

## **Know Goa Programme November 30 - December 14, 2009**

The Government of Goa, Department of NRI Affairs headed by Shri. Eduardo Faleiro, the Commissioner, presents its compliments to the Indian Embassy/ High Commission.

The “Know Goa Programme” (KGP) formulated by this Department for the benefit of Youths of Goan origin, who are not Indian Nationals, and have had no opportunity to discover their roots in Goa and India, its glorious past, exciting present and promising future.

The 1st Know Goa Programme was organized last year between 30th November and 14th December 2008. Under this Programme, 12 youths from the Goan Diaspora drawn from Australia, Canada, Mozambique and USA, mainly students and young professionals in the age group of 18 to 28 years, who have distinguished themselves in various fields and shown abiding interest in India in general and Goa in particular, were sponsored on a 15 day visit to Goa and Delhi. During this visit, the KGP group was taken to Educational, Cultural, Historical and Industrial places of interest, besides interacting with the elected representatives at the Panchayats, Zilla Parishads and Municipalities and meeting the State and Central Government officers, besides H. E. the Governor of Goa, Hon.ble Chief Minister, Hon’ble Speaker of the Goa Legislative Assembly and the Hon.ble Commissioner for NRI Affairs. Their entire expenses on air travel both ways, lodging and boarding while in Goa as well as visit to Delhi were borne by the State Government. However, the Government of India, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs hosted the Stay of the group in Delhi and arranged visit to places of interest in Delhi and Agra.

The 2nd Know Goa Programme” (KGP) is scheduled from 30th November to 14th December 2009. It has been decided that after completing the assignment in Goa from 30th November to 9th December 2009, the KGP group will be taken to Ajanta and Elora places of historical and cultural interest in Aurangabad in Maharashtra on 10th December 2009 and thereafter to Mumbai on 13th December 2009 for departure of the participants to their respective destinations.

**Like last year, it is decided to invite applications from interested youths fulfilling the above criteria, through the Indian Missions so as to reach the Government of Goa, Department of NRI Affairs latest by 15th September 2009.** We shall be grateful if the Embassy/High Commission would initiate necessary follow-up action to publicize the details of the 2nd KGP amongst the Goan Overseas Associations and solicit the applications of the interested youths from the Goan Diaspora fulfilling the above criteria latest by 15th September 2009. The format of the application form will be the same as prescribed by the Government of India, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, New Delhi for inviting applications to the Know India Programme.

An attachment the **application form** in which the Goan Diaspora Youth can submit their applications to the Indian Missions for consideration for their participation in the 2nd Know Goa Programme (KPG) scheduled from November 30 – December 14, 2009.

Grateful if the Goan Overseas Associations are contacted and applications of interested Goan Diaspora Youth fulfilling the criteria laid down for participation are sought and after due scrutiny forwarded to the Director for NRI Affairs, Government of Goa, Secretariat, Porvorim – Goa 403521 latest by **15th September 2009.**