

**horoscope**

**ARIES: (Mar. 21–Apr. 19)**

This week, you enter a time of high manifestation. Over the next four weeks, there is a lot of positive energy when you think about the future and envision the life you want. You have a direct connection to the higher powers now, and the thoughts, hopes, and wishes that you send have extra energy. Take a few minutes each day and visualize a bright and happy future. It's time to have some fun. Do something you really enjoy that you haven't done in a while. You might go to an arcade or amusement park. You might walk through an art gallery or lose yourself in the art supply store. Curl up with a good book or play a video game with friends around the world. Today, it's good to play.

**TAURUS: (Apr. 20–May 20)**

This week, your efforts are guided. There's a lot of positive career energy. This is a good time to move up at your current company. You could change jobs to make more money or get a better title. If you own a business, it's quite possible your business will expand during these four weeks. A really good time with friends is possible now. You might get together to celebrate a special occasion, milestone birthday, or friend's success. You're around cheerful people who are fun, friendly, and interesting. Good energy abounds.

**GEMINI: (May 21–Jun. 21)**

This week, something valuable is within your reach. You could get hooked on a new topic, and now you want to know everything about it. You might watch videos or take a class. You're immersing yourself in a new subject and coming out on the other end with a lot of expertise. A peaceful, enjoyable energy can settle on you, your family, and friends. You might come together for a celebration or impromptu potluck supper. This is a good time to hold a board game night at your house or meet at a barbecue place to share food with your friends.

**CANCER: (Jun. 22–Jul. 22)**

This week, you have what it takes to get ahead. You have opportunities around business income, passive income sources, investments, and gifts from family members. This is a good time to pay attention to your investment portfolio and meet with your financial adviser or accountant. Also consider gathering with family members to talk about finances so everyone is on the same page. You might attend a party or social get-together. There could be an opportunity to celebrate something, appreciate beauty, or listen to lively music. At there are feelings of friendship and camaraderie at this time.

**LEO: (Jul. 23–Aug. 22)**

This week, you're surrounded by winners. You have opportunities to connect with helpful people, influencers, and even celebrities. You can expand your circle of friends or find someone for a business partnership. You could also meet someone who is looking for a love relationship. You are the star of a social event. You could have a crowd of people around you vying for your attention from the moment you walk in the door. Your popularity is high, so this is a good time to be out on the town.

**VIRGO: (Aug. 23–Sept. 22)**

This week, social connections bring joy. You can make great strides when it comes to your general well-being. You might get answers to a problem you've struggled with for a while. The good habits you've been working on lately are giving you really solid results. There is also good energy around finding helpful people for your work or projects. A social opportunity could turn into fun and even romance. You might gather with friends and meet some new people in the process. Consider going to a play, concert, or gathering of people who share your interests.

**LIBRA: (Sept. 23–Oct. 23)**

This week, your lucky stars are aligning. The energy around creativity, fertility, and children is very strong. You will have more opportunities to express yourself through artwork, music, and design. If you're looking to expand your family, you will have more luck and more options for assistance. Children and younger relatives might interact with you more during this time. Today is about entertainment. You could find amusing things to do with friends and family. You might go to a concert or the theater. You might try improv or go to a poetry slam. You might stay in and play board games with the kids.

**SCORPIO: (Oct. 24–Nov. 21)**

This week, you're telling it like it is. Over the next four weeks, opportunities are focused on your family and home. If you're looking to buy property, you might have more opportunities to find what you're looking for and get funding. If you're doing home renovations, you have more luck when it comes to finding good people. It's possible that someone will be moving in or out of your home. Today, there is lighthearted energy all around you. People are more likely to say yes when you ask for a favor or assistance. Scorpio, you can bring people together for pleasurable activities like parties, coffee dates, and social clubs.

**SAGITTARIUS: (Nov. 22–Dec. 21)**

This week, you are filled with purpose and determination. Over the next four weeks, you could have more positive interactions with siblings, cousins, and relatives who are around your age. A dispute between you and a neighbor might melt away and disappear. A contract you've been waiting for could arrive. It's likely you'll receive a lot more emails and texts during this time. You could be invited to an exciting party. This is a social event worth attending. You might be asked on a date that leads to friendship or even romance.

**CAPRICORN: (Dec. 22–Jan. 19)**

This week, fortune favors you when you're prudent. Over the next four weeks, you have more financial opportunities coming your way. You could diversify revenue sources by having a small business or passive income source. You might get an opportunity to land a new job or promotion. It's also possible you'll receive a gift of money at this time. This is good energy for being social and connecting with friends and family members. Your popularity is elevated and charisma is high. People are excited to see you and will cross the room to meet you. You could make very important connections at this time.

**AQUARIUS: (Jan. 20–Feb. 18)**

This week, your social currency skyrockets. Over the next four weeks, the more new things you do, the better your year will go. This is a seed-planting time, and you need to plant a lot of seeds to reap a big harvest. Meet new people, go to new places, and have new experiences. Any one of these could grow into something new and exciting in your life. Take some of the day and do something really fun. Connect with interesting people for recreational or creative activities. This is a good time to be social.

**PISCES: (Feb. 19–Mar. 20)**

This week, things are unfolding in your favour. Over the next four weeks, you might receive active help from your angels and guides. You could experience expanded awareness in your meditation practice. Now you're able to release negative emotions from the past and discard limiting beliefs. You might receive a special invitation or a hard-to-get concert ticket. A friend or family member is making sure that you have a good time today.

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**'Opinion Poll Day' celebrated at Merces church**



Konkani Kala Kendri, Merces (KKKM) celebrated its annual 'Opinion Poll Day' with a musical show titled 'Ugddasachi Sanz' near Our Lady of Merces Church, Merces. The musical programme included songs related to Goa, Opinion Poll and Dr Jack Sequeira and other Goa-centric issues. All the songs were performed by noted singers of the tiatr stage, Xavier Gomes, Olga Vaz, Benny de Aldona, Peter de Arambol, Avers Pereira and Pio Agnelo Fernandes with his musical troupe—Akhi Brown,

Dinora Barreto, Sonia Fernandes and Sheena Gracias. For some laughter moments, there was comedian Luis Bachan and Brian entertaining the audience with comedy.

The chief guest for the musical show was Fr Kevin Fernandes,

assistant parish priest of Our Lady of Merces Church, Merces. The guest of honour was Fr Pio Furtado, the principal of Fr Agnel High School, Pilar. Dr Lily, the daughter of late Dr Jack Sequeira and her family were also present on the occasion.

Fr Pio reminded

that the Goans need to feel proud as it was Dr Jack Sequeira who initiated the move to preserve Goa from being merged with Maharashtra. He said we need to follow in his footsteps and preserve the little that's left of Goa for the future generations, keeping aside all our egos and selfish interests.

Fr Kevin also voiced out similar sentiments and said that such events only help to pay rich tributes to all those who fought tirelessly for the growth and betterment of Goa.

**The apathy of taxi drivers**

**Nilankur Das**

Some taxi drivers are apathetic, a few are more apathetic than others. In Goa, the perception of taxi drivers is often marred by incidents of apathy and aggressive behaviour. While it is important to acknowledge that not all taxi drivers fit this mould—there are indeed stories of honest and upright individuals—the negative experiences seem to overshadow the good.

One such unsettling encounter occurred recently on the bustling Miramar Road during the evening rush hour. An elderly driver accidentally bumped into a taxi from behind, resulting in minor scratches on the vehicle. While the damage was negligible and could have been easily fixed with some minor repairs, the taxi driver's reaction escalated the situation dramatically.

In a scene reminiscent of a poorly scripted B-grade movie, the taxi driver, with little patience or empathy, demanded an exorbitant amount of money as compensation. His aggressive stance on the busy road quickly attracted the attention of other taxi drivers in the area. Within moments, a small gathering turned into an intimidating crowd of 15–20 taxi drivers rallying behind their colleague.

The elderly driver, though shaken, managed to communicate the language barrier but not the tension. The taxi driver, hailing from Karnataka, spoke broken Konkani and seemed to misunderstand or disregard the elderly driver's attempts to reason. This linguistic divide, coupled with the mob mentality of the taxi drivers, made the situation increasingly hostile.

Amicability lost in translation in that incidence. Fortunately, a bystander called the police, recognising the imbalance of

power and the distress of the elderly individuals. When the police arrived, they attempted to mediate between the parties, urging both sides to reach a compromise. After three hours of back-and-forth negotiations, the taxi drivers finally agreed to a reduced compensation amount.

though they own the roads, with other vehicles reluctantly giving way to avoid potential altercations. The media regularly reports on their rowdy behaviour, reinforcing the stereotype of taxi drivers as unruly and unreasonable. For tourists, who might already be wary of high fares, these stories only add to the

that should define interactions in this beautiful state. Taxi drivers, as ambassadors of the first and last impressions many visitors have, must embody these values.

Rising taxi fares and incidents of aggressive behaviour are driving people away from using their services. The growing popularity of private vehicles, often purchased on EMIs, is a direct response to the challenges posed by the current taxi system. If this trend continues, taxi drivers may find themselves losing both local and tourist clientele, leaving them with fewer opportunities to earn a livelihood.

For a state that prides itself on its vibrant culture and welcoming spirit, it is imperative to address the issues plaguing its taxi system. Taxi unions must recognise the long-term benefits of nurturing a reputation for fairness and reliability. Training programs that focus on customer service, conflict resolution, and road etiquette could go a long way in enhancing public perception. Equally important is the role of law enforcement and local government in creating policies that encourage accountability and fairness within the taxi industry. Ensuring that fare structures are transparent and reasonable, and that disputes are handled promptly and impartially, will help rebuild trust between taxi drivers and their passengers.

Taxi drivers are an essential part of Goa's ecosystem, contributing to its connectivity and charm. However, the growing instances of apathy and aggression are eroding the goodwill they should ideally enjoy. A collective effort—by the taxi unions, government, and drivers themselves—can reverse this trend, ensuring that taxis are seen as a symbol of convenience and hospitality rather than conflict and intimidation.



**Close Encounters of the Goan Kind**

This ordeal, however, could have been avoided entirely if the taxi driver had shown even a modicum of understanding. Accidents, especially minor ones, are a part of life, particularly in heavy traffic. An empathetic approach, rather than intimidation, would have saved everyone time, stress, and the unpleasant taste the incident left behind.

Incidents like these are not isolated. Many drivers and commuters in Goa share stories of confrontations with taxi drivers, whose aggressive driving and inflated fares often leave a sour impression. It's disheartening to see that a profession so vital to the tourism-driven economy of Goa is frequently associated with hostility rather than hospitality.

Taxi drivers often behave as

apprehension, pushing them to seek alternatives like renting cars or scooters instead of relying on taxis. The taxi unions in Goa are known for their strong, tight-knit organisation. While this solidarity can be a strength, it also needs to be tempered with foresight and sensibility. Instead of fostering a culture of aggression, the unions could play a crucial role in encouraging better behaviour among their members. A shift towards amicability and professionalism could significantly improve the public perception of taxi drivers, benefiting both the drivers and the larger community.

Goa's identity as a tourist destination is closely tied to the experiences it offers. Hospitality, kindness, and warmth are qualities

**Kala Academy's Tiatr 'B' Group Competition**

The 10th Tiatr 'B' Group Competition of Kala Academy will be held with the participation of six tiatr groups. The first show of the competition,

tiatr 'Divorce Invitation' will be presented by Aamar P Sawanth Fan Club, Margao, on January 20 after the inauguration.

'Dubay' will be presented by GF Production, Navelim on January 21, Menino Jesus Kala Association,

Chinchinim, will stage their tiatr 'Tempa Pormonnem, Mateak 'Khurponnem' on January 22, tiatr 'Dhoronn' will be presented by Pink curtain, Merces, on January 23.

On January 27, tiatr 'Ek Neketr Palouta' will be presented by Amigos

De Borda Entertainers, Margao and the concluding show, tiatr 'Aiz Mhaka, Falea Tuka' will be staged by Ami Daizi, Fatorda, on January 28.

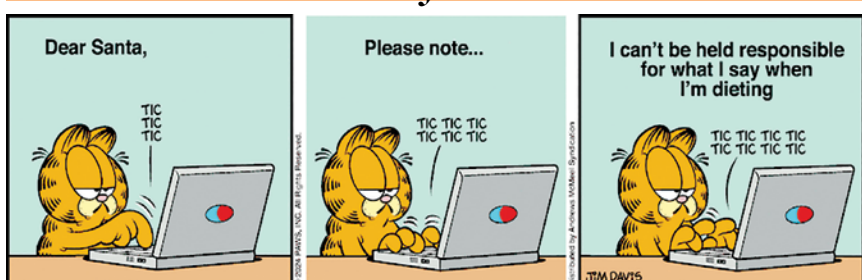
**Venue: Ravindra Bhavan, Margao**  
**Date: January 20 to 28**  
**Time: 7 pm**

**Herald Gaming Console**

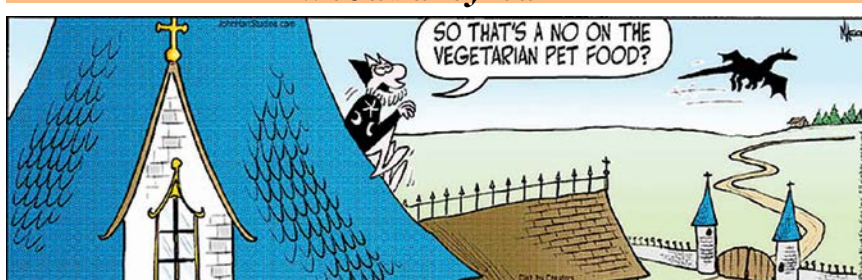
**Dilbert**



**Garfield**



**Wizard of id**



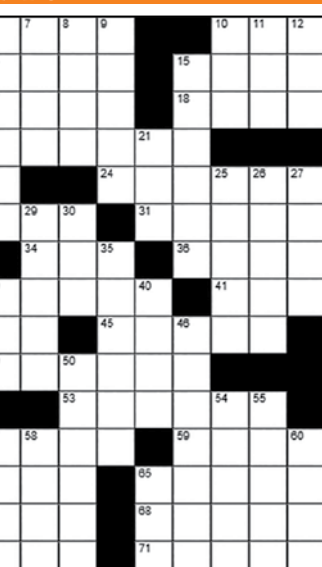
**crossword 4746**

**ACROSS**

1- 1980 Dom DeLuise film; 6- well...; 10- Corrida cheer; 13- Kick Out of You; 14- Hammer or sickle; 15- Bad day for Caesar; 16- Charged; 17- 'Chicken of the sea'; 18- Golf pegs, northern English river; 19- Fog; 20- Legendary king of Thebes; 22- Equine sounds; 24- Shorthand pros; 28- Speaks publicly; 31- Put into office; 32- Pertaining to the moon; 34- 'Michael Collins' actor; 36- Greek salad ingredient; 37- Put on; 38- Sorrow; 41- Lair; 42- Meat-grading org.; 44- Lanka; 45- March honoree, briefly; 47- Considers; 49- More strange; 51- List of corrections; 53- Donny or Marie; 56- Village near the Matterhorn; 59- Read 'em and \_\_\_; 61- Female choir voice; 64- I could \_\_\_ horse; 65- Olds model; 66- Bank transaction; 67- Wither; 68- Chest or closet material; 69- Hack and B; 70- Gen. Robt. \_\_\_; 71- Hackneyed;

**DOWN**

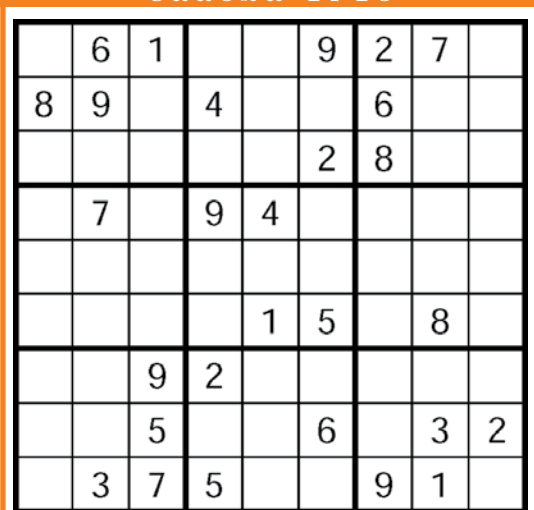
1- Stiff; 2- One more time; 3- Upright; 4- Stopping place; 5- Bran source; 6- Bear witness; 7- Noisy; 8- Anderson of 'WKRP in Cincinnati'; 9- High-fives; 10- Years offering; 11- Majors in acting; 12- Double curve; 15- In and of \_\_\_; 20- Tara family; 21- Shoshone language member; 23- Mardi \_\_\_;



**solution 4745**



**sudoku 4746**



**Instructions for Sudoku**

9 x 9 letter: To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every number from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes

**solution 4745**

