

Herald Cafe

SCENIC RAIL ROUTES
ACROSS INDIAEXPLORING THE WORLD ONE
COUNTRY AT A TIME

Goan play Palshetchi Vihir

World's largest theatre festival comes to Goa

Goa is one of the newest satellite spaces added to the illustrious Bharat Rang Mahotsav, the world's largest theatre festival, organised by National School of Drama, Delhi. A Goan play, 'Palshetchi Vihir', among the four plays that will be performed here, is a cherry on the cake

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Do you love drama? Kala Academy, Panjim will be a buzzing centre as some of the country's best plays will be a treat for theatre goers. The National School of Drama (NSD) is organising its flagship Bharat Rang Mahotsav (BRM), the International Theatre Festival of India, in Goa, organized in collaboration with the Directorate of Art & Culture, Goa from January 29 to February 1. The opening ceremony will be held at Master Dinanath Mangeshkar Kala Mandir, Kala Academy, Panjim at 6 pm on January 29. The four-day festival will open with the play 'Naagmandal', written by Girish Karnad.

This edition of the festival coincides with the 65th Anniversary of the NSD, and the 60th Anniversary of the NSD Repertory Company. To commemorate these milestones, the Repertory Company is celebrating the Rang Shashthi theatre festival series, staging some of its most popular plays on various platforms across the nation. Renowned actor and NSD alumnus Rajpal Yadav is the festival ambassador for this year.

BRM 2025, which spans a period of 20 days, from January 28 to February 16, in Delhi will feature more than 200 unique productions from nine different countries apart from India, showcased across 11 locations in India and two abroad, in Sri Lanka and Nepal. The international theatre groups participating in the festival are from Russia, Italy, Germany, Norway, Czech Republic, Nepal, Taiwan, Spain, and Sri Lanka.

Pradeep Naik is an eminent Goan theatre personality who was recently awarded the Kala Vridhhi Award. "This festival will be a very good experience for theatre lovers. These plays are some of the best and it



Deepak Amonker

comes with great technical details like the background music, the setting and the light work. However, the focus will also be on the story, direction and the performance of the brilliant actors. This festival will bring in a variety of plays in Hindi and Marathi from different parts of the country. After each play, there is a discussion with the directors which gives

an insight into the workings of the play. It is a must for young artists to witness the four-day

'Palshetchi Vihir' is a Marathi docudrama based on the life of Hirabai Pednekar, the first woman Marathi playwright, that too from Goa. Directed by Deepak Amonker, her role is played by Madhuri Shetkar. While Deepak's other plays have been part of the previous three editions of the same festival, it is still special for the cast and crew to perform in Goa.

"It is a great honor because out

of around 850 plays from all over the world, we have been selected, one of the Goan play is selected. We are performing our play on January 30. For the selection, we had to perform the play, shoot it and send in September and by December, we got confirmation. This play also won the first place in an All Goa and Maharashtra competition, two years back.

He urges theatre lovers to

attend the festival as it is a great opportunity to experience the best of performing arts. "The selection process is very tough. The quality of the plays and the festival is great and even two plays from Delhi NSD Repertory will be played. I request artists and other technical teams and even the audience, should come, watch and enjoy these plays," says Deepak.

ONLY GOAN PLAY IN THE FESTIVAL

festival," says Pradeep.

Writer and director, Daksha Shirodkar is one of Goa's first National School of Drama alumni. She is currently in New Delhi, as a technical in-charge of one of the auditoriums at National School of Drama, Delhi for the festival till February 16. "Goan artists should go and watch this festival because NSD is one of the autonomous institutes in all over India. Of the four plays in Goa, two are of Repertory Company, National School of Drama. One should watch them in order to understand the professionalism, as well as the discipline, quality of the plays and the dedication of the actors and artistes, towards theatre," says Daksha, who informs that Goa is a satellite space of the festival. She further adds, "I couldn't



Pradeep Naik

apply for the festival because I had some copyright issues. I will be applying for the coming year as NSD is my parent institute and it feels like a home ground."

FOUR PLAYS THAT WILL BE STAGED

January 29
NAAGMANDAL

Director: Amit Sanouria & Sarver Ali
Group: Satvik Art Society, handigarh
Language: Hindi

January 30
PALSHETCHI VIHIR

Direction: Deepak Amonker
Group: Rudreshwar Panaji, Goa
Language: Marathi

Jan 31

MAI RI MAIN KA SE KAHUN

Director: Ajay Kumar
Group: NSD Repertory, New Delhi
Language: Hindi

February 1

BABUJI

Director: Rajesh Singh
Group: NSD Repertory, New Delhi
Language: Hindi



Daksha Shirodkar

Destruction in name of progress

Pio Esteves

Cast: Gabriel Crasto, Ashley Rebello, Swellan Rosni Niasso, Dylan Vaz, Anisha Vales, Meliston Dias, Clea Morais, Vishal Noguero and Skyla Moraes
Director: Francisco Xavier Pereira
Band: Edrol Fernandes and his musical team
Stage/Lights: Romeo

Tiatr 'Ek Neketr Palouta' written and directed by Francisco Xavier Pereira and presented by Amigos de Borda Entertainers, Margao, was staged at Ravindra Bhavan, Margao on the fifth day of Kala Academy Goa 10th Tiatr 'B' Group Competition 2024-25.

The curtains unfold to a village scene below the hill where there are four houses in close proximity and a government primary school in the centre. There's elderly Rocky known as Seza Pai (Gabriel Crasto) residing with his son Tony (Ashley Rebello) and he has a neighbor Mauxi (Swellan Rosni



Niasso), putting up all by herself.

On the other side, close to the springs reside Bostiao (Dylan Vaz), his spouse, Marjakin (Anisha Vales) and their two children, who are schooling in the government school. Next to Bostiao's house resides Pandu (Meliston Dias), who stays alone while his family is in a distant village.

Tracy (Clea Morais) is a teacher employed in the government primary school. Her posting there prompts her to encounter Rocky's son, Tony and they grow

in close relationship.

The village folk are upset as they witness hill cutting and in the name of development several factories are erected there, with the blessings of the minister, Valmiki (Vishal Noguero). None of the villagers can stand the minister's PA (Skyla Moraes) visiting them occasionally with goodies.

One fine day, the minister's visit to the village along with his PA and attending the flag hoisting ceremony irk all the villagers. Tony and Tracy also tie the knot and all the



10TH TIATR 'B' GROUP COMPETITION

Tiatr Review
Day 5: 'Ek Neketr Palouta'

villagers are in a cheerful mood. Mauxi's children and Pandu's wife and children also come and join in the celebration.

Tracy's pregnancy and she being shifted to the hospital follows in the second half of the drama. It's a total shift from the village to the city hospital. There are several events unfolding there which makes one understand the hard reality of life.

Will Tracy encounter a safe delivery which will double her husband's joy? Or will it dampen everyone's spirit? What are the sacrifices that follow? Who comes to the minister's aid in moments of crisis?

Tiatr 'Ek Neketr Palouta' is all about destruction of natural resources and its dire

consequences on human beings. In the name of development, there's gain for the influential and the mighty but loss for the common man.

Gabriel Crasto has played a fine role as Seza Pai, while he has been supported by Ashley, Swellan, Meliston and Clea. Vishal stands tall as the corrupt minister and Skyla has extended good support to him as a PA.

In the comic acts, there's Dylan and Anisha who try to entertain as a couple with their mild dose of laughter pills. A good number of children on stage are lively and playful in their acts.

In the category of songs, there's a choral by Chelsea, Chrystal and Siya as the opening song, followed by solos, duo, duet, trio and quartet. A duet on mobile and a duo on fruits of Goa were thought-provoking. Edrol Fernandes and his musical team provided good live music offstage.

The stage sets and light effects by Romeo deserve a special mention. The background music was handled by Aaron Correia, while the costumes and make-up were shouldered by Alisha Carvalho and Jenifa Colaco respectively.

SWIPE RIGHT



Rashmika Mandanna hints at being in a relationship

Rashmika Mandanna, has often remained silent over her personal life despite several dating rumours, finally revealed that she is in a relationship. In an interview, the actress

was talking about her 'happy place' where she accidentally revealed her partner. The 'Pushpa 2' actress said, "But home is forever. So, I work from that space. As much as the love and this fame and the visibility that I get, I still am just a daughter, just a sister, just a partner." She also spoke about what she finds the best in a man. "I am drawn to people who have a smiley face. And, of course, someone who respects people around them no matter who they are," she added. Rashmika is often linked with South star Vijay Deverakonda.



Selena Gomez breaks down over deportation of immigrants

Selena Gomez

is speaking out as President Donald Trump's administration continues to put a focus on immigration. In response, the 'Emilia Perez' actress who has proudly put a

spotlight on her Mexican heritage over the years broke down in tears in an Instagram story video as she told her followers, "I'm so sorry. All my people are getting attacked," she cried. "The children, they don't understand. I'm so sorry. I wish I could do something but I can't. I don't know what to do. I'll try everything," Gomez concluded, "I promise." The 32-year-old captioned the video, which has since been deleted, "I'm sorry," along with a Mexican flag emoji.



Jennifer Lopez arrived in a glamorous gown crafted by Albanian designer Valdrin Sahiti, for the premiere of her movie, 'Kiss of the Spider Woman', at the 2025 Sundance Film Festival.