

## ***BASILICA DO BOM JESUS OF GOA***

**By Dr. Krishna Chandra Jha & Mr. Aniket Jadhav**



Goa has rich flora & fauna, owing to its location on the Western Ghat Range, a biodiversity hotspot in India. It is also famous with the name of *Gomanchala*, *Gopakpattam*, *Govapuri*, *Govem* & *Gomantak* in ancient Indian texts. *Aparantha* is another name of Goa in 3<sup>rd</sup> century B.C. and is mentioned by Greek geographer Ptolemy.



Basilica Do Bom Jesus (Basilica of Bom Jesus) of Goa, is a famous Church throughout the Roman Catholic world. The word Bom Jesus means “Good Jesus” or “Infant Jesus”. This Basilica (Church) contains the mortal remains of St. Francisco Xavier, who is also known as “Apostle of the Indies” and “Apostle of the Japan”. This is the only Church in Old Goa not plastered on the outside.



Goa was made capital of the Portuguese vice-kingdom in Asia. Malacca and other bases in Indonesia, East Timor, the Persian Gulf, Macau (China) and trade base for Japan. In 1510, Admiral Afonso de Albuquerque established the Portuguese rule in Goa. It was the base for Albuquerque's conquest in Malacca in 1511 and Hormuz in 1515. Albuquerque intended it to be colony and naval base.





**BOM JESUS**

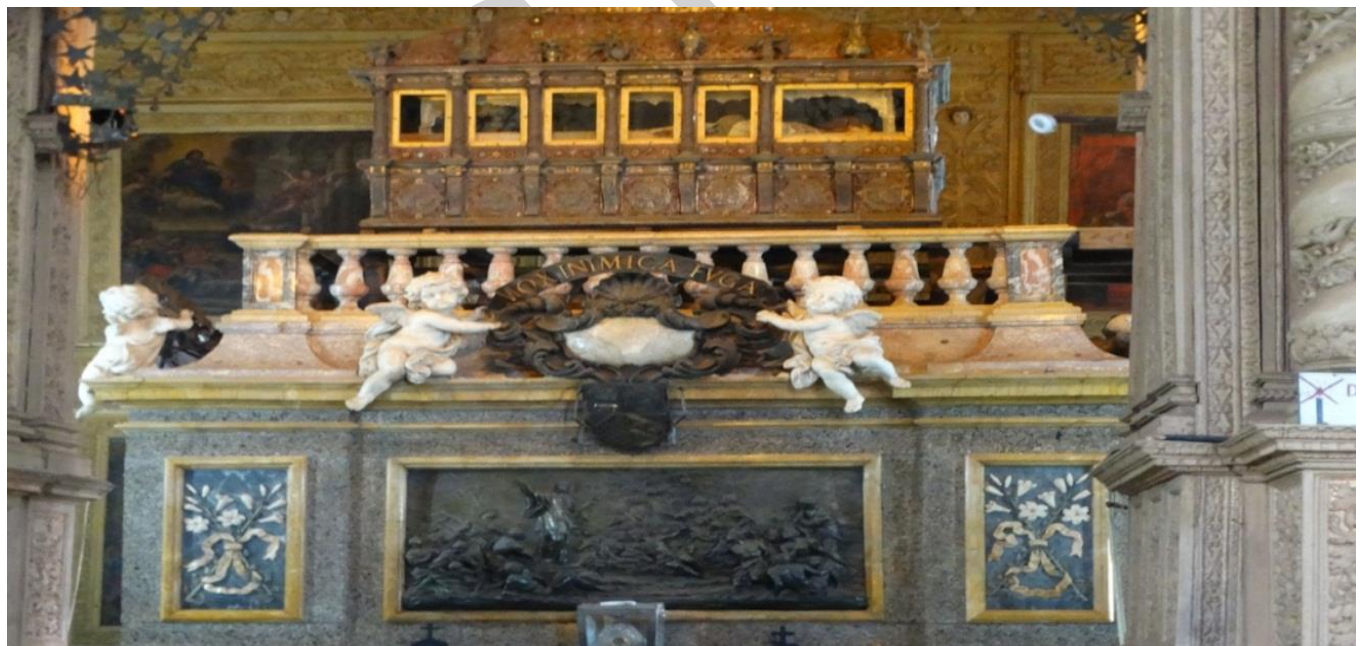




**BOM JESUS**

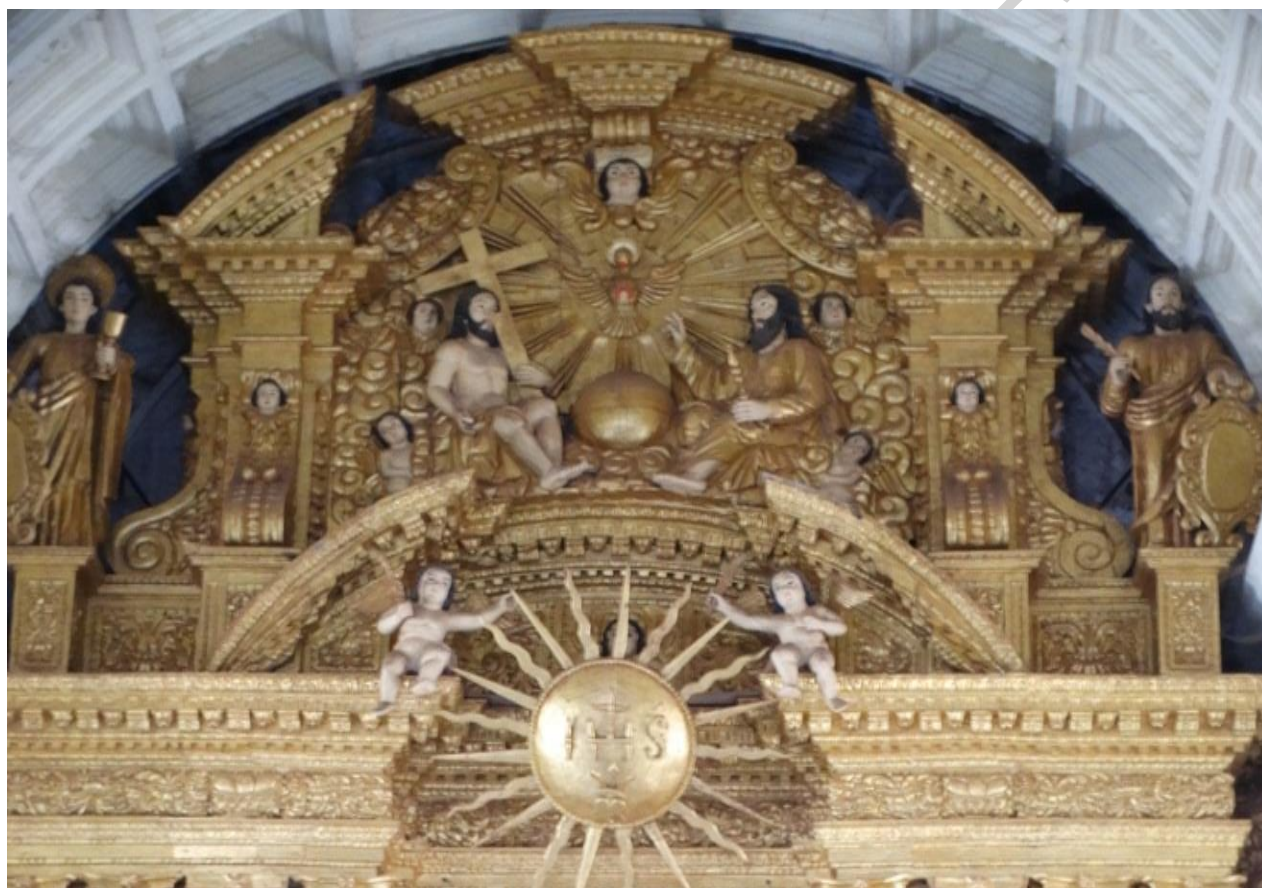


**WOODEN CRAFTS**



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The construction of this architecture started on 24<sup>th</sup> November 1954 and completed in the year of 1605 from the funds entrusted by a devotee Dom Jeronimous Mascarenhas. This is made in “Baoque” architectural style and include with finest wooden arts.



**WOODEN CRAFTS**





**THE CASKET OF ST. XAVIER**

Basilica Do Bom Jesus belongs to Minor Basilica categories after the world's Four Major (Papal/Patriarchal) Basilicas: St. John Lateran, St. Peter, St. Paul & St. Mary Major (all in Rome). Minor Basilicas are significant Churches in the world those meet certain criteria & privilege because of their antiquity/dignity/historical value/architectural & artistic worth and or significance as centre of worship. Only 1600 Churches have been honored as Basilica in the world.

St. Francisco Xavier, a Roman Catholic missionary and co-founder of the "Society of Jesus" led extensive mission into Asia, mainly in the Portuguese Empire. He was also the first Christian Missionary to venture into Japan and Borneo. He died in China from a fever on 3<sup>rd</sup> December in 1552, but as per his wish the dead body was brought to Goa.

The casket containing the dead body of the Saint is made from silver. The holy relics of the Saint are displayed every ten years during the anniversary of the Saint's death 3<sup>rd</sup> December, with lots of lighthearted festivity alongside the more solemn open-air Masses. Once every 10 years, the Saint is given an exposition and his body hauled around Old Goa before scores of pilgrims. The last one was in 2014.



STATUE OF STATUE OF  
ST. XAVIER

UNESCO World Heritage Site, the “Basilica do Bom Jesus” of Goa (India) was raised to the status of **Minor Basilica** in 1946. It is also ranked one of the “Seven Wonders” of Portuguese origin in the world in the year of 2009.



**Bio**

Dr. Krishna Chandra Jha is working as Assistant Professor at Bharat College of Arts & Commerce. He has more than 6 years teaching experience. He is specialized in Indian culture and Archaeology.

Photo Credit: Mr. Aniket Jadhav.

EPISTEME