

Herald Cafe



UPROOTING CENTURIES: GOA'S CREATIVE PLAN



PANJIM GETS PAINTED IN RED AND BLACK FOR CARNIVAL

SCALING NEW HEIGHTS: Mountaineering Gains Popularity in Goa

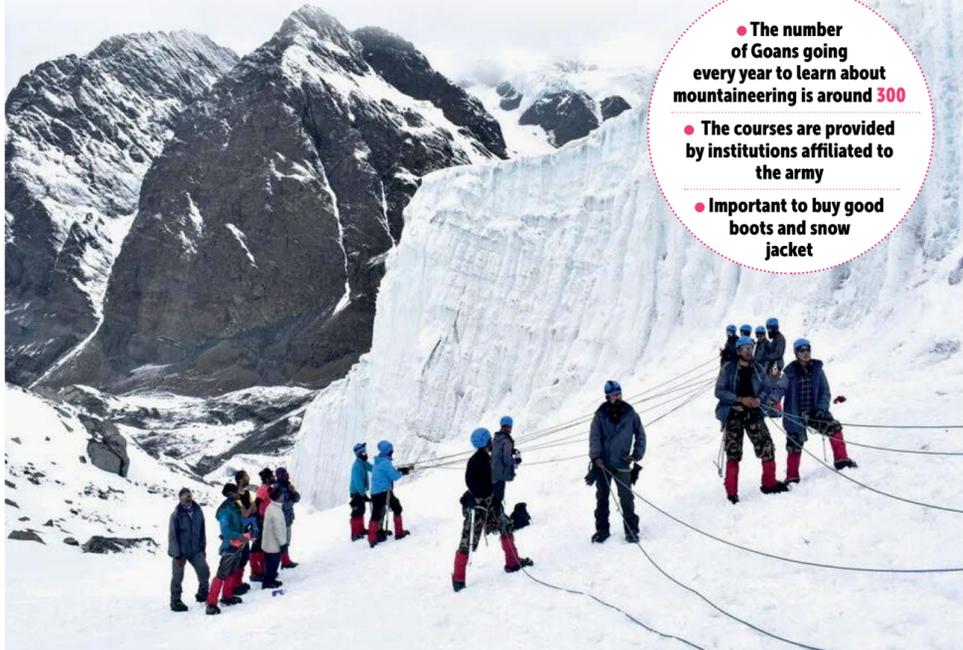
Interest in mountaineering is certainly growing in the State and the number of young people going for it is increasing

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To be a mountaineer makes one experience a deeply rewarding and challenging experience which opens the doors to breathtaking beauty. It is often described as a lifelong affair. It is an activity that is growing in popularity in Goa and every year the number of people going for courses is increasing.

The start

Mapusa-based Durgadas Parab is the only Goan who is a member of the Indian Mountaineering Foundation. He will be taking around ten people to the Everest base camp later this month and will be back in the first week of April. He said, "It is important to undergo the training process. There is the basic level which is for 30 days. They clear and then go for the alpha



- The number of Goans going every year to learn about mountaineering is around 300
- The courses are provided by institutions affiliated to the army
- Important to buy good boots and snow jacket



level. They have to pass this otherwise they will not be allowed for the advanced course. The maximum age allowed is between 35-40. you cannot be older."

He said to go for an expedition was an expensive affair. Anyone who qualified for the advanced course would be treated as a mountaineer for the sport. Durgadas said the Indian Mountaineering Foundation was the

supreme body in India and importantly they subsidize the trip. They come and check every candidate and the training one has to go through in the 30-day course is very tough and in a group of 30 around 10-15 would quit.

Equipment

Durgadas said it is important to invest in a good snow jacket because it would help keep the body warm. It is also important to buy nice

shoes, ropes and an axe. The cost he said would all depend on where one purchased it from. He said the best boots could cost as much as Rs 2 lakhs. He said if one went to Kathmandu it would be possible to get it at a decent cost and it would also be possible to arrange from a group. He joked and said that going on an expedition would mean taking a small village along. This group would include the porters and the mules.

Another person who is well qualified to talk about mountaineering in Goa is Prasad Joshi. He said it was possible to do a course from a private club for trekking but for any course in mountaineering it would have to be done with an organization affiliated with the army. The course would last a month which would be divided between a basic and advanced course. It would cost Rs 10,000. Once one passes out of these courses they can take treks on their own in the Himalayas. He said there were many courses and the standards were high and the cost was the same. There was no private institute involved in this.

Speaking of the equipment he said the institute would provide the gear. The personal gear however would have to be purchased by the individual. It could cost anywhere between

Rs 20,000 to a lakh. The equipment required for climbing was all provided by the institute.

Growing Interest

Prmod Kamat who is based in Panjim and is a member of the Goa Hiking Association said every year around 200-300 students would be going for a course in the Himalayas. He said no one could go mountaineering at high altitude without getting permission from the authorities. Goa sends teams every year to Rajgunda in Himachal Pradesh and they usually have around 300 participants. Each person would pay around Rs 17,000 which would include transport, stay, food and the activities.

Everyone had to be physically fit and anyone with high altitude sickness could not join the programme. Everyone, he said, should have proper trekking shoes. They could cost anywhere between Rs 10,000-15,000. A track suit was important and so is the need to buy simple sunglasses which could be of any colour except blue. He said the colour blue reacts in the presence of snow.

The interest in mountaineering is growing consistently in the State and the day will not be far when there will be another Goan to climb Mt Everest after Pankaj Narvekar who did it in 2024.

SWIPE RIGHT

Ariana Grande to Make Directorial Debut

The highly acclaimed artist will be directing a short film, reportedly titled Brighter Days Ahead. The Boy Is Mine singer recently took to social media to make the announcement, sparking excitement across both the music and film industries.

Ariana Grande shared a trailer for her short film on Instagram. The simple clip begins with a robotic voice stating, "Welcome back, Peaches." Soon after, we see a marble rolling, followed by a few short clips of a hand and a lamp. The logo for Brighter Days Ahead appears in all blue. For those who may not know, "Peaches" is Ariana Grande's character from the We Can't Be Friends music video. According to reports, Brighter Days Ahead is set to be released on March 18, 2025, alongside her album Eternal Sunshine Deluxe: Brighter Days Ahead.



Aamir Khan sends 'best wishes' to Salman Khan for Eid release

Salman Khan

is gearing up to entertain the audience this Eid with his highly anticipated movie Sikandar. It marks his first collaboration with AR Murugadoss. Recently, Aamir Khan sent his 'best wishes' to Salman for the film. He also expressed his excitement about the latter's 'combination' with the Ghajini director. The superstar talked about his good friend Salman Khan's upcoming movie Sikandar. He said, "Salman ko best wishes for Sikandar." Aamir further mentioned that the film will be arriving on the festive occasion of Eid. He congratulated Salman and wished him luck. The actor stated that everyone has been eagerly waiting for the release.



Tamannaah Bhatia and Vijay Varma - who had announced their separation a few days back - were recently clicked by paps in Mumbai as they arrived to attend Raveena Tandon and Anil Thadani's Holi 2025 celebration at their Mumbai residence

Fight against destruction of nature

Tiatri: 'Odruxtta Fattlean Odruxtt'
Writer/Director: Avito Fernandes
Institution: Sao Bartolomeu Sports Club and Cultural Association, Choroa

Cast: Domic Araujo, Agnelo Furtado, Hari Govekar, Fiona Monteiro, Celrich de Almeida, Nascimento L D'Silva, Socorro Fernandes, Princia Souza, Robert Rodrigues, Gabriel Braganza,

Aesica Barreto

Band: Francisco Azavedo (trumpet), Antonio Azavedo (tenor saxophone), Semy Braganza (trombone), John Araujo (keyboard), Francisco Araujo (bass), Xavier Fernandes (drums)

Stage Sets/Lights: Nikhil Barve, Deepak Amonkar

Makeup/Costumes: Harishchandra Gurav, Fredcon

Pio Esteves

Felling thousands of trees of a neighbouring mountain in the north prompts Hindu priest Avinash (Hari Govekar) to encounter Fr Agnel (Domic Araujo) and keep him abreast of nature's destruction.

Both the religious leaders are aware of the nasty happenings around and they decide to unitedly fight against the evil. As the youth are the future of tomorrow, Fr Agnel picks up Luiza (Fiona Monteiro) from the village to lead the fight.

Though simple by nature, Fiona, who resides with her father Domingo (Agnelo Furtado) and brother Rubert (Celrich de Almeida), takes up the challenge ahead, after much conviction.

Luiza's brother, Rubert gets carried

away by the monetary benefits provided by those involved in vested interests. He forces Luiza to withdraw the fight as the unwanted developments are only to their advantage.

Luiza is aware of the bold step taken by her towards the fight against evil. She refuses to retreat, but walks forward to save Goa for future generations.

Fr Agnel warns Luiza of the adversities ahead, but both the religious priests also assure her all moral support. On one occasion, Luiza is confronted and abused by the goons with filthy language and she cannot stand it any longer.

During moments of discouragement, Fr Agnel reminds Luiza about Pakistani child activist Malala Yousafzai and Nobel Peace laureate, known for her advocacy for girls' education, particularly after



KA's 50th 'A' Group Competition 2024-25

ODRUXTTA FATTLEAN ODRUXTT

being targeted by the Taliban for her activism.

Inspired by Malala, she picks up guts and resolves to face dire consequences in her fight against destruction and evil. What are the end results? Despite all storms, will Luiza and the villagers face triumph? At what cost?

Tiatri 'Odruxtta Fattlean Odruxtt'

revolves around fighting against destruction of the environment and preserving the little left for future generations. It carries factual data about destruction in other states and its consequences. There are tense moments following scenes that unfold on stage, but the concluding scene was more of an anti-climax.

There's a good cast in the presentation, with each of the artistes giving fine performances. Fiona Monteiro stood out in the lead role, followed by Domic Araujo and Hari Govekar as the



religious leaders. Celrich de Almeida doled the negative role with ease. The lead artistes were ably supported by Agnelo Furtado, Socorro Fernandes, Robert Rodrigues, Gabriel Braganza, Aesica Barreto, Chandan Palyekar and Avito Fernandes.

In the comic acts, Nascimento L D'Silva and Princia Souza carried some laughter pills under their sleeves. But the latter was good in her natural acts than speech.

In the category of songs, Celfra Azavedo comes for the opening song honoring the first woman tiatriot of

the Konkani stage. Solos by Natsalene Estroico and Maichon Pereira, a duet by Robert and Celfra, a trio by Jayden, Myfa and Jostrin and a quartet by Efanio, Velvin, Christina and Belisia were appealing. Francisco Azavedo and his musical team provided good live music offstage.

There was ample scope for better set designs, while the sound system on either side of the stage played a spoilsport. Deepak Amonkar and Kirti Bharve handle the lights and background music efficiently.