuk, Damakant Jayshi, Vipul Mudgal
Top Right: Snigdhendru Bhattacharya, Rajan Bhattarai & Mohsin Babbar
Right: Pratapsingh Rane
Above: Participants of the summit*

II ANNUAL GOA ARTS & LITERARY FESTIVAL 2011



The II Edition of the Annual Goa Arts and Literary Festival coincided with the 50th anniversary of Goa's liberation after 451 years of Portuguese rule.

The Festival was held from 17 - 21 December 2011, exactly 50 years after the historic days when Goa was liberated from the Portuguese rule. The Festival celebrated creative excellence across India, with a special focus on Goa and its Diaspora.

As with the inaugural edition, there were prominent daily showcases for the best contemporary poetry from across India, and for the extraordinary writers and musicians of the North East, featuring historians and witnesses to the sensational events as they occurred, as well as music, painting and photography, poetry, journalism and publishing, debates, lectures, special book releases, and panel discussions about the Goan experience of the Estado da India, quite different from much of the rest of the subcontinent's experience with the British Raj.

There was a particular emphasis on Diaspora, on the Goan and other Indian migrant communities across the world which retain different ideas about what being Indian means, as well as on the North-East of India and its art, music and literature.

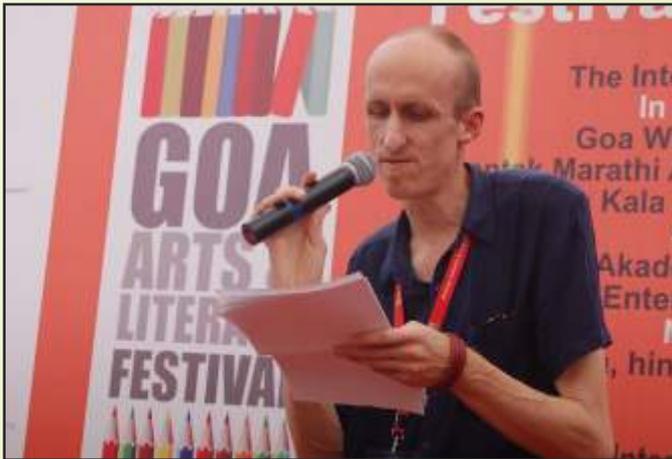
The five day Festival as envisaged was a truly historic cultural event of the highest standard, with delegates attending from around the world.

II ANNUAL GOA ARTS & LITERARY FESTIVAL 2011

Some of the sessions included:

Literary Events

- Drifting on a High Tide: recent poems by Andy Jackson
- Writing Cities by Sonia Faleiro & Teju Cole.
- Writings from the Konkani Diaspora - Fr. Alwyn Sequeira, Henry Mendonsa, Gurudutt in conversation with Kiran Budkuley.
- Knitting India through Literature - Sivasankari & Mridula Garg in conversation with Damodar Mauzo.
- War or Peace, Anand Patwardhan in conversation with Bilal Tanweer & Amitava Kumar.
- Dasht-e-Tanhae Urdu Poetry featuring Gulzar, Sheen Kaaf Nizam and Sadia Dehlvi.



II ANNUAL GOA ARTS & LITERARY FESTIVAL 2011

Book Releases

- Taj Mahal Foxtrot by Naresh Fernandes
- Treasures of The Indian Kitchen by Leena Prakash
- Bhimayana by Subhash Vyam, Durgabai Vyam
- Shringara: The Many Faces of Indian Beauty by Alka Pande
- Shadow of Invisible by Chandra Puchakkaad
- Short Takes Long Memories by Prabhakar Kamat & Sharmila Kamat
- Bebeanchem Kazar by Manoharrai Sardessai



II ANNUAL GOA ARTS & LITERARY FESTIVAL 2011

Art Events

- Transgressing Boundaries presentation by Apurva Kulkarni
- Venice Biennale Experience Presentation by Ranjit Hoskote
- Chronicles of a Past Life Presentation by Pablo Bartholomew
- Play on Norwegian Poetry by Astri Ghosh, Kanchan Ghosh and Vipin Sharma
- Talk on Alternative Art Practices by Suresh Jayaram
- Landscape & Politics: Presentation by Subodh Kerkar



Performances

- Hungry Stones - Dramatised readings of Rabindranath Tagore's stories
- Lou Majaw & Friends in Concert
- Playing with the Eye of the Dragon - Play by Mustard Seed Art Company
- Audience
- Jazz Performance by Monsorate Bros
- Jazz Performance by Devika Bhise



OUR OTHER ACTIVITIES

FRIDAY HEALTH TALKS

“Facts and Myths about Ayurvedic Treatment”



Dr. Nilesh delivering his presentation

In our series of Health talks, the first talk this quarter was on 'Facts and Myths about Ayurvedic Treatment' conducted on 7 October by Dr. Nilesh Korde, MD (Ayu.), HOD of Sharir Rachana (Anatomy) Dept, Gomantak Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya & Research Centre, Shiroda -Goa.

“Age Related Disorders and Geriatrics in Ayurveda”



Dr. Khandeparkar



Audience during the talk

Continuing with our Ayurvedic Health talk series, the next was on 'Age Related Disorders and Geriatrics in Ayurveda', conducted on 21 October by Dr. Sonali Khandeparkar, MD (Ayu).

“Indigestion & Constipation Ayurvedic Perspective”

Dr. Pushparaj Amonkar, BAMS (Ayurvedic & Panchakarma Consultant) gave a talk on Indigestion & Constipation Ayurvedic Perspective on 11 November.

“Ayurvedic Therapies & Do it yourself Massage”

Dr. Prasad S Parab, BAMS, PGDCR gave a talk on 'Ayurvedic Therapies & Do it yourself Massage' on 18 November.

Two-day Workshop on “Warli Painting”

A workshop on 'Warli Painting' was conducted by Mrs. Chitra De from 8 - 9 October. The workshop was open for 8 years and above.



Participants at the workshop

Interactive session on “Expanding Konkani Publishing Programme - Konkani Authors’ & Translators meet”



Participants during the interactive session

An Interactive Session on 'Expanding Konkani Publishing Programme - Konkani Authors’ & Translators meet' with Mr. M A Sikandar, Director, National Book Trust was held on 10 October. The session was organised in association with National Book Trust.

Interactive Session on “Conserving Environment and Mitigating Disasters in Coastal Zones: The U.S. Perspective”



Dr. Surendra giving his talk

As part of 'America Days', The American Center, Mumbai organized an interactive session on 'Conserving Environment

and Mitigating Disasters in Coastal Zones: The U.S. Perspective' with Dr. Surendra Thakurdesai, Vice-Principal of Gogate - Joglekar College, Ratnagiri on 12 October.

Interactive Session on "Trafficking in Person"

Continuing with 'America Days' an interactive session on 'Trafficking in Person', with Nandini Thakkar, noted Lawyer & anti-trafficking Activist was organized on 13 October. She said that human trafficking is a legal problem and not a social one. She also presented some facts and figures where she mentioned that crime in human trafficking are the second largest in the world and India lies at Tier two on the United Nations list.

OUR OTHER ACTIVITIES



Nandini Thakkar briefing the audience about Human Trafficking

She also added that it is not only the children of poor families who are liable to trafficking and child abuse but that there have been cases where celebrity children

were kidnapped for trafficking and abused.

Origami Workshop

An Origami Workshop was held from 29 - 30 October. The workshop was conducted by Shivaram Narayanan and was open for all above 8 years of age.



Shivaram Narayan explaining the different folds of Origami

Distinguished Lecture on “Emerging Powers and World Politics: Power Transition or Systemic Transformation?”

A Distinguished Lecture on 'Emerging Powers and World Politics: Power Transition or Systemic Transformation?' by Prof. Varun Sahni, Vice Chancellor, Jammu University was held on 29 October.

The lecture was organised in association with Goa University, ICWA and MEA.

An Evening with Jug Suraiya

An evening with Jug Suraiya, eminent Journalist, Author, and Columnist was held on 30 October. This was organised in association with Goa Writers Group.

Mr. Suraiya read from his latest book *JS & The Times of my life*.



Chitra De painting the various strokes of Warli art



Workshop on Warli Painting

Another workshop on Warli Painting was organised on 12 November and was conducted by Mrs. Chitra De. The workshop saw a large turnout of Warli painting enthusiasts.

Demo Class & Meet on “Yoga for the Body, Mind & Soul”

A Demo Class & Meet on 'Yoga for the Body, Mind & Soul' by Juhi Prasad was held on 26 November.

Session on “Comprehensive Land Water Forest Reforms”



An interactive Session on 'Comprehensive Land Water Forest Reforms' with Rajagopal P V, President, Ekta Parishad was held on November 28th. The session was organised in association with Ekta Parishad on 8 - 9 October.

Panelists during the interactive session

Our renovated reception has books on Goa, also postcards, prints & illustrations for sale by world famous Cartoonist, the late Mr. Mario Miranda.

ICG Buzz

Watch Goa Arts & Literary Festival 2011 highlights on You Tube

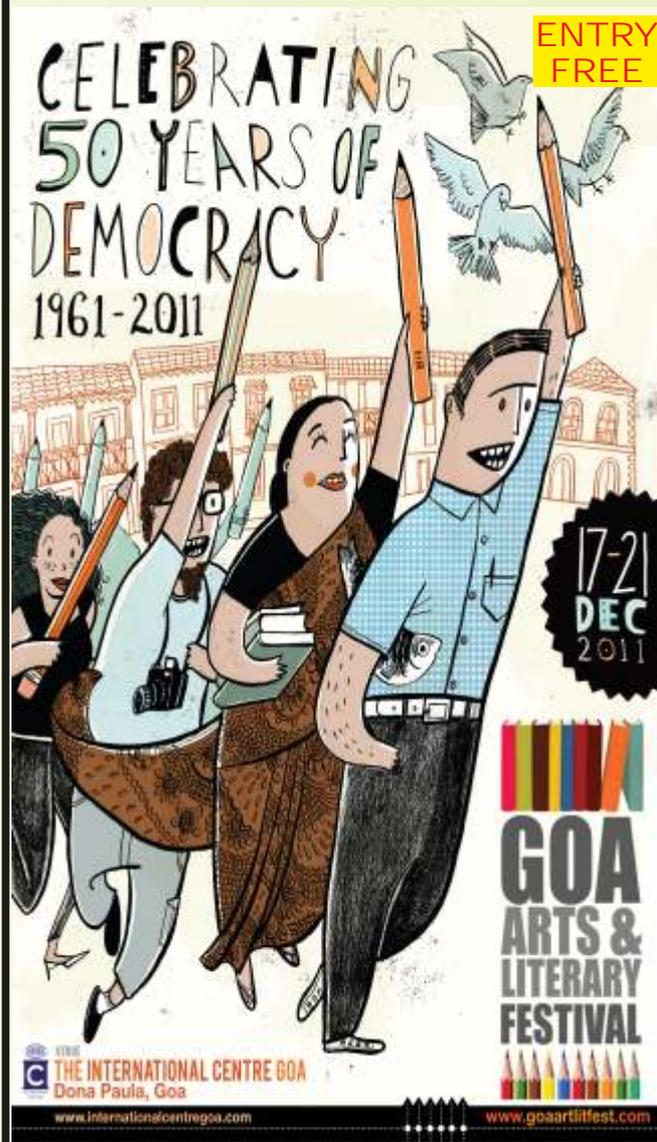
Our members can enjoy sumptuous meals at our multi-cuisine restaurant - SPICES by availing 10% special discount on all a la Carte orders by showing their membership cards.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ January 8th - 9:30 am - **Karnataka Quizzing Association's International Solo Quizzing Championship**
- ◆ January 8th - 5:00 pm - **SEQC's Monthly Quiz**
- ◆ January 9th - 7:30 am and 9:30 am - every Monday, Wednesday & Friday - **YOGA FOR THE BODY, MIND & SOUL** by Juhi Prasad. For Details contact Juhi Prasad (Yoga Instructor) - 9604296012
- ◆ January 13th - 6:00 pm **Friday Health Talk on Piles and Fistula** (Ano-Rectal diseases) - Ayurvedic Perspective by Dr. Shrinivas Gujjarwar, MD (Shalya) - HoD, Shalya - Surgery Dept. Gomantak Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya & Research Centre, Shiroda - Goa
- ◆ January 21st - **Workshop on Reviving Family Farms**
- ◆ January 23rd - 25th - **'We Care' Film Festival on Disability Issues**
Venue: The International Centre Goa - Dona Paula (January 23rd - 6.00 pm - 8.00 pm);
Venue: Kala Academy - Panaji (Jan 24th & 25th - 9.00 am - 1.00 pm);
Venue: Azad Maidan - Panaji (Jan 24th - 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm);
- ◆ January 24th - 6:00 pm - **Talk cum Interactive Session on Outsider's Perspectives on Soft Power in Indian Foreign Policy** by Ambassador David Malone, President, International Development Research Centre (IDRC) & former Canada's High Commissioner to India
- ◆ January 27th - 6:00 pm - **Friday Health Talk on Migraine** - Ayurvedic Perspective by Dr. Pranav Bhagvat, (MD - Shalakyia) Reader, Gomantak Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya & Research Centre, Shiroda - Goa.

A Five Day Festival of Stories in the Beautiful State of GOA
Book Releases | Readings | Talks | Debates
Performances | Workshops | Panel Discussions
Interactive Activities | Plays | Jazz and more



Participants (in alphabetical order)

Abhay Sardesai | Alka Pande
Amitav Ghosh | Amitava Kumar
Anand Patwardhan | Aniruddha SenGupta
Anjum Hasan | Apurva Kulkarni
Atul Dodiya | Bijoya Sawiyani | Bilal Tanweer
Chandrabhan Prasad | Charles Correa
Chiki Sarkar | Cyril Almeida | Damodar Mauzo
Deborah Baker | Desmond Kharmawphlang
Devika Bhise | Durgabai & Subhash Vyam
Frederick Noronha | Gulam Mohd Shaikh
Gulzar | H M Naqvi | Harsha Mander
Harshada Kerkar | Himanshu Suri | Jai Arjun Singh
Jerry Pinto | Jonathan Shainin | K S Rao
Kiran Budkuley | Kiran Nagarkar | Kjell Eriksson
Kynpham Sing Nongkynrih | Leena Prakash
Leonard Fernandes | Lou Majaw & Friends
Louis J Pinto (Gumby) | M T Vasudevan Nair
Manohar Shetty | Maria Aurora Couto
Meena Kandasamy | Mitra Phukan
Mini Nair | Mohammed Hanif | Mridula Garg
Nandini Sahai | Naresh Fernandes
Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee
Pablo Bartholomew | Pamela Prakash
Pavan Varma | Prabhakar Kamat | Preeti Gill
Ranjit Hoskote | Robin Ngangom | S Anand
Sadia Dehvi | Saeed Mirza | Samar Halarnkar
Sanjeev Desai | Shahidul Alam | Shailaja Bajpai
Sharmila Kamat | Sheen Kaaf Nizam
Shehan Karunatilaka | Sidharth Bhatia
Sivasankari | Sohaila Kapur | Sonia Faleiro
Subodh Kerkar | Sudhir Kakar
Sukrita Paul Kumar | Sunil Tandon
Suresh Jayaram | Teju Cole | Temsula Ao
Urvashi Butalia | Vivek Menezes | Yusuf
Zac O'Yeah and many more

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For details about membership, programmes and facilities please visit our website: www.internationalcentregoa.com
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