

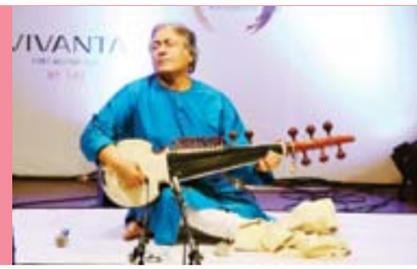
Goa is Happening

BUZZ

Don't Miss It!

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Root of Fire concert at KA



Shahid Kapoor aims, shoots with Olympian trainer



Burial and Assumption of the Virgin, by Aleixo Godinho, in the church of Santa Monica Monastery in Goa, c. 1630

JANICE RODRIGUES | NT BUZZ

When we visit the churches across Goa, we often are left spellbound by the myriad magnificent paintings and sculptures but we are rarely aware of the fact that some of these date back to the 16th and 17th centuries.

Five centuries ago, Goa was considered a major cultural and artistic centre, with an atmosphere favouring architecture and the arts, especially that of the church and Christian arts. A project called 'De Artibus in Auream Goa - Preparing the image, trans-contextualisation in Golden Age of Portuguese Painting,' funded by

FCT-Foundation, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and Orient Foundation is in Goa to research more about the art and artists of the times. There were several names in the historical archives that point out to artists who came from Goa- master engineer Júlio Simão or Simonis; sculptors Babuxa and Santopa; painters Aleixo Godinho and João

Peres; goldsmith Jerónimo da Costa; masons Manuel Coelho and João Teixeira; gilder António da Costa. The research has been conducted in with the cooperation of the Archdiocese of Goa and Daman, the Christian Art Museum in Old Goa (MOCA Museum) and the Directorate of Archives & Archaeology. Talking about the conference the main coordinator and research scholar Mónica Esteves Reis says: "The main topic of the conference is about the artistic and technological relationships between local and Indo-Portuguese paintings of the 16th and 17th century. By combining academic knowledge with state of the art technology in conservation-restoration research, we will be able to ascertain the stylistic and technological influence of the Lisbon Royal painting workshop (Real Oficina de Lisboa) in Goan scenario." The artistic relationship is of great importance to research as Monica points out that one of the workshop apprentices, Garcia Fernandes, active in Lisbon between 1514 and 1565, is believed to be the author of the seven panels of the first altarpiece of the Sé Cathedral of Saint Catherine of Alexandria,

today in Sé Cathedral sacristy. "Professor Vítor Serrão, the co-coordinator of the Project De Artibus has researched the archival documentation regarding the Goan artistic production of the 16th and 17th century. Combining this knowledge to other researches, we are now aware of other artists that worked in Goa during this period." The two speakers for the conference are Vanessa Henriques Antunes and José Artur Pestana. Antunes is a conservator-restorer specialised in material analysis in paintings and will speak on the topic, 'Painting in Goa in the 16th and 17th centuries: hits and acquisitions' focusing on Luso-Indian art, of which several examples still remain in the Cathedral, in Santa Monica, in São Francisco and in churches like Carambolim, Chorão, Neurá or Taleigão. Pestana is also conservator-restorer from the renowned José de Figueiredo Institute specialised in mural painting and with experience in several conservation-restoration projects in Portugal, Macedonia, Slovenia and India. He will speak on the subject, 'Mural painting in Goa, studying, preserving and conserve' and will focus on mural painting

The Fundacao Oriente is hosting a conference today, January 24, titled, 'Painting in Goa in the 16th and 17th centuries', which will focus on the various aspects of Luso-Indian art. NT BUZZ speaks to the people behind this conference and finds out more

similar to those found in Europe. She references the book, 'Evangelicae Historiae Imagines' (Illustrations of the Gospel Stories), by Father Jesuit Jerome Nadal, published in Antwerp in 1593. The book she states was one of the iconographic sources most closely followed by these paintings, in either Goa or Europe. "Some of the paintings were imported from Portugal and other places in Europe at the time. In the Goa artistic scenario, one can find, for instance, Renaissance characteristics or a mannerist style. However, the European models were not copied and adapted exactly by the local artists, they gain hybridity features and that it is what it makes them so special. The European influence does not entirely tamper with the Goan originality and with the Goan artisans who knew how to interpret them. In the words of Paulo Varela Gomes, the 16th and 17th century Goan art 'it's nor Portuguese nor Indian, it is something else that breathes from its own'," Antunes says. When asked to name some popular painters of the time in Goa, both Reis and Antunes have a common answer: "One

of the identified artists Aleixo Godinho was active between around 1590-1631. In the documentation researched by Professor Vítor Serrão he is referred as 'the most distinguished painter in this city'. Works attributed to him include some paintings of the Vice-Roys (1600-1622), paintings from Santa Mónica Convent refectory (1612), ornamentation in one of the chapels also in the Santa Mónica Convent (1631). However, there were other painters working in 17th century Goa: Bartolomeu Fontebuoni, Brother Manuel Alves, Brother Manuel Godinho, James Story, Janas, Salvador de Bonifácio, amongst others. We believe that the Goan archival documentation, when well documented will reveal new names with references to works. This is an important task helping in its safeguard and conservation." Art forms are the representative of the culture, of the people, of the faith. When referring to the artistic identifications of the works there is usually a European matrix, given that the themes were generally European background.

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TEDx-Panaji- An exercise to find answers within

Goa is set to host its first independently organised open TED event - TEDx-Panaji on January 28 from 2.30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Goa University campus.

NT BUZZ draws up a list of speakers from in and around Goa who will share ideas and innovations to get answers from within

NT BUZZ

Goa is all set to host TEDxPanaji, an independently organised TED event where speakers will discuss ideas and share inspiring, motivational stories aimed at

piquing the curiosity of its audience. The event will be held on January 28 from 2:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Goa University Campus, Faculty Block E, Science Department, Taleigao plateau. The theme for the first

edition of TEDxPanaji is Answers Within. Talking about the relevance of its theme, the organiser of the event, Dattaprasad Shetkar, says: "This means, to the simple or to the most complex issues that we face, the answers

lie within us. The theme celebrates the unlimited potential of the human spirit." TEDxPanaji, where x = independently organised TED event, lays emphasis on technology, entertainment and design, through

which potent ideas are shared. Nine speakers from in and around Goa will be presenting their unique ideas in maximum of 18 minutes each. Neha Prabhu, the curator, talking about the significance of ideas in

developing better understanding of society and life as a whole, says: "Ideas spark a discussion that can evolve into a movement that can change the society and the world at large. We have curated some unique ideas from

the local community that we are proud to share with the world". The core of TEDxPanaji is to start conversations among people by inspiring them with stories and ideas. The event is supported

by Goa University and others. (To register and reserve your seat for TEDxPanaji 2017 please visit www.tedxpanaji.com, email to tedxpanaji@gmail.com or contact 9922990240.)

The Speakers of TEDx-Panaji

Mohammad Babalal Shaikh



Hailing from a small coastal village of Vengurla, he believed that poverty was his strength. After staying in children's home till class 10, in 2007 he decided to join a non-conventional education and sustainable livelihood centre called 'University of Life' in Dhamapur near Sawantwadi. In 2003 he was the youngest fellow selected at Dr Abhay Bang Nirmaan camp for youth. His innovative out-of-box mind scaled him to greater heights of success. Today he is the managing trustee of the University of Life. He also leads a joint-liability-group of young intern students here. He is also leading Swayam a for-profit joint-liability-group

of young intern students at University of Life.

Victor Hugo Gomes



Popularly known as the conceptualiser and curator of the Goa Chitra Museum, showcasing Goa's rich agrarian past, Victor Hugo Gomes is a well known name in the state. Having studied different restoration and conservation techniques from across the country, his contributions have been recognised as well as felicitated across the globe. In 2014, he had been appointed by the British Council, British Deputy High Commission to research on Mapping Museum's in Western India; and also conceptualised and implemented the 'Goa Cruti' Museum (Museum on Goa's Colonial past) as well as the Museum of Christian Art.

Rajendra Kerkar and Samruddhi Kerkar



The state convener, Goa River Conservation Network, coordinator, Goa Foundation, Rajendra Kerkar has specialised in history and sociology. He has authored seven books (six in Marathi, one in English), has worked as a dedicated teacher for seventeen years and has been a member of a number of committees, including the National Board of Wildlife of India. Samruddhi Kerkar aged 16 years is a student of school without walls. Through surrounding nature and environment, Samruddhi learned writing skills of Marathi, Hindi, Konkani and English languages by the age of 10 years. Abhinandan Prakashan Kolhapur has published her first poetry compilation in Marathi 'Nir-

zar' that won appreciation. She has acquired the skill of wall painting of birds and wild animals. She has established a tradition of the annual Christmas celebration provided a forum for the children artists of various age groups at her home in Ghoteli.

Hyacinth Pinto



A young Goan architect who stands firmly in support of traditional mud houses and sustainable architecture explains why and how the new design style is the right choice to make. Her work focuses on renewable construction materials and energy sources as the basis of design. Believing that a sound site plan should have inbuilt water harvesting strategies and waste water recycling for landscaping, Hyacinth strives to create buildings and communities that are built

from eco-friendly materials and driven by use of renewable resources.

Jason Fernandes

A gifted youth who triumphed over dyslexia and ADHD to become an award-winning entrepreneur, inventor and technol-



ogy columnist reveals the science behind smartphone addiction and offers technological solutions. He is the founder of award-winning startup Record TV. He has won the Startup@Singapore award, the first national technopreneurship competition at Singapore. He also has to his credit the "Best Business Plan" award from Sybase Singapore in the Global Entrepreneurs Challenge at Stanford University, California. Jason's work looks at the interaction between human mind and technology.

Richard Dias



An engineer turned event-manager took up work as a citizen volunteer for the Corporation of City of Panaji. While working as a citizen volunteer for the Corporation of City of Panaji, Richard conceptualised the Waste Wise programme which envisions waste-segregation at source, and played an instrumental role in building India's first SWM 2016 compliant integrated solid waste treatment facility.

Isabel de Santa Rita Vás



With 65 theatre productions to the credit of The Mustard Seed Art Company, Isabel de Santa Rita Vás has writ-

ten and directed numerous plays. A guest faculty at the Goa University, Department of English, she retired as the head of the English Department, Dhempe College of Arts and Science, after 39 years of service. An active theatre practitioner, she is also a member of Positive People, Goa (an NGO that works for HIV/AIDS awareness and support) and the author of 'Frescoes in the Womb: Six Plays from Goa'.

Amit Dias

Founder secretary of the Department of Preventive



and Social Medicine, Goa Medical College, Amit Dias; also the chairperson of 'Sangath', currently heads the 10/66 Dementia Research group for India and is the chair of the nominations committee for Alzheimer's Disease International, UK. Under his leadership, Sangath has won the 'World

Health Organisation's Public Health Champion award in 2016. A founder member of multiple groups, he has also started the 'MIND IT' initiative in schools to promote brain health and prevent dementia.

Abhijit Nadkarni

A PhD in Epidemiology,



Abhijit Nadkarni is a fellow of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of London. On the editorial board of Indian Archives of Psychiatry, the official journal of the Indian Psychiatric Society, West Zone, amongst others, he has been the course leader for the Barefoot Counseling course (2016) organised by Sangath-Goa and is also closely involved in the designing of curriculum for the MSc in Global Mental Health.