

STUDY-in-INDIA PROGRAMME

Organized by

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE GOA

For the students of

Department of International Relations
Al Farabi University,
Republic of Kazakhstan

16 - 25 March 2008
International Centre Goa
Dona Paula, Goa, INDIA

Report

The International Centre organized its first Study-in-India Programme for the students of Al-Farabi University of Kazakhstan from 16-25 March 2008. The first batch included 11 students and one lecturer.

The group was extended warm welcome by Ms. Sandra D'Souza on arrival at the International Centre on the afternoon of Sunday, 16 March. Later in the evening Mr. M. Rajaretnam, Director/ Chief Executive, International Centre Goa held a briefing session for the students followed by welcome dinner.



The programme included lectures, interactive session and visits to places of interests. Following persons delivered lectures to the students.

- Mr. Venugopal Nair, Faculty, Dept of History, Goa University on “Social & Political History of India”.
- Mr. Jason Keith Fernandes, Doctoral Candidate at Centre for the Study of Culture and Society, Bangalore on “Participatory Democracy in India”
- Dr. Sharmila Rao, Director, Sadhnalaya on “Nriya Yoga – Dance, Music and Breath Control”.
- Mr. Pratapsingh Rane, President, International Centre Goa, Speaker, Goa Legislative Assembly; Former Chief Minister of Goa on “Political and Economic Developments in Goa”.
- Alya Akatayeva, Faculty of Al-Farabi University.
- Mr. Ashwin Tombat, Editor, Herald on “Contemporary India – Political and Social”
- Mr. Tensing Rodrigues, Visiting Faculty at Goa University on “The Story of India : 2008 AD TO 2008 BCE”.



Besides lectures and interactive sessions the students also visited museums including



visit to the museum at Xavier Centre for Historical Research and Houses of Goa and Nisha's Play School (school specially designed for children). At the museum 'Houses of Goa', Mr. Gerard de Cunha, Architect delivered a lecture on “Story of the Goan House”. Students also visited Kala Academy – the cultural centre of Goa and interacted with faculties in western and Indian music. Students were also taken to a guided tour of St. Xavier's Church at Old

Goa and temple in Ponda which was a lifetime experience for them.

Students were also given an opportunity to enjoy the benefits of Yoga. Yoga sessions were conducted by Dr. Dayanand M S to begin the day. The stay also coincided with the festival of colour – Holi. Students participated in and played holi in the nearby temple with the local people. Being in Goa, they couldn't be kept away from beach for long. Students enjoyed sun, sand and beach during their short stay in Goa along with the local market.



A Special ceremony was organized to mark the conclusion of the Programme on the last day of their stay. All the students were presented a Certificate of Attendance for participating in this programme. They were also presented with a painted tile frame as a memory from Goa.

ABOUT STUDY INDIA PROGRAMME

The Study India Programme is designed by the International Centre Goa for students studying abroad and who are interested to visit and know about India. This interdisciplinary programme provides a overview of India in areas of Indian history, heritage and culture, current affairs, politics, society, economy, development, etc. India is emerging as one of the important political and strategic power in the global scenario. This programme also looks at India's changing demographic profile including growing proportion of youth, growing economy, advancements in innovation and technology in different areas which will open new avenues for India in a decade to come.

The programme would engage Guest Faculties who have been working in respective areas of expertise. Faculties will provide a detailed overview of each theme identified in the programme. The programme is a combination of classroom sessions as well as outdoor visits. The programme is designed to be highly interactive which will also include excursions to some of the important sites beyond its touristic importance in Goa. This programme is aimed to impart knowledge about various facets of India and generate interest on issues relating to India.

The most exciting part of the programme is that it is based in Goa, one of the most beautiful places and most sought after tourist destinations in India and world. The programme will be based at the International Centre, Goa.

ABOUT INTERNATIONAL CENTRE GOA

The International Centre, Goa was founded in June 1987 under the Societies Registration Act (1860) “to promote understanding and amity between parts of the country and with different communities of the world” through a multiplicity of activities. These include:

- ◆ Conferences, seminars, study courses, training programmes and lectures;
- ◆ Research on cultural, social, economic and political matters;
- ◆ Interaction and affiliation with national and international professional and educational bodies;
- ◆ Dissemination of information through reports, journals and books;
- ◆ The provision of fellowships and scholarships.

The ICG is also mandated to develop and maintain residential facilities for scholars, intellectuals, researchers and trainees, and to establish and maintain a fund from contributions from official and non-official institutions.

The Centre is an autonomous institution. Its current operational costs are met by revenues generated from the services it renders. However, to fund its programmes, it relies on grants and donations from local and international institutions as well as individuals. Residential and non-residential conferences, seminars and training programmes are organized by local, national and international organizations. These activities are complemented by private social and business functions.

The ICG’s facilities are located on almost 15 acres of land on the Taleigao Plateau at Dona Paula, Goa. The plateau overlooks the famous Mandovi River. The Centre has 44 guest rooms, 3 seminar rooms, a restaurant, and several lawns of different sizes.

The ICG is now consolidating plans to realize a vision of itself as a trailblazing institution. Within the next decade, it will have positioned itself as a major centre of excellence in Goa and India. It will be a catalyst in defining a new agenda of ideas to build a better Asia. It will be a major centre for dialogue among local, national, regional and international groups. It will establish flagship projects, initiate research and human resource development programmes, and encourage initiatives in promoting the welfare of the people of Goa, India and the neighborhoods.

As big nations like China, India and Indonesia continue their march towards greater progress; the ICG will be a transmitter of ideas and activities that can contribute to building a resurgent Goa, a progressive India, a better Asia, and a safer world. As part of its new mission, the ICG will promote the “Goa Dialogues,” an initiative to encourage interaction and mutual appreciation among civilizations and thereby strengthen peace, stability and sustainable development.

ABOUT GOA

Goa is India's smallest state in terms of area and the fourth smallest in terms of population. Goa which is located on the west coast of India in the region known as the Konkan, is bounded by the state of Maharashtra to the north, and by Karnataka to the east and south, while the Arabian Sea forms Goa's western coast.

Situated on the confluence of seven rivers (the principal ones being Mandovi and Zuari) Goa has many sobriquets "Queen of the Beaches", "Land of Churches and Temples", "Tourist Paradise" and is also called as "The Pearl of the Orient/East" by the western countries

Panaji (Panjim) is the capital of Goa. Vasco da Gama (Vasco) is the largest city, while the historic city of Margao still exhibits the influence of Portuguese culture in Goa. Portuguese merchants first landed in Goa in the 15th century, and annexed it soon after. The Portuguese colony existed for about 450 years (one of the longest held colonial possessions in the world), until it was taken over by India in 1961. On May 30, 1987 Goa was conferred statehood and became the 25th state of the Indian Republic.

Renowned for having some of the most stunning beaches in India and the world, Goa is visited by hundreds of thousands of international and domestic tourists each year. Goa is also known for its temples and world heritage architecture including the Basilica of Bom Jesus in Old Goa- the most famous church of Goa which contains the mortal remains of St Francis Xavier in a silver casket. It houses extra ordinary murals from the saint's life inside, which makes Goa one of the biggest Christian pilgrimage sites in Asia.

The local language is Konkani, an Indo-Aryan language related to Marathi. It is spoken by 1.5 to 2 million people in Goa and the Konkan coast. Few Goans speak Portuguese now (3 to 5%), although the language lives on in place names and some family names. English is the most widely spoken foreign language.

The Goan culture is a rich blend of eastern and western traditions, influences and art forms. The mixed Portuguese flavor can be sensed in almost every walk of Goa's life, from its architecture and music and dance, its language, fairs and festivals, to most evidently, its cuisine.

Goan cuisine is a blend of different influences the Goans had to endure during the centuries. The staple food in Goa is fish and rice, both among the Hindus and the Catholics. Unlike the Christian food the Hindu Goan food is not strongly influenced by the Portuguese cuisine. Goan food is simple and spicy. The principal Goan dishes are

fish, prawns, mussels, oysters, crabs, chourisso (pickled pig's liver soaked in vinegar with tamarind) & vindalho (spicy pork). Besides seafood, liquors (beer, wines, gin and feni) of Goa are also world famous.

Goa is also a land of festivals. The Goan calendar is always overwhelmed with fairs and festivals. With a majority of Hindus (60%) followed by the Christians (30%) and other minorities (10%), most of the Hindu and Christian festivals are celebrated in Goa with great religious fervor. The major Hindu festivals are Mahashivratri, Ganesh Chaturthi, Gudi Padwa, Dussehra, Diwali, Holi, Rakshabandhan, Ramnavmi and Krishna Janmashtami. Due to the dominance of Maharashtrians; Ganesh Chaturthi and Gudi Padwa are the most important festivals. Some of the Christian festivals that mark the calendar year of Goa are Christmas, Good Friday, Margao Feast, Procession of Saints, Feast of Saint Peter Paul etc.

The Carnival is the most remarkable event in Goa since the 18th century. It is known for its fun, frolic, feasting, dance and music. The word Carnival is derived from the word "Carn" that means flesh and "Leavare" that means to remove. This festival lasts for three days before Ash Wednesday signifying the initiation of Lent - the 40 days fast that precedes the Easter Sunday. The huge parades are organized in the cities accompanied with bands, floats and dances, and balls during evenings.

The Goans or the native residents of Goa are known for their vividness, flexibility, religious tolerance and the cooperative behavior. They are magnanimous and adaptive enough to survive happily.

ABOUT INDIA

The world's largest democracy and second most populous country has emerged as a major power after a period of foreign rule and several decades during which its economy was virtually closed.

A nuclear weapons state, it carried out tests in the 1970s and again in the 1990s in defiance of world opinion. However, India is still tackling huge social, economic and environmental problems.

The vast and diverse Indian sub-continent - from the mountainous Afghan frontier to the jungles of Burma - was under foreign rule from the early 1800s until the demise of the British Raj in 1947.

AT-A-GLANCE

Economy: Fast-growing economy; large, skilled workforce but widespread poverty

Politics: 380m people voted in 2004 election; winning Congress party led by Sonia Gandhi

International: Ongoing dispute with Pakistan over Kashmir region; nuclear weapons state; world's most prolific film industry - Bollywood

But the subsequent partition of the sub-continent sowed the seeds for future conflict. There have been three wars between India and its arch-rival Pakistan since 1947, two of them over the disputed territory of Kashmir.

A peace process, which started in 2004, has stayed on track despite tension over Kashmir and several high-profile bombings, such as the attack on Mumbai's train network in July 2006 which police blamed on Pakistani militants and a banned Indian group.

Communal, caste and regional tensions continue to haunt Indian politics, sometimes threatening its long-standing democratic and secular ethos.

In 1984 Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was gunned down by her Sikh bodyguards after ordering troops to flush out Sikh militants from the Golden Temple in Amritsar.

And in 1992, widespread Hindu-Muslim violence erupted after Hindu extremists demolished the Babri mosque at Ayodhya.

Independent India's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, dreamed of a socialist society and created a vast public infrastructure, much of which became a burden on the state.

From the late 1980s India began to open up to the outside world, encouraging economic reform and foreign investment. It is now courted by the world's leading economic and political powers, including its one-time foe China.

The country has a burgeoning urban middle class and has made great strides in fields such as information technology. Its large, skilled workforce makes it a popular choice for international companies seeking to outsource work.

Nuclear tests carried out by India in May 1998 and similar tests by Pakistan just weeks later provoked international condemnation and concern over the stability of the region.

The US quickly imposed sanctions on India, but more recently the two countries have improved their ties, and even agreed to share nuclear technology.

India launches its own satellites and plans to send a spacecraft to the moon. It also boasts a massive cinema industry, the products of which are among the most widely-watched films in the world.

But the vast mass of the rural population remains illiterate and impoverished.

Their lives continue to be dominated by the ancient Hindu caste system, which assigns each person a fixed place in the social hierarchy.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Full name: Republic of India

Population: 1.1 billion (UN, 2007)

Capital: New Delhi

Most-populated city: Mumbai (Bombay)

Area: 3.1 million sq km (1.2 million sq miles), excluding Indian-administered Kashmir (100,569 sq km/38,830 sq miles)

Major languages: Hindi, English and at least 16 other official languages

Major religions: Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Buddhism, Jainism

Life expectancy: 63 years (men), 66 years (women) (UN)

Monetary unit: 1 Indian Rupee = 100 paise

Main exports: Agricultural products, textile goods, gems and jewellery, software services and technology, engineering goods, chemicals, leather products

GNI per capita: US \$720 (World Bank, 2006)

Internet domain: .in

International dialing code: +91

(SOURCE: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/country_profiles/1154019.stm)

PROGRAMME

<u>Sunday, 16 March 2008</u> <u>Day 1</u>	
1400 hrs	Arrival at ICG: Traditional Welcome followed by lunch
1500 – 1700	Free/ rest
1700 – 1830	Briefing by M Rajaretnam, Director/ Chief Executive, International Centre Goa
1830 – 2200	Camp fire followed by Welcome dinner at Zaiyo (lawn)
<u>Monday, 17 March 2008</u> <u>Day 2</u>	
0630 – 0730	Yoga session
0730 – 0830	Breakfast
0900 – 1200	Lecture on Political and Social History of India by Venugopal Nair, Faculty, Dept of History, Goa University (with tea break of 15 mins)
1230 – 1330	Lunch at ICG
1530 – 1830	Trip to Dona Paula Jetty and Miramar Beach to interact with locals and write a report
2000	Dinner at ICG
<u>Tuesday, 18 March 2008</u> <u>Day 3</u>	
0630 – 0730	Yoga session
Yoga Sessions will be conducted by Dr. Dayanand M S. Profile: Dr. Dayanand M S, learnt Yog Asanaas at an early age of 16 years.	

Spiritually inclined, he is an initiated disciple of Bramhagyani Paramahansa Gyaneshwar of Sri Awadhoot Ashram, Kurukshetra, Haryana.
 He has taught Yoga for participants in Germany and at the Department of Management Studies, Goa University where he is a faculty member.
 He is also a very well known Vedic Astrologer and does astrological consultation during his free time. He has used Astrological knowledge and Yog Asanaas to help heal specific ailments.

0730 – 0830	Breakfast
0900	Vehicle leaves for visit to Museums
0930 – 1030	Visit to the museum at Xavier Centre for Historical Research

Profile: The **Xavier Centre of Historical Research** is a Jesuit - run history research centre located in Alto Porvorim, Goa in India. It was founded in the late 'seventies and its first director was Dr Teotonio R. de Souza. Its current Director is Delio Mendonca sj. It is one of the prominent institutions in Asia focussing on Indo-Portuguese issues, and besides organising seminars and talks, it has also published a number of books related to the Portuguese in India and Asia, Goa, the Jesuits and other historical themes. It has set up an art gallery.
 The XCHR also has a museum, which offers visitors "a glimpse of Goan art as well". It houses several representative artefacts of Indo-Portuguese Christian art, Indian Christian and other modern paintings.
 The goal of the museum, according to the XCHR, is the "appreciation, preservation, enhancement and dissemination of Goan heritage which has been harmonious and peaceful, through awareness and education".
 This is planned to be built into an interactive museum supported by a series of multimedia and audio-visual presentations which are in preparation.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xavier_Centre_of_Historical_Research

1100 – 1230	Visit to Museum – Houses of Goa, a lecture on “Story of the Goan House” by Mr. Gerard de Cunha, Architect and visit to Nisha’s Play School (school specially designed for children)
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Profile: Goa has a strange but novel history and that is. It is part of the first sustained encounter between the East and the West. Though Goa has a long and rich history from times immemorial and much before the arrival of the Portuguese, this encounter produced a culture and architecture which is unique. This museum showcases the houses which were the prime expression of the Goan identity.
 The Museum is built as a traffic island in Torda, Salvador-do-Mundo Bardez Goa. Strangely enough it is in the shape of a triangle and resembles a ship. Viewed from

the outside it is a mystery, but as you begin your visit, it slowly unfolds its charms. http://www.archgoa.org/	
1330 – 1430	Lunch at ICG
1430 – 1630	Lecture on Participatory Democracy in India by Jason Keith Fernandes (with tea break of 15 mins)
Profile: Jason Keith Fernandes is currently a doctoral candidate at the Centre for the Study of Culture and Society, Bangalore in the Law, Society and Culture programme. He is engaged in a multisite ethnography studying citizenship practices of Goans. A graduate of the National Law School of India, with a Master's degree in the Sociology of Law, Jason has worked in the development sector, consulted on Government of India projects related to local self-governance and the environment and has taught at his alma mater the National Law School. Jason's interests are not restricted to the law and he dabbles in art reviews, history and other interests that catch his fancy.	
2000	Dinner at ICG
Wednesday, 19 March 2008 Day 4	
0630 – 0730	Yoga session
0730 – 0830	Breakfast
0900 – 1200	Lecture on Nitrya Yoga – Dance, Music & Breath Control by Dr. Sharmila Rao, Director, Sadhnalaya – training and nurturing creativity (with tea/coffee break of 15 mins)
1230 – 1330	Lunch at ICG
1500 – 2000	Anjuna Flea Market and back to ICG
Profile: Located in the heart of the 'backpackers' scene, the Anjuna flea market is the place to be on Wednesday's in Goa. A beach town situated off the North of Goa, Anjuna became the hide-out for Western 'hippies' arriving in the 60's. Finding their wallets empty but wanting to stay longer, these early travelers auctioned off their belongings from guitars to jewelry and jeans to their compatriots. Thus began the	

infamous 'flea' market at Anjuna.

Located on the sandy stretch overlooking the waves of the Arabian sea, what started as an open-air hippie exchange has become one of the most popular attractions for backpackers and tourists alike. And though a relatively new phenomena unlike the antiquity of the Mapusa market, the Flea market has a unique style and rhythm all its own.

Thursday, 20 March 2008 Day 5

0630 – 0730	Yoga session
0730 – 0830	Breakfast
0900 – 1200	Guided Tour to Old Goa and Temple in Ponda village
1230 – 1330	Lunch at ICG
1500 – 1730	Visit to Kala Academy

Profile: The Kala Academy Goa stands out as a premier cultural institution in the country considering its ever growing commitments to preservation, propagation, documentation and enrichment of cultural, literary, musical (both folk and classical) and dramatic traditions in the state. Kala Academy Goa has played a pioneering role in resurrection of the dying folk art, folk dance, drama and musical forms in the state. Besides it is perhaps the only Kala Academy in the country, which fosters the Western Classical Music through an independent faculty. Besides, it nurtures the Konkani theatrical performance called Tiatr, which initially imbibed inspiration from Italian Opera. Kala Academy has separate faculties for Indian Classical Music and Classical dances like Kathak and Bharatnatyam in addition to the School of Drama, which caters to training in stagecraft and production of plays.

www.kalaacademy.org

1730 onwards	Free evening in Panaji
2000	Dinner at ICG

Friday, 21 March 2008 Day 6

0630 – 0730	Yoga session
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0730 – 0830	Breakfast
1130 – 1230	Dialogue on Political and Economic Developments in Goa by Mr. Pratapsingh Rane President, International Centre Goa Speaker, Goa Legislative Assembly Former Chief Minister of Goa
1300 – 1400	Lunch at ICG
1500 – 1600	Dance Session with Dr. Sharmila Rao
1600 – 2000	Free
2000	Dinner at ICG
Saturday, 22 March 2008 Day 7	
0730 – 0830	Breakfast
0900 – 1200	Celebrate Holy – Festival of colours at ICG and visit Miramar
1300 – 1400	Lunch at ICG
1500 – 1700	Lecture by Akatayeva Alya, Faculty of Al-Farabi University (with tea break of 15 mins)
1700 – 1800	Dance Session with Dr. Sharmila Rao
2000	Dinner at ICG
Sunday, 23 March 2008 Day 8	
0730 – 0830	Breakfast
0900 – 1230	Easter Mass at Cabo, Raj Bhavan
1300 – 1400	Lunch at ICG
1530 – 2100	Visit to Calangute Beach with dinner

<u>Monday, 24 March 2008</u> <u>Day 9</u>	
0730 – 0830	Breakfast
0900 – 1200	Lecture on Contemporary India – Political and social Mr. Ashwin Tombat, Editor, Herald (with tea break of 15 mins)
1200 – 1230	Break
1230 – 1330 & 1430 - 1530	Lecture on The Story of India : 2008 AD TO 2008 BCE by Mr. Tensing Rodrigues (with 1 hour lunch break)
Profile: Tensing Rodrigues was a teacher of Economics at Graduate Level from 1978 to 1994 and currently is a Visiting Faculty at Goa University.	
1600 – 1700	Lecture on Common Conflicts in India with reference to Naxal movement by Sameer Yasir, Student, Centre for Latin American & International Studies
2000	Dinner at ICG
<u>Tuesday, 25 March 2008</u> <u>Day 10</u>	
0730 – 0830	Breakfast
1000 – 1100	Closing Ceremony
1300	Depart for airport