

A nostalgic glimpse into life in Belgaum

Brian De Sousa

Through the 1930s and 1940s—and perhaps until the late 1990s—there was a flourishing Goan Catholic community in Belgaum, located across the Ghats from Goa. After Goa became a part of India in 1961, many middle-class families from Belgaum moved to other parts of the country in search of opportunities, particularly in cities like Bombay. These families had benefited from access to English-medium education, which was not readily available in Goa at the time. Many went on to make a mark for themselves, even as they held on to fond memories of life in Belgaum.

Now, several of these Goan-Belgaokars have put pen to paper, compiling their recollections in a book titled *Belgão: Goan Memories from the 'Centre of the Universe'*. Edited by Clifford W DeSilva, a Belgaokar himself, the book features around

BOOK DISCUSSION 'BELGÃO: GOAN'

Memories from the 'Centre of the Universe' will be held with Clifford W DeSilva, editor of the book and Derek Almeida, a contributor to the book, who will be in conversation with Frederick Noronha, columnist and publisher, Goa 1556 at Xavier Centre of Historical Research, Porvorim, today, April 11 at 6 pm.

30 stories of Goan lives and families in this former British military enclave—now known as Belagavi, whose Sanskrit origins mean 'a bamboo village.'

These stories, written from memory and the heart, paint a vivid picture of a time untouched by the modern-day hustle and bustle—a life that, in many ways, prioritized neighbourliness and personal connections. These themes run richly through the narratives: memories of a favourite teacher, a wandering tailor, a priest enlisting an army bugler, the purchase of bangdda fish brought in from Karwar, the search for a long-lost orphan brother, school tuitions,



Clifford De Silva

boarding school days, a multi-faith hockey lineup for a school match, and many more. Many of these writers stayed in touch over the years, and a few even attended the book's launch, sharing stories in their own words and styles about life in the Belgaum of yesteryear.

Among the many heartfelt pieces is the story of Major General Eustace Fernandez, written with empathy by his daughters, Farah and Sanaya, as they recount a life-changing experience. Another notable entry is about Fr. Eddie, a young Jesuit whose memory lives on through a football memorial tournament held in his name—now in its 58th year, a truly enduring legacy.

Where Goans go, can tiatr and Kuswar be far behind? Clifford DeSilva himself contributes a piece on tiatr, while another contributor offers a story on Kuswar in the form of a letter, ending with the line: "The shortage of food never spoils the excitement or fun at Christmas."

Other memorable vignettes in this slim volume include mentions of panka soda, train journeys, Market Street (a locality where many Goans lived), and Belgaum's hockey legacy—a tribute to the town's strong heritage in the sport. In fact, three Goan boys from Belgaum's St. Paul's School represented Kenya in the Olympics between 1956 and 1964.

Written in a range of styles—some anecdotal, others more academic—the book will likely appeal most to the older generation, for whom Belgaum lives on vividly in memory. Each article averages 8–10 pages and is a quick, engaging read. The editor's gentle touch preserves the nostalgic tone and personal warmth each writer brings to their contribution. And while the book is titled *Belgão*, it also includes stories from Goans in nearby Hubli and Dharwad, where, as Clifford puts it, "... Goans punched much above their bodyweight."



GOAN MEMORIES FROM THE 'CENTRE OF THE UNIVERSE'



Contributors to the book

ST XAVIER'S COLLEGE, MAPUSA HOSTS ART AURORA



An art exhibition, 'Art Aurora', a three-day art extravaganza was held at St Xavier's College, Mapusa. A total of 16 students of the college displayed their artworks to celebrate the birth anniversary of St Francis Xavier. This event was a unique opportunity to unleash the students' creativity, explore different art forms, and

connect with other artists. The participating students included Jaden Dias, Neeharika Mandrekar, Lizanne D'Souza, Linnes Rodrigues, Astrid D'Mello, Elton Ming, Kimaya Simepurushkar, Shayina Naik, Lynnasa D'Souza, Arti Kumari, Faith Michael, Jinnia Cardoso, Poonam Palyekar, Meav Fernandes, Clare Ann Maria do Rosario and Flamica Almeida.

Goan student film selected for Frome International Climate Film Festival

A Goan student short film, 'Act to Achieve' by Mario Pimenta, has been selected for the 2025 Frome International Climate Film Festival. This prestigious festival, dedicated to raising awareness about climate change and the environment, is now in its fourth year. The festival received 1,148 entries from more than 100 countries, and 'Act to Achieve' is one of the 356 films chosen for screening. The film will be showcased on May 18 at the Cheese and Grain venue in Frome, Somerset, UK.

'Act to Achieve' is an experimental short film directed by Mario Pimenta. The film encourages viewers to take action against climate change, urging them not to wait for others to act but to



start making a difference themselves. Some of the film's scenes were shot by Pimenta's classmates, Sharvi Dhond and Craig Rodrigues. Frome International Climate Film Festival also known as 'The Climates', focuses on the theme 'Together We Are Stronger'.

Honey Fest

Goa's first Honey Fest will be curated by Festakar Marius Fernandes and will feature Passoi - Balcaoao Gozalli, Kottieacho Nach, honey workshops and more music and dances.

Venue: Goa College of Agriculture, Ela, Old Goa
Date: April 12
Time: 3 pm to 6 pm



Kampus Snippet

GOAN SCHOOLS THAT ACHIEVED 100 PERCENT RESULTS

ST BARTHOLOMEW'S HIGH SCHOOL, CHORAO



St Bartholomew's High School, Chorao, has achieved an outstanding 100 percent result in the SSC exams for the academic year 2024-2025. A total of 21 students appeared for the exam, showcasing exceptional academic excellence across various subjects. Five students secured distinctions, demonstrating remarkable academic prowess. Eleven students achieved first-class and five students secured second-class, highlighting their consistent efforts and dedication. Avni

Prashant Chodankar secured the top rank with an impressive 89.5 percent as she scored 100 marks in Social Science (History) and 98 marks in Science. Kanisha Narayan Chodankar secured the second rank with 79.5 percent and Sanvi Mahabaleshwar Zalmi secured the third rank with 78.17 percent. Manager Fr Americo Rodrigues and Headmistress, Manisha Mendonca, congratulated the students on their impressive results and expressed gratitude to the parents for their trust and cooperation.

PM SHRI GHS MORPURLA



PM SHRI GHS Morpurla secured 100 percent results in SSC examination for the tenth time. Out of 23 students who appeared, eight students got distinction, seven students got first class and eight students got second class. Shreya Velip topped in the school with 82.83 percent, Shruti Gaonkar stood second with 82.5 percent and Saniya Velip stood third with 81.33 percent. The headmistress Maria

Murena Miranda congratulated the students and teachers for the excellent results. PM SHRI GHS Morpurla caters to tribal ST students who are first generation learners with no access to any coaching classes. This year was very special for the school as the headmistress along with one of the students was invited by President of India on August 15, 2024 at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi for PPC 2025.

ST ELIZABETH'S HIGH SCHOOL, POMBURPA

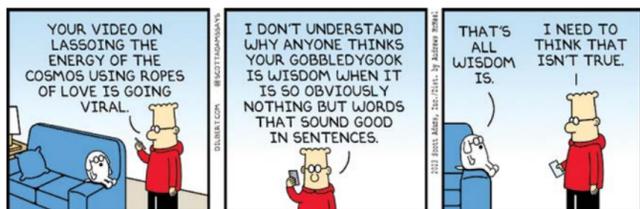


For the sixth consecutive year, St Elizabeth's High School, Pomburpa, achieves 100 percent results at the Goa Board SSC Exam 2025. The management, staff, students and PTA congratulated the 32 students on their outstanding achievement. Seven students got distinction, 12

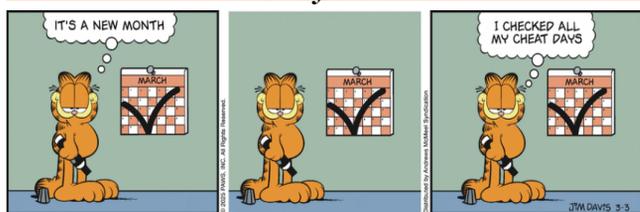
students got first class and 13 students got second class. Rasesh Coulecar stood first in Mathematics - Level 1 with 82.16 percent, Vaidehi Shirodkar stood first in Mathematics - Level 2 with 75.50 percent while Dhruv Karekar came first in the school in CWSN with 76.66 percent.

Herald Gaming Console

Dilbert



Garfield



Wizard of id



crossword 4816

ACROSS
1- Final notice?; 5- Pesto ingredient; 10- On ___ with (equal to); 14- Pulverize potatoes; 15- Black-wooded tree; 16- Boot bottom; 17- ___ uncertain terms; 18- Next largest scoop after tea; 20- Aquarium fish; 22- Beverage commonly drunk in England; 23- Ventilated; 24- The color of honey; 26- Remote; 27- Voted into a seat; 30- Open-minded; 34- Disappear; 35- Hardy girl; 36- Swelled head; 37- Electrically versatile; 38- Between Venus and Mars; 40- Futile; 41- Agnus ___; 42- Very funny; 43- Winter hanger; 45- Erik of 'CHiPs'; 47- One more; 48- Mag. staffers; 49- Gardener's tool; 50- Gettysburg general; 53- ___pitch softball; 54- Floor models; 58- Appraisal; 61- A Chaplin; 62- Stick around; 63- Bolshevik leader; 64- Takes advantage of; 65- Having all one's marbles; 66- Brewer's need; 67- RR stops;

DOWN
1- Leave off; 2- Cause of ruin; 3- ___ She Lovely?; 4- ___ surgery opens the chest; 5- Wager; 6- Lessened; 7- On the wagon; 8- To Live and Die ___; 9- Caustic stuff; 10- Have high hopes; 11- Needy; 12- Drug-yielding plant; 13- Tear; 19- Swedish imports; 21- Tsp. and tbsp.; 25- Decapitates; 26- Angling; 27- Elude; 28- Shoe ties; 29- Break up; 30- Allow; 31- Arrive at; 32- Light on one's feet; 33- Hermit; 35- Singer's syllable; 39- I've got it!; 40- Resembling glass; 42- Mythical hell; 44- Like some dorms; 46- Late-night flight; 47- Handsome young man; 49- Actress Verdugo; 50- Church service; 51- Como ___usted?; 52- Slippery ___ eel; 53- Hook's helper; 55- The majority of; 56- Draft status; 57- Mouth off; 59- Devious; 60- Big bang cause;

solution 4815

A	T	A	D	S	E	T	A	T	S	A	A	R
L	O	R	I	H	A	I	T	E	R	G	O	O
E	R	A	S	O	R	E	O	S	N	O	E	L
C	I	T	A	D	E	L	S	L	O	O	S	E
B	U	R	Y	F	E	A	R					
C	H	A	L	K	R	E	T	A	B	L	L	E
R	E	N	E	S	L	A	T	E	R	I	L	L
A	L	I	D	S	L	I	C	E	S	P	A	M
S	E	S	T	E	E	T	H	S	L	O	M	A
N	E	E	R	S	A	T						
S	E	E	N									
S	M	I	T	E								
S	O	S	A									
S	A	L	T									
S	N	E	E									
S	I	T	E	R	N							
Y	E	L	L									

sudoku 4816

	5			3		2			
			4				1		
	2	4							
1		2	6		4				8
	5			7		9	6		3
						8	7		
		5			7				
	6		1					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 4815

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