



## ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE, MAPUSA GOA

### Report of Activity conducted in the Academic Year 2025-26

<b>Name of Activity</b>	Talk on "Collective Constructions among Tibetans in Exile"
<b>Date/ Duration</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> August 2025 (One hour)
<b>Venue</b>	Room 326
<b>Name of organizing Department/Cell</b>	Department of Sociology under Distinguished Alumnus Series
<b>In collaboration with</b>	
<b>Name/s of Faculty Co ordinator</b>	Prof. Afonso Botelho
<b>Stratum of Event</b>	College/ State/ Regional/National
<b>Name &amp; details of Resource Person/s if any</b>	Prof. Joann Coelho, Vice Dean of the DD Kosambi School of Social Sciences and Behavioural Studies, Goa University , Goa
<b>Report</b>	<p><b>Report on "Collective Constructions among Tibetans in Exile"</b></p> <p>The Department of Sociology, under its <i>Distinguished Alumnus Series</i>, recently hosted a session featuring Prof. Joanna Pereira Coelho, Vice Dean of the DD Kosambi School of Social Sciences and Behavioural Studies, and an esteemed alumna of the college. The HOD of the Department warmly welcomed the resource person and highlighted Prof. Coelho's academic achievements and her continued connection to her alma mater.</p> <p>Prof. Coelho's talk, "<i>Collective Constructions among Tibetans in Exile</i>", examined the historical, political, and cultural processes shaping Tibetan nationalism after the 1959 exodus of the XIV Dalai Lama and over 80,000 followers to India following the Chinese occupation of Tibet. She traced the transformation of a heterogeneous Tibetan society into a more homogenised national identity in exile, guided by the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA), the Dalai Lama's leadership, and support from India and international donors.</p> <p>A key theme was the <i>non-assimilative ideology</i> adopted by Tibetan refugees, who established separate settlements, schools, and institutions to preserve their language, religion, and cultural traditions. Tibetan nationalism in exile remains deeply infused with Buddhist religious symbolism, while also incorporating secular democratic values, human rights, non-violence, and environmentalism—partly shaped by engagement with the West.</p>

	<p>Prof. Coelho also discussed the reconstruction of religious institutions destroyed in Tibet, the integration of science into monastic education through initiatives like the Emory Tibet Science Initiative, and the crucial role of separate Tibetan schools in sustaining cultural identity</p> <p>The session concluded with reflections on the future of Tibetan nationalism after the Dalai Lama, now 90, underscoring both the unity his leadership inspires and the uncertainties ahead. The presentation offered a nuanced understanding of exile nation-building, cultural preservation, and identity politics in a global context. Altogether 47 students besides 3 teachers benefitted from the Talk.</p>
<b>Brochure/Poster</b>	-
<b>Photographs</b>	<a href="https://xavierscollegegoa.ac.in/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/ff39be44-de2c-4f15-a8d6-85b910a00354.pdf">https://xavierscollegegoa.ac.in/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/ff39be44-de2c-4f15-a8d6-85b910a00354.pdf</a>
<b>List of participants with signatures</b>	<a href="https://xavierscollegegoa.ac.in/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Attendance-for-the-Talk-on-Tibetan-Refugees.pdf">https://xavierscollegegoa.ac.in/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Attendance-for-the-Talk-on-Tibetan-Refugees.pdf</a>
<b>Certificate</b>	--