

GOA UNIVERSITY

Shenoi Goembab School of Languages and Literature &
D.D. Kosambi School of Social Sciences and Behavioural Studies

Event Report on

LOVE AND WAR - INDEPENDENCE DAY COMMEMORATION 2026

To commemorate India's Independence Day, the Shenoi Goembab School of Languages and Literature (SGSLL), in collaboration with the D.D. Kosambi School of Social Sciences and Behavioural Studies (DDKSSS&BS), organised an event titled 'Love & War' on 14th August 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., in the Seminar Hall, Block B, Goa University.

The event opened with an address by Dr. Irene Silveira Almeida, Assistant Professor of French and Event Coordinator, who laid out the rationale behind the event. She noted that every year the Discipline of French and Francophone Studies has been organising events for the Independence Day Commemoration that bring together the franco-indian connections, along with themes of interest to the larger public. She underlined the significance of such initiatives and its implications for research and academic rigour.

Prof. Nagendra Rao, Dean, DDKSSS&BS, then addressed the gathering, underlining the importance of bringing lesser-known histories to light and commending the collaborative effort between the two schools.

The first segment of the event was a screening of Vijay Singh's docu-fiction *Farewell My Indian Soldier*. Vijay Singh is an Indian filmmaker, screenplay-writer, and novelist based in Paris. His film offers a moving portrayal of the 150,000 Indian soldiers who fought in France and Belgium during the First World War, a virtually unknown chapter of history. Drawing on rare archival material, historical testimonies, century-old Indian war songs, and 600 letters written home, the film traces these soldiers' experiences through the lens of love and human affection.

The second segment featured a discussion on the film alongside a sharing of oral histories. Mrs. Marise D'Lima, former faculty of the Department of Portuguese, Goa University, and current Secretary, Alliance Française, Panaji, was the special invitee. She shared fascinating oral histories of the German presence in Goa during the Second World War, highlighting how human connections endured even amid the horrors of war. The segment was moderated by Ms. Veda Kansar, student, M.A. History, Goa University.

In her closing address, Prof. Anuradha Wagle, Dean, SGSLL, observed that history is made not only by kings, generals, and political leaders, but equally by ordinary people. She noted that recovering forgotten voices also means recovering parts of our shared humanity, and urged the students in the audience to treat the event as a starting point for further research in this direction.

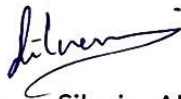
The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Anthony Gomes, Event Co-ordinator and Programme Director, B.A. French, Goa University. He remarked that the day's event was not about victors' history, but history from below, and extended his

gratitude to all stakeholders involved.

Aligned with SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and SDG 4 (Quality Education), the event promoted a culture of peace and historical remembrance while fostering global citizenship, cultural exchange, and interdisciplinary learning.

The event was attended by a total of 135 participants, out of which, 12 were faculty members, 2 were non-GU guests, and 121 students from various disciplines and schools of Goa University.

The event was conceptualised and coordinated by Dr. Irene Silveira Almeida and Dr. Anthony Gomes, Assistant Professors, Discipline of French and Francophone Studies. It was supported by student volunteers from TYBA French: Ms. Feivel Coutinho, Mr. Nathan Couto, and Mr. Kenneth D'Souza, along with Ms. Reboni Araujo, who also compered the event.



Dr. Irene Silveira Almeida
Event Coordinator



Dr. Anthony Gomes
Event Co-Coordinator



Dr. Anthony Gomes
Programme Director, B.A. French
Programme Director
B. A. French (Hons)



Dr. Nalini Naik
Programme Director, M.A. History



Prof. Anuradha Wagle
Dean, SGSLL

Shenoi Goembab School of
Languages & Literature
Goa University

DEAN
Shenoi Goembab School of
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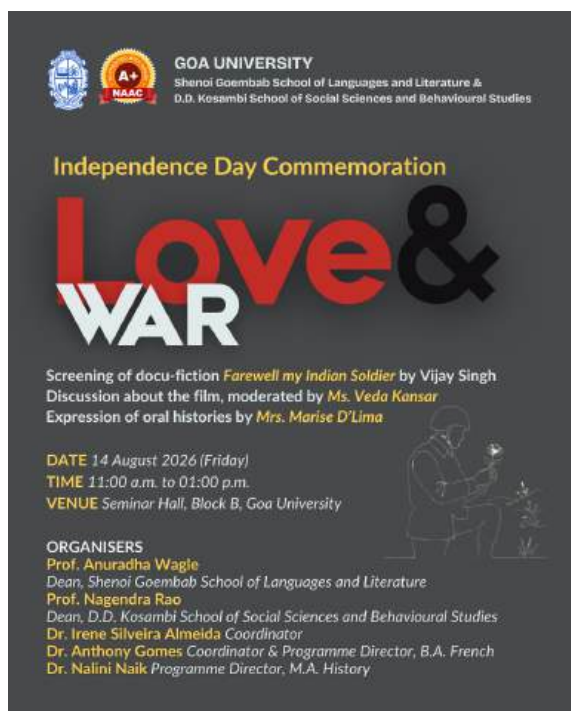


Prof. Narendra Rao
Dean, DDKSSS&BS

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DEAN
D. D. Kosambi School of Social Sciences
& Behavioural Studies
Goa University

POSTER OF THE EVENT



GOA UNIVERSITY
Shenoi Goembab School of Languages and Literature &
D.D. Kosambi School of Social Sciences and Behavioural Studies

Independence Day Commemoration

Love & War

Screening of docu-fiction *Farewell my Indian Soldier* by Vijay Singh
Discussion about the film, moderated by **Ms. Veda Kansar**
Expression of oral histories by **Mrs. Marise D'Lima**

DATE 14 August 2026 (Friday)
TIME 11:00 a.m. to 01:00 p.m.
VENUE Seminar Hall, Block B, Goa University

ORGANISERS
Prof. Anuradha Wagle
Dean, Shenoi Goembab School of Languages and Literature
Prof. Nagendra Rao
Dean, D.D. Kosambi School of Social Sciences and Behavioural Studies
Dr. Irene Silveira Almeida Coordinator
Dr. Anthony Gomes Coordinator & Programme Director, B.A. French
Dr. Nalini Naik Programme Director, M.A. History



ABOUT THE DOCU-FICTION

Vijay Singh's film *Farewell My Indian Soldier* is a docu-fiction, a moving portrayal of Indian soldiers who came to fight in France and Belgium during the First World War. The presence of these 150,000 soldiers in Europe is a virtually unknown fact of history.

In this film, Vijay Singh recounts the story of Indian soldiers through the eyes of love and human affection. During their furlough on French farms, some Indian soldiers and French women developed affection for each other, and children were born. These Indo-French children became the victims of taboo, because of which most people avoided them. This film is inspired by the story of one such child. In this film, a young girl, a descendant of an unknown Indian soldier and his French hostess, journeys across France, Belgium, England and India, and weaves around it the fascinating story of Indian soldiers in WWI.

Using rare archive, historical testimonies, 100-year old Indian war songs and 600 insightful letters written home by soldiers about their mind-altering experience in France, this film tells the story of these men, 10,000 of whom were never to return to their motherland.



ABOUT VIJAY SINGH

Vijay Singh is an Indian filmmaker, screenplay-writer and novelist living in Paris.

After studying History at St Stephen's College, Delhi, and at the Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, he moved to the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris, for his doctoral work.

From the early eighties, he started writing extensively for *Le Monde*, *Le Monde Diplomatique*, *Liberation*, *The Guardian*, and several other international newspapers and magazines.

Over the last two decades, he has written and directed four internationally acclaimed films. *Jaya Ganga* (*Jaya, fille du Gange*), his widely-reviewed first feature, ran for 49 weeks in the Paris cinema, before repeating a similar story in the UK. Vijay Singh's second feature film, *One Dollar Curry*, was released in India, France and the UK. His film *India By Song*, released in 2010, was received enthusiastically by theatrical and television audiences worldwide.

Vijay Singh is also the writer-director of the documentaries *Shadi Lal, le cuisinier chef mystique* and *Chami and Ana the Elephant* (*Man and Elephant / L'Homme et l'éléphant*), which has been shown on nearly 100 television channels worldwide.

Before stepping into the world of cinema, Vijay Singh had published several books that won wide critical acclaim: *Jaya Ganga, In Search Of the River Goddess* (Penguin 1989; Rupa 2005), *Jaya Ganga, le Gange et son Double* (Ramsay 1985; Ginkgo éditeur 2005), *La Nuit Paignardée* (Flammarion 1987), *Whirlpool of Shadows* (Jonathan Cape, 1992; Ramsay 1992; Rupa 2005), a children's book, *The River Goddess* (Moonlight 1994), *La déesse qui devint fleuve* (Gallimard Jeunesse 1993), and *Gange, fleuve et déesse* (Éditions de la Flandronnière 2014; Photographs by Jacques Raymond). His books have been translated into French and other European languages.

Vijay Singh's films have been nominated for Best Film awards at several renowned festivals. *Chami and Ana the Elephant* (*Man and Elephant / L'Homme et l'éléphant*) was awarded *Le Grand Prix des Enfants 'La Titine 2002'* in Switzerland. *India by Song* won the *River to River Digital Audience award* for Best Documentary in Florence, Italy 2010.

Vijay Singh is the recipient of the *Leonardo da Vinci Award* in 1994 for screenplay writing, and the *Prix Villa Médicis hors les murs* for foreign literature in 1990.

Link to post :

https://www.instagram.com/french_goauniversity?igsh=Z2sxOHQ5cmZnNDNv

GEO-TAGGED AND NON-GEOTAGGED PHOTOS



Group picture (opening) - In the presence of Prof. Nagendra Rao (Dean, DDKSS&BS), along with Dr. Anthony Gomes (P.D., B.A. French & Event coordinator), Dr. Nalini Naik (P.D., M.A. History), and Dr. Irene Silveira Almeida (Event coordinator)



Group picture (closing) - In the presence of Prof. Anuradha Wagle (Dean, SGSL) and Mrs. Marise D'Lima (Guest invitee), along with Dr. Anthony Gomes (P.D., B.A. French & Event coordinator) and Dr. Irene Silveira Almeida (Event coordinator)



Attendees during the screening of Vijay Singh's docu-fiction *Farewell my Indian Soldier*



Expression of Oral Histories by Mrs. Marise D'Lima (Guest invitee), moderated by Ms. Veda Kansar (Student, M.A. History)



Dr. Irene Silveira Almeida (Event Coordinator) delivering the opening address)



Prof. Nagendra Rao (Dean, DDKSS&BS) delivering the welcome address



Prof. Anuradha Wagle (Dean, SGSLL) delivering the closing address



Dr. Anthony Gomes (P.D., B.A. French & Event Coordinator) proposing the Vote of Thanks

LIST OF ATTENDEES

GOA UNIVERSITY
Shenoi Goembeb School of Languages and Literature &
D.D. Kosambi School of Social Sciences and Behavioural Studies

LOVE & WAR - Independence Day Commemoration 2026

Date: Friday, 14 August 2026 | Time: 11:00 AM
Venue: Seminar Hall, Block B, Goa University

ATTENDANCE SHEET

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64	Ravin Gmur	English		
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66	Analiux Fernandes	Marine Microbiology		
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70	Hema Chauhan	History		

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76	Trusha U. Nirmekar	History		
77	Clara D'Souza	History		
78	Samruddhi Targoe	History		
79	Jonesy Moraes	MA History		
80	Krishna Pagui	History		
81	Creelali Velip	History		
82	Satyamb. Katar	English		
83	Mihiri Choudhary	English		
84	Pearlin Gonsalves	English		
85	Foras 7e Costa Gomes Rodolfo	English		

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