Chowgule Education Society's

Parvatibai Chowgule College of Arts and Science

(Autonomous)

Accredited by NAAC with Grade 'A+'

Best Affiliated College-Goa University Silver Jubilee Year Award

HIGHLIGHTS – APRIL, MAY & JUNE 2026

Orientation Programme for First-Year Undergraduate Students

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Activities and remarkable achievements for the month of April, May and June 2026

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From the Principal's (Officiating Principal) Desk

Dear All,

Greetings!
I hope this message finds you well. We are happy to share some of the activities organized by various Departments and College Committees for the months of April, May & June 2026. We also highlight faculty participation, achievements of staff and our students.

We celebrate the achievements and contributions of all the students and staff members.

With Best Wishes

Dr. Meghana S. Devli
Offg. Principal

ACADEMIC SECTION

College Highlights

- **World Environment Day 2026 Celebration**

In observance of World Environment Day 2026, College organized a day of **Environmental Advocacy and Sustainable Initiatives** on 5th June 2026, under the leadership of college Administrator Dr. C.U. Rivonker and Offg. Principal Dr. Meghana Devli.

The event commenced with a tree plantation drive on the college campus, reinforcing the institution's commitment to ecological conservation. The programme featured a short talk by an expert by Chief Guest, Retired Senior Prof. Bernard Rodrigues, Goa University, who shared profound insights on environmental preservation. In a significant contribution to the college's academic resources, Prof. Rodrigues presented a copy of his book to the college library.

The event also highlighted the importance of sustainable transportation, with an exhibition of the latest electric vehicle (EV) technology by KIA.

World Environment Day 2026

- **Talk: Advancing Biodiversity Research Through International Collaboration**

The School of Life Sciences hosted a talk and interaction titled "**Advancing Biodiversity Research through International Collaboration: Experiences from BIOPOLIS-CIBIO, University of Porto**" on 22nd June 2026. The guest speaker an Alumnus of the college, Dr. Fraddry D'Souza (Principal Researcher, Universidade do Porto, Portugal) shared his insight on international scientific partnerships, research, and academic collaboration between India and Portugal. During his talk, Dr. D'Souza emphasized that because biodiversity loss and climate change cross borders, modern conservation requires shared international data and networks. He detailed the CIBIO-InBIO network—connecting major institutions like the University of Porto and the University of Azores—which operates through foundational "TwinLabs" focused on joint research, advanced training, infrastructure, and science outreach. He further highlighted the network's premier academic programs, such as the BIODIV Doctoral Programme.

Dr. D'Souza also showcased the diverse research frontiers being tackled through CIBIO's specialized thematic groups. These include critical areas in Ecology and Conservation—such as desert biodiversity (BIODESERTS) and wildlife conservation ecology (WILDEcol)—as well as advanced fields in Evolution and Genomics, ranging from ancient DNA (ADNA) research to plant biology and agrigenomics. This comprehensive talk provided our students and faculty with a profound look into the architecture of global scientific partnerships, inspiring our campus community toward international collaboration and scientific excellence.

The session was attended by 69 students and 16 faculty members. Following the session, Dr. D'Souza also interacted with faculties regarding various research opportunities and collaborations.

Glimpse of the talk

- **Orientation Programme for First-Year Undergraduate Students**

The College conducted a **Three-phase Orientation Programme** for first-year B.A., B.Sc., and B.Voc. students from 25th to 27th June, 2026. The Overall Orientation Programme, held on 25th and 26th June, 2026, familiarised students with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 framework, Academic Bank of Credits (ABC), academic regulations, examination and assessment systems, student welfare initiatives, mentoring, internships, placements, anti-ragging and POSH policies, National Service Scheme (NSS), National Cadet Corps (NCC), sports, Institution's Innovation Council (IIC), library, and community outreach initiatives. On 27 June 2026, Departmental Orientation Programmes introduced students to their respective departments, faculty, curriculum, academic regulations, and academic opportunities. This was followed by an Ice-Breaking Session organised by the Office of Students' Affairs, featuring interactive and team-building activities that facilitated peer interaction, familiarised students with campus life, and fostered confidence, collaboration, and a sense of belonging.

Glimpse of orientation programme

- **Launch of New Self-Financed Programme: B.A. in Services Management**

The Department of Hospitality and Tourism proudly launched a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Services Management, a new programme designed to meet the growing demand for skilled professionals in the dynamic service sector. As the services industry continues to be one of the largest contributors to economic growth and employment, this programme equips students with the knowledge, practical skills, and professional competencies required to excel in customer-focused industries.

The B.A. in Services Management offers an interdisciplinary industry-integrated curriculum. The programme emphasises experiential learning through industry interactions, internships, field visits, case studies, role plays, and skill-based training, enabling students to develop strong leadership, communication, problem-solving, and customer service skills.

- **Farewell Function Honouring Mr. Uday B. Naik on Superannuation**

A farewell function was organised on behalf of the Management, Officiating Principal, and Staff to honour Mr. Uday B. Naik, Multi-Tasking Staff (M.T.S.), Department of Geology, on his superannuation on 30 May 2026. In recognition of his service for around 40 years of dedicated service and valuable contribution to the institution, he was felicitated by the Officiating Principal. A memento and citation on behalf of the Directorate of Higher Education (DHE) were also presented to him in appreciation of his long and dedicated service.

Farewell Function Honouring Mr. Uday B. Naik

Students Section

Students Participation/Attended

- Mr. Pushparaj Naik, a Third Year B.Sc. student of Botany and Chemistry, represented Goa University as a member of the **Men's Powerlifting Team** at the **Association of Indian Universities (AIU) All India Inter-University Powerlifting Men and Women Championship 2025–26**, held from 3rd to 8th June 2026 at Hindustan University, Chennai. Mr. Audumbar Tamse accompanied the team as the Coach-cum-Manager.

Mr. Pushparaj at AIU

Faculty Section

Faculty Achievements

- **Prof (Dr.) Nandkumar Sawant**, Head, Department of Geography and Research Centre**,** was honoured with the **Green Scholar Award** by the Indian Society of Human Ecology, Jaipur, on the occasion of World Environment Day, in recognition of his contributions to environmental conservation. Dr. Sawant has published over 75 research articles and has been actively involved in environmental initiatives through GLOBE (Geographers Loving Our Beautiful Environment) and Geographers for Sustainability.

Green Scholar award

Invitation as Plenary Speaker/Resource Person

- **Prof. Sameena Falleiro**, Dean of Science and Professor in the Department of Computer Science, served as the Resource Person for a Faculty Development Programme organised by Government College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Khandola, Marcela, Goa, on 25th April 2026. She delivered a session on **"Navigating Academic Autonomy: Policy, Practice and Institutional Experience,"** focusing on curriculum development, teaching-learning and evaluation practices, implementation of autonomy, and integration of NEP 2020 within the autonomous framework. The session was attended by nearly 25 faculty members and included interactive discussions and group activities.

Prof. Sameena Falleiro as the Resource Person

- **Prof (Dr.) Nandkumar Sawant**, Head, Department of Geography and Research Centre**,** was invited as a Plenary Speaker at the national conference on the theme "India's Response to Climate Change: Action, Adaptation and Achievement"**,** jointly organised by RSSM, Jaipur**,** Indian Society of Human Ecology (IHEC), Jaipur**,** in association with SSRAN and USHA, on 5th and 6th June 2026 in Jaipur. He delivered a plenary lecture titled "**Balancing Prosperity and Ecology: Climate Challenges in Goa's Coastal Tourism Belt**", highlighting the impact of coastal tourism on Goa's landscape and its micro-environment.

Dr. Nandkumar Sawant delivering lecture

- **Dr. Mayuri Gaonkar**, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, served as the Resource Person for the Orientation Training Programme on the **16th Finance Commission Recommendations and Quality Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP)** organised by the Goa Institute of Public Administration and Rural Development (GIPARD) from 11th to 13th June 2026.

Faculty Participation/Attended

- **Dr. Nandkumar Sawant**, Head, Department of Geography and Research Centre, participated in the following professional development programmes:

1. Participated in the Faculty Development Programme on **Future Ready Teaching Practices** organised by the Indian Institute of Technology Mandi, Himachal Pradesh, from 6th to 8th May 2026.
2. Attended a **two-day Vision Summit 2026**, organised by the IIT Mandi, on 19th and 20th June 2026.
3. Attended a Workshop on **AI Tools and ChatGPT** organised by be10X on 28th June 2026. The workshop focused on introducing Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools to enhance participants' efficiency and effectiveness.

- **Asst. Prof. Filomena Pereira**, Department of Zoology, was selected to participate in the **Training Programme for Master Trainers** under the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) scheme organised by the Goa Institute of Public Administration and Rural Development (GIPARD), Old Goa, from 25th to 27th May 2026. The programme focused on strengthening expertise in key thematic areas of Panchayati Raj, including the 16th Finance Commission, Own Source Revenue, Local Sustainable Development Goals, Panchayat Advancement Index, and Quality Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) for implementation during the financial year 2026–27.

Group picture taken at GIPARD, Old Goa at the outset of Training Programme for Master Trainers on Panchayati Raj

- **Dr. Mayuri Gaonkar**, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, participated in the following professional development and academic activities:

  1. Attended the Training Programme for Master Trainers Under Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) Scheme organized by Goa Institute of Public Administration & Rural Development from 25th to 27th May 2026
  2. Undergone Innovation Ambassador (IA) training 'Foundation Level' conducted in online mode by MoE's Innovation Cell & AICTE during the IIC calendar year 2025-26.
  3. Completed a Refresher course in Chemical sciences (Residential) held from 10th March 2026 to 25th March 2026 conducted by Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre (MMTTC), Goa University.

- **Dr. Mayuri Gaonkar**, Department of Chemistry; **Asst. Prof. Amisha R. Pednekar**, Department of Botany; **Asst. Prof. Filomena Pereira**, Department of Zoology, participated in the **three-day Faculty Development Programme on Universal Human Values (UHV)-Integrated Student Induction Programme (SIP)** organised by the Directorate of Higher Education, Government of Goa, from 16th to 18th June 2026. The programme aimed to equip faculty members with the understanding and skills required to effectively implement the Universal Human Values (UHV) framework through the Student Induction Programme (SIP).

Group picture taken at the outset of 3- day Residential UHV-Integrated Student Induction Training Programme at Pilar, Goa

Department Activities

1) Department of Computer Science

- The Department conducted an **orientation programme** for the First Year B.Sc. Computer Science students on 27th June 2026**.** The session, led by Dr. Shaila Ghanti, Head of the Department, introduced students to the department's legacy, achievements, faculty, and distinguished alumni. Students were briefed on the NEP curriculum structure, including Major, Minor, MDC, AEC, SEC, and VOC courses, along with examination regulations, assessment methods, and departmental curricular and co-curricular activities. The interactive session provided clarity on academic expectations and opportunities, facilitating a smooth transition into the programme. A total of 34 students attended the orientation.

Glimpse of orientation programme

- The Department organised a **Final Year Project Orientation Session** on 26th June 2026**.** The session was conducted by Mrs. Ashweta Shirvoikar, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science, who provided comprehensive guidance on the project development life cycle, covering domain selection, problem identification, literature survey, requirement analysis, system design, implementation, testing, and documentation. Students were also introduced to the data-centric workflow for Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence (ML/AI)-based projects, including data collection, exploratory data analysis (EDA), feature selection, model training, and model evaluation. The orientation enabled students to gain a clear understanding of the project development process and make informed decisions while selecting and planning their final year projects. A total of 33 students attended the session.

Glimpse of Final year project orientation

2) Department of Geography & Research Centre

- Under the **Summer School Programme**, the Department organised a 30-hour **Short-Term Certificate Course** titled "**Mapping the World: GNSS, RNSS and GIS Essentials**" from 16th to 29th May 2026**.** The course was conducted by Mr. Deepak Kumbhar, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography and Research Centre**,** CES's Parvatibai Chowgule College of Arts and Science (Autonomous). A total of 11 students and 2 research scholars successfully completed the course.

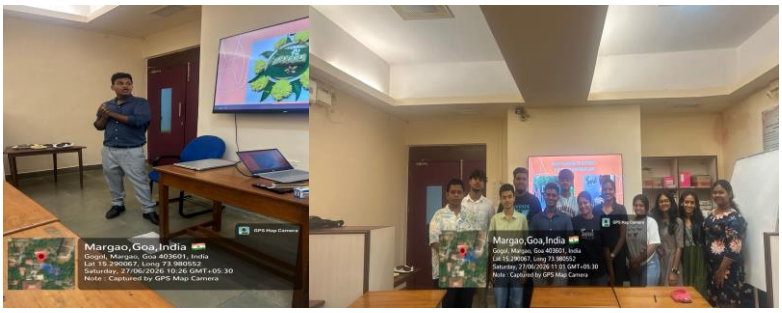
Summer school programme participants

- The Department of Geography organised a workshop on "**Interactive Learning: Fostering Confidence and Teamwork**" for M.A. Geography students on 23rd June 2026. The session was conducted by Dr. Adrian Ferro, Assistant Professor in Geography**,** and focused on promoting experiential learning through interactive activities that encouraged active participation, critical thinking, collaboration, and the development of confidence, communication, teamwork, and leadership skills. The interactive session provided students with an opportunity to learn beyond the traditional classroom, helping them build essential interpersonal and life skills in alignment with the principles of the National Education Policy (NEP). A total of 14 students participated in the workshop.

Glimpse of Workshop

3) Department of Services Management and Hospitality & Tourism

- The Department organised "**Chai with Pankaj – Alumni Interaction Session**" on 27th June 2026 for the students of **B.A. in Services Management**. The session featured Mr. Pankaj Kamble, alumni of the Department's Certificate Programme in Aviation, and Ms. Medora, alumni of CES's Parvatibai Chowgule College of Arts and Science (Autonomous). Drawing on his experiences with **Soul Travelling** and as the **founder of Ruchik Gazali**, Mr. Kamble shared his journey from student to hospitality professional and entrepreneur. The session provided insights into career opportunities in tourism, hospitality, and entrepreneurship, highlighted the importance of preserving local culture and heritage through tourism and food, and encouraged students to pursue innovation, leadership, and entrepreneurial ventures.



Glimpse of Chai with Pankaj

- The **Department of Hospitality and Tourism** organised a **São João Celebration** for the **B.A. in Services Management** students to promote Goa's rich cultural heritage and create awareness about one of the State's traditional festivals. Students and faculty participated by making colourful *kopels* (floral headgear), while the celebration also featured traditional Goan sweets associated with São João. The activity provided students with experiential learning by connecting Goan culture with the hospitality and tourism industry and fostering an appreciation of local traditions.

Glimpse of São João Celebration

4) Department of Physical Education & Sports Management (DPSM)

- **International Day of Yoga**

The Department of Physical Education & Sports Management organised International Day of Yoga on 21st June 2026 at the College Quad. The programme was conducted in accordance with the theme, "Yoga for Healthy Ageing: Transforming Daily Habits into a Culture of Wellness."

The programme commenced with a welcome address by Mr. Audumbar Tamse, Instructor in Physical Education, who highlighted the significance of International Day of Yoga. The Common Yoga Protocol began with a video presentation of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's address at the United Nations in 2014, followed by the opening prayer.

The Common Yoga Protocol was demonstrated by Mr. Shreyansh Naik, while Mr. Audumbar Tamse guided the participants throughout the session. The session included warm-up exercises, various yoga postures, Kapalbhati, and Dhyana (meditation), concluding with the Shanti Path.

The programme was attended by 18 participants, including 12 faculty members and 6 students. The event promoted awareness regarding yoga practices and their role in maintaining physical and mental well-being.

Glimpse of International Day of Yoga

Activities by College Committees

1) Institution's Innovation Cell (IIC)

CES's Parvatibai Chowgule College of Arts and Science (Autonomous) received a **grant of ₹10 lakh** under the **Goa Startup Policy 2025** of the Government of Goa to establish an **Incubation Centre** on the campus. The grant cheque was presented by Dr. Pramod Sawant, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa, at a programme held on 29th June 2026 at Mantralaya, Porvorim, in the presence of Shri Rohan A. Khaunte, Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology**,** and Dr. Chandrakant Shetye, MLA**.** The Incubation Centre aims to create a co-working space and provide mentorship and support for the idea-to-startup journey, as part of the State's initiative to promote early-stage startups.

College receiving grants to establish Incubation Centre

2) Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC)

The IQAC organised a **Workshop on NAAC & Benchmarking** on 24th April 2026 in the Conference Room for IQAC and NAAC Criteria Coordinators. The workshop focused on critically evaluating institutional processes aligned with NAAC criteria, identifying strengths and gaps, benchmarking practices against quality standards, and formulating strategies for continuous improvement in the forthcoming academic year.

The workshop included criterion-wise review and discussions on curricular aspects, teaching-learning practices, research and innovation, infrastructure, student support, governance, and institutional values. Key focus areas identified included strengthening research output, improving documentation and data validation, enhancing student progression and employability, formalising institutional policies, and expanding industry and consultancy linkages. A total of 11 participants, including 10 faculty members and 1 staff member, attended the workshop.

Workshop on NAAC & Benchmarking

3) National Service Scheme (NSS)

The National Service Scheme (NSS) Unit organised a **Nasha Mukt Bharat Pledge Taking Ceremony** on 25th June 2026 as part of the National Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan (Drug-Free India Campaign)**.** The pledge was administered by Dr. Bhanumati Pilli, NSS Chief Programme Officer**,** who highlighted the physical, psychological, and social consequences of substance abuse. Students and staff collectively pledged to abstain from drug use, promote a healthy lifestyle, and encourage others to remain free from substance abuse, reaffirming the College's commitment to fostering a safe, healthy, and drug-free campus.

Nasha Mukt Bharat Pledge Taking Ceremony

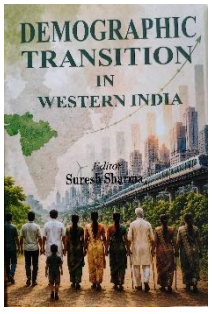
RESEARCH SECTION

Papers Published

- **Research Paper Publication**
  1. D. J. Kumbhar, N. Sawant, and R. K. Chaturvedi (2026) "Green to Grey: Spatial Transformation and Urban expansion of Panjim City -India (2003-2023)," Geoplanning: Journal of Geomatics and Planning, vol. 13, no. 1, June 2026. pp https://doi.org/10.14710/ geoplanning.13.1.%p (Scopus Indexed Journal)

  2. Publication on “Faunal Assemblages and Ecological Attributes of the Ushanar Cave” by Asst Prof. Shalma Mascarenhas:
     Mascarenhas, S., Kurpaskar, O., & Borkar, M. R. (2026). Faunal Assemblages and Ecological Attributes of the Ushanar Cave, Bandora, Goa, India. Environment and Ecology, 44(2A), 443–452. https://doi.org/10.60151/envec/OVHG3769

- **Book Chapter**
  Sawant, N & Chitten C. (2026). Demographic Divergence in Western India: Linking socio-economic development and demographic transition across states. In Demographic transition in Western India (Ed.). New Delhi: BK Books International. ISBN 978-81-932517-9-9 Pp33-48.



Papers Presented

- **Dr. Nandkumar Sawant**, Head, Department of Geography and Research Centre, and Ms. Lerrisa D'Costa, Research Scholar, presented a research paper titled "**Sustainable Tourism Through Green Tourism Models: A Comparative Analysis of International Practices for Sustainable Tourism Development in Goa, India**" at the Multidisciplinary International Conference on "Tourism Development in India: Problems and Prospects in View of Viksit Bharat 2047" on 25 June 2026**.**

We will come back soon with more highlights of our campus in the upcoming issues.
Your comments and suggestions are valuable to us.
Email: principal@chowgules.ac.in

Thank you.

Date: 05/08/2026