Goa College of Home Science launches certificate course to prepare for lasting marriages

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News

The Goa College of Home Science, Panaji, has introduced a certificate course titled 'Marriage Readiness: Preparing for Healthy and Lasting Relationships' (PTI, 4 November 2026). Designed by the college's Department of Human Development and Family Studies, the 15-day course will run from 2 to 17 December 2026. It is open to UG and PG students, unmarried young adults and anyone interested in healthy relationships. Topics include self-awareness, how ideas of masculinity and femininity shape relationships, and the difference between a wedding and a marriage. Principal Mahesh Pai said marriage readiness goes beyond planning a wedding and needs an understanding of oneself, one's partner and the relationship. Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has said the government plans to introduce pre-marriage counselling across the State to reduce divorces. Over 3,000 marriage- and divorce-related petitions were filed in Goa's civil courts in 2022–2025 (947 in 2024 alone).

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
College	Goa College of Home Science, Panaji
Course	Marriage Readiness: Preparing for Healthy and Lasting Relationships (certificate)

Point	Details
Department	Human Development and Family Studies
Duration	15 days; 2–17 December 2026
Who can join	Students, unmarried young adults, others interested
Govt plan	State-wide pre-marriage counselling (CM Sawant)
Petitions	2022–25: 3,000+; 2024: 947
Goa law	Goa Civil Code, based on the Portuguese Civil Code of 1867

Background

- History: In 1510 Afonso de Albuquerque captured Goa from the Bijapur (Adil Shahi) Sultan, beginning about 450 years of Portuguese rule. Goa, Daman and Diu were freed by 'Operation Vijay' on 18–19 December 1961; 19 December is Goa Liberation Day. Goa became the 25th State on 30 May 1987.
- Goa Civil Code: The Portuguese Civil Code of 1867 was extended to Goa in 1870 and retained after liberation. It makes civil registration of marriage compulsory and follows 'communion of assets' – spouses jointly own property held before and acquired during marriage, each getting half on divorce. Critics note community-specific provisions mean it is not a fully uniform code.
- Polity: Article 44 (a Directive Principle) asks the State to endeavour to secure a Uniform Civil Code. Marriage, divorce and succession are in the Concurrent List (Entry 5), so both Parliament and States can legislate. The Special Marriage Act, 1954 allows civil marriage irrespective of religion.
- Society: Pre-marriage counselling and Family Courts (Family Courts Act, 1984) aim to reduce family disputes through conciliation. The Goa course is an attempt to give young people psychological awareness about relationships before marriage.

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu: The Tamil Nadu Registration of Marriages Act, 2009 makes registration of all marriages compulsory irrespective of religion. The Social Welfare Department's marriage-assistance schemes include Dr Dharmambal Ammaiyar Ninaivu (widow remarriage), E.V.R. Maniammaiyar Ninaivu (daughters of poor widows), Annai Theresa Ninaivu (orphan girls) and Dr Muthulakshmi Reddy Ninaivu (inter-caste marriage). The Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar marriage scheme for daughters of poor families was converted in 2022 into a Higher Education Assurance Scheme ('Pudhumai Penn').

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

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What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

College: Goa College of Home Science, Panaji; Course: Marriage Readiness: Preparing for Healthy and Lasting Relationships (certificate); Department: Human Development and Family Studies; Duration: 15 days; 2–17 December 2026.

What is the background to this news?

History: In 1510 Afonso de Albuquerque captured Goa from the Bijapur (Adil Shahi) Sultan, beginning about 450 years of Portuguese rule.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. Which Portuguese commander captured Goa from the Bijapur Sultan in 1510?

A) Vasco da Gama

B) Francisco de Almeida

C) Bartolomeu Dias

D) Afonso de Albuquerque

Answer: D – Explanation: Albuquerque is regarded as the real founder of Portuguese power in India. Almeida was the first Viceroy ('Blue Water Policy').

2. Which Indian military operation freed Goa from Portuguese rule in December 1961?

A) Operation Polo

B) Operation Vijay

C) Operation Meghdoot

D) Operation Blue Star

Answer: B – Explanation: 19 December is Goa Liberation Day. Polo – Hyderabad (1948); Meghdoot – Siachen (1984); Blue Star – Amritsar (1984).

3. Konkani, Goa's official language, entered the Eighth Schedule together with which languages?

A) Bodo and Santhali

B) Sindhi

C) Maithili and Dogri

D) Manipuri and Nepali

Answer: D – Explanation: 71st Amendment (1992). Sindhi – 21st Amendment (1967); Bodo, Santhali, Maithili and Dogri – 92nd Amendment (2003).

4. Which of these is a distinctive feature of the Goa Civil Code?

A) Marriage registration optional

B) Spouses co-own assets equally

C) Only religious marriages valid

D) Divorce fully barred

Answer: B – Explanation: 'Communion of assets' – each spouse gets half on divorce and one cannot sell property without the other's consent. Civil registration is the proof of marriage.

5. Tamil Nadu's marriage-assistance scheme for widow remarriage is named after whom?

A) Dr Muthulakshmi Reddy

B) Mother Teresa

C) Dr Dharmambal

D) Moovalur Ramamirtham

Answer: C – Explanation: Dr Dharmambal Ammaiyar Ninaivu scheme. Muthulakshmi Reddy – inter-caste marriage; Annai Theresa – orphan girls; the Moovalur scheme became higher-education aid ('Pudhumai Penn') in 2022.

Sources: The Week (PTI); Telangana Today; myScheme (Govt of India); DT Next. © Shanmugam IAS Academy.