

# Herald Cafe



HOW CAN ART BENEFIT THE GROWTH OF A CHILD?



CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE OF THE WORD OF GOD

## Goa's own arts & literature celebration

The 13th edition of the Goa Arts and Literature Festival (GALF) will be held at the International Centre Goa (ICG), Dona Paula from February 13 to 15 and will be inaugurated in the presence of Shanta Gokhale, Sumana Roy, William Dalrymple and Ramesh Ghadi

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It is that time of the year when noted authors from across the world land in Goa to share their thoughts and their inspiration for writing. The 13th Goa Arts and Literature Festival (GALF) will see several interesting book discussions, poetry readings and book releases. GALF 2025 will be inaugurated by two of India's most celebrated writers, Sahitya Akademi award winner Shanta Gokhale and academic, writer and poet, Sumana Roy. On February 13 at the International Centre Goa (ICG) Dona Paula, the festival will be opened at 5 pm with the keynote addresses by both the eminent writers. The inaugural will also see the unveiling of the official GALF 2025 artwork, exclusively created by the well-known Goan artist, Sonia Rodrigues Sabharwal and a poetry reading by Ramesh Ghadi. The evening will conclude with an exclusive book discussion of the award-winning Scottish historian William

Dalrymple's latest book, 'The Golden Road; how ancient India transformed the world' with Padma Bhushan awardee Dr Vidya Dehejia.

Damodar Mauzo, Jnanpith award winner and co-curator of GALF said, 'GALF is different from the hundred odd literature festivals in India. The deliberations are serious and the ambience is intimate and homely, making it a unique festival.'

Over the next two days, February 14 and 15, the festival will see numerous authors share their journey on writing books that are close to their hearts. Some of the books that will be discussed will include British translator of Korean fiction Deborah Smith, whose translation of 'The Vegetarian' by Han Kang won the Man Booker International Prize in 2016; noted herpetologist and Padma Shri awardee, Romulus Whitaker's book, 'Snakes, Drugs and Rock 'n' Roll', co-authored with his wife Janaki Lenin; RS Nilkantan's political commentary, 'South vs North: India's Great Divide', SN Kannanari's

'Chronicle of an Hour and a Half' which won the 2024 Atta Galata Award and the Crossword Book Award for Best Fiction; South African writer, Shubnum Khan and her novel, 'The Djinn waits a hundred years', historian Manu Pillai's latest book, 'Gods, Guns & Missionaries'; internationally acclaimed journalist, Anjan Sundaram and his award winning memoirs and Aparajith Ramnath, award-winning historian of science, technology, and business with his book, 'Engineering a Nation: The Life and Career of M Visvesvaraya' among many others.



### SHUBNUM KHAN

Shubnum Khan is a South African writer and artist whose second novel, 'The Djinn Waits a Hundred Years' was selected as a New York Times Editors Choice, an Indie Next Pick, a Library Reads Pick and made NPR's list of Books We Love in 2024. In 2025, it was longlisted for the Dublin Literary Prize.

### ROMULUS WHITAKER

'Snakes, Drugs and Rock 'n' Roll', co-authored with his wife Janaki Lenin, portrays the early, reptile-obsessed life of Romulus Whitaker in northern New York state, and move to India in 1951 at age eight. His accolades include an Emmy Award, Whitley Award for Nature, Rolex Award for Enterprise and India's Padma Shri.

### MANU PILLAI

A winner of the Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar for his first book, 'The Ivory Throne', Manu S Pillai is a historian and the author of five books, most recently 'Gods, Guns & Missionaries: The Making of the Modern Hindu Identity'.

### ACCLAIMED WRITERS AND POETS AT GALF



### SAHARU NUSAIBA KANNANARI

Saharu Nusaiba Kannanari is a writer based out of Kerala. His first novel, 'Chronicle of an Hour and a Half', published earlier this year won the Crossword Book Award and Atta Galatta Bangalore Literature Festival Book Prize in fiction category. The book was also shortlisted for the JCB Prize for Literature and Godrej-Mumbai Lit Live! Literary Award. His next book, 'The Menon Investigation', is scheduled for publication in 2025.

### WILLIAM DALRYMPLE

William Dalrymple is one of the co-founders and co-directors of the world's largest writers' festival, the annual Jaipur Literature Festival. His book 'The Golden Road: How Ancient India Transformed the World' will be discussed.

### SUMANA ROY

Sumana Roy is the author of two works of non fiction, 'How I Became a Tree' and 'Provincials; Plant Thinkers of Twentieth-Century Bengal', a work of literary criticism; 'Missing: A Novel'; 'My Mother's Lover and Other Stories'; and two collections of poems, 'Out of Syllabus' and 'VIP: Very Important Plant'. She teaches at Ashoka University, Haryana.

### SHANTA GOKHALE

Shanta Gokhale, an alumna of Bristol University, UK, has been a lecturer in English. She is a novelist, columnist, playwright, translator, theatre critic and screen-writer. Besides three novels in Marathi, she has authored several books in English on Marathi and Indian theatre. She has won awards for her novels, translations, non-fiction books and screenplays at state and national levels. Her literary work of sixty years has been acknowledged with lifetime achievement awards from some of the country's literature festivals and theatre organisations. She is the recipient of the Sangeet Natak Akademi award for overall contribution to the performing arts and the Sahitya Akademi award for her translation of Laxmibai Tilak's autobiography.



### SWIPE RIGHT

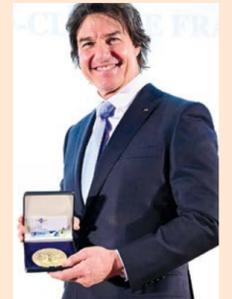
#### Nawazuddin Siddiqui reacts to comparisons with Irrfan Khan



Nawazuddin Siddiqui has cemented his position as a prolific actor with performances in films such as 'Gangs of Wasseypur', 'The Lunchbox' and 'Thackeray' among others. At a recent event, when he was asked about being compared to the late Irrfan Khan, another legend who left an indelible mark on global cinema, Nawazuddin responded, 'I have come to work like myself, I have not come to work like anyone else. Of course, he was a great actor, but I need to make my own identity.'

#### Tom Cruise honoured with aeronautics medal

Tom Cruise has been honoured with the Grande Médaille de France, presented to him by the organisation's president Catherine Maunoury. The award was for his 'significant contribution to the history of aviation and inspiring future pilots'. The medal is the highest distinction from the institution, which was created in 1898. In the videos posted on social media, Cruise was seen shaking hands with officials and being presented with the award. He will be next seen in 'Mission: Impossible -- The Final Reckoning'.



Gigi Hadid and Zayn Malik's daughter Khai is all grown up in rare photos.

## A SWEDISH MUSICIAN'S JOURNEY TO REDISCOVER HIS ROOTS

Mans Ryback is a Swede of Goan heritage who has made his name in the world of music in Sweden. However, his journey to Goa is two-fold as he wants to share his musical talent as well as hoping to find his roots in Goa

**Ajit John** [ajit@herald-goa.com](mailto:ajit@herald-goa.com)

Mans Ryback is a musician, teacher and football trainer left for Sweden from an orphanage in Mumbai when he was 7 months old. According to his adoption papers, the record show that he was taken from Goa to the orphanage in Mumbai. He lived in Stockholm with his father, Rolf, who was a teacher and his mother Gerd, who worked in the post office. Mans reminisces a very good childhood, 'I was certainly different from everybody else around me but it was not a problem. I had a lot of friends and it was great. Yes, there were a few comments but I was busy growing up and having a great time.'

He admitted that unlike other adopted kids who were interested in meeting their biological parents, Mans loved his parents too much to care. His father used to also work at an adoption centre and would visit India at least once a year in the 70s. That's how Mans interest in India grew. He had no connection to India in Sweden except for some documents. He visited India on five occasions with his father. He travelled across the length and breadth of the country from Delhi to

Kerala. It was an experience that opened his eyes to the beauty of the country. Now, he is here on his seventh visit to the country with his wife. He has also visited it once with his children.

The last time he came to India, he spent time in Mumbai and met with the children in Govandi. He raised money for them and more recently, he took them in a bus to see the sights in Mumbai like the Museum, Gateway of India etc. His skill sets



Mans the singer

helped him achieve his goals.

When he came to Candolim this time, he met with Colin D'Cruz and became part of the music scene in the State. His entry into the world of music is quite interesting. He went to a music academy in Sweden where he tried various instruments. He took to the trombone to the surprise of his mother who thought the trumpet, a smaller instrument, would be ideal. He took to the trombone and became quite good at it. He thanks his parents who did not play any instrument but listened to a lot of music at home

### MANS RYBACK

**PROFESSION:** Singer and Trombone Player

**ROOTS/NATIONALITY:** Of Goan descent but adopted by Swedish nationals in childhood

and in the car. His life as a musician was a side gig as he remained a teacher. Mans said, 'My students would feel very bad for me because according to them, I did not know who my biological parents were but I had my parents with me which they did not understand.'

He wants to do something in Candolim similar to what he did in Mumbai offering his skills as a teacher, football trainer or a musician. That is the way he says he will be giving back something to India. He is contemplating staying for longer periods of time in Goa the next time he comes over. He said, 'Sweden is very cold which is so different from India but that's home for now. The last time I went home I was struck with a cold and fever. Let's see what happens this time.' The

**MUSIC GENRE:** Jazz, with a love for singing Frank Sinatra

**PERFORMANCES IN GOA:** Performed with Jazz Junction across Goa

**INTERNATIONAL PERFORMANCES:** Has performed in Sweden despite being a football coach

Sweden of today is very different from the Sweden of his childhood. With a right wing party in power, Mans is not perturbed. He says, 'Sweden today has people from different cultures unlike in the past and it will be difficult for anything really untoward to happen.'

This time was also spent performing in gigs and earning a name for himself; perhaps, he will come the next time and continue searching for his roots in the state.

