

## Curtains come down on 18th decennial Exposition of Goencho Saib

A grand procession commenced at Sé Cathedral with the singing of "San Francis Xavier"; after the Eucharistic celebration outside the Basilica, the sacred relics of St Francis Xavier were placed on to the mausoleum

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**OLD GOA:** The 18th decennial Exposition of the Sacred Relics of St Francis Xavier officially concluded at Old Goa, on Sunday, the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, bringing to an end a 45-day spiritual event which drew hordes of devotees from across the globe.

The prayers within the Sé Cathedral commenced at 9 am, which were attended by select members of the clergy and others. These prayers ended with the solemn blessing by Auxiliary bishop Simião Purificação Fernandes followed by the chanting of the Salve Regina in Latin. Following the morning prayers, there were three groups of persons, each comprising of 12 members, chosen from among those who contributed towards the successful execution of the entire event, who exchanged turns in carrying the sacred relics from the transept of the Sé Cathedral, to its main door, where it was then placed onto the specially designed carriage.

A grand procession with the sacred relics of Saint Francis Xavier then commenced at 10.10 am with the singing of the hymn "San Francis Xavier". The event's solemnity was further enhanced by a brass band comprising over 100



The Relics of St Francis Xavier taken inside the Basilica of Bom Jesus, Old Goa (More photos on Pg 5)

### PRAYERS, PROCESSION, EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION

- » The prayers in the Sé Cathedral commenced at 9 am, ending with the solemn blessing by Auxiliary Bishop Simião Purificação Fernandes followed by the singing of Salve Regina
- » 3 groups took turns in carrying the sacred relics of St Francis Xavier from the transept of the Sé Cathedral, to its main door, where it was placed onto the specially designed carriage
- » A grand procession commenced at 10.10 am with the singing of the hymn "San Francis Xavier". A brass band with over 100 musicians, enhanced the solemnity
- » A human chain was formed by over 1,500 persons
- » The carriage reached the main door of

### Basilica of Bom Jesus at 10.40 am

- » The relics were placed with high security in the Sacristy by four groups after 10.50 am
- » Sonia Shirsat presented a soulful rendition of "San Francis Xavier"
- » At the Eucharistic celebration outside the Basilica at 11.05 am, Archbishop of Goa and Daman, Filipe Neri Cardinal Ferrão was the main celebrant which began with the rendition of 'Adeste Fidelis'
- » Over 400 priests participated in the celebration with Maestro Avinash Fernandes from Paroda leading the choir
- » The sacred relics were then placed onto the mausoleum

musicians, under the direction of Mestre Fr Simon D'Cunha.

Fr Henry Falcão, the convener of the Exposition Committee of the Archdiocese remarked, "The inclusion of a brass band was inspired by a prevalent tradition in many churches across Goa. During any celebration, especially a patron's feast, a brass band always performs before and between masses, as well as after every procession. This longstanding tradition and cultural practice in Goa made it appropriate to feature a brass band for such a significant procession in the Archdiocese of Goa and Daman."

During the procession, a human chain was formed by over 1,500 individuals. To express its gratitude, the Exposition Committee decided to include representatives from various groups, such as volunteers, police officers, security personnel, cleaning staff, medical teams, and others who contributed to the event's success, alongside the priests, canons, choir members, seminarians, sisters and others in the procession.

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### COLOURS OF LIFE



A visitor looks at paintings on display for sale at a roadside stall during 'Chitra Santhe', a day-long annual art carnival organised by Chitrakala Parishath, in Bengaluru on Sunday

## Govt launches two special category visas for international students

The 'e-student visa' & 'e-student-x' visa introduced; applicants will have to use SII portal: Officials

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** India has launched two special category visas for international students intending to pursue higher education in academic institutions in the country.

The 'e-student visa' and 'e-student-x' visa have been introduced by the Ministry of Home Affairs and all applicants will have to use the 'Study in India' (SII) portal launched by the government, officials said.

The e-student visa facility can be availed by eligible foreign students registered on the SII portal while e-student-x visa is offered to the dependents of those holding e-student visas,

### STUDY IN INDIA

- » The e-student visa facility can be availed by eligible foreign students registered on the SII portal while e-student-x visa is offered to the dependents of those holding e-student visas
- » The SII portal facilitates the admission process of international students who wish to pursue either long-term or short-term courses in India
- » Students will need to apply for a visa separately



on the portal <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/>

» The authenticity of their application will be checked by SII ID

\*It is mandatory for students to apply to Indian higher educational institutions through SII website

they said.

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