

**ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE,  
MAPUSA-GOA**



**THE  
CHRONICLE**

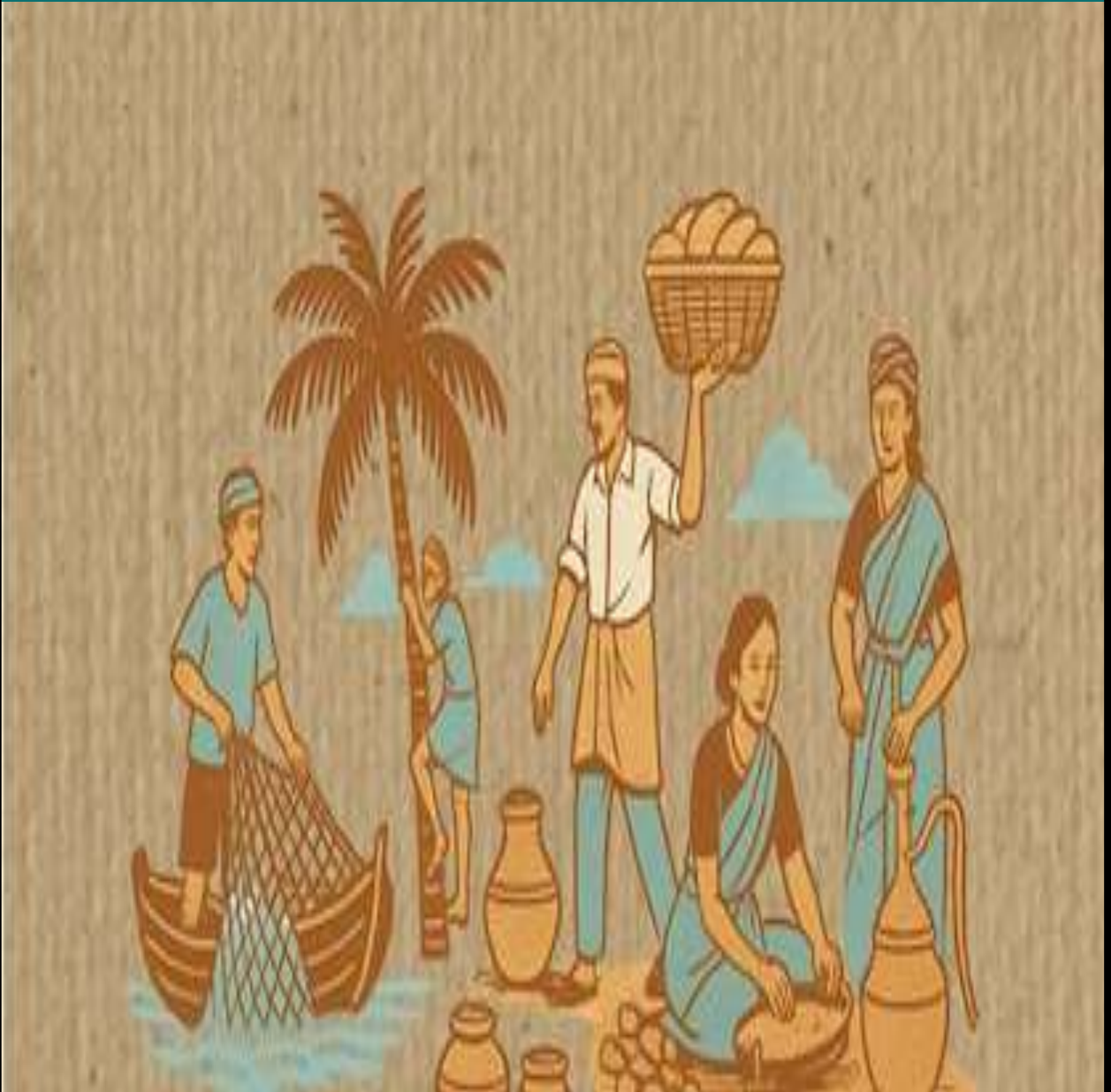
**VOL.  
2**

**ANNUAL  
HISTORY  
NEWSLETTER**



*15 August 2025*

# THE CHRONICLE HISTORY NEWSLETTER



DESIGNED BY AMAAN NAIK



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### **Administrator's Message**



It gives me great pleasure to launch the second edition of *The Chronicle*, the new history newsletter of the Department of History. . History is more than dates and events. It is the story of people, ideas, and moments that have shaped our society. Through *The Chronicle*, we will bring these stories to light, rejoice in the work of our students. I am deeply grateful to the editorial team for their vision and dedication, and to all contributors whose work will make this newsletter a valuable resource for learning and reflection.

**Fr. Antonio Salema.**  
**Administrator**



### **From the Principal's Desk**



Warm greetings to the students and faculty of the Department of History! I am delighted to learn about the release of the newsletter and commend the department for its efforts in preserving and promoting the rich legacy of historical knowledge. The study of history is essential in understanding our past, shaping our present, and informing our future. Our Department of History plays a vital role in fostering critical thinking and cultural awareness among students. The department's commitment to academic excellence and its contributions to the college community is much appreciated.

I congratulate the editorial team led by Dr. Sharmila Pais, the faculty and students, for their endeavors. May the newsletter serve as a platform for sharing knowledge, ideas, and insights, and may it inspire future generations of historians and scholars.  
Best wishes!

**Ursula Barreto**  
**Acting Principal**

## Meet Our Faculty



**Ms. Pamela  
Fernandes  
HOD**



**Dr. Sharmila Pais  
Associate Professor**



**Mr. Dominic  
Fernandes  
Assistant Professor**

### **Student Editorial Board**

1. Ms. Tanya Sarnaik (SYBA-History Major)
2. Mr. Amaan Naik (SYBA-History)

## Opinion Piece: The Editorial



The Department of History presents the second edition of the History Newsletter, *The Chronicle* on the occasion of India's Independence, 15 August 2025. This volume offers a glance of the Department's achievements and activities during the academic year 2024–2025. The work of our faculty and students, both inside and beyond the classroom is reflected in this newsletter. From green initiatives and academic seminars to research initiatives, outreach programmes, and creative contribution of students, the newsletter reflects our collective commitment to studying, understanding, and preserving our culture and ethos in all its dimensions. The Department conducted a 30-hour course on *Fundamentals of Research and Ethics* that was widely received by students. The 'Sadbhavana Diwas' promoted goodwill, peace, and harmony among students and faculty of diverse backgrounds in our institution. Likewise, the poster making competition expressed their

understanding of peace, unity, and harmony through visual art. We strived to align our efforts with the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP), while also emphasizing green initiatives and community engagement. Through these combined efforts, we aim to create a holistic learning environment that not only fosters academic growth but also instills social responsibility and environmental awareness among our students. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our student contributors for their articles and sketches. Ms. Tanya Sarnaik (SYBA-History Major) contributed significantly as a member of the student editorial board, acting as a liaison for the editorial team, while Mr. Amaan Naik (SYBA, History, Major) designed the cover page of this newsletter.

I wish to thank my colleagues in the Department of History, Ms. Pamela Fernandes and Mr. Dominic Fernandes for their collective efforts in strengthening the department and continuous support in promoting student activities.

**(Dr. Sharmila Pais),  
Department of History**



## **Head of Department's Message.**



History is what we are all about. Every moment in life get wrapped up, not to be forgotten but to remain as a guiding reference for each new day and every new year, reminding us of our successes, our opportunities and the need to build on our strengths for a better tomorrow. The Department of History for over six decades continues to enlighten, guide and encourage students of History to understand perceptions of History, think objectively and in the light of the past live the present in a way that will help make them sensitive to promoting values

that create peace and brotherhood, urgent need of our times.

This Newsletter 'The Chronicle' of the Department of History, highlights students' activities and achievements both curricular and co-curricular, in the last academic year. I place on record my warm appreciation of Dr. Sharmila Pais, my right hand in the department, for motivating the student of history in this initiative and to Mr. Dominic Fernandes for his contributions to the work of the department.

May the Department of History continue to forge ahead in its endeavours to enlighten and educate.

**Ms. Pamela Fernandes (HOD)**

**Department of History.**





## **TYBA History Class with Faculty 2025-2026**



## The Year that Was 2024-2025

### Campus Greening Drive (25<sup>th</sup> July 2024)

On 25<sup>th</sup> July 2024, the Department of History led by Ms. Pamela Fernandes organized a Campus Greening Drive to promote environmental consciousness and love for nature among students.

Students were encouraged to take part in the initiative a sustainable and eco-friendly practice that helps in the growth and nurturing of trees. This activity not only provided students with a hands-on experience of environmental stewardship but also encouraged them to cultivate a lasting bond with nature



### National Tiranga Day ‘Colours that Inspire and Unite’



On 16<sup>th</sup> August 2024, the Department of History commemorated the **National Tiranga Day** with the theme ‘**Colors that Inspire and Unite**’.



The event commemorated the rich history and significance of India’s national flag. The event aimed at reflecting the symbols of unity, patriotism, and freedom, which our Tiranga represents.



## Sadbhavana Diwas

The Department of History observed Sadbhavana Diwas on 20 August 2024 to promoting goodwill, peace, and harmony among students and faculty of diverse backgrounds in our institution. A poster making competition was organised to encourage students to express their understanding of peace, unity, and harmony through visual art.



## Role Play on the Life and Teachings of Buddha (27 August 2024)

The students from the Department of History, SYBA (Major I) put on an incredible performance on the 27th of August, 2024, bringing to life the transformative journey of the Buddha in an enlightening and engaging manner. The play began with the birth of Siddhartha Gautama, the prince who would later become the Buddha. The students used symbolic imagery, with a scene portraying Siddhartha's miraculous birth under a tree, emphasizing the serenity and calmness that marked his early existence.



## Women Breaking the Gender Barriers.

Students from SYBA (Major I) presented a the role-play on political strategy in the royal household in medieval India, as a part of their course study. The play exhibited how the women within the harem, who are traditionally seen as passive, are sharp, calculating, and aware of their power.



## Goenchi Asmitai Diwas

(4<sup>th</sup> October 2025)

The Department of History celebrated **Goenchi Asmitai Diwas**, a day dedicated to preserving and promoting the rich cultural heritage and traditions of Goa. This event highlighted the significance of Goan identity, history, and values. It encouraged students and faculty alike to reflect on and appreciate the diverse cultural fabric that defines the Goan community. The celebrations included a vibrant display of **Goan dances** performed by students. These performances were complemented by a delightful **Goan food display**, featuring popular dishes like *xacuti*, *bebinca*, and *sannas*, offering a sensory exploration of Goa's culinary heritage.



## Certificate Course

‘Fundamentals of Research and Ethics’

The Departments of History conducted a 30-hour credit course on *Fundamentals of Research and Ethics* from September to December 2024 jointly with the Department of Philosophy. It was held from September to December 2024.

The course was designed to equip students of the college with essential research skills and an

understanding of ethical practices in academic investigation.



A total of 39 students registered for the course, which took place over the course of 15 weekly sessions. Several distinguished speakers were invited to address the students. A session on library resources was delivered by Ms. Dakshata Zambulkar. Mr. Anzil Fernandes from the Dept. of Mass Communication exposed students on blogging.





### **Museum on Wheels (10th December 2024)**

A mobile traveling exhibition designed to bring historical artifacts, cultural displays, and educational content to different locations was invited to the campus on 10th December 2024. The Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS), Mumbai, a pioneering outreach initiative of Citi- (CSMVS) displayed its artifacts through their mobile van.



### **Exhibition on St. Francis Xavier**

(3rd January to 5<sup>th</sup> January 2025)



On 15th September 2024, the Department of History, in collaboration with GHAG (Goa Heritage Action Group) and the Asmitai Cell, organized an insightful Exhibition on St. Francis Xavier, displaying beautiful artifacts,

paintings, statues, relics, commemorative coins, and souvenirs that reflect the life and legacy of the revered saint.



### **GUArt Classes (January -February 2025)**

Third Year BA students were enlightened on the effective study methods to answer the entrance examination of Goa University to qualify students to appear for the entrance examination. Students were informed on effective study methods, with a particular emphasis on Ancient, Medieval Indian History and History of Goa.





## Women' Day Celebration

(8 March 2025)The Department of History



celebrated the International Women's Day on 10 March 2025. Dr. Rheane Da Silva, Chief Programme Officer of the Institution and a member of Sabrcare, an NGO dedicated to offering compassionate support to those affected by cancer, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The celebration Chief Guest explained the work undertaken by the organisation and the difference that it makes in the lives of people.



Every women student of the class was offered a flower as a gesture of appreciation by Jordan Lobo. A beautifully crafted cake by Ms. Apeksha Parab served as a fitting tribute to the celebration.

Students of SYBA, major organised a skit highlighting the strength and resilience of women in the Indian society. A fancy dress of women achievers also featured in the event.



## **Green Initiatives of the Department**

**(27<sup>th</sup> January 2025)**



An attempt at promoting environmental sustainability and spreading consciousness among students led the faculty of history to organise the Green Initiative Campaign. This programme aimed not only to educate participants about pressing environmental issues such as climate change, waste management, and resource conservation but also to encourage practical action through activities like tree planting, clean-up drives, and sustainable practices on campus. The campaign sought to cultivate a sense of

responsibility toward the environment, foster long-term sustainable habits, and inspire the younger generation to become proactive stewards of the planet.

The event was led by Ms. Clera D'Souza, who administered a pledge to the students, encouraging them to adopt eco-friendly practices and promote environmental awareness.



## **History Through Drama 'Rakhandars of Goa (February 2025)**

The "Rakhandars of Goa" was an intriguing historical enactment by students of FYBA students. The performance brought to life the rich and often untold stories of Goa's past. It exhibited the beliefs of the people on the

Rakhandar and how he served as the benevolent guardian of the village.



**Workshop on Archaeology and History**  
(1<sup>st</sup> March 2025) Dr. Namrata Biswas conducted a skillful workshop on the theme



*'Uncovering the Past Through Archaeology'* for History students. The workshop aimed to provide students of history with a comprehensive understanding of archaeological artifacts and their role in reconstructing the past



### **Guest visit-cum-interface (February 2025)**



Mr. Vicente Pereira Coutinho, a senior officer, Department of Tourism, Government of Macau was invited to address the students of History on Goa Macau Relations. In an enrich talk delivered by Mr. Coutinho, the history of Goa-Macau relations were highlighted. racing the centuries-old connections between these two former Portuguese colonies. He highlighted how Goa, as a key hub of Portuguese India, served as a cultural, religious, and commercial bridge to Macau, which functioned as Portugal's gateway to East Asia.





### **Kilo Campaign: Community Outreach**

The Kilo Campaign was an initiative organized by the Department of History as part of our community outreach efforts, encouraging students to donate one kilo of essential commodities such as rice, pulses, sugar or other non-perishable items. The campaign aimed to instill the value of sharing, social responsibility and empathy among with the underprivileged.



**Alumni Series Program**  
**(28<sup>th</sup> February 2025)**



The Departments of History, St. Xavier's College, Mapusa invited Mr. Benjamin Monserrate, Assistant Curator and Educator at the Museum of Christian Art (MOCA) in Old Goa, to deliver a talk to history students as an alumni guest as a part of the 'Alumni Series Programme of the Institution.



### **Talk on the History of Art in Goa (10th March 2025)**

The Department of History, in collaboration with the Asmitai Cell, hosted an enlightening Talk on the History of Art in Goa, delivered by Dr. Subodh Kerkar, under the Mario Miranda Chair for Fine Arts at Goa University. This event offered a deep dive into the rich and diverse artistic traditions of Goa.

### **State Level Research Paper Presentation**

Ms. Linnes Rodrigues and Ms. Savia (SYBA) participated in a state level paper presentation competition at Carmel College for Women in February 2025.



### **Workshop on Needle Crafts (26<sup>th</sup> March 2026)**

Ms. Pauline Fernandes was invited to conduct a Workshop on Needlecraft, to explore the historical and cultural significance of needlework in Goa. The workshop was designed to offer students a hands-on experience with various needle craft techniques, such as embroidery, cross-

stitch, and traditional Goan needlework. Crochet constitutes a cherished craft of Goa

Participants were introduced to a diverse range of traditional techniques, including delicate embroidery, intricate cross-stitch patterns, and traditional Goan needlework, each carrying its own cultural and artistic significance.



This beautiful craft was sought to be preserved for posterity through this workshop.





## Expressions of Our Students

### Chorao Island

By Taniya Sarnaik SYBA

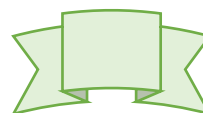


Chorao, originally called as Chudamani (Precious jewel), is one of the largest inhabited islands situated in the heart of Goa. Being an island, Chorao serves as the home for many migratory birds like herons, kingfishers, egrets and so on. Many marsh crocodiles can be seen near the riverbanks. Chorao, also known as 'Ilha dos Fidalgos' (island of noblemen) during the Portuguese era, has always been the center of attraction. Many of the wealthy Portuguese settled here and made Chorao an elite residential area. It also has a rich cultural and historical heritage. There are various churches like St. Bartholomew's Church, Chapel of St. Jerome, Our Lady of Grace Church and temples like Devaki Krishna Temple, Ravalnath Temple etc. The famous festival of the village is Homkhand and St. Bartholomew's feast. The people of all faiths come to celebrate these festivals. The Island uses a traditional water management system known as *khazans*. This has helped the village to sustain agriculture and fishing for centuries. Besides these, the village has a wide range of trees within the

village with the most popular mango species like Fernandinas, Mankurad/Malcurada and Mangilal/Manga Illario, cashew, jackfruit and coconut trees.



The greenery, the sound of birds, the cooling breeze has always been the best therapy for mankind. Chorao is not for party lovers but for peace seekers, nature enthusiasts, heritage explorers and photographers. Recently, a lot of farms have been established for the benefit of nature lovers. Besides guided tours by *Soul Travelling*, *Wild Otters* have been encouraging island visits for tourists. Whether one can also be enthralled by birdwatching, boat rides, or tranquil nature trails, the peace of Chorao island is never to be missed. When the cities get too loud and the nights feel sleepless, the breeze of Chorao will always be welcoming. Lastly, I would conclude, *In my island's breeze, there's a whisper reminding you to breathe.*



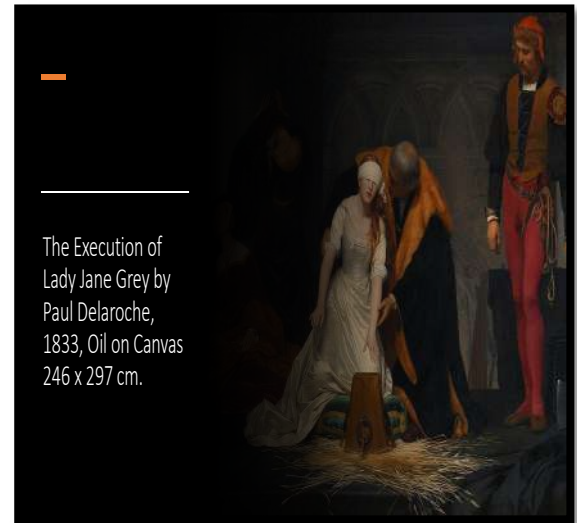
## The Execution of Lady Jane Grey

Rica Kay Da Costa (TYBA)



The final moments of the blindfolded Lady Jane as she pleads, “What shall I do? Where is the block?”

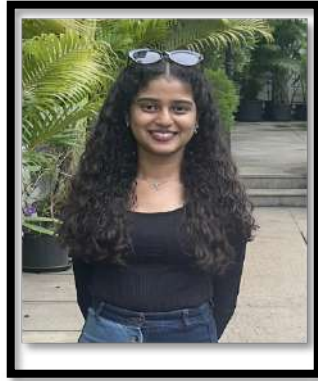
Lady Jane Grey, the great-granddaughter of Henry VII was just a teenager when she became a pawn in the ruthless game of Tudor politics. In 1553, following the death of King Edward VI, she was proclaimed Queen of England, but ruled for only nine days before being deposed by Mary Tudor. Tried for treason, the 17-year-old Lady Jane was beheaded at Tower Green on 12 February 1554. Paul Delaroche, the French academic painter, captures the emotional essence of Jane's final moments with theatrical realism. The painting has a quiet, delicate feel, as if the moment has been frozen just before everything changes. There's no chaos or noise, only a stillness that makes you notice every detail. In the painting, she appears blindfolded, her outer clothing already been removed and is gathered in the lap of a lady-in-waiting, who has slumped to the ground. Behind her, a second lady-in-waiting stands facing the wall, unable to watch. She pleads “What shall I do? Where is the block?”. The helpless Lady Jane is being guided towards the execution block by Sir John



Brydges, Lieutenant of the Tower while the executioner stands grimly beside his axe. Lady Jane is the main focus of the painting. Her white gown radiates in the dark room, a sign of her innocence. Her pale skin and the small glint of her wedding ring stand out in the shadows. She's not screaming nor resisting, but simply lays helpless. Straw has been laid on the floor to soak up her blood, a quiet reminder of what is about to happen. The smooth surface of the painting, with no visible brushstrokes, makes it look almost real. Today, Delaroche's painting hangs in the National Gallery in London. Visitors, tourists, students and art lovers stop in front of it, many not knowing the full story of the young woman it portrays. Yet something in the scene holds them still, the soft light on her gown, the stillness of the room, the quiet dignity in her final moments. And maybe, that's the most powerful part of all, through paint, Lady Jane Grey still speaks.

# Indo-Portuguese Domestic Architecture in Goa: An Analysis of its Key Elements

Blanche Menezes (TYBA)



Goa's built environment is valued not only for its churches and forts, but also for its distinct domestic architecture,

shaped by centuries of cultural exchange. Within its courtyards and façades, Goan houses demonstrate a balance of functional design and ornamental detail.

**The Balcão: Social and Climatic Function:**The balcão, a porch at the front of the house, serves as a transition between private and public space. It provides a shaded seating area for observing street life, meeting visitors, and facilitating informal social interaction. Built-in benches and steps are characteristic features. Its design accommodates the coastal climate and integrates colonial influences with local materials and techniques.

**Gates: Property Markers and Symbolic Elements:**The entrance to many Goan houses is marked by gates supported by pillars, often topped with crosses or animal

sculptures. These gateways indicate property boundaries and convey the family's social position. Motifs are drawn from both European and local traditions, reflecting the hybrid nature of Goan design.

**Eavesboards: Weather Protection and Ornament:**Eavesboards run beneath tiled roofs to shield walls from rain and sun. Often carved in geometric or floral patterns, they add visual detail to the façade. Painted in contrasting colours to the main walls, they are both functional and decorative.

**Pilasters and Pillars: Structural and Stylistic Roles:**Pilasters, attached to walls, and free-standing pillars along verandahs or balcões provide vertical emphasis and structural support. While influenced by classical European orders, they are often adapted with local motifs and simplified profiles.

**Railings:**Railings define balconies, verandahs, and staircases. Wooden railings often feature carved patterns, while later cast-iron versions display imported Victorian designs. Both types indicate the influence of changing materials and techniques over time.

**Windows and Doors: Light, Ventilation, and Symbolism:** Windows typically include wooden shutters and sometimes mother-of-pearl or coloured glass panels. Doorways may have carved lintels and fanlights that allow light into interiors. These elements balance privacy, ventilation, and decorative intent.

**Flooring: Material Use and Pattern:** Flooring materials vary from packed earth in earlier homes to imported patterned tiles and locally made mosaics. Patterns and materials often reflect trade links and economic status.

**Frescoes: Interior Decoration and Belief:** Frescoes and painted wall panels may include religious imagery, floral borders, or imitation stonework. They serve as both decoration and expression of the household's beliefs.

**Colour: Identity and Climate Response:** Exterior walls are painted in strong colours such as ochre, blue, and green, often bordered with white. Colour choices help protect surfaces, mark identity, and contribute to the overall streetscape. All in all, Goan domestic architecture combines climate-responsive design with elements drawn from multiple cultural influences.

Features such as the *balcão*, gates, eavesboards, pilasters, railings, windows, doors, flooring, frescoes, and colour schemes are integral to both the function and identity of these houses. Their preservation offers insight into the processes through which communities shape their built environment.

Goa's built environment is valued not only for its churches and forts, but also for its distinct domestic architecture, shaped by centuries of cultural exchange. Within its courtyards and *façades*, Goan houses demonstrate a balance of functional design and ornamental detail. This article examines the core elements that define this tradition—*balcão*, gates, eavesboards, pilasters, pillars, railings, windows, doors, flooring, frescoes, and colour—and their role in shaping Goan identity.

### **The Balcão: Social and Climatic Function**

The *balcão*, a porch at the front of the house, serves as a transition between private and public space. It provides a shaded seating area for observing street life, meeting visitors, and facilitating informal social interaction. Built-in benches and steps are characteristic features. Its design accommodates the coastal climate and

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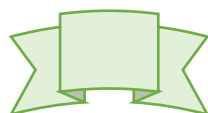
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**Railings: Boundaries with Design Variation:** Railings define balconies, verandahs, and staircases. Wooden railings often feature carved patterns, while later cast-iron versions display imported Victorian designs. Both types indicate the influence of changing materials and techniques over time.

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## *History That Repeats*



**Xavier Lobo**  
(SYBA, History)

I peep outside my window and everything I  
look at is a part of history Where now stand  
buildings once stood great colonies.

History showed us the saints and the  
sinners. And it also spoke equally about the  
great losers and winners.

It stood witness in times of great sadness and  
distress. But it also remembered the great  
leaders and their conquests

It judges everyone equally without making a  
difference. And even though the legends have  
passed away their stories remain a testament.

History showed us our mistakes, but we  
never learnt from them. And yet we always  
complained that history is the one to be  
condemned.

### *Poetry Facts*

- The **Epic of Gilgamesh** from Mesopotamia (c. 2100 BCE) is considered the world's oldest surviving epic poem. It predates the Iliad and Odyssey by centuries.
- **2. Poetry on Clay Tablets:** Ancient Sumerians and Babylonians wrote poems and hymns on **clay tablets**, not paper or parchment, meaning their poetry survived millennia buried in mud!
- **3. Poetry as Legal Record:** In medieval Iceland, **skaldic poetry** was sometimes used to document laws and important events in verse, making poetry a form of historical record.



**Tashvita Devanand Kudav (TYBA)**

### **“The Queen Who Rode Into Forever”**

#### **Rani Lakshmi Bai and the Spirit of Empowerment**

Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi was not just a queen, she was a storm in human form. Born in 1828 as Manikarnika, she mastered horse riding, sword fighting, and political wisdom, skills rare for women of her time. Even as a young girl, she carried the spark of leadership in her eyes. Her life took a decisive turn after the death of her husband, Raja Gangadhar Rao, when the British sought to annex Jhansi under the Doctrine of Lapse.

Refusing to surrender her throne or her pride, she rose with unshakable resolve. During the revolt of 1857, clad in armor and with her infant son tied to her back, she rode into battle like a blazing flame against the colonial wind. Her fight was not just for land—it was

for dignity, justice, and the belief that freedom has no gender. She became a symbol of resistance, uniting her people and inspiring countless others across India to rise.

Her story is not frozen in history. Even today, in a world where women still face inequality, her courage lives on. She inspires every girl who dares to dream beyond limitations and every woman who refuses to be silenced. She showed that empowerment is not gifted, it is claimed with courage, guarded with pride, and passed on like a torch to the next generation.

Rani Lakshmi Bai did far more than defend a fort, she built an unshakable fortress in the hearts of those who believe in equality. She reminds us that the true measure of a woman lies not in how quietly she endures, but in how fiercely she rises. And so, every time a woman speaks up, takes the lead, or breaks a barrier—the Queen of Jhansi rides again, not in history books alone, but in the living spirit of today’s world.

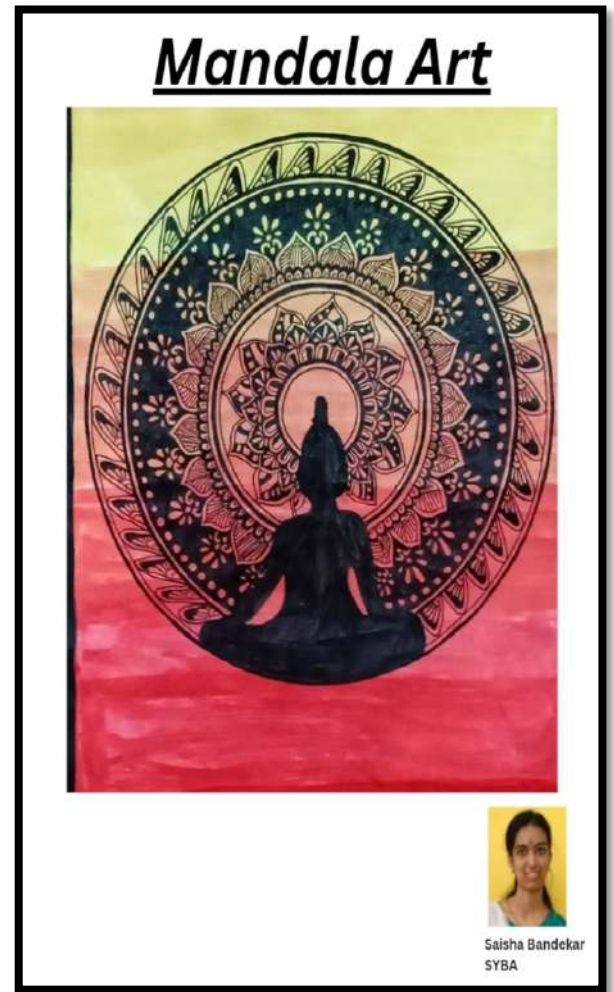
*“She didn’t just fight for Jhansi, she fought for every woman who dares to rise.”*

## History Through Humour



Sherlyn Lobo (SYBA)

## Circles of Unity and Wholeness



Saisha Bandekar (SYBA)



*Your Success, Our Pride*

*History Students Excel at Goa University Examination*



**Ms. Daisy Coelho**

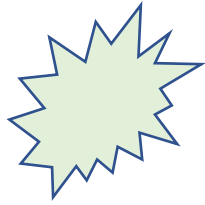


**Ms. Annrose D'Cunha**

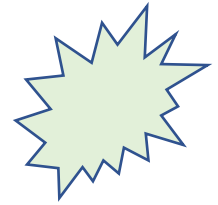


**Anisha Mendonca**





## *History Nuggets Did You Know??*



- *Shortest War in History:* The Anglo-Zanzibar War of 1896 lasted only 38 minutes, making it the shortest recorded war in history.
- *Napoleon Was Once Attacked by Rabbits:* During a hunt, Napoleon Bonaparte was reportedly chased by a horde of rabbits that had been released for him to hunt.
- *Tutankhamun's Burial Gems* Ancient Egyptian pharaohs were buried with exquisite jewelry. Tutankhamun's tomb contained thousands of precious stones, including a dagger made of meteoric iron.

*We hope you enjoy this edition of 'The Chronicle' and find inspiration in the achievements, initiatives, and stories shared.*

