

## Dr. Irene Silveira Almeida of Goa University awarded the *Chevalier de l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques*



Dr. Irene Silveira Almeida, Assistant Professor in the Discipline of French and Francophone Studies at Goa University, was conferred the *Chevalier de l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques* (French National Order of Academic Palms) on 25 May 2026. The award was presented by H.E. Patrick Leverino, Consul General of France in Mumbai, in a ceremony attended by delegates of the French Institute in India, the French Embassy, France Éducation Internationale, academics from Goa University, and teachers of French from India and neighbouring countries, along with family and friends.

Dr. Silveira Almeida had been informed of the award in June 2024, though the investiture ceremony took place in May 2026. The ceremony was held in conjunction with the regional BELC programme, held at Goa University, and brought together educators and stakeholders in French language education from across the region.

Instituted by Napoleon I in 1808, the *Palmes Académiques* is one of France's oldest civilian honours, awarded to academics and intellectuals in France and abroad who have made significant contributions to education and intellectual culture. Dr. Silveira Almeida was recognised for her scholarship and her sustained contribution to French education and culture.

Her academic interests span French and Francophone Literature, Diaspora and Culture Studies, Sociolinguistics, Didactics, Goa Studies, and Historical Representations. She served as Pedagogical Director of the *Alliance Française de Goa* from 2006 to 2010 and has been on the faculty of Goa University since 2014. Over the course of her career, she has published research papers in journals of national and international standing, presented at numerous conferences, and been invited as a resource person for training sessions and academic programmes. Her doctoral thesis focused on Goan migration to Europe, specifically titled

*L'émigration goannaise vers la France- une étude d'intégration sociale et linguistique* [Goan Immigration to France- A study of social and linguistic integration]. She is currently guiding three PhD scholars whose work collectively explores the intersections of culture, identity, and migration in the Asia-Europe context. Over twenty-five years of teaching, research and cultural engagement, Dr. Silveira Almeida has contributed to the promotion of the French language and Francophone cultures through initiatives in innovative pedagogy, literary translation, and intercultural learning. In her acceptance speech, she expressed deep gratitude to the French Republic, French institutions in India, Goa University, her colleagues, mentors, students and family members, emphasising that the honour represented not merely an individual achievement, but a collective journey shaped by transmission, intercultural dialogue and academic collaboration.

With this honour, Dr. Silveira Almeida joins a distinguished line of recipients from the Discipline of French and Francophone Studies at Goa University, namely Dr. Manohar Rai Sardesai, Prof. Anuradha Wagle, Dr. Edith Melo Furtado, and Mrs. Marise D'Lima, each of whom has contributed significantly to the promotion of the French language and culture.