

**GOA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

*In collaboration with*

*Devi Sharvani's Education Society's*

**V.M. SALGAONCAR COLLEGE OF LAW, MIRAMAR**

*Organized*

**State Level Seminar on the Topic**

**'HUMAN RIGHTS OF TRAFFICKED VICTIMS'**

**To Celebrate**

**Human Rights Day**

**Date - 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2025**

**Time : 9.30 to 1.30 p.m**

**Convenors – Shri Pramod V. Kamat, Member Goa Human Rights  
Commission and Dr. Ranjana Ferrão Souza Cordeiro**

**REPORT**

Goa Human Rights Commission observed the 71<sup>st</sup> International Human Rights Day by organizing a State Level Seminar on the Topic “Human Rights of Victims of Trafficking held on 10<sup>th</sup> December at V.M. Salgaocar College of Law.

Prof Dr. Shaber Ali, officiating Principal of V.M. Salgaocar College of Law welcomed the gathering. In his address he stressed the need to protect human rights. He stressed that while human

rights are those rights given to all human beings, fundamental rights are specifically enshrined in the Constitution of India.

Shri Desmond D'Costa, Chairperson of the Goa Human Rights Commission. In his keynote address on the topic **Human Rights of Trafficked women** Shri Desmond D'Costa emphasized that Human trafficking is an organized crime. It is a grave violation of human rights. While trafficking is a process, exploitation of women and children is the result. He explained the constitutional provisions available to trafficked women. He went on to discuss the legislative enactments meant for creating a protective and rehabilitative mechanism for women. He stressed on the urgent need to strengthen the legal system and coordinate with neighbouring states to disrupt trafficking networks. To stop this crime, information is power. It's not just about being informed, it's about spreading the word. Regular checks at hotels drives to gather intelligence can help curb illicit activities. The more people understand what trafficking is and how to recognize the risks it will help prevent the crime. Goa is a place where traditions and modernity intertwine, and it is our collective duty to ensure that human rights flourish in this evolving landscape.

Shri Pramod Kamat, Member Goa Human Rights Commission proposed the vote of thanks.

Mrs. Biju Naik, Secretary Goa Human Rights Commission Inaugurated the Interactive art exhibition on the theme 'Journey of Sex Trafficking Victims.' She congratulated the students on their efforts and projecting the plight of victims of sex trafficking in a unique way.

Dr. Ranjana Ferrao convenor of the seminar curated the Interactive Art exhibition on the Title "The journey of sex trafficking." The exhibition showcased the challenges faced by victims of sex trafficking which involve recruitment, transportation and finally exploitation. Traffickers use various means including force, fraud and coercion to control the victims. The exhibition highlighted how technology can be harnessed to detect, rescue, and support exploited trafficking victims. The exhibition had sculptures, models, murals, posters. This exhibition shared powerful stories of survivors who had recovered from exploitation. Every display at the exhibition spoke a story of survival, vulnerability and hope. The students Kate De Saldanha Osorio, Joshua De Souza,

Priya Shirodkar, Alisha Fernandes, Diya Dhargalkar, Urvi Shenvi Mauzekar explained how art can be used as a powerful tool for catharsis, empowerment, and social change. This enhanced the viewer experience.

Dr. Rupesh Bhatkar in his session on the topic **Sex Trafficking-Concept Clarity** spoke about the challenges faced by survivors, the difficulties they face in their married life and the emotional distress they undergo. He highlighted society's double standards, where men with multiple partners face little judgment while women are shamed. Many survivors come from vulnerable backgrounds, sometimes even linked to traditional systems like devdasi practice. He also pointed out how they face insensitive treatment in healthcare settings and how there is a need to focus on the mental health of sex workers.

Mr. Arun Pandey in his session on the topic **Law Related to Sex Trafficking in India and Status of its Implementation** spoke about the rising number of sex trafficking and exploitation cases in Goa and India. During his address, he explained how the Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act, 1956 aims to combat human trafficking and protect women and children from exploitation in the commercial sex trade. Mr. Pandey also presented statistics on sex trafficking giving a clear understanding of the scale of the problem. The program concluded with the valedictory function.

ARZ also displayed the creative art work done by the survivors of human trafficking. This was a conscious effort to raise awareness, support healing, and provide livelihood opportunities to them.



**Dignitaries on the Dais Shri Desmond D'Costa Chairperson, Goa Human Rights Commission, Shri Pramod V. Kamat, Member Goa Human Rights Commission, Biju Naik, Secretary Goa Human Rights Commission, Dr. Shaber Ali, Dr. Ranjana Ferrao Convenor of the seminar**



**Lighting of the lamp by Shri Desmond D'Costa, Chairperson, Goa Human Rights Commission**



**Shri Desmond D'Costa, Chairperson, Goa Human Rights Commission delivering the keynote address.**



**Shri Pramod V. Kamat ,Member Human Rights Commission delivering the Vote of thanks.**

## INTERACTIVE ART EXHIBITION ON THE THEME – JOURNEY OF SEX TRAFFICKING



**Mrs. Biju Naik, Secretary, Goa Human Rights Commission Inaugurating the Interactive Art Exhibition on the Topic Journey of Sex Trafficking . Also seen are Shri Desmond D’Costa, Chairperson, Goa Human Rights Commission and Shri Pramod V. Kamat ,Member Human Rights Commission along with students**



**Some Exhibits at the Art Exhibition**



**Students explaining the posters and Art work to the Dignitaries Shri Desmond D'Costa Chairperson, Goa Human Rights Commission, Shri Pramod V. Kamat, Member Goa Human Rights Commission, Biju Naik, Secretary Goa Human Rights Commission**



**Dr. Ranjana Ferrao explaining the paintings to the Dignitaries Shri Desmond D’Costa Chairperson, Goa Human Rights Commission, Shri Pramod V. Kamat, Member Goa Human Rights Commission, Biju Naik, Secretary Goa Human Rights Commission, Dr. Shabir Ali Principal of V.M. Salgaocar College of Law and students.**

**Session I – Resource Person Dr. Rajesh Bhatkar**



**Dr. Rajesh Bhatkar delivering his session on Sex Trafficking-Concept Clarity**

**Session II - Resource Person Dr. Arun Pandey**



**Dr. Arun Pandey delivering his address on the Topic Law Related to Sex Trafficking in India and Status of its Implementation**



**Shri Desmond D'Costa Chairperson, Goa Human Rights Commission, Shri Pramod V. Kamat, Member Goa Human Rights Commission, Biju Naik, Secretary Goa Human Rights Commission, Dr. Shaber Ali, Dr. Ranjana Ferrao Convenor of the seminar along with the student volunteers.**



**Participants of the program**



**Participants raising questions during the sessions**



**Shri Desmond D'Costa Chairperson, Goa Human Rights Commission, Shri Pramod V. Kamat, Member Goa Human Rights Commission, Biju Naik, Secretary Goa Human Rights Commission, Dr. Shaber Ali, Dr. Ranjana Ferrao Convenor of the seminar along with the participants of the seminar.**



**Shri Desmond D'Costa Chairperson, Goa Human Rights Commission, Shri Pramod V.Kamat, Member Goa Human Rights Commission, Biju Naik, Secretary Goa Human Rights Commission, Dr. Ranjana Ferrao Convenor of the seminar.**

## Trafficked women judged, not helped, says Dr Rupesh Bhatkar Seminar on Human Rights Day exposes the prejudice that fuels exploitation

Team Herald

**PANDE:** A simple question exposes an uncomfortable truth about Indian society: If two women stand before us — one raped by a businessman and another raped and later forced into prostitution — who is more likely to get married?

"The general public will say the rape survivor," says Dr Rupesh Bhatkar, a mental health professional who has worked extensively with trafficked women. "That tells us something disturbing — we don't see trafficked women as victims at all. We see them as socially damaged."

He was speaking at a seminar organised to mark Human Rights Day at V M Saigonaar College of Law.

Dr Bhatkar said society's moral compass functions with stark double stan-

dards. A man with multiple sexual partners is pushed as "manly", while a woman in the same situation is branded "characterless". "These judgments are not just social — they seep into our institutions, hospitals, and even textbooks," he said.

Growing up in a middle-class home, he recalls that conversations around sex work, trafficking or prostitution never took place. Like many others, his early understanding came from whispered conversations among friends — that sex workers were "bad women" responsible for spreading disease.

"In medical college, sex workers were spoken of only in the context of HIV and STDs," he said. "We learned about condoms and prevention — never about where these women

came from, why they were there, or whether they had a choice."

His perspective changed after he began working at a government mental health institution, where social activists brought women rescued from brothels and trafficking networks.

One young woman undergoing treatment for severe depression improved significantly. On the last day of her treatment, she unexpectedly fell at his feet.

"She told me, 'Doctor, you saved me — but more importantly, you didn't look at us the way other doctors do.'"

What she described astounded him. During a previous medical examination elsewhere, a doctor had said, "She won't be ashamed to sleep with so many people — why should she be

ashamed now?"

"That was the day I realised how deep the stigma runs — even among healthcare professionals," he said.

As he continued working closely with rescued women, he encountered stories that challenged his understanding of morality, consent and exploitation — particularly those rooted in the feminist system.

Girls from poor families are "dedicated" to temples in the name of faith. In reality, this marks the beginning of sexual exploitation.

"The mother believes she is doing something sacred," he explained. "But in practice, the girl is introduced into prostitution. Trafficking hides behind religion."

Many of these girls never go to school, are denied choice, and grow up believing exploitation is their

destiny.

Dr Bhatkar admitted that even as a trained professional, he had never examined the system deeply until he began listening to survivors.

"We speak about HIV infections, gynaecological problems — but not about trauma, coercion, caste

poverty or gender violence," he said.

What he learned was unsettling. Most women in prostitution did not choose to be there. Many were trafficked as minors, sold by relatives, abandoned after rape, or pushed into exploitation through ritual practices.

### APPOINTMENTS

**KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LIMITED**  
(A Government of India Undertaking)

**EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION**

Konkan Railway Corporation Limited has published employment Notification for various posts in Mechanical / Electrical Project of New Term Central Station through written interview. Details are as under:

Notification No. CCR/R/12/2025, Dated: 01.12.2025

Sr. No.	Name of Post	Nc. of Posts	Date of Walk in Interview
1	Jr. Technician Assistant - Mech.	2	11.12.2025
2	Assistant Electrical Engineer	1	12.12.2025
3	Assistant Mechanical Engineer	1	13.12.2025

Candidate may see the details of notification, eligibility criteria, etc. on the KRC's website [www.konkanrailway.com](http://www.konkanrailway.com) at 06:00 AM onwards.    

Chief Personnel Officer

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11 Dec 2025 10:51 AM

Press Release of the Seminar on Human Rights of Victims of Trafficking published in Herald dated 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2025