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Konkani is a rich and vibrant language that deserves more attention: Nila Mohanan at Awards Ceremony of Ideas Unleashed 2018

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“Konkani is a very rich language but deserves more attention; and should be given its due importance so that it remains as vibrant as it is today”, emphasized Smt. Nila Mohanan (IAS), Secretary-Education, Government of Goa at The Awards Ceremony of The Third Edition of ICG-Goa University Essay Competition “Ideas Unleashed” 2018 held recently at The International Centre Goa, Dona Paula. Smt. Mohanan who was the chief guest at the function, hailed the decision of the organizers for the encouraging initiative of having introduced Konkani language as a category in addition to the existing English category; for the Third Edition of Ideas Unleashed. Also present were Professor Varun Sahni, Vice Chancellor - Goa University, Mr. Yatin Kakodkar, President - ICG and Dr. Pushkar, Director - ICG. Ideas Unleashed 2018 is supported by Mr. Dattaraj Salgaocar, Chairman, V.M. Salgaocar Institute of International Hospitality Education and Vice-President of the Board of Trustees of ICG.

The Third Edition of Ideas Unleashed was announced in mid-August 2018. The topic for the essay competition was “Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): The Challenges for Goa.” Due to the excellent response in previous editions of Ideas Unleashed, the organizers decided to hold the competition in both English and Konkani languages. The competition was open to students currently enrolled with Goa University and colleges affiliated to Goa University, the Goa Institute of Management (GIM), Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS)-Goa, the National Institute of Technology (NIT)-Goa, and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Goa, up to the age of 25 years. The last date for submission of essays was 25th October 2018.

In all, 111 entries were received from 33 institutions. Professor Kiran Budkuley, former Head at the Department of English, Goa University screened the entries. Ms. Patricia Sethi, award winning journalist; author and columnist; Professor K.S. Bhat, Department of English, Goa University; Dr Isabel Santa Rita Vas, guest faculty at Department of English, Goa University and Dr Prakash Parienkar, Head, Department of Konkani, Goa University; were the jury members for the competition.

During her address to the engaged audience; that mainly comprised the top prize winners, short-listed participants, parents, teachers, professors and heads of various departments of Goa University and affiliated colleges; Smt. Mohanan, an IAS officer of 2007 Batch who was previously District Collector, North Goa; mentioned that “in the current milieu, it is very important to present an idea in a fashion that is democratically pleasant; and written dialogue should be shared in such a manner that it indicates the writer’s tolerance to accept any other opinion which may be divergent from one’s own.” She congratulated the winners; further mentioning that the range of prize winners selected by the jury panel shows that there is contribution to be made towards sustainable development goals from all spheres and perspectives. She also applauded the organizers for having chosen the topic that has a much larger intention in a position to debate about issues on Sustainable Development Goals that are a growing concern to present day Goa.

The chief guest presented the trophies to the top winners; Ms. Lynn Marie Dias of St. Xavier’s College, Mapusa and Mr. Adriel Peter Almeida of Don Bosco College, Panjim were awarded the first place in English and Konkani categories respectively; in second place was Mr. Pratyay Zilu Shetye of National Institute of Technology – Goa and in third place was Ms. Sailee Kudchadkar of Goa Medical College, Bambolim. The award-winners also received merit certificates and cash prizes of Rs. 25,000/-, Rs. 20,000/- & Rs. 15,000/- respectively. Students whose entries were short-listed for the top prizes were awarded consolation prizes of Rs. 500 each. The short-listed candidates were as follows: Ms. Shara Naique (S.S. Dempo College of Commerce & Economics, Cujira); Ms. Bharavi Kharangate, Mr. Pawan Gorantla and Ms. Shania C. Braganza (M.E.S. College, Zuarinagar); Ms. Alvina Almeida (Carmel College for Women, Nuvem); Ms. Scarlett Dias and Ms. Adriana Natalia Fernandes (G.R. Kare College of Law, Margao) and in Konkani category: Ms. Gayatri. V. S. Kudchadkar (Goa College of Pharmacy, Panjim); Ms. Samruddhi Jai Naik (S.S. Dempo College of Commerce & Economics, Cujira) and Ms. Mrunal. P. Desai (P.E.S. College of Pharmacy, Ponda).

The award winning essays have been published on ICG’s official website: www.internationalcentregoa.com

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