

IN MEMORIAM JOSE PEREIRA.

Noted Indologist Jose Pereira passes away.

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Panaji / Margao: Noted Indologist and multi-faceted personality Dr. Jose Pereira passed away after a prolonged illness. He was 84.

A native of Curtorim in Salcette Taluka, Dr. Pereira, was born in Mumbai on January 22, 1931, was based in New York, USA. He was a Sanskrit scholar and a linguist with a knowledge of 15 classical and modern languages, besides being a historian, musicologist, writer, and artist.

He was honoured with the Padmabhushan Award by the Indian Government in 2012

After graduating with Honours in Sanskrit from Siddharth College and obtaining Ph.D. in Ancient History and Culture from St. Xavier's College, he went to Portugal as a lecturer at the Lisbon's Instituto Superior de Estudos Ultramarinos in the 1950s. However, he had to leave Portugal within a year for his public statement, "Goa has a cultural identity of its own and can never be a showcase of the greatness of the Portuguese."

Later Dr. Pereira worked as a research fellow on the history of Indian Art at the London School of Oriental and African Studies, for six years and then at Benares in India as a research scholar till 1970. However, Dr. Pereira then shifted the base to teach at Fordham University, in New York until his retirement.

Besides writing 145 research articles and papers on several issues, Dr. Pereira has also authored 24 books on diverse subjects in literature, architecture, theology, music and so on including Hindu Theology, Monolithic Jinas, Konkani Mandakini, Songs of Goa (Mando) and Golden Goa's Art.

Furthermore, a student of JJ School of Art, Dr. Pereira was internationally well known for his fresco paintings. He had put up his first painting exhibition in Mumbai at the age of 18 and later in Delhi in 1969 depicting Goan life captioned "Images of Goa."

Dr. Pereira's paintings on "Ephiphanies of the Hindu Gods" had become a sudden controversy in 2010 when Hindu organisations had protested against nudity in his paintings, while Dr. Pereira, quoting Sanskrit scriptures, had provided scholarly justification to his works.

Mourning Pereira's death, famous cardiologist from Margao Dr. Francisco Colaco said, "Whenever we met we used to argue a lot about the Mando. I would proudly tell him that in recent times there has been a true revival of Mando in Goa. He contradicted by asserting that the Mando was a "thing of the past, a product of a certain era that had gone by, never to return. There could be no 'revivencia' ".

Dr. Colaco said that he was fascinated with Pereira's knowledge of various religions and the respect the scholar had for them. As far as the Hindu-Religion was concerned his knowledge was deep and well-substantiated.

"In his death we have truly lost someone who, far away from Goa, had always Goa in a corner of his heart and his soul," Dr. Colaco said. (...).

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