

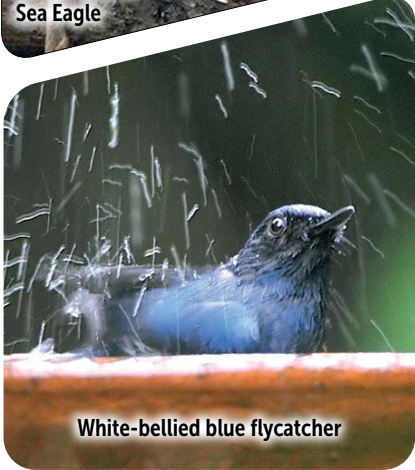
Herald Cafe



Admiring Goa's avian BEAUTY IN NATURE



White Bellied Sea Eagle



White-bellied blue flycatcher

Birds are beautiful creatures with their myriad colours and patterns and their calls that make them so amazing to watch. At the ongoing Goa Bird Festival, the day begins at dawn for birdwatching as participants enjoy the guided bird walks at the Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary, geared with cameras and binoculars.

The three-day festival, concluding today, January 19, had informational workshops and sessions besides the daily walks. On the first day the sessions included, 'Birds' eye View' by Indrajit Ghorpade and 'Preliminary findings from the Assessment of population of White Bellied Sea Eagles Along Goa Coast' by Dr Madhura Niphadkar-Bandekar. The second day had four sessions including a session by Dhananjai Mohan, 'Breeding Biology of Red neck Falcon and Raptor Migration' by Nirav Bhatt, 'Livelihood security through bird tourism

The state's Forest Department is hosting the eighth edition of the **Goa Bird Festival** at Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary. With the country's best ornithologists, researchers, naturalists and photographers as resource persons for the participants, the festival attracts birding enthusiasts from across India

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in Goa' and 'Threatened Birds of Goa' with the release of a book by Dr Pronoy Baidya, on 56 globally threatened birds. The festival will conclude today with experience sharing and the valedictory function.

As this is the eighth edition of the Bird festival, it's aptly held in the month of January. Goa Bird Conservation Network



Bronzed Drongo



Crested serpent eagle



Spiderhunter

MUST HAVE APPS FOR BIRDWATCHERS

eBird eBird is a platform where anyone who is going out for birdwatching, can make their own checklists as you can note whatever you see. It also has a nice mechanism where it provides information on what birds can be seen in that area, predefined by filters. You can even upload your own sightings to the app, which is then reviewed and if that is accepted with or based on evidence, then it will be made public. That is one mechanism where you have to do your efforts and then you can share your data with the community.

Merlin Bird ID This app is an aiding tool where if you upload the photograph of a bird and it gives you information about the bird and what exact species it is. In this app, there is sound identification too. If you listen to a call of some bird, you can upload it in the app and Merlin will tell you which bird it is with accuracy. It can identify almost 50 percent of the birds.

was founded in 2011 and has been closely associated with the Forest Department in organising this festival. Asian Waterfowl Count happens in January across Asia as winter migrant birds travel from November until February. Most of the states in India now have bird festivals at this time of the year.

White-bellied sea eagle project Dr Madhura Niphadkar Bandekar spoke on the white-bellied sea eagle project run by the Goa Bird Conservation Network. "Our project is doing very well. I did a presentation on the outcomes of the project. It was based on the preliminary findings of the project which is on since September. It is funded by a CSR initiative of a company. It started off as a citizen science initiative. We did sensitization workshops for 41 panchayats across the coast of Goa because the white-bellied sea eagle is a coastal bird," informs Dr Madhura.

The Google form is still active and anybody, birdwatchers or even tourists, can add information through the form. Once the information is added, it is verified on ground and then they do their own surveys where they

actually search for nests. The farthest one they have found is 11 kilometers away from the coast at Ella, Old Goa.

When raptors captures the attention

Noted photographer with 25 years of bird watching, Nirav Bhatt had a presentation on two aspects, study of what he has been doing and his presentation on study on red neck falcons and the raptor migration study. "Supposedly, the session had the largest number of more than 100 participants as per the department. The principal CCF was there and there was a good interaction regarding conservation," says Nirav.

The community of birdwatching has grown in India over the years and Nirav can see the interest in youngsters even in Goa. "Many new people have started birdwatching especially because of photography. They share their work on social media and also learn more about the birds. They can also refer to apps on birdwatching now. I carry my camera and my binoculars when I'm out but mobile phone works quite well too," adds Nirav.



THE APATHY OF TAXI DRIVERS

Pics: Nirav Bhatt and Lester Pinto



'OPINION POLL DAY' CELEBRATED AT MERCES CHURCH

SWIPE RIGHT

Manisha Koirala admits she became 'arrogant' after success

Manisha Koirala who gained fame after starring in '1942: A Love Story', recently shared that stardom did make her somewhat a bit arrogant and how she regrets making some mistakes. Koirala said, "Yes, I think I had changed. I felt like I became a bit arrogant. When success comes quickly, without much hard work, changes are inevitable. And you are immature, you're young, so you don't understand much—neither about the world nor about yourself." She added, "So, I think it makes you a little arrogant, like you know, thinking you're 'the center of the world.' But I'm not really. You realize that as you mature and go through life. At that time, I felt like I was the center of the universe."



Chris and Dakota spotted on rare outing in India

Chris Martin and Dakota Johnson quieted split speculation during a romantic getaway to Mumbai. The couple were all smiles while walking hand in hand in India, marking their first public outing together in 2025. Martin, 47, wore a grey long-sleeved shirt, black sweatpants and a baseball hat that read "Kiili" and sneakers. The Coldplay singer beamed as he held on tight to Johnson, 35, who also opted for a casual ensemble. Johnson donned a black maxi dress with a striped shirt tied around her waist and a similar baseball cap and sneakers.



Rihanna debuts braids as she goes makeup-free in NYC while partner A\$AP Rocky faces gun charges.

When marital ties are tested

Tiatr: 'Nimannea Vellar'
Cast: Dola, Maxie, Jennifer, Myron Travasso, Renzia, Melvin, Vitorin, comedian Humbert, Gleny, Janet
Director: Menino de Bandar
Band: Edrol (trumpet), Esbon (saxophone), Macmilan (drums), Rozario (keyboard), Mariano (bass)
Stage/Lights: Menino de Bandar/ Dinesh

Pio Esteves

The story revolves around Lavisha (Jennifer) and Rosh (Myron Travasso), who are in love with each other. But Lavisha's brother Maxie (Maxie) is against this relationship as Rosh is unemployed and idles his time by getting involved in bull fights. Lavisha is unwilling to give up on her fiancée. On a wild hunt for a career, Rosh answers an interview. And for his honesty and sincerity, he passes the interview and

wins a decent job as a cashier. After marriage, Lavisha is possessive of Rosh and over-protective. She would not like her husband to work in a firm where women are around. But Rosh assures that he will stay faithful to his spouse. For his good looks and personality, Rosh's boss, Dilallah (Dola) falls for him and wishes to win him over, by hook or crook. One fine day, caught red-handed, Maxie warns his brother-in-law to stay

Tiatr Review 'Nimannea Vellar'

away from his boss as it could hamper the growth of his marriage. While Lavisha is pregnant, things begin to move out of hand for Rosh. He is hooked by his boss and does not know how to get out from the tangle. If he

declines Dilallah's tempting offer, he is afraid of losing his job and earnings. Will Rosh ditch his spouse and get carried away by his boss? What is Lavisha's fate? How does she cope with her only daughter? Menino de Bandar's tiatr 'Nimannea Vellar' has a story to relate with love, betrayal and twists and turns, but the first half moves at snail's pace. The second half carries some unexpected

events in the family and the reunion. But the title is not apt to the story that unfolds on stage. There are fine performances by several artistes on stage. Myron Travasso, Jennifer and Dola are in the lead roles and they have done justice to their respective characters. Maxie, Renzia extend good support to the main cast. Melvin as the doctor and Vitorin as the priest make cameos. Child artiste, Maryanne Borges

has played a convincing role in the second half and is quite confident in her dialogue delivery. In the comedy section, there's comedian Humbert, Gleny and Janet who come together to entertain with comic pills, but they hardly carry much dose with them. Janet fits well in her dress code as a Lamani woman and accent. But the comedy scene of the blind girl was unwanted. In the section of songs, Jennifer Fernando comes on stage for the opening song, followed by solos from Melvin, Michael, Clint, C D'Silva, Pedro and Amriz. There are other songs rendered by Clint, Vitorin and Michael, Pedro and Amriz, C D'Silva and Renzia and C D'Silva, Melvin and Pedro. A quartet went amiss in the drama. Edrol (trumpet) and his musical team— Esbon (saxophone), Rozario (keyboard), Mariano (bass) and Macmilan (drums) have provided good live music offstage. The stage sets are by Menino de Bandar and Dinesh has assisted with the light effects.

