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## East Timor to Goa via Portugal

*Young nation East Timor was also a Portuguese colony for more than 400 years. Antonio Serra of Portuguese origin but settled in East Timor speaks about his photo exhibition that will be on display at Gallery Gitanjali*

BY ARTI DAS | NT BUZZ  
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Situated in Southeast Asia and officially known as Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, East Timor commenced trade with the Portuguese in early 16th century which led to its eventual colonisation. East Timor gained independence on November 28, 1975, after more than 400 years of colonisation. Political upheavals saw the country become a province of Indonesia till it opted to independence through a referendum recently.

Its long history as a Portuguese colony means that it shares similarities with Goa. Capturing all this beauty is the photo exhibition titled, 'A Touristic glance of East Timor: The country and the people' by Antonio Serra.



Antonio, a Portuguese economist settled in East Timor loves his adopted country of four-years and the exhibition is less of an exercise in photographic technique and more an exercise in sensitive portrayal of a country he has come to love. "East Timor has been my home for the last four years. Once somebody asked me why I was here to which I replied that it was the smiles of the people that drew me. My photos capture the smiles of the East Timorese people", says Antonio.

When asked whether the people of East Timor feel connected to Portugal the way Goans do, he says, "Timorese born before independence can hold Portuguese citizenship. Those who worked for the Portuguese administration get pensions similar to that applicable in Portugal", he says further sharing that the Portuguese too feel connected to the people of East Timor so much so that they extend help to the young nation.

*(The Lusophone Society of Goa, in collaboration with the Gallery Gitanjali (Pousada), Fontainhas, Panaji will host the photo exhibition on July 23 at 5.30 p.m. at Gallery Gitanjali.)*