



Dear Friends,

Hope you had a wonderful summer. This year marks 25 years of the existence of Goan Overseas Association. From a small beginning to a vibrant community representing the District of Columbia, Virginia and Maryland. Let us come together to celebrate the feast of St Francis Xavier, the patron saint of Goa. Let the saint who heeded the call of St. Ignatious Loyola and was inspired by these words from St. John gospel "What does it profit the man to gain the whole world but suffer the loss of his soul" be a source of inspiration to you and your families. The feast will be celebrated on December 6, 2003, at the Cherry Hill Community Center with a mass at 6.30 p.m. followed by dinner, music, and dance. We want all of you to be there so please mark your calendar with this important date. Please send in your response along with your membership dues. Also, depending on the response, we hope to have a Christmas party for the kids. As always, we thank you for your generous support. In the mean time keep us in your hearts. Take care.

Rosario

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Dear Fellow members:

After a wet summer with ranging storms, hurricane Isabel and floods, Fall has ushered in a calm and anticipated cool temperatures. It's that time of the year, when daylight is rapidly shortening, the fantastic colors of Fall outside that can warm your heart and more time spent indoors. Although we had a wet summer, nevertheless our summer picnic was a lot of fun and one might say a success. The committee would like to thank fellow who attended the picnic at Lake Accontink Park in spite of their busy schedule. Those who could not make it we hope to see you at the Feast. Some members and their children enjoyed a boat ride on the lake, thanks to Hubert (Larry) Pinto for his kind generosity. Kids also enjoyed the golf course. Also, a special thanks goes to Lavinia and her family and Leonie for their efforts in cleaning and setting up the picnic tables. Everyone appreciated the snacks contributed by Lavinia.

Claudette Brito

P.S.: I have been receiving requests from some of our members for their urge in learning Konkani. In the next column are a few words that can help you as a dictionary to understand some Konkani words.

- almar=*cupboard*
- arm=*rifle*
- aropi=*accused*
- baim=*well*
- beddio=*handcuffs*
- bolos=*pocket*
- boshi=*plate*
- bul=*kettle*
- chamar=*cobbler*
- dantonni=*comb*
- dorji=*tailor*
- gadi=*mattress*
- ghoddial=*clock*
- gol=*collar*
- gozddi=*quilt*
- kalsanv=*trousers*
- kantto=*fork*
- kas=*crate*
- khilli=*bolt*
- khomp=*shed*
- khorem=*spade*
- knife=*suri*
- koidi=*prisoner*
- koiti=*sickle*
- kop=*mug*
- kuzner=*cook*
- lig=*hairpin*
- madr=*nun*
- mhalo=*barber*
- padri=*priest*
- paimvatt=*path*
- pakitt=*wallet*
- pichkari=*syringe*
- pikas=*pickaxe*
- pimp=*drum*
- porddo=*curtain*
- porddo=*screen*
- pot'to=*address*
- randpi=*cook*
- lateier=*mouse-trap*
- saddi=*sari*
- sai=*skirt*
- shal=*shawl*
- sofa=*couch*
- tagddi=*scales*
- thapi=*trovel*
- thovoi=*carpenter*
- tiket=*stamp*
- tizori=*safe*
- uzo=*fire*
- vakhor=*razor*
- voklam=*spectacles*
- volter=*easy-chair*
- xik'ko=*seal*
- zhaddkutt=*shrub*
- zoddo=*hinge*



*The Committee Wishes
 all its members and
 their families a
 Happy Thanksgiving*

HAPPY 25th ANNIVERSARY TO GOA—1978-2003

It is said that if you take Pedro out of Goa you cannot take Goa out of Pedro. Similarly, the patron Saint Francis Xavier has left an indelible mark on every goan that lives not only in Goa but on goans all over the world. As goans, we love to socialize and have a good time. It was befitting then that during the summer of 1978, a few goan families decided to form a group while enjoying a hearty lunch at a mutual friend's house. In the lively conversation that ensued, someone suggested that the feast of St. Xavier be celebrated on December 3. The idea was adopted and so a few diehard goans got together over the weekend to discuss logistical considerations. It was unanimously agreed to celebrate the feast in the same year. The mass was celebrated in the Blessed Sacrament Church in Alexandria followed by a reception in the church hall (incidentally the church no longer exists, instead there is a new church a few blocks down the street). There were approximately 100 participants, adults and children who attended the celebration and were treated with authentic goan food, music and dance. Some families provided the food consisting of soppotel, sannas and various other goan delicacies. Everyone had a good time as it gave them a chance to come together and show their common bond and goan heritage. Since then the feast has been celebrated each year.

Note: On behalf of the association, the president and his committee offer our sincere thanks to the founding fathers, the late Joe Pinto, Linda Pinto, Zachary and Annie D'Souza, Frank and Elaine Fernandes, Patrick and Clare De Souza, and Bob and Gilie D'Silva.

Silver Sands or Golden Shores What do you adore?



Anjuna Beach

Anjuna draws in a quiet varied crowd. Water sports like parasailing and windsurfing are offered at this beach. There are a lot of places in and around Anjuna that offer Continental cuisine. Anjuna is also famous for its flea market.



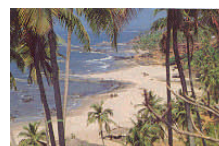
Baga Beach

Baga is sandwiched between Anjuna and Calangute. It is a calm beach and mostly you'll find people relaxing.



Palolem Beach

Once used to be one of the best beaches in north of Canacona. Dolphin cruises and fishing are offered at a very reasonable rate.



Vagator Beach

Vagator is a popular beach with the tour operators., thus making it a crowded beach. Further south of this main beach is a more sedate beach known as 'Little Vagator' or Ozran beach. This beach accommodates a fresh water pool. Little Vagator also has a number of good eating places.



Candolim Beach

Candolim beach starts at the footsteps of the highly acclaimed Fort Aguada, built by the Portuguese in 1612. This sandy stretch runs into Calangute Beach, a busy and commercialised centre. Comparing to its surrounding beaches, Candolim is very quite, this is due to the fact that they didn't build resort all around the beach.



Arambol Beach

One of Goa's more remote beaches, Arambol draws plenty of people. The shore is friendly and beautiful and is a good place to swim.



Bogmalo Beach

This beach is only 4 kms. from Dabolim airport and 8 kms. From the port city Vasco-da-Gama. Enroute to the beach is the Naval Aviation Museum which is worth visiting.



Chapora Beach

One of the most and interesting Goa's coastline is Chapora Beach. Much of the area nestles under a canopy



Benaulim Beach

The main attraction of this beach are the dolphin cruises that are offered here.



Colva Beach

Colva Beach is quite a crowded beach and majority of the crowd consists of locals. On the way to Colva is the church of Our Lady of Mercy.



Glen J. Pereira, son of Monica and Luis

Pereira of Good Counsel High School, has been honored as an "Academic Distinguished Student" in Maryland by the State Governor, Robert Ehrlich. Glen is very studious and works very hard to achieve his grades. As I best know him, he was an excellent student of St. Catherine Laboufe School, Wheaton. His parents are very proud of him.

*The
Committee
Members
Wishes one
and all a
Happy Feast!*

Kitchendom

COCONUT TOFFEE

- 1 Coconut (half ripe)
- 50 gms Semolina (sieved)
- 375 gms. Sugar
- 1 tbsp. Butter
- ¼ tsp. Food color (optional)
- 1 tsp. Essence

Grate the coconut and grind fine. Boil sugar with 5 – 6 tablespoons water until a thick syrup is formed. Add all the ingredients, one at a time and cook on slow fire for about 30 minutes, stirring continuously. Once the toffee begins to leave the sides of the pan, pour it on a flat plate and cut into squares or diamond shapes. When cold, store in an airtight container.

Variety is a spice of life ... and the essence of Goan beaches. The 105 km long coastal belt of Goa has an array of beaches to choose from. Well then, North Goa is the place for you to be. A great number of beaches are filled with adventure and lead a very active nightlife. It has always been an attraction for the tourist to be close to the sea to enjoy the sand and sun .

Emerald Scenic Wonder “Socorro or Sukur”

One just wonders how they managed to carve out the delicately curving roads, which turn, twist and entwine the wondrous village of SOCORRO in Bardez, throwing up ravishing vales in which nestle age-old mansions with arresting architectural features. Here live warm and friendly inhabitants.

The emerald expanse of the hill-clad iceberg called Socorro begins right on Highway 17 along the Panjim-Mapusa stretch, from Family But quite the panoramic and undulating lages of Sangolda tion here is stands West highway Rosarios,



Dr. Sidney do Pinto Rosario's hospital to the Holy chapel at Porvorim, is an integral part of Socorro. often people think that the Porvorim portion of ramic plateau is a village by itself. Travel the breadth of actual Socorro and you'll see it stretch across several hills and vales, hedged by the vil-Britona, Salvador do Mundo, Ucassaim, Guirim, and Pilerne. The major landmark of evangelisa-the 400-year-old shrine of St Anthony, which of the highway fork. On the eastern side of the stands the Candelaria chapel, built by the Pinto do and has a resident Chaplain.

Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) – Card Scheme

The Government of India has announced the launching of a People of Indian Origin card (PIO). This will allow visa free entry to Indian origin people living abroad and give them all the rights enjoyed by Non-Resident Indians (NRI's) including the purchase of non-agricultural land. 15 million people of Indian origin live abroad and will benefit from the Card. **The fee for PIO card is US\$ 310.00 for adults and US\$ 155.00 for children under 18. The validity of the new PIO card will be 15 years from the date of issue.**

The benefits of the PIO card are.

- No requirement of visa to visit India.
- No requirement to register with the Foreigners Registration Officer if continuous stay does not exceed 180 days then, registration is required to be done within a period of 30 days of the expiry of 180 days.
- Parity with Non-Resident Indians in respect to facilities available in economic, financial educational fields, etc. These facilities include.
 - Acquisition, holding, transfer and disposal of immovable properties in India except of agricultural/plantation properties.
 - Admission of children in educational institutions in India under the general category quota for NRIs.
 - Various housing schemes of Life Insurance Corporation of India, State Governments and other Government agencies.

PM's nod for Goa metro rail project

submitted by Reilan Britto

Times News Network, Bombay.

PANAJI: The Prime Minister's New Year gift is finally expected to be unwrapped in June. Vajpayee has finally given his go-ahead for setting up Rs 350 crore metro rail project, indigenized by Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. (KRCL)

The KRCL's maiden Skybus project will be entirely funded by the Center. The proposal for setting up Skybus in Goa was submitted to Vajpayee by KRCL and the concept is based on "Sky Wheels" project presented in 1989 at the World Congress for Railway Research.

The Skybus has been designed with two bogies built from steel and ploy carbon and is equipped to fit in approx. 300 people with zero possibility of derailment since the system is more stable with the centre of gravity of load being carried below the support points says KRCL Managing Director, Mr. B. Rajaram. As per estimates, the Skybus project is expected to cost RS 45 crore per Km.

The Skybus will be operational between Panaji and Mapusa and the work will commence soon with a target to get operational by 2005. The coaches will be fully air-conditioned and is designed to accelerate at the speed of 90 km per hour, with 150 passengers in each coach.

With the Skybus, commuting within the Goan cities will be an entirely different experience as the cost of travel will be as less as 50 paise per km, which is far less compared to the pricey mode of rickshaws and pilot motorbikes.



Sports

Rangers Soccer team finished another season in the Montgomery county men's open division I with a record of 5 wins and 4 losses in 5th place out of 10 teams. The team is coached and managed by player/coach Godfrey Pereira, son of Luis and Monica Pereira. Godfrey was also involved in a halftime penalty kick shootout at halftime of the DC United game on July 19th. The snappy sniper managed to score all five goals and won tickets to a future DC United Game. Godfrey is looking forward to the fall season and getting the team into the regional playoffs.

According to the INDIA TODAY study on which of India's many states offer its citizens the best options and opportunities, both at work and outside it, GOA ranked number one.

Economists Bibek Debroy and Laveesh Bhandari devised a ranking system that took into account both the business environment and the quality of life. Debroy, renowned as the most radical, multi-disciplinary thinker in his field, and Bhandari, one of India's expert econometricians, used a vast data-base of statistics and two years – 1991 and 2001 as benchmarks to produce a dynamic ranking that will surprise many. Neither Maharashtra nor Gujarat made it to the top, while the state everyone considers a dream vacation spot, Goa, turned out to be smarter, more efficient and better than the rest.

INDIA TODAY, presents India's first ever ranking of the best and the worst states to live and work in. (see chart to your left)

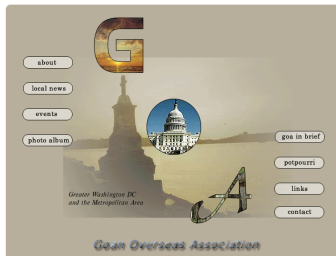
Ten years ago, people moved to places where they found jobs. They were less concerned about the quality of life. Not anymore, though jobs are still the prime movers, for an increasing number of middle-class Indians, quality of life is becoming as important as quality of work. As life and work become more intertwined, business and people flock to states that cater most appealingly to both. That's why INDIA TODAY asked economists Debroy and Bhandari to devise a ranking of Indian states that gives importance to business environment as well as quality of life. (See chart below)

Nationwide Comparison		Health	
1.	Goa	1.	Goa
2.	Delhi	2.	Delhi
3.	Punjab	3.	Jammu & Kashmir
4.	Kerala	4.	Himachal Pradesh
5.	Himachal Pradesh	5.	Kerala
6.	Tamil Nadu	6.	Punjab
7.	Haryana	7.	Tamil Nadu
8.	Gujarat	8.	Karnataka
9.	Maharashtra	9.	Gujarat
10.	Karnataka	10.	Maharashtra

Law & Order		Infrastructure		Education	
1.	Kerala	1.	Goa	1.	Goa
2.	Tamil Nadu	2.	Delhi	2.	Himachal Pradesh
3.	Delhi	3.	Himachal Pradesh	3.	Kerala
4.	Himachal Pradesh	4.	Punjab	4.	Delhi
5.	Rajasthan	5.	Kerala	5.	Tamil Nadu
6.	Gujarat	6.	Tamil Nadu	6.	Maharashtra
7.	Karnataka	7.	Haryana	7.	Punjab
8.	Madhya Pradesh	8.	Maharashtra	8.	Karnataka
9.	Goa	9.	Gujarat	9.	Jammu & Kashmir
10.	Maharashtra	10.	Jammu & Kashmir	10.	Assam



**THE GOAN OVERSEAS ASSOCIATION'S
QUARTERLY COMMUNIQUE**



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**We're on the Web!
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Fr. Agnelo Devotion Center, Inc.



This year marks the 75th death anniversary of venerable father Agnelo, a devoted servant of God. The Society of Pilar, Goa, plans to celebrate the platinum jubilee year of the death of Ven. Fr. Agnelo, a true servant of God with a special souvenir, which will be released on November 20, 2003. The beatification of Venerable Fr. Agnelo de Souza is a cherished dream of millions of devotees spread all over the world. Here in the tri-state area, there is a newly formed center called Fr. Agnelo Devotion Center, Inc. located at 4957 Sweetbitch Drive, Rockville, MD 20853, a non-profit organization registered in the state of Maryland. Its sole purpose is to promote and propagate the virtues and pious life of the saintly priest to eventual canonization through the directions and authority of the Vice-Postulator and the Society of Pilar. It is a volunteer organization whose intention is to promote devotions to the venerable saintly priest through organization of holy masses, novenas, prayers, seminars, and religious meetings.

The annual celebrated mass will be held at St. Catherine Laboufe Church, Wheaton, MD, on November 22, 2003, at 1:00 p.m. and thereafter to a reception at the Montgomery County Recreation Center on Claridge Road. For more information, please contact us at (301-924-2100) or e-mail me at agg2100@earthlink.net or Armande Condillac (301-927-4648) or e-mail him at acondillac@hotmail.com.

Agnelo Gonsalves/Armande Condillac

Move to Revive Goa's Portuguese Past:

Excerpt from BBC News (Goa) submitted by Roque Viegas

More than 40 years after the Portuguese were ousted from their imperial outpost in Goa, new attempts are being made to revive some of the cultural and historical marks of Goa's colonial past.

This move will begin with a tourism trail through some of Goa's once-grand Portuguese style mansions that have slowly deteriorated over time. This movement, is led by the Goa based, Portuguese Private Organization – "Fundacao Oriente."

The Fundacao Oriente has started the first phase of its restoration project by restoring a beautiful chapel in North Goa, Capela do Monte. Next, they are planning to take up the restoration of houses and buildings in Fontainhas in Panjim which, at one time was an up market neighborhood in the Portuguese capital.

"Maintaining something of the Portuguese culture in Goa is a heritage which should be preserved" says Maria Figueiredo who has converted her 400 year old mansion in Lotulim, South Goa into an elegant heritage inn.

Goa's tourism department is also helping to pay for the restoration of twenty old style Portuguese homes to be converted into inns in the first phase and another hundred are earmarked for the second phase. Also to be included are thousands of magnificent churches, temples and structures scattered all over Goa and still in use in villages all across Goa.

Aside from these plans, Goa has also been selected as the future venue for the International Film Festival of India. Plans to upgrade current facilities and generate an investment of Rs. 100 crore are already in the works. Hopefully this will mean a better infrastructure and a buoyant state of economy.

Goa will soon be more than just a pretty destination; it is poised to be the Cannes of Asia Pacific with all the added benefits of its historic past.

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