

# Global hits get a Konkani twist

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The Official Song Book of the Konkani Lyrics Contest 2024 was recently released and features 136 Konkani lyrics of 108 Global hits that comes from 21 languages. The popularity of the contest organised by Uzoorba Technologies led to the book as the lyrics can now be learnt and sung too.

In 2014, inspired by Assamese rock musician Joi Barua's music, Vincent Paul Toscano, managing partner of Uzoorba, thought of doing a project on rock music in Konkani. He commissioned a song by Joi as a pilot to test out the concept. Joi put the base melody for that song and then the lyrics had to be written for it. "The whole objective was to create a diverse and unified music. I ended up getting a great Hindu lyricist that is the late Sridhar Kamat. But I could not get a Christian lyricist to partner with Sridhar, so they could jointly create the lyrics. That is where the whole project stumbled," informs Vincent.

After a decade, he revisited the project with a simple lyrics contest. However, it ended up becoming a social experiment for Konkani. With Goans from the Goan diaspora across six countries sending



in their entries besides people from Goa, the competition was a mix of different Konkani dialects. "The more dialects found in a song or the mix, the more points the participants would get. It also had a linguistic aspect to it. We had Dr Prakash Parientkar, Dr Glenis Mendonca and Cialini Judith Fernandes did the linguistic evaluation. The lyrics were then judged by a junior jury and then a senior jury," says Vincent.



website, kwm.vangdda.org which will be then posted to the readers or can be hand delivered in Panjim. "The book was never part of the original plan but the volume of work that I got done was so huge because it's within a span of two, three months, people have produced those hundred and thirty plus entries that they've submitted. This was a momentous or historic moment for Konkani given the effort that people were ready to put. The participants revised their lyrics and made it singable. It became a collaborative exercise. Multiple lyricists got together and helped other lyricists to refine their songs. There were two competition, the

finals of the lyrics competition, and the finale of the singing competition. The purpose of this singing competition was to popularize these new songs. The audience heard different songs as more than 70 songs were sung in that one evening. The organisers are planning on organising online competitions in the future, which are very specific to songs as singing challenges. The year will end with a contest singing challenge that they have already announced in early January. "O Holy Night" made popular by Mariah Carey has some hundreds of variants of that same song in different languages, music genres, right from pop to rock and operatic. Participants will have to sing the song in different variations as December 7 is the deadline for that singing challenge. Which will have ten prize winners. It will be completely online. And the prize money for that is Rupees 1 lakh 10 thousand," concluded Vincent.

# Following the journey of Mayuri in English

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Bal Sahitya Akademi awarded Konkani novel 'Mayuri' authored by Jyoti Kunkoliekar was recently translated into English by Dr Smitha Bhandare Kamat, the first translation of this noted educationist, cartoonist and columnist. 'Mayuri' is a children's novel that follows the journey of Mayuri, a young girl whose mother dies and then her father in the grief abandons her. She is left with her maternal grandmother and uncle in Canacona where she learns about nature and becomes a brave girl and goes on to become a police inspector.

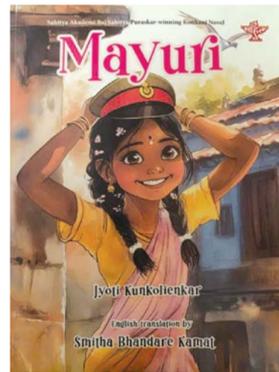
Filled with suspense, humor, fears, and strong emotions, 'Mayuri' is a relatable and captivating journey for readers of all ages. Though it speaks especially to preteens, its universal themes make it a compelling read for anyone seeking inspiration and a deeper understanding of the human experience.

"The novel is about learning about how to connect with nature, discipline, extracurricular activities and since it is a journey of a Goan girl, it is very relatable, to every kid. She grows facing hardships and overcomes her grief. However, before the book even won the Sahitya Akademi Award in Children's Literature in 2022, Dr Smitha Bhandare Kamat had already approached me about the translation of the book. Once it did win the national award, Sahitya Akademi publishers encouraged translation in different languages, especially in English and Hindi. After the expert approves the translation, then it goes for printing," informs Jyoti, who worked on her first collaboration with Dr Smitha.

One of Jyoti's Konkani novels, 'Khyast' which is translated in Kannada as 'Dandane' recently received Sara Abubakar endowment award by Coastal Women Writers Association of Mangalore.

Though Dr Smitha has written two books in Konkani, this story inspired her to translate. "It is a very inspiring story about a little girl who goes through a lot of trauma and in spite of that she emerges as a very strong person. I thought that would make a very good reading for our youngsters who get easily disheartened. We have so many Goans who are settled abroad and they would still like to be connected to their roots. English is a universal language and this is a good opportunity to give a local flavor, a wider platform," she says.

Speaking about the challenges of translating, Dr Smitha says, "Since it is a children's book, I thought it will be easy but when you actually get down to



the task of translating, it becomes very difficult because you are trying to equate one language with something similar. I have written in my translator's note in the book that there is always scope for improvement. I come from a generation where I can immediately relate to what the author had in mind. But if you're looking at the current generation, they may not be even aware that this is how our ancestors lived. You have to be a little more vivid in your description to the children. You have to ensure that you're not playing too much with the characters beyond what is permissible."

She further adds, "Another big challenge is children don't read anymore. It's very important for their imagination, vocabulary and understanding. Today's children and youngsters have a more digital world to live in. As an author and translator, we have to ensure that that interest is sustained. What happens to Mayuri after this? The interest has to build up and then ultimately reach a great height. The journey of living in somebody else's place and trying to navigate and negotiate with all the challenges, I think that's a good lesson for youngsters and parents."

The translation of 'Mayuri' was released by M R M Rao, IAS Secretary to Governor of Goa in the presence of Prof (Dr) Manoj Kamat, principal, SS Dempo College of Commerce and Economics as the guest of honour, Jyoti Kunkoliekar and Dr Smitha Bhandare Kamat. The book is available on Sahitya Akademi's website.



## Dempo College Literati Club organizes Authors' Meet 2025



The Dempo Literati Club of Srinivasa Sinai Dempo College (Autonomous) in association with Library Advisory Committee held an exclusive Authors' Meet 2025 featuring three remarkable writers. Michelle Mascarenhas (FYBBA) was the compere for the authors' meet and introduced the authors. Michelle Mendonça Bambawale, author of 'Becoming Goan—a tale of identity, culture, and what it truly means to belong' is a contemporary coming homestory, published by Penguin Random House.

Bina Nayak is the author of 'Goagr@M'—a modern narrative that intertwines Goa's charm with the digital age. She is an award-winning author, graphic designer and creative director. She made her debut with 'Starfish Pickle', a gripping Goan adventure that was later adapted into a major motion picture. Her latest book, 'Goagr@M: Misadventures of an Influencer', offers a satirical take on digital fame.

Dr Smitha Bhandare Kamat, author of 'Beyond the Class Window'—a reflective journey into education, learning, and life itself. She recently completed an online STC at Harvard Graduate School of Education. She has been recognized with numerous accolades, including the State Award (DHE, Government of Goa), Lokmat

Award, ZIEI (Shri Aurobindo Society, Rupantar), 21 Gun Salute Award among others at the national level.

The Goan authors captivated the audience at the meet with vibrant discussions of their published works, each offering a unique perspective on Goa. They delved into the inspirations behind their stories, sharing insights into their research and creative processes. From historical fiction to contemporary narratives, the authors explored the diverse facets of Goan life, culture, and landscape.

Adding an intimate touch to the event, each author then read excerpts from their respective books, bringing their words to life and offering the audience a tantalizing glimpse into the rich tapestry of Goan storytelling. The questions for the authors were posed by moderators Yash Sawant (SYBBA) and Andre Pereira (TYBBA) and the faculty in-charges.

The event was co-ordinated by faculty in-charge assistant professor Namrata Wagle (Dept of MCom) and assistant professor Ratika Rane (Dept of English). Yash Sawant and Andre Pereira were the students' co-ordinators. The authors' meet was a great success, creating a stimulating and engaging environment for authors and attendees alike.

## National level seminar on Konkani novels held in Mapusa

Dalgado Konkani Akademi, in collaboration with St Xavier's College, Mapusa, hosted a national seminar on Konkani novels at St Xavier's College Hall, Mapusa. Valley Quadros, a renowned Konkani promoter, novelist, and short story writer was the chief guest for the inaugural function. The dignitaries on the dais included Prof Filipe Rodrigues e Melo, acting principal; Fr Antonio Salem, administrator; Prof Dharma Chodankar, head of the Konkani Department; Celso Fernandes, president of DKA; Tomazinho Cardozo, the seminar's main speaker; and Fr Myron J Barreto, DKA Secretary. The seminar's central theme was 'The Development of Romi Konkani Novels in Konkani Literature.'



### Lenten Retreat

A Lenten retreat on the theme, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near: repent, and believe in the good news.' Mark 1:15 will be led by Fr Geelo Joseph and Dn Deuben Azavedo, Divine Retreat Centre, Nuvem with music by All For Jesus Band.

Venue: Divine Retreat Center, Nuvem  
Date: March 14 - 16  
Time: 9:30 to 4 pm



### Music camp

Child's Play India Foundation, in collaboration with the National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA) Mumbai and the Symphony Orchestra of India (SOI) will organise a music camp,

for the third consecutive year involving individual music lessons (violin, viola, cello), instructions in instrumental technique and workshops for string teachers. Venue: Child's Play India Foundation, St Inez, Panjim Date: March 17 to 21



## Herald Gaming Console

**Dilbert**

YOU LEFT YOUR PROPOSED REORG CHART IN THE PRINTER.

ALL OF THE BOXES BELOW YOU ARE LABELED "A.I." OR "ROBOT."

SOME-THING IS CONSPICUOUSLY MISSING. NEPOTISM?

**Garfield**

TODAY'S FOOD TIP

IF YOU USE ENOUGH HOT FUDGE...

YOU CAN'T TASTE THE BROCCOLI

**Wizard of id**

FIRST ONE TO FALL ASLEEP DIES!

THAT'S OUR KING! ALWAYS A JOKESTER?

Z

**crossword 4791**

**ACROSS**  
1- Meat-grading org.; 5- Spasm; 10- Tacks on; 14- Fortuneteller; 15- Swedish imports; 16- Bump into; 17- Perpetually; 18- Surrealist Max; 19- Essex exclamation; 20- Abandoned; 22- Halogen element; 24- Distress signal; 25- Fuse units; 26- Snuggly; 29- Energy cell; 33- Got up; 34- Four-time Indy 500 winner; 36- Lobster eggs; 37- Gallery offering; 38- Suckle; 39- Nada; 40- Portable bed; 41- Hill dwellers; 42- Motionless; 44- Part of speech; 47- Fondle; 48- Like Cheerios; 49- Big Band \_\_\_\_; 50- North American elk; 53- Have a Pavlovian response, perhaps; 58- Corrida cheers; 59- Christmas song; 61- Zeno of \_\_\_\_; 62- Appraise; 63- Appliance brand; 64- Metallica drummer Ulrich; 65- Meets one's maker; 66- Coherent light beam; 67- Foul mood;

**DOWN**  
1- Not mint; 2- Golf's Ballesteros; 3- Poor grades; 4- Takes into custody; 5- Deadly fly; 6- Fabled runner-up; 7- McNally's partner; 8- Delivery room docs; 9- Guess; 10- In the thick of; 11- He loved Lucy; 12- Official with a list; 13- Eye sore; 21- Portrayal by an actor; 23- Decide; 25- Fathomless depth; 26- Civil

**solution 4790**

MOON, CHEW, ATAT, ARDOR, OATH, SARI, DEERE, WAGO, SMOE, EOS, NIB, DTAPE, HALFAER, AUDIAL, MOAT, WAG, HEN, LADE, ONME, ERECT, FETES, SEAROVER, PARES, SENORA, HERE, SALARY, ARO, BEN, ALAR, ONCE, LOLLY, RETE, NERD, BASES, AMES, FEWER, TRACE

**sudoku 4791**

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

**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 4790**

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