Saturday October 29, 2022

Goan associations host events in UK, Canada

7TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COLVA UNION UK

Colva Union celebrates Feast of Infant Jesus

THE GOAN NETWORK I LONDON

fter a gap of three years, the Colva Union UK hosted a mega event to celebrate its 47th anniversary on October 22, to commemorate the Feast of Infant Jesus. The event began with the Holy Mass celebrated by Fr Feroz Fernandes at Our Lady Queen of Apostles

Church, 15 The Green Heston, Hounslow, at 4 pm, followed by a social gathering at the Pope John Centre next door. Over 200 people attended the event which was fully sold out and music was provided by the Goan band 'Treble Makers'. The MCs for the day, Antonio Fernandes and Russel Rodrigues, got the crowd into the mood, while the buffet and desserts were

organised by Snack Hack. The Colva Union UK President Saby Fernandes thanked the people for participating in the Mass

He said the people had been eagerly looking forward to the event since the last event was organised three years ago and there was a gap due to the Covid pandemic.

THE COLVA UNION UK

The Colva Union UK was the first Goan club to be established by the Goans who emigrated from East Africa to the UK 47 years ago because of the devotion to their village in Colva, Goa to Menino Jesus.

It all started when they installed the statue of Christ the King on the ground of the Colva Church. The story goes that the statue of Christ the King was carried from Kenya in East Africa by ship to Goa and then, devotees actually went by cycle and carried the statue to Colva.

One of the reasons the Colva Union UK has stood the test of time is a very strong bond between founder members, with a good and transparent accounting process in place. Yearly accounts are audited and this has led to full transparency among members on the utilisa-

All the presidents over the years took a key part to what the Colva Union UK is today. While some

the immediate past presidents like Gabriel were involved in restoring the damaged Christ the King statue foundation in Colva, Joe Vaz continued running the Colva Union UK during the difficult Covid period.

function on

Antonio Fernandes, past president of Colva Jaycees and Chairman of Institute of Hospitality (IOH), said when he became President of the Colva Union UK, one of his priorities was to train, mentor and lead the next generation of leaders to carry on the legacy of Colva Union UK.

"One of the tasks done by the Colva team in UK during the last few years was to train young and aspiring members to lead the Colva Union UK in a planned and professional manner with clear and audited accounting each year," said Antonio Fernandes.

We also trained them to keep up the ethos and dignity of Colva. They also have the Christ the King statue in Colva as part of their devotion to their roots in Goa," Fernandes said.

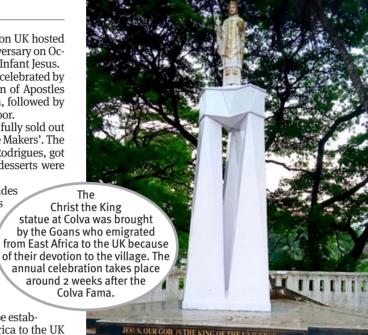
"The present mix of senior members in the background but the new team of aspiring leaders is hopefully taking our roots, culture, ethos and respect in years to come," he added. Gabriel Fernandes, former president of the Colva Union UK,

said the funds collected are used to offer Mass for members and distribute food items to the poor in Colva once a year.

"The money raised has also been used to carry out repairs

and maintenance of the statue in Colva.'

"Really, we should have been celebrating the 49th year, but since we did not celebrate during Covid we did not count those years," said Gabriel Fernandes, who served as president of Colva Union UK from 2013 to 2015 and is now a committee member who guides the younger members.









45TH ANNIVERSARY OF QUEBEC GOAN ASSOCIATION

Gala event, 70's retro party hosted in Quebec



he Goan community in Quebec-Canada had two more occasions to connect with each other during the Quebec Goan Association's (QGA) 45th Anniversary this year, with a gala event on September 16 and a 70's Retro 'Let's Go Back to 1977 Disco' theme party on October 15. The previous two events to commemorate the QGA anniversary were the Goan Food Fest and the World Goa Day event in Quebec.

THE QGA'S 45TH ANNIVERSARY

The QGA 45th Anniversary gala event began with a grand march and red carnations were handed to the president and the ex-presidents of QGA to honour them for their service to the as-

The QGA 45th anniversary cake was then cut by the committee, followed by a speech by QGA President Blanche Da Costa.

A small cultural show was later held to mark the occasion. The band 'Mellow Moments' from Toronto enthralled the guests at the event. A young budding star, Sarah Rego, performed a rendition of Chris Perry's song 'Tuzo Mog', while Kninoshka Ribeiro and Antonio Da Costa performed the Konkani duet 'Pipirmit' by the famous singer Robin Vaz. The tal-

ented sisters, Priscilla and Melissa Fernandes, later performed the traditional dance to the song by Remo Fernandes 'Konkani Amchi Goenchi Bhas'.

There was a photo booth to give the guests the opportunity to take home some memories with them from the night. The food comprised a 3-course meal followed by Goan deliacies such as the batica, polinnas and a fruit platter

There was plenty of music, dancing, several prizes throughout the evening. Everyone left home with a souvenir cooler bag with the QGA $45 \mathrm{th}$ Anniversary logo. The children were also given gift certificates of their favourite restaurant. QGA President Blanche Da Costa and her team were wide-

ly appreciated for the successful and memorable event.

70'S RETRO DISCO THEME PARTY

The QGA committee decided to conduct the 70's Retro -Let's Go Back to 1977 Disco theme Party on October 15, to commemorate the foundation of the QGA in 1977.

The disco party was a successful event which had several Goans dressed in 70's style and the DJ music had the young

and old dancing away to the 70's beat. The hall was decorated with a lot of dazzle and Indian and dancing to the tunes of DI music all through the evening.

the various disco props from the pho

to booth. A contest was held to choose

the best disco costumes and dancers.

The disco party consisted of a num-

ber of event theme prizes, raffle prizes

took pictures using

ex-presidents along with current president Blanche Da Costa at the gala event to mark the 45th anniversary of the association

In her message on the association's 45th anniversary QGA's first woman president Phyl Gomes-Rodrigues recalled that the Quebec Goan Association was founded in 1977 to foster, to encourage the preservation of Goan culture, to promote traditions enriching Goan

heritage and to contribute to Canadian society.

Quebec Goan

Association organised

a gala event to mark its

"That said, I can say, although it was a struggle in the early years, we would not be where we are today without the commitment and passion of our Quebec Goan community I am honoured to be the first woman president of the QGA serving from 1981-1982, and over the years I continued to be of service in various roles on the Executive Committee," said Gomes-Rodrigues.

"I am also proud to say that the QGA stands as a firm base, not only because of the pioneering spirit of its founding members, but also due to the leadership over the years of presidents & executive committees. Members and guests of the community have also shown support and continue to do so."

"Through the years, the engagement from the Goan community has helped the success of the QGA. Together, we celebrate and take pride in our accomplishments and dedication to continue to be there for our future generations. We are pleased to see them carry on the QGA as they develop their sense of pride in our Goan culture, thus keeping it firmly alive," Gomes-Rodrigues added.

Adjusting to a new life away from home

GOANS IN GERMANY-2



MARIANO PEREIRA >The writer was a Senior NATO project manager for Europe District US Army Corps of Engineers in Frankfurt and was one of the early Goan settlers in

s the post-WW2 German economy was growing at an accelerated rate, hundreds of thousands of workers recruited from Italy, Spain and Greece were insufficient to provide manpower for the manufacturing sector to meet the increasing worldwide demand for export products made in Germany.

At the beginning of 1963, Germany began expanding its search for more workers and approached Portugal, which was at that time an associate member of the European Economic Union. During this year, the first treaty was signed, and recruitment operations began.

When a delegation of the prospective employer Adam Opel AG Rüsselsheim near Frankfurt (owned by General Motors) went to Lisbon to interview the recruits, they were discontented to see a group of brown-skinned men and protested saying they wanted original Portuguese workers.

The Portuguese authorities were unable to make a decision and elevated the matter to the level of Ministerio dos Negocios Estrangeiros (Ministry of foreign affairs).

Dr Franco Nogueira, the Minister of Foreign Affairs at that time, categorically told the Automotive Company delegation that these people of Goa, Daman and Diu were as good Portuguese as any other and if they don't accept them, they would not be willing to dispatch any other Portuguese.

As Germany was grappling with its dark Nazi past and fearing negative publicity and public outcry, the company delegation immediately withdrew its demand.

Upon the arrival of about 50 recruits from Goa, Daman and Diu in August 1963, a warm welcome reception was accorded to them by the car manufacturer, the local Bürgermeister and the Catholic Church.

The dean of the catholic church, Rev Karl Heinz Beichert, played an instrumental role to integrate them with the local German community. He sponsored each of the new arrivals for their first Christmas dinner in the houses of German fami-

The wages they earned were considerably high for that time. I remember when I arrived in Germany in 1967, the net weekly salary amounted to 300 Deutsch Marks (DM), with accommodation provided by the company.

Goa seemed to be a distant land and inconvenient to travel. Quite a number of them bought brand-new cars, travelled to Lisbon and came



guese metropolitan women. Even those with little knowledge of Portuguese language.

Within a short period of time, these young men from Goa, Daman and Diu began organising themselves in Germany and initially launched a football team and a band, as both football and music ran in their blood. The first feast of

their residential area in 1964.

In 1965, the idea was mooted to bring a statue of Goa's Patron Saint Francis Xavier, with Padre Jose Cabral as principal promoter. Members of the Goa, Daman and Diu community instantly collected 1,000 Deutsche Marks to acquire the statue, which became a quick reality, and the statue was on its way

from Lisbon to Frankfurt, transported by TAP - Portuguese National Airline - free on board.

The statue was personally accompanied by Rev Dr Joaquim dos Santos, the founder and former director of 'Instituto Pastoral de Padre Pio X' of Goa and installed at St George Church Rüsselsheim with the gener osity of Rev Karl Hainz Beichert.

After placing the statue in the in stitute at the St George Church, the feast of St Francis Xavier was celebrated with great fervour and cer emonies with roughly 200 partici pants, that included Portuguese and German guests and dignitaries of Opel Company. This tradition continues to be celebrated every year by the St Francis Association, founded by Basilio Magno for this purpose with participation of Goans from different parts of Germany.

With new Goan immigrants who subsequently came to Germany with Portuguese passports, the numbers increased. Currently, it is estimated there are about 2,500 Goans living in Germany.

With the passing of time and with the exception of a few, the first-generation immigrants to Germany have faded away. The second generation born in Germany have not much attachment to Goa but are proud of their heritage.

Saturday October 29, 2022

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communications consultant,

Karachi Goan community/city

historian and author

GOAN PASTOR'S MISSION IN UK - 2

Bonding with Goan youth in London and Swindon



The Swindon Youth Group started with just a handful of youth in 2017 and has now grown into a strong and lively group focused on activities in different areas

LUI GODINHO

THE GOAN NETWORK I LONDON

he Goan Chaplaincy in London is one mission of the Pilar Society to provide pastoral care to Goans in Swindon and Reading. The Swindon Youth Group (SYG) is a part of this mission set up by Fr Lucas Rodrigues to reach out to the youth in Swindon and elsewhere

The SYG has become a core pillar and foundation for the youth to come together, calling them to the faith and helping them be followers of Jesus. The SYG started with just a handful of youth in 2017 and has now grown into a strong and lively group focused on activities in different areas.

Before moving to Swindon, Fr Lucas Rodrigues served in the Sts

12 years. During this time, he would visit Swindon for various Masses, counselling and other services.

At the request of the Superior General of the Pilar Society, Fr Rodrigues interacted with Bishop Declan Ronan Lang in 2014-15 and asked if he could offer them a parish and if they could establish a house for the Pilar Society and the Chaplaincy.

"In order to cater to thousands of Goan in Swindon, Bishop Declan invited us in 2016 to take up the Parish of Sacred Heart at Royal Wootton Bassett. In 2017, I moved to Royal Wootton Bassett and was appointed parish priest. The Goan Chaplaincy of Swindon and Reading was established on April 21, 2017, and I was appointed Goan Chaplain," said Fr Rodrigues.

"I realised the importance of getting young people together. With our background as Pilar Fathers, we were able to understand the youth, both Goan and British. I was always connected with the youth as I had started the Youth Club, Junior Club and Altar Servers Club in Mitcham.

In his very first month at Royal Wootton Bassett, Fr Rodrigues assembled a handful of youth in and around the parish.

"The first ministry I took over was the youth ministry. Our youth are talented, vibrant and religious, some willing to commit to Church service. But there is also a dark side that this culture and freedom may have to

having tough times, feeling lost and searching for answers. A few were caught by the temptation of drugs and some had taken to gambling.

targeted at

Rodrigues.

all young people, not

school

working adults up to 35 years."

"Through these events, the priority

is to ensure that the youth are rooted

in Christ. The SYG regularly hosts

activities like catechism classes, bible

studies and night vigils. The SYG

also has its own gospel band 'Desert

Rain', dedicated to the music ministry

through praise and worship," said Fr

Over the past six years, the SYG's

outreach has increased with this

year's annual youth convention 'Cast

Into The Deep' drawing over 500

The SYG has also participated in

raising funds for the Pilar Fathers

mission, local charities and reaching

out to the homeless and vulnerable in

to visit the homeless in Swindon and

elsewhere. Having a chat, providing

clothing and hot meals to the

homeless is sheer joy. The purpose

is not only showing love and care for

those on the streets, but for the youth

to know about the real meaning of

Christmas and mission of Jesus to the

"The SYG is constantly seeking

ways to call every young person to the faith. My next endeavour is to set

up a football tournament for young

people. This year, the Swindon youth

team has been nominated for the 'Mast The Magazine' awards," says Fr

lost, last and least."

"During Christmas, I take the youth

children but young

"My first priority was to reach out to such youth by creating awareness of the wider dangers of secular society. After setting up a core youth team, I began organising monthly activities, which included socialising, gospel messages, adoration and bringing them closer to church. The SYG core group meets every fortnight for prayer and planning," said Fr Rodrigues.

"I realised the youth needed someone to guide and motivate them to be rooted in Jesus. I would conduct outings, picnics, pilgrimages as part of the Youth Club activities.

"For our monthly meetings in Swindon, we now have around 200 youth in attendance, while these numbers can swell to about 500 youth at bigger events. We invite international speakers for our annual youth conventions in Swindon. Since we do not get financial support from the government, we generate funds from the Goan Chaplaincy and wellwishers from the Goan community,' he added.

FOCUS

Fr Rodrigues said the focus is to gather the youth in Swindon and surrounding areas at events, to strengthen their faith and to safeguard them from vices.

"These events occur in different forms, ranging from smaller events

Conclusion:

Magnanimity of a Goan tribe afar!

his concluding 20th column closes the chapter on the fundamental history of Goans in Karachi and how a minuscule group of people made a magnanimous impact on the lives of the people of the city and how their contributions made them worthy citizens of their adopted country - Pakistan. Thank you for reading my col-

Plucked from the boroughs of Karachi below, are Goans who bloomed where they were planted by God Almighty. Theirs is a saga not to be forgotten, being the torchbearers of a small settler community that made a significant contribution to the mainland before the partition, and in great measure, a worthy and extraordinary role, after 1947.

Below are listed the achievements of Karachi-born/based Goans and/or

Organisations whose contributions to India and Pakistan, are worthy to be inscribed in the history books for future generations. Omissions if any, are unintentional and/or unknown and therefore, regretted. Indicated years/titles/occurrences etc may vary. **1835:** Traces of Goan presence in Karachi, before the British takeover

1858: Joseph Caetano Misquita opens 'Misquita Bakery' (still survives) **1861:** Manoel Caldeira is the first Goan student enrolled in St Patrick's

1886: Goa-Portuguese Association (GPA) is established with 200+ 1894: Founding of Indian Life Assurance Co (the largest in India)

1897: Cincinnatus F D'Abreo, is Asst Collector, Karachi Customs 1898: Joseph Anthony Vaz, is the first Goan to pass the Indian Civil

1905: Aloysius de Mello, Bar-at-law, first Goan appointed to the Colonial Civil Service 1916: Fred J de Souza, first Goan appointed to Imperial Service of

Railways Engineers 1918: Edward Raymond, first Indian to be appointed Addl Judicial

1928: Goans establish 'Cincinnatus Town' – the city's first township 1928: Anthony Stanislaus D'Mello, founds Board of Control for Cricket in India

1930: Ignatius Sequeira is the city's eminent photographer, captures historical events 1930: Luis John Mascarenhas, first Indian to be appointed Secy Karachi

1931: Charles M Lobo composes 'Rise India' hymn dedicated to Christ the

1932: Frank D'Souza, first Indian on the British India Railway Board **1932:** Municipality names roads in Karachi after Goan pioneers

1933: Karachi Goan Association fetes the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) 1934: Anthony Stanislaus D'Mello, establishes Ranji Cricket tournament 1936: Peter Paul Fernandes, first Goan to represent British India at Berlin Olympics

1939: Mickey Correa's 'Optimists Band' debuts at Taj Mahal Hotel (plays

1940: Fourteen Karachi Goans form the crux of Gujrat Jesuits 1940: Bertie Gomes wins All-India Heavyweight Boxing Championships

1940: Hannibal D'Souza wins All-India Flyweight Boxing Championships 1945: Arthur Sequeira photographs Jinnah's official portrait at I Sequeira

1946: Jack Britto represents Sindh in the All-India Ranji Cricket Trophy 1946: Manuel Misquita, is the Mayor of Karachi 1947: Dr Orphino deSa is Chief Medical Officer of Karachi Municipality

1947: PARTITION

1948: Oswald Nazareth, co-manages Pakistan Hockey Team at London

1948: Milton D'Mello, first Goan to represent Pakistan at London Olympics 1950: Fr Valerian Gracias of Karachi, appointed Archbishop of Bombay

1951: Tolentine Fonseca notates the National Anthem of Pakistan 1951: Anthony Stanislaus D'Mello, Chairman, First Asian Games New

1952: Jack Britto represents Pakistan at the Helsinki Olympics 1954: Mennen Soares represents Pakistan at Thomas Cup Badminton

1953: Valerian Gracias (Archbishop of Bombay) elevated to Cardinal

1958: Fr Joseph Cordeiro appointed first local Archbishop of Karachi 1958: Mathais Wallis is the first Goan to play Test cricket, represents

1960: Michael Rodrigues (National Champion) represents Pakistan in **Table Tennis** 1961: Antao D'Souza is the second Goan to play Test cricket, represents

1964: Leonard Raymond (Bishop) appointed Archbishop of Nagpur,

1964: Herman Raymond (Justice) Judge of the High Court of West Pakistan

1964: Dominic Gonsalves is Music Director (35 years) at Radio Pakistan 1965: Xavier Sisters is the first all-women popular band in Pakistan 1966: Aloysius D'Mello is Deputy Secy Board of Revenue, Pakistan

1967: Angelo Fernandes (Bishop) appointed Archbishop of New Delhi,

1970: Anthony Mascarenhas, is the Assistant Editor, Morning News 1973: Joseph Cordeiro (Archbishop) elevated to Cardinal of Pakistan (Pakistan's first)

1973: Armando Trinidad (Bishop) appointed Archbishop of Lahore

1973: Sidney Pereira, appointed Chairman, Pakistan Atomic Commission 1974: Francis X Lobo, appointed Chairman, Pakistan Red Crescent

1974: Ben F D'Souza, appointed Asst Commissioner of Karachi 1975: Fr Derek Misquita, elected Member, National Assembly of Pakistan

1976: Joseph J D'Mello, appointed Chairman, Pakistan Railways

1978: Stephen Menezes, appointed Registrar, Trademarks Pakistan

1978: Bishop Anthony T Lobo, appointed Chairman, Pakistan Education

1987: Lenny Dias (Billiards) represents Pakistan at Asian Championships Bombay

1993: Roland deSouza, Council Member of the Human Rights Commission

of Pakistan 1993: Anthony Sales represents Pakistan at World & Asian Stamps

Championships

1993: Simeon Pereira (Bishop) appointed Archbishop of Karachi

1997: Evarist Pinto (Bishop) appointed Archbishop of Karachi 2008: Louis (Gumby) Pinto is Pakistan's celebrity drummer/percussionist

2013: Cyril Almeida, prominent op-ed journalist, appointed Asst Editor 2018: Joseph Coutts (Archbishop) elevated to Cardinal of Pakistan

Among tens of Christians who were decorated with national medals

2021: Benny Travas (Bishop of Multan) appointed Archbishop of Karachi

of recognition for their services to Pakistan, the Goans included, Blaise Mascarenhas (1965), Brig Mervyn Cardoza (1965), Aloysius D'Mello (1966), Stephen Menezes (1966), Dr Hermenegild Drago (2002), Brig Hilary Zuzarte (1977), Air Comm Charles Zuzarte (1977), Sr Mary Emily Gonsalves (2009), Norma Fernandes (2014), Journalist Cyril Almeida was awarded the 'World Press Freedom Hero' (2019) by the International Press Institute.

Kuwait dances to Shahu's melody!

THE GOAN NETWORK | PANAJI

hahu belonged to a family of tiatrists and developed the basic interest and passion observing his father Pedro Almeida perform in the village tiatrs and Carnival 'fells'. He was a clever student in school and it was on account of this clever nature, his friends and batchmates called him Shahu; a name of the Maratha King that led people to know him more as Shahu Almeida than his actual name Francisco Almeida.

From a tender young age, he had a passion for drums and drummed to glory for beat groups and dance bands like Magic Touch, The News, Human Status and Black Lace. Shahu turned his attention towards the keyboards, firmly believing that keyboard was the musical instrument of the future.

With his father belonging to the tiatr fraternity, Shahu was naturally inclined towards tiatr music and he approached tiatr directors for

His desire to perform and contribute his share to tiatr music saw him ascending the ladder of success playing music for several tiatr band Migration led Shahu to Kuwait towards the

dawn of the new millennium. Though in a distant land far away from his own, Shahu did not give up on his music. He was of the firm belief that music was a gift given to him by God and with a grateful and thankful heart he began playing the keyboard for the church services there.

When God is part of your journey new avenues open up. Shahu began playing for the tiatr troupes visiting Kuwait. When Mini Mario went to Kuwait with his tiatr Ho Bazar Koslo?, he was faced with visa rejection of his entire band. Here Shahu came to his rescue. He was given the musical notations just a day in advance and Shahu put in his hard work and worked to see the tiatr getting successful. Since Shahu could manage the musical band on his own, visiting troupes found it financially viable and soon Shahu and his music became a household name not only in Kuwait but way back here in Goa too.



Shahu provided music to the tiatrs of many music directors like Jose Rod, Cajetan de Sanvordem, Rosary Ferns, Michael D'Silva, Laurente Pereira and others.

Performing for others and helping them in staging their tiatr productions, Shahu dreamt big and decided to stage his own musical shows. With the support of his wife Clemmie, daughter of the legend Cajetan de Sanvordem, Shahu staged his first Musical Show in 2011 under the title "Tiatrist". The success was hard-earned and the enthusiasm and good feedback he received made him venture yet again two years later with his musical show 'Goencho Rakhonnddar'. His next presentation titled Tiatristponn Devachem Dennem came in 2016. Tumkanch Lagon Ami, Konknni Machiechi Seva and Ugddas Dovrun Gele followed in the next 3 years.

With the Covid pandemic looming large, Shahu had his next musical show Ixtta, Ugddas Tuzo, online in 2021. His musical show Sodanch Iivo Urtolo held in the Indian Community School Auditorium Salmiya Kuwait on October 21 saw the Konkani music-crazy fans enjoying his brand of Goan music with encores.

'State Facilitation Goa' event held in Kuwait



THE GOAN NETWORK | PANAII

fforts to promote Goa as an ideal tourist and business destination were highlighted at the 'State Facilitation Goa' event organised by the Indian Embassy in Kuwait According to a report in the Arab Times, the First

Secretary (Commerce) Dr Vinod Gaikwad, who welcomed the gathering on behalf of Ambassador of India to Kuwait Sibi George, said Goa is the most known tourist destinations of India in Kuwait and is famous for the right blend of traditionality and modernity. Dr Vinod Gaikwad appealed to the Kuwaitis to visit the beautiful destination to enjoy the warm hospitality of the Goan people, adding that there is direct air connectivity between Kuwait and Goa.

The Arab Times report quoted Dr Gaikwad describing Goa as not only about a beautiful landscape, but also for upcoming knowledge-based industries destination like IT and pharmaceuticals. The event included virtual presentations by the Goa Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI), Goa Investment and Promotion Board (IPB) and Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC), the Arab Times report added. Cultural performances were also staged during the 'State Facilitation Goa' event. The presentation by GCCI focused on the potential of trade

between India and Kuwait, the opportunities for investment in Goa along with the purpose of Invest Goa 2022. The Goa Investment Promotion and Facilitation Board

highlighted the Goa Industrial Growth and Investment Promotion Policy 2022, reforms made by the state government and an overview of the incentives like Investment Promotion and Single Window Clearance Act. The GTDC focused on the vibrant tourism industry in Goa, the competitive advantages enjoyed by Goa, the infrastructure projects and promotion of

heritage and culture of Goa.