

Herald Cafe

COLOURS AND CREATIVITY Define Goa's Carnival

The Carnival parades in Goa have constantly evolved, with new aspects added to the festivity every year



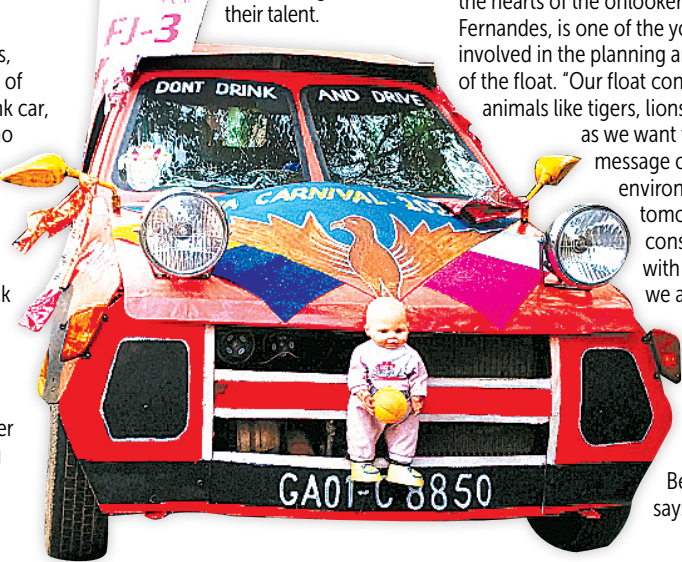
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King Momo is finally here to declare the final days of fun, frolic, and enjoyment open today, March 1, before the 40 days of the Lenten season. Carnival is here, and everyone in Goa is excited to witness the parades, which will showcase creatively decorated floats making their way through the majestic Panjim streets. The fun, festivities, and much more will be on display as crowds from far and wide come to the capital city to witness the first day of the Carnival parade. From traditional occupations to the fruits and flowers of the state, the Carnival is a visual and musical treat. The traditional occupations of Goa, along with individual floats, are all part of the Carnival, entertaining the crowds and showcasing the best of their talent.

FUNKY JUNK COMES TO LIFE

The Carnival parade features different categories, adding more vibrancy to the annual affair. Some of the categories include traditional, family, fun junk car, clowns/jokers, and individuals. Terrence Carvalho from Mapusa is an enthusiastic participant who has been part of the parade, first as an individual and now with his family in the fun junk car category.

From November-December itself, Terrence starts working on the vintage car, bringing it back to life with new colors according to the theme of the year. "Terrence has been participating in Carnival for the past 25 years. But since we got married, we have been participating as Jolly Fun Family from Mapusa. The car gets a makeover with informative themes. We have been creating awareness on different topics, and this year, it is based on safe driving," says Sarita Carvalho, Terrence's wife.



A THEME CLOSER TO THE SHORES OF GOA

Dominic D'Souza from Nagao, Arpora is part of NA Boyz working on a float based on sea turtles and the theme is 'Help to protect and conserve sea turtles' which showcase different phases of their life from the nests to the sea. "We have been participating for nearly 4 to 5 years and we even won the third place one year and consolation prizes. More than the prizes, it is the team spirit and the unity of the youngsters of the village and the friend circle that makes the floats a success. Vinesh Madkaikar helps us in painting every year. We started working on this float

exactly a month ago," says Dominic. The colourful float will be on display only at Panjim and Mapusa. "The youngsters especially the dancers get tired by the time we are done with the parades and travel back home. We keep them continuously hydrated as they are dancing in the scorching hot sun. We have six pairs of dancers as part of our group," adds Dominic.

YOUTH POWER AT THE PARADES

With two major floats coming out of Benaulim, the youth were motivated to helm their own float. From the age group of 15-22 years, Hustle Squad from Mazil Vaddo, makes for one of the youngest groups for the parade. This is just the second year that they are participating at the Carnival but their Panda-themed float last year surely won the hearts of the onlookers. Jocelyn Fernandes, is one of the youngsters involved in the planning and execution of the float. "Our float consists of various animals like tigers, lions and elephants as we want to share the message of saving the environment for a better tomorrow. Our group consists of 25 youth with 16 dancers and we are excited to showcase our hardwork that we put into the float. We are all set for Carnival in Panjim and Benaulim," says Jocelyn.



WHEN NATURE LOVERS TRAVEL TO THE CITIES

From one of the smallest villages of Goa, Kodxel-Nadara in Bardez, JoeMax Brothers make it a point to begin the work on their floats at least a month in advance. Every year for over a decade, they highlight one animal of the state. This year, the pangolin will be in the focus as they create awareness about the endangered species. "It is very important to save pangolins as they are the protectors of the forests. They eat ants and termites which affect the trees in the forests. They save the entire green cover and we should create awareness about them," says Maxwell D'Souza, who will be taking the lead in the float with 15 people including dancers.

As Kodxel is a small village, close friends from the neighbouring villages of Pima and Tivim, also join the float. "We travel to all four parades in the state and we have also won prizes at different parades. Last year, we worked on a float based on the theme of bullfighting," adds Maxwell.



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Katy Perry to fly to space in Blue Origin's rocket

Blue Origin, the rocket company owned by Jeff Bezos, has announced the crew for its upcoming mission, and it includes a number of boldface names. Lauren Sanchez, Bezos' fiancée, "brought the mission together," per the space company. In addition to Sanchez, pop superstar Katy Perry and CBS Morning co-anchor Gayle King will be part of the crew. "[Sanchez] is honoured to lead a team of explorers on a mission that will challenge their perspectives of Earth, empower them to share their own stories, and create lasting impact that will inspire generations to come," Blue Origin said in a statement.



Johnny Depp to return as Jack Sparrow

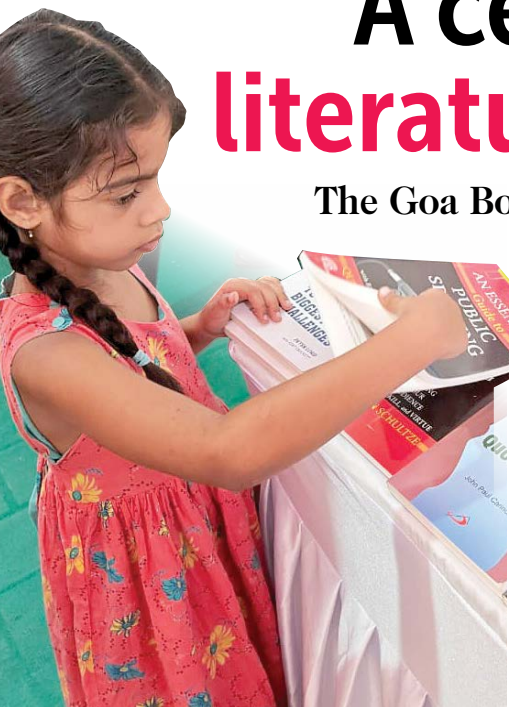
Johnny Depp is returning as Captain Jack Sparrow in the new Pirates of the Caribbean movie. Producer Jerry Bruckheimer had previously said two versions of the movie were being made, one without Depp. However, it has now been confirmed that the makers have decided to bring back the OG Jack Sparrow. Depp had previously stated that he wouldn't want to return, even if he's paid a hefty amount. However, the makers are reportedly waiting for his return and wants to bring him back by giving any amount of money. Geoffrey Rush, who played Captain Barbossa has stated that discussions have already taken place.



Award-winning actor and rapper, Will Smith has raised eyebrows after his steamy performance with Italian singer, India Martinez of their new collaboration, 'First Love' during the 37th Premio Lo Nuestro Awards at Kaseya Center, Miami.

A celebration of children's literature and creative workshops

The Goa Book Fair & Children's Literature Festival at Ravindra Bhavan, Margao, is a celebration of literature and fun workshops for all ages



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A unique and vibrant literary festival, the Goa Book Fair, is offering an extensive selection of books, from enchanting stories for young readers to exciting fiction, insightful non-fiction, and the latest bestsellers. People from all walks of life are attending the Goa Book Fair, enjoying a fun and vibrant experience at Ravindra Bhavan, Margao. The event is a perfect gathering for readers, families, and book enthusiasts to connect and celebrate literature.

A LITERARY HAVEN FOR ALL AGES

The Goa Book Fair, held till March 3, is a celebration of literature for readers of all ages. This one-of-a-kind festival offers an expansive selection of

books, from enchanting tales for children to exciting fiction, thought-provoking non-fiction, and the latest bestsellers. It provides a wonderful opportunity to explore the literary world, with books catering to every taste and preference, thanks to publishers and booksellers from across India. Leonardo Fernandes, the Co-festival director, states, "The goal of this event is to help children realize the significance of books in their lives and the value of reading." This year, the event features 51 participants, 66 book stalls, and around 152 programs designed for children.

Remo Fernandes, with his vibrant and catchy songs like 'Maria Pitache', brought fun and energy to the event. It was amazing to see how the music united people, especially children making them want dance freely to their heart's content.

CONNECT WITH WRITERS AND CREATIVE WORKSHOPS

Beyond its vast collection of books, the Goa Book Fair offers attendees the unique opportunity to connect with celebrated writers and literary figures. Visitors can engage with some of the brightest minds in literature, gaining insights and inspiration. The event also features hands-on workshops, especially for children, where they can get creative and develop new skills. These activities foster a love for reading and writing from an early age, making the fair an enriching experience for all. A cheerful young boy named Anthony Crasto expressed his excitement about getting autographs from famous singers and writers, both from Goa and beyond, during the event he attended. He mentioned that he can't wait to come back with his friend's next time.

Arundhati Chattopadhyay did a great job bringing Zai Whittaker's 'Cobra in My Kitchen' to life for the children. All the children had a lot of fun and attentively participated engaging themselves in the story made to come alive.

CELEBRATING GOAN TALENT AND CULTURAL PERFORMANCES

Adding to the excitement, the festival showcases vibrant cultural performances and serves as a platform for gifted Goan authors, illustrators, and storytellers to share their creations. The festival aims to celebrate the rich literary and artistic traditions of Goa, while also nurturing a close-knit community of book lovers, writers, and creators. Whether you're an avid reader, a budding writer, or someone looking to explore the world of literature, the Goa Book Fair offers something for everyone.

Rhesa Coutinho, a recent graduate, expressed her enthusiasm, saying, "I witnessed how their creativity comes to life as they craft face masks using everyday materials from their homes." She had been invited to lead a workshop for the kids during the event. The children had a fantastic time creating their own carnival masks. With colorful materials, glitter, and paints, they unleashed their creativity, designing unique and vibrant masks. The activity brought out their imagination, and they proudly wore their masterpieces, enjoying the fun and festive spirit of the carnival.

Today 7:00 PM - Ravindra Bhavan, Vasco
Tomorrow 7:00 PM - Ravindra Bhavan, Margao
Mon. 3rd Mar 7:00 PM - Kala Academy, Panajim

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