

Herald Cafe

Big Fat Fatorda Carnival draws record crowds

With 11 of Goa's best bands, top-notch food at pocket-friendly prices, and a host of games, competitions and activities, Fatorda delivered a people's Carnival experience that will be remembered for the years to come

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The four-day Big Fat Fatorda Carnival Blast 2025 brought thousands of revellers to the SGPDA Ground, celebrating Goa's most vibrant festival. Kicking off on Fat Saturday, the event followed King Momo's proclamation of 'Kha, piye aani majja kar'—eat, drink, and make merry—with free entry ensuring an inclusive, people's carnival for Goans and tourists alike.

Throughout the festival, visitors indulged in Goan and international delicacies at the bustling food stalls, while feni and urak flowed freely. The atmosphere was electric, with friends, families, and acquaintances reuniting to dance, feast, and celebrate together. The event featured numerous contests and activities for all ages, including a cooking competition for women from various faiths and communities, an art studio, a bouncing castle, and a paddle pool for children, while elderly attendees enjoyed the live entertainment.

The carnival's highlight was its star-studded musical lineup, featuring Goa's top cover bands such as Pure Magic, Crimson Tide, Altitude, 7 Notes, Lynx, Black in White, Truly Yours, Raagas2Riches, Tidal Wave, and Mark Revlon, with A26 closing the festival with an electrifying two-hour set on Fat Tuesday.

The final day saw record-breaking crowds of over 15,000 people, marking one of the largest turnouts ever at a Carnival event. Adding to the momentous occasion, Goa's first-ever King Momo, 90-year-old Timoteo Fernandes, was felicitated for his iconic role in leading the Carnival in 1965 on a bullock cart. Timoteo is credited with starting the Carnival parade tradition in Goa, a tribute to the festivities in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Fatorda MLA Vijai Sardesai, who spearheaded the event, expressed pride in reviving an authentic Goan carnival experience. "We have showcased our Goan music bands, our culinary heritage,



The wildly popular 7 notes band belts out Konkani hits



Revellers in high spirits as they cheer and dance to the music

and our hospitality in a truly non-commercial fashion. This was a carnival for the people, by the people. We were also careful to stick to the Goan Carnival ethos – the bands belted out Konkani dance numbers, classics and other Goan favourites



A child gets his face painted at the Carnival's Art Zone



Fatorda MLA Vijai Sardesai honours 90-year-old Timoteo Fernandes, Goa's first King Momo, who's considered the father of Goa's Carnival tradition

but we did not play any Bollywood or Hindi music," he said.

"The Big Fat Fatorda Carnival was a vibrant celebration, capturing the true essence of Goan spirit with a local touch, featuring Goa's best local artists. The crowds that gathered over the four days were as large as those at some of Goa's biggest international festivals,

highlighting the event's immense success," said leading DJ Navin Rodrigues, who performed at the Fatorda Carnival bash.

"The Carnival event at Fatorda was amazing and had a great vibe. It was truly an unadulterated event. So much so that even as Samba Square in Panjim was considered the event for Carnival, the Big Fat Fatorda carnival surpassed it on so many levels, be it the music, the acoustics, the parking, the food stalls," said Gerson Rebello from Betalbatim. "At every corner, you would bump into 20-25 known people, all in Carnival mood – and not just South Goa folks but we met so many from North Goa as well. The bands were fantastic. You could look up in the sky and see



DKA CELEBRATED THE BIRTH CENTENARY OF LATE EVAGRIO JORGE



KONKANI GETS ITS FIRST BOOK ON PSYCHOLOGY

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King Momo



Members of the band Altitude strike a pose with the crowd



The band A26 performs on stage

the fireworks. The finale was breathtaking too," Gerson added.

"It was the best carnival event in Goa. Everything was well organised and planned, hats off to Vijai Sardesai. I feel the crowd that came was even more than the crowd that comes for Sunburn and I can say this for a fact," said Dr Caitano Fernandes.

Vijay Sardesai further compared the event's success to major festivals, remarking, "We succeeded in providing entertainment for all age groups, and the response could be termed as South Goa's answer to Sunburn! I thank our team, our friends, all the music bands, the participants in different in this huge event."

With stalls set up by five-star hotels and an overwhelming turnout throughout the four days, The Big Fat Fatorda Carnival promises to become not just a calendar event for Fatorda but for all of Goa.

SWIPE RIGHT

Shawn Mendes spotted street shopping in Mumbai



International pop sensation **Shawn Mendes** is in Mumbai ahead of his much-anticipated performance at the Lollapalooza 2025 music festival. The singer, known for hits like 'Senorita' and 'Stitches', arrived in the city a few days before the event, taking some time to explore Mumbai's vibrant streets. Shawn was spotted shopping at the bustling Colaba Causeway market in South Mumbai. Dressed casually in a white vest and beige corduroy pants, he blended in with the crowds as he browsed through various items. In a viral video shared on social media, the singer was seen checking out footwear at a local shop, while another video shows him posing with excited fans who gathered to catch a glimpse of the pop star.

Justin Lin teams with Keanu Reeves for 'BRZRKR'



Justin Lin, the filmmaker who steered the 'Fast & Furious' franchise to new and revived heights, has come aboard to direct 'BRZRKR', the Keanu Reeves-created comic being adapted by Netflix. Keanu is starring in the gritty feature project as well as producing. The move reunites Lin with Reeves, who became an angel investor in the filmmaker's latest drama and return to indie roots, 'Last Days', which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in January.



ANANYA PANDAY's shared candid moments from her getaway to Seychelles. She enjoyed some beach time with her sister Rysa Panday.

Only love can keep family united

Tiatri: 'Ganvchi Zatra Bangoddi Sotra'
Cast: Janet, Samica, Flavia, Joyel, Rizton, Brian, Ben Evangelisto, Ambe, Nato, Elita, Humbert, Sally, Rocky
Writer/Director: Agostinho Temudo
Band: Theo Alvares (trumpet), Nazareth (saxophone), Arif (keyboard), Josh (bass), Jack (drums)
Stage/Lights: Pedro Santan, Ratna

Pio Esteves

The story revolves around Agostinho (comedian Agostinho), his spouse Janet (comedienne Janet), younger brother Brian (Brian) and his aged father, Rock Santan (Rocky). While Agostinho serves as a police officer, Janet is a housewife. Brian is unemployed, but hunting for a job.

The monthly salary drawn by Agostinho is shared among all the



members of the family. The head of the family is generous by nature and a giver than a taker at heart.

On the other hand, there are three neighbours living in close proximity. There's Sally (comedienne Sally) with his son Natalin (comedian Nato), Bena (Ben Evangelisto) with his daughter, Ritin (Rizton) and Humbert (comedian Humbert) with his daughter Elita (Elita).

In Agostinho's household everything seems to run smoothly as there is love,

Tiatri Review

'Ganvchi Zatra Bangoddi Sotra'

concern and respect for each other. Gradually, disrespect is seen between the father-in-law and daughter-in-law and clashes begin to rise.

To leave the couple at peace with

each other, Rock Santan and Brian decide to leave the house. Trouble mounts when Janet invites her father, Sally and brother, Natalin to reside with her. And then misunderstandings continue in the family.

As the three neighbours share good tidings, the police officer steps in asking them to vacate the place as it belongs to the landlord. What follows next is worth the watch during the second half of the drama.

There's also a doctor in the village (Ambe), who has strange ways of treating

his patients. Comedian Joyel and Samica come together as a couple, but when the latter speaks, it's an unending delivery, reminding about 'jet-speed' singer, late William de Curtorim.

Comedian Agostinho's tiatri 'Ganvchi Zatra Bangoddi Sotra' is a dictum made relevant on stage in a family and among the neighbours. Love can unite a family and anger can destroy the family—this is the message conveyed in this comedy/tragedy tiatri.

In the past there have been ladies'

shows on the Konkani stage wherein all artistes (singers and actors) were women tiatrists. But this time around, comedian Agostinho has roped in only the comedians for the entire presentation. There are 14 comedians who are involved in serious acting as well as singing and comedy.

Comedy created in between the scenes by the comedians is enjoyable, but some portions of it need to be filtered as it is unappealing to the ears.

In the section of songs, the opening song is rendered by Nato, Rizton, Joyel and Brian, followed by solos from Ben Evangelisto, Nato and Rocky and a song on parents by Brian and Rizton. Three songs, namely a solo by comedian Brian and songs 'Aikat khobor fuddli' by Sally and Agostinho and Rizton, Ambe, Joyel and Brian receive encores. More songs could have been added to the presentation. The musicians offstage have extended good support to the singers.

The stage sets are by Pedro Santan and Ratna has handled the lights.