

FINAL GLIMPSES OF EXPOSITION



A close view of the relics of St Francis Xavier being taken out in a procession from the Sé Cathedral to the Basilica of Bom Jesus at Old Goa



As many as 1,500 persons formed a human chain during the procession



The carriage with the relics of St Francis Xavier taken out in a procession from the Sé Cathedral to the Basilica of Bom Jesus at Old Goa



The Archbishop of Goa and Daman, Filipe Neri Cardinal Ferrão, at the Eucharistic celebration outside the Basilica of Bom Jesus, which witnessed the participation of over 400 priests



A brass band with over 100 musicians, enhanced the solemnity on the concluding day of the Exposition

Stray dogs on biting spree in Ponda, spread reign of terror

Data available with District Hospital reveals that 80 to 90 dog bite cases were reported every month

Team Herald

PONDA: Packs of stray dogs have unleashed a reign of terror in Ponda with the Sub-District Hospital (SDH) reporting that on an average 80 to 90 dog bite cases were being reported each month.

The increasing stray dog population in Ponda has led to numerous problems, including dogs chasing and biting pedestrians, often resulting in accidents. Packs of stray dogs are particularly troublesome for bike riders, senior citizens, and children. In some cases, the sudden appearance of dogs on the roads has caused accidents, with tragic outcomes.

Umesh Naik, a senior citizen, emphasised the urgent need to control the stray dog population while ensuring the availability of anti-rabies vaccines. "Stray dog attacks are a serious problem, and it is high time the authorities take steps to resolve this," he said.

According to the SDH report, the issue persists across Ponda taluka, with an alarming 90 dog bite cases being treated monthly. Nayan Naik, a local noted that bikers often meet with accidents while being



SANTOSH NAIK

chased by packs of dogs. He recalled incidents where children and senior citizens were attacked by stray dogs, some of which resulted in fatalities.

Sarita Parab, the Director of the People for Animals (PFA) Centre at Curti, Ponda, has been working tirelessly for the past 13 to 14 years to address the issue. She explained that PFA focuses on Animal Birth Control (ABC) programmes, anti-rabies vaccinations, and animal rescues. However, the challenges are significant.

Providing an update on the PFA's activities for 2024, she said: "Out of the 19 Panchayats in Ponda, only seven, including the Ponda Municipality, have partnered with us for stray dog population control. Over the past year, we have sterilised 540 dogs, vaccinated 1,333 with an-

ti-rabies vaccines, and addressed 250 rescue cases. On average, we handle 50 stray dog-related cases daily."

Despite these efforts, Parab highlighted a critical challenge: the Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) signed with local bodies are not continuous. "The MoUs are signed for short-term periods of three months to a year. Once the agreement ends, our previous efforts are nullified, and the stray dog population grows unchecked. For effective and sustainable control, the MoUs need to be a continuous process," she said.

The residents of Ponda have urged authorities to adopt a more proactive approach to resolve the stray dog menace and to support initiatives like those of the PFA in a more sustained and consistent manner.

O HERALDO

GOA, MONDAY JANUARY 6, 2025



Happy Feast of OUR LADY OF REMEDIOS (THREE KINGS)



THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

Each year, Goa's Catholic community celebrates the feast of the Three Kings, also known as the feast of the Epiphany on January 6.

The feast is far more than a mere religious occasion in Goa. It is a celebration of culture and tradition. The feast commemorates the visit of the Magi, or the Three Wise Men, to the baby Jesus in Bethlehem. This event symbolises the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles and marks the end of the Christmas season.

The celebrations of the Feast of Three Kings takes place at three locations in Goa: Reis Magos Church at Verem in the Bardez taluka in North Goa, the village of Chandor in South Goa, and at Our Lady of the Remedios in Cuelim-Cansaulim in South Goa.

Crowning followed by grand processions to honour the 'three kings' takes

place at these three villages in Goa.

In South Goa, this scene is re-enacted by young 'kings' on horseback who ride to the Our Lady of Remedios Chapel, in Cuelim, situated on a hillock, where the feast is celebrated with traditional pomp.

THE PROCESSION

The three 'kings' are the highlight of this feast. Their arrival on horseback on the feast day sets the tone for the celebration of the high mass. The young boys, who play this coveted role, are selected a year in advance from the villages of Cuelim, Cansaulim and Arossim, all of which are in South Goa.

The festive procession on horseback begins from the kings' ancestral homes and heads towards the church. The horses, which are brought from neighbouring States, are assigned to the families based on a system of lots.



MAGI

The word 'Magi' is taken from Greek word 'Magos', which itself is derived from the word 'Magupati'. It simply means a high priest of ancient Persian religions. Therefore, Magi were rich, wise, and powerful men in their kingdoms who had great knowledge in the fields of science and astrology.

Coming to the story, it began after the birth of

Christ, when Magis knew a great king in Judea was born. Therefore, they undertook a long journey, bearing gifts fit for a babe of such high birth.

The Three Kings were Caspar or Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthazar.

CASPAR: He was said to have been from the Indian subcontinent. He had long brown hair and a beard and wore green robes. He brought with

him the gift of Frankincense, which celebrated the god-like side of the Christ child.

MELCHIOR: He was from Arabia and was older. He had white hair and a beard and wore a gold cloak. He brought the gift of Gold, which meant the king-like aspect of the Christ child.

BALTHAZAR: A king from Africa, who had black hair and a beard and wore

a purple cloak. He brought the gift of Myrrh, a spice used in the burial practices in old times. It signified the suffering and death of the Christ child.

Magi made a stop at the court of Herod to get information on the new born child. Herod, fearing that this new king would replace him and take his throne, begged the Magi to tell him also of the child's whereabouts once they had found him. After finding the child, an angel came in Magi dreams and told him about the evil intention of Herod and therefore, they returned to their kingdom by another route.

CELEBRATIONS IN GOA

The celebrations of the Feast of Three Kings takes place at three locations in Goa: Reis Magos Church at Verem in the Bardez taluka in North Goa, the village of Chandor in South Goa, and at Our Lady of the Mount in Cansaulim in South Goa.

Wishing the people of Cansaulim-Arossim-Cuelim, Velsao-Pale, the State of Goa and all our Goan brothers & sisters across the World

A HAPPY 3 KINGS FEAST

May Our Lady of Remedios (Cures) who is never known to have sent back anyone who came seeking her help empty handed, bless each & every one of us with Good Health, Peace and Happiness!

Best wishes from:
FRANCISCO, ISABELA (BELLA) & DAUGHTER KAREN DE MELLO

St. Anthony Colony, Near Railway station, Cansaulim/ Slough-UK

On the Occasion of Epiphany Day, Let Us Pray for Happiness & Goodness To Be Showered on Us Forever.

Happy Epiphany

Best wishes from:
OLENCIO SIMOES

Wishing all the people of Goa Happy feast of 3 kings

SMT. ALINA SALDANHA (Ex-MLA of Cortalim constituency)

Wishing you all Happy feast of

OUR LADY OF REMEDIOS (THREE KING'S)

God bless you all with good health

Best Wishes From:-
Roquezinho D'Souza (Social Worker of Pale-Velsao)

Wishing you all Happy feast of

OUR LADY OF REMEDIOS (THREE KING'S)

May Our Lady of Remedios bless you with good health & prosperity.

Best Wishes From:-
Sarpanch, Dy. Sarpanch, Secretary, All Panch Members and staff of Village Panchayat CANSULIM-ARROSIM-CUELM