

Exploring the World through stamps

Dr M R Ramesh Kumar is a passionate philatelist, who recently published the book, 'Tiny Treasures – The Science and History behind the World of Stamps'. He shares insights into the significance of philately in education

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Former President of the Goa Philately and Numismatics Society, Dr M R Ramesh Kumar, is a retired chief scientist at CSIR-NIO, Dona Paula. Dr Ramesh has been contemplating writing a book on philately for several years. Finally, he released his book, 'Tiny Treasures – The Science and History behind the World of Stamps' with the support of Shubha Subramaniam, who helped clear his doubts and edited the book, which brought his vision to life. "In fact, I wanted her to be my co-author, but she declined," he says.

LEGACY IN PHILATELY
With a philatelic journey spanning almost seven decades, Dr. Ramesh found the motivation to document his experiences to benefit future generations. "Initially, I thought of compiling my previously published articles but later realized that a structured book would serve a better purpose," he explains. His book is dedicated to his three mentors: his father, the late MV Ranganatha Pai, late Balakrishna Das, founding member of the South India Philatelic Association (SIPA), Chennai, and VR Navelkar, founding member of the Goa Philately and Numismatics Society (GPNS). "A book can guide and inspire budding philatelists to take up this hobby seriously," he says.

PHILATELY: AN EDUCATIONAL TOOL AND INVESTMENT

Dr Ramesh strongly believes that philately serves as an excellent educational tool. "Each stamp tells a story, teaching students and seniors alike about geography, culture, heritage, and science," he says. Beyond its educational value, he highlights its investment potential. "A special cover released by GPNS during the Covid-19 period, originally priced at Rs 30, was valued at Rs 300 within a week—an excellent return in no time."

His book emphasizes the versatility of stamp collection, which appeals to a variety of interests. "There is a stamp for everyone, whether it's environmental themes, sports, films, science, culture, history, or heritage. Kids, for example, love to collect stamps featuring sports or Disney characters."

ADVICE FOR YOUNG PHILATELISTS

For children starting in philately, Dr Ramesh suggests beginning with local themes. "I encourage them to collect stamps related to Goa—their history, biodiversity, and freedom fighters. They can also focus on sports like football, chess, and cricket, which are popular in Goa," he says. He also recommends assembling a basic philatelic toolkit, including a washing tray, magnifying glass, stock book, blotting paper, catalogue, acid-free plastic sheets, and A4-sized sheets for displaying stamps.

Philately in the Digital Age
Finding philatelic material is easier than ever, thanks to both offline and online sources. "In Goa, we have an excellent Philatelic Bureau in Panjim with helpful staff. The GPNS also assists budding philatelists in completing their collections and guiding them through various stages," he shares.

Dr M R Ramesh Kumar will be conducting a session today, February 27 on 'Goa's Culture and Heritage through Philately' the Goa Children's Festival and Book Fair 2025 at Story Couch, Ravindra Bhavan, Margao at 11.30 am.

Students can acquire stamps through exchanges, philatelic dealers, and online platforms like Amazon, Flipkart, and eBay. Postcrossing is another great way to receive stamps from pen friends abroad.

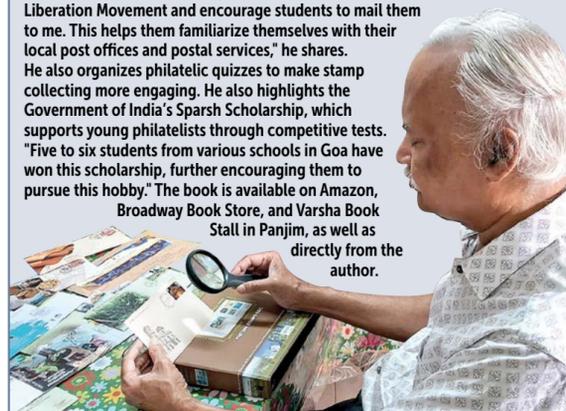
SPREADING THE LOVE FOR PHILATELY
Dr Ramesh actively visits schools across India

to establish philatelic clubs, igniting a passion for stamp collection among young minds. He carries philatelic exhibits related to his seminar topics—whether it's oceanography, climate change, biodiversity, or Indian cinema. This exposure helps students discover new professions and careers.

Dr Ramesh's book is designed for readers of all ages. "From young students to senior citizens, anyone looking for an engaging, educational, and affordable hobby will find this book valuable," he says. He elaborates on the variety of philatelic materials collectors can explore, including mint and used stamps, first-day covers, special covers, miniature sheets, maximum cards, and commemorative cancellations for significant occasions like World Ozone Day and Mother Tongue Day.

PROMOTING PHILATELY THROUGH INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES

Dr Ramesh conducts interactive philatelic activities in schools and colleges across India. "I distribute Meghdoot Postcards related to the Goa Liberation Movement and encourage students to mail them to me. This helps them familiarize themselves with their local post offices and postal services," he shares. He also organizes philatelic quizzes to make stamp collecting more engaging. He also highlights the Government of India's Sparsh Scholarship, which supports young philatelists through competitive tests. "Five to six students from various schools in Goa have won this scholarship, further encouraging them to pursue this hobby." The book is available on Amazon, Broadway Book Store, and Varsha Book Stall in Panjim, as well as directly from the author.



Jubilee of Religious celebrated in the Archdiocese of Goa and Daman



The Jubilee of Religious on the occasion of the Day of Consecrated Life was joyfully celebrated across the Archdiocese of Goa and Daman at various deaneries, fostering a sense of unity among clergy, religious, seminarians,



and formees. Held in early February, the celebrations centered on the theme 'Pilgrims of Hope on the Path of Peace,' emphasizing the significant role of consecrated persons in spreading hope and peace through their lives.

The Jubilee was organized by the Conference of Religious India (Goa), Deans of the deaneries, and Deanery Pastoral Councils, with coordination by the CRI deanery Animators. It was observed at the deanery level across different parishes, convents, and religious institutions from January 30 to February 9. The Diocese level Jubilee of the Consecrated will take place on May 1, where Archbishop Filipe Neri Cardinal Ferrão, Archbishop of Goa and Daman, will preside over the Eucharistic celebration.

Throughout the first week of February, insightful reflections on religious life were shared by Fr Henry Falcao, Episcopal Vicar for the Central Zone; Fr Savio Barretto; Fr Romeo D'Silva, Dean of Sanguem Deanery; Fr Greyfon Rodrigues; Fr Tony Fernandes; Fr Lester D'Silva; Fr Winston Barboza; and Fr Joby Tharamayalam in various deaneries. In addition, various priests presided over the Eucharistic celebrations and delivered inspiring homilies, including Fr Joaquim Fernandes, Episcopal Vicar for Religious; Fr Simon Fernandes, Dean of Raia Deanery; Fr Xavier Estibeiro, Parish Priest of Olaulim; Fr Shannon Pereira, Director of Xavier Retreat House, Baga-Calangute; Fr Randal Barretto; Fr Andrew Joseph; Fr Isaac; and Fr Saripudi Chinniah, Superior of the Holy Cross Fathers, Nuvem.

The Jubilee celebrations took place in the following venues: St Ann's Church, Olaulim (Aldona Deanery); Pilar Sisters

Novitiate House, Orlim (Benaulim Deanery); Our Lady of Grace Convent, Bicholim (Bicholim Deanery); St Alex Convent, Calangute (Calangute Deanery); Divine Springs Retreat Centre, Xelzim (Canacona Deanery); SFS Seminary, Bastora (Mapusa Deanery); Presentation Convent, Margao (Margao Deanery); Don Bosco Oratory, Panjim (Panjim Deanery); Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Arambol (Pernem Deanery); St Joseph's Church, Usgao (Ponda Deanery); St Mary of the Angels Convent, Chinchinnim (Chinchinnim Deanery); St Francis Xavier's Church, Macasana (Quepem Deanery); SVD Seminary, Raia (Raia Deanery); Pilar Sisters Convent, Uguem-Sanguem (Sanguem Deanery); Mother of God Church, Majorda (Verna Deanery); St Anthony's Church, Siolim (Siolim Deanery); and Our Lady of Piety Church, Divar (Old Goa Deanery).

Deanery level Jubilee celebration was co-ordinated by the CRI deanery Animators. In several deaneries, the Adoration to the Blessed Sacrament was organized and led by the nuns, seminarians, and priests, creating a sacred and contemplative atmosphere for all participants. The celebrations also included games, cultural programs, group discussions on the themes of religious life, and fellowship meals, all contributing to a joyful atmosphere. In some deaneries, cake-cutting ceremonies added to the festive spirit.

The Jubilee of Religious was celebrated with deep faith, fellowship, and gratitude for the religious vocations in the Archdiocese. Each deanery created a space for prayer, reflection, and joy, underscoring the vital role of consecrated life in the Church's mission to spread peace and hope.



St Michael's Sharjah Goans organize a Goan community picnic

Bryce D'Sousa

St Michael's Sharjah Goan Community recently organized an annual picnic at the Sharjah National Park. The event brought together more than 400 Goans from all across the Emirates, with the main purpose of connecting the diaspora and celebrating a shared reality.



A series of games were put together for people of all age groups that helped create a community spirit as



people gathered in their respective teams working their way out on reaching the finish line. The most innovative of them all was the 'Newspaper Dress Up Competition.' In this game, all the teams had to work out innovative ways of designing a dress out of old newspaper within a limited time. Imagination took a flight of fancy as team members went frenzy to complete the task within just ten minutes, generating lots of fun and laughter in the fresh environs of the park.

The event finally culminated with the game of house and a short song session by Anthony D'Sousa who sang a few English and custom Konkani tunes that entertained the audience and helped garner a shared sense of unity. It was a nice warm feeling of a home-away-from-home.

Film screening

Cinephile Film Club will be screening the Italian black comedy, 'Divorce, Italian Style'. The film won the Oscar for Best writing, story and screenplay. Directed by Pietro Vermì, the film has Marcello Mastroianni as an impoverished Sicilian aristocrat who sets up his wife's affair, so that he can commit a crime of passion. This is unlike any Sicilian setting you have seen in cinema.

Venue: Maquinez Palace, Audi 1, Panjim
Date: February 27
Time: 6.30 pm



Music concert

Allegro Music Academy Margão in collaboration with Sonata Music School Margão will present 'Crescendo Musical Concert', 'Harmony In Diversity', an enchanting evening of music and dance conducted by Maestro Fr Peter Cardoso.

Venue: Ravindra Bhavan, Margao
Date: February 27
Time: 7 pm

Herald Gaming Console

Dilbert



Garfield



Wizard of id



crossword 4779

ACROSS
1- Green pasta sauce; 6- Steinbeck East of ____; 10- Queue after Q; 14- Standoffish; 15- Vietnam neighbor; 16- Bahrain bigwig; 17- Coffee choice; 18- 2002 ____-fi; 19- Persian fairy; 20- ____-fi; 21- Early Peruvians; 23- Strong winds; 24- Cravat; 26- Narrow cuts; 27- One who grinds grains; 29- 'See ya!'; 31- La Scala highlight; 32- Brother of Moses; 33- Vegas opening; 36- In spite of; 40- Single; 41- Gaggle members; 42- Yeah, sure; 43- San Antonio landmark; 44- Continues a subscription; 46- Barbershop quartet member; 48- University of Florida player; 49- Salk's conquest; 50- Chart; 52- Shade at the beach?; 55- Barbershop request; 56- Swedish auto; 57- Uncle; 59- Proceedings; 60- Canadian gas brand; 61- Summer camp transport; 62- Cartoonist Silverstein; 63- Blacken; 64- Used up;

DOWN
1- Cushions; 2- Util. bill; 3- Debutante; 4- Get thee ____; 5- Place where business is conducted; 6- Choose; 7- Computer input; 8- Ages and ages; 9- D.C. advisory grp.; 10- Mend; 11- Refine; 12- Wearies; 13- 'Exodus' author; 22- ____easter; 23- First American to orbit Earth;

25- Cabbage salad; 26- Greek portico; 27- Look ____ hands!; 28- Pressing need?; 29- Dogie catcher; 30- Jocular Johnson; 32- Excuse me; 33- Rake; 34- Once again; 35- Cpls' superiors; 37- Ice house; 38- Shred; 39- Pebble's pet; 43- Beast; 44- Knock vigorously; 45- Morals; 46- Burn down; 47- Cream of the crop; 48- Zsa Zsa or Eva; 49- School orgs.; 50- Deep cut; 51- Tabula ____; 53- Stratford's river; 54- Nair rival; 56- Jiff; 58- Opening;

solution 4778

MAAM	SCALP	TYRAC
ELIA	AERIE	HELY
LORN	KNEAD	ETES
THEMEG	TRANS	SECT
SARAN	STELAS	ES
BAN	ELLE	BERIER
ESC	ALLAT	NEA
DEAFEN	JRN	FEEDS
SCALD	TATE	
ODESSA	ACAST	
EVERYONE	DELETE	
DEMI	SALTY	ATAN
IRIS	IRENE	INRE
TART	NESTS	MAST

sudoku 4779

	2	8		4		3	9	
				3		5		
	5		2	8				7
9			1	9		2		
		1		2	3			
5				6	9		8	
		6		1				
	8	7		5		9	4	

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 4778

8	1	9	6	3	7	5	2	4
3	7	6	4	5	2	1	8	9
2	5	4	1	8	9	6	7	3
1	9	8	7	4	5	3	6	2
5	3	2	8	9	6	7	4	1
4	6	7	3	2	1	8	9	5
6	4	5	2	7	3	9	1	8
9	2	1	5	6	8	4	3	7
7	8	3	9	1	4	2	5	6