



10th Anniversary Edition of Goa Arts & Literature Festival (GALF) 2019

The 10th Anniversary Edition of the **Goa Arts & Literature Festival (GALF)** was held from 5th to 7th December 2019. GALF 2019 was organised by The International Centre Goa (ICG) and Goa Writers in association with The Directorate of Art and Culture, Government of Goa. GALF was supported by Goa Tourism, Indian Oil, Dempo Group, Navhind Times, NavPrabha, Prudent Media, The Goan, Goan Varta, Cidade de Goa, Difficult Dialogues, HDFC Bank, Axis Bank, Kotak Mutual Fund, ASK Wealth Advisors, Sahitya Akademi, Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Goa University and others.

Priya Ramani, veteran journalist and editor, and Harish Trivedi, a reputed scholar, delivered the keynote address at the inaugural function held at the Laran lawns. The official artwork for GALF 2019 was exclusively created by artist and author Savia Viegas and unveiled at the inaugural function.

Besides India and Goa, GALF featured delegates from seven other countries - Afghanistan, Australia, Canada, Cuba, Ireland, New Zealand and the US. The 10th anniversary edition showcased writers from across the Goan diaspora including Ivo de Figueiredo from Norway, Derek Mascarenhas from Canada, and Suneeta Peres da Costa and Sujatha Fernandes from Australia. Prominent delegates include eminent Hindi writer Mridula Garg; veteran Indo-Anglican poet Keki Daruwalla; Malayalam literature greats M. Mukundan and A. Sethumadhavan; award-winning Kannada writer Vivek Shanbhag; novelist and translator Jerry Pinto; acclaimed poets Arundhati Subramaniam, Ranjit Hoskote and Hemant Divate; and journalists of Goan origin Samar Halarnkar and Naresh Fernandes. Author Tony Joseph, whose book *Early Indians: The Story of Our Ancestors and Where We Came From* won the Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize 2019 and Book of the Year Award (Non-Fiction) at the Tata Literature Festival 2019, was also at GALF 2019 to talk about his book.

Among the Padma Shree awardees at GALF 2019 were Maria Aurora Couto and Patricia Mukhim. There were also several Sahitya Akademi award winners present - Jerry Pinto; M. Mukundan, Mridula Garg, Ranjit Hoskote, and A. Sethumadhavan.

This year hosted prominent book launches including *HDFC Bank 2.0* by top-selling finance writer Tamal Bandyopadhyay; *Insurgent Empire* by Cambridge-based historian Priyamvada Gopal; *Accidental Magic* by Keshava Guha, and *Struggles with Imagined Gods* by Hemant Divate (translated by Mustansir Dalvi). Goa-related exclusive launches included *A Song for Saligao* by Clarice Vaz; *Aranyaka* by Amruta Patil; and *Mandalay* by Clara Astarloa. As in previous years, GALF held the Ambedkar Memorial Lecture Series with the well-known writer Anand Teltumbde who delivered a lecture on "Ambedkar and Democracy"; and Patricia Mukhim, a Padma Shree awardee and editor of *Shillong Times*, who spoke on "Dr. Ambedkar's legacy: Time to review tribal policies."

GALF 2019 featured the following film screenings: *Saxtticho Koddo: The Granary of Salcete* directed by Vince Costa and *Meshampur*, written by Akshay Singh. The highlight music performances were by *Talaash - The Band of Seekers*, a folk-pop band from Pune; and The Goa University Choir.