



THE GOAN OVERSEAS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



June 2006

The President's Address

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UPCOMING EVENT

GOA Picnic

Sunday, July 30 2006
11 am — Sunset
Rock Creek Park
Lake Needwood, MD

Last date for
reservations is
July 8th, 2006

The G.O.A. Committee Members

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Dear Members,

With the summer soon upon us, I hope that all of you are looking forward to spending some quality time with your loved ones, as these are the most valuable moments that we have in our life time. With this in mind, it brings me to give you a bit of update as to what events are ahead of us. It has been a very busy year for me and my committee in our personal lives.

However, time permitting we have managed to initiate a great web site and communication through E-mail, that many of you members have taken advantage of and hope that many more will do so. If you have not logged on to see the great job and hard work put into this by Manuel with the Web and Arthur with the E-mails, please do so to keep in touch. Personally, my hats off to the both of you on a job well done!

Unfortunately, some of the events we had planned for early spring after the Feast of St. Francis Xavier had to

be canceled due to lack of interest and for poor attendance in the past. I guess everyone during these spring months are always busy with their own personal situations and are unable to commit or attend. I hope this is not the case on our up coming picnic and feast. The feast of St. Francis Xavier was an event enjoyed by many members and non members. The function was DJed and MCed by one of our own members (Malcom D'Souza) who fired up and livened the crowd by his wit and excellent music.

The comments I received on the Choir were incredible. Our thanks to the Choir Master, Manuel Fernandes and the Choir. Thanks to all who donated gifts to make this event a success. We received many personal thank you cards and letters, for which, I thank you in return.

I would like to plea, with all members current and delinquent, to help make

our community of Goans strong. With the boom of real estate in our area over the past few years, we have noticed that many of our members have relocated to new homes and this has caused our database to be unmanageable where many are not getting our news letters. Over the years communication has drawn itself towards emailing and this is a problem as we do not have everybody's email addresses. I ask all those who share the same interest in making our community stronger, to please either drop us a few lines or e-mail us your information just so that we may compare it with our database and make any appropriate corrections.

Finally, I do hope to see you all at our up coming events with your families.

May god guide us to serve our organization with dignity and courage.

Sincerely,

Francis
DeSouza
President
G.O.A



Members' Corner

Panaji from Space by Nandkumar Kamat

Sitting at my desktop at the Goa University I can watch on the screen the whole campus from space, including the tiled roof of our faculty enclave and all the landmarks clearly. I can see the shadows of the transmission towers of All India Radio at Bambolim. I can spot the vehicles parked in front of the palatial residence of the Minister of Town and Country Planning, Mr Monserrate near the Church Square, Taleigao. The Campal Lake appears as a large blue square and close to it one can follow the course of the Santa Inez nullah. What the Goa government considers a luxury to offer despite having fancy projects on remote sensing, today any citizen with free downloadable software can watch on the computer screen from any place. This is a giant revolution on Internet. I know that the satellite images on Google Earth are not real time but these are useful. And they are updated periodically.

Recently the <http://google.earth.com> website has uploaded stunningly beautiful and breathtaking high resolution satellite imagery of coastal Goa. The resolution is 10-15 metres which is excellent for even research work. Interesting images can be downloaded as JPG files. The most striking and true coloured, untouched images released by GOOGLE EARTH are of the island of Tiswadi and the talukas of Marmagao and Bardez. The citizens of Panaji can now enjoy an exciting tour of their well designed city from space.

The elevation model gives three dimensional rotatory terrain view. It shows the typical Portuguese influenced geometrical ground plan of the city. All the roads and buildings of Panaji are clear in the images. The images show why Panaji is so vulnerable to flooding. The software automatically shows the elevation of any area when the pointer is moved over it. This is great for town planners, engineers and architects. The low lying areas around the city indicate an elevation which is much below the tidal height of six metres.

I was particularly impressed after tracing the origin of Panaji's Ourem creek to the slopes of Alto Santa Cruz. The creek now terminates near Bondir football ground. The Chamunda complex has blocked the upstream portion of this creek. The Altinho hillock appears like a huge supine sculpture crowded with houses. At its highest point the hillock is 64 metres. The images show the hillock to be two km across (Alto guimares to Conception hill) and one km wide.

I discovered that the images are about eight months old. But with such eye in the sky the citizens would be able to monitor the surface development themselves.

These images are a powerful tool in the hands of Goa's civil society. Now it can produce the evidence of environmental degradation. Their creative and imaginative use can benefit the state. All the students from Panaji's schools need to be given a demonstration by their geography teachers on the city of Panaji from space. The City Corporation of Panaji can use these images for better drainage and traffic planning and for conservation of the open places.

New Members

Those interested in joining the Goan Overseas Association are urged to complete an Application Form and mail it in as soon as possible.

Members, please encourage your friends and relatives to join G.O.A. The success of the organization is dependant on a strong membership. Please visit the www.goa-dc.com website to download the membership form.



Congratulations

Congratulations to the Newlyweds!

The D'Abreu family: Frank, Lizzie, Brother Constantine (Tino), Albert and Michael, announce with great pride and joy the marriage of their only daughter, Dr. Michelle D'Abreu to Dr. Samuel (Sam) Aronhime on April 22nd, 2006 at St. Joseph's Church in Herndon, VA. The D'Abreu family traveled to Goa, India with the newlyweds to celebrate this occasion with their families and friends.

Re-opening of Christ the King Site in Chorao

Well, have you been to Chorao and on the hill? If yes, you must have seen the majestic statue of Christ the King facing towards Panjim. The site was built sometime in 1936. The beautiful internal structure was broken by vandals and trees had sprouted on the Façade. I am very happy to report that the re-opening ceremony of Christ the King Site was a grand success - with a 3 priests concelebrated Mass and over 300 people in attendance!

The site looks beautiful! And a picture of crucified Christ on glazed tiles just below the Alter adds to its splendor!! We have widened the approach road for a 2 lane drive up to the entrance! Some more work of the road is left, which will be done during or after the rainy season. Do visit the site whenever you are in Chorao.



Albino Toscano

Do you have digital pictures from previous GOA events?

Please email them to us so we can post them on the website. We are trying to build a gallery of past events pictures.

Please mention the year & event when sending in the pictures
goa_khobor@yahoo.com

Did you have a splendid vacation this year? Why don't you share some of the pictures on our Website.

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