

A philatelic tribute to Earth Day

Dr M R Ramesh Kumar

Every year on April 22, Earth Day marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement, which began in 1970. India is home to over 91,000 species of animals and 45,000 species of plants that thrive across its diverse landscapes — including mountains, forests, seas, rivers, other water bodies, and even deserts. However, many of these species face serious threats to their survival, and urgent action is needed to protect them. Nearly 1,000 species of primates, birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish, spiders, corals, trees, and plants from India are currently listed on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List. Many of these species are endemic to the region and, without protection, could disappear forever.



The Theme for Earth Day 2025 is 'Our power, our planet'. The State of Goa has reported extent of recorded forest area (RFA) 1,225 sq km which is 33.09 percent of its geographical area. The reserved and unclassified forests are 20.65 percent and 79.35 percent of the recorded forest area in the State respectively. Goa's state animal is the Gaur, the state bird is the Ruby-throated yellow Bulbul, which is a variation of Black-crested Bulbul, and the state tree is the Matti.

The important forests products are bamboo canes, Maratha barks, chillar barks and the bhirand. Coconut trees are ubiquitous and are present in almost all areas of Goa barring the elevated regions. Much deciduous vegetation, including teak, sal, cashew and mango trees, is present. Fruits include jackfruits, mangos, pineapples and blackberries.

Foxes, wild boars and migratory birds are found in the jungles of Goa. The avifauna includes kingfishers, mynahs and parrots. Numerous types of fish are also caught off the coast of Goa and in its rivers. Crabs, lobsters, shrimps, jellyfish, oysters and catfish form some of the piscine catch. Goa also has a high snake population, which keeps the rodent population in control. Goa has many famous National Parks, including the renowned Salim Ali bird sanctuary.



Moths and Butterflies
Several Picture Postcards on the Moths and Butterflies of have been released. But I am presenting only that the state butterfly, Malabar Tree Nymph. This has special Augmented Reality cancellation, which was released for the first time.



Birds of Goa

A series Picture Post Cards on the Birds of Goa was released by the Department of Posts, Goa Postal Division. One of the specialities of these Picture Postcards are they are with QR Scan code, which will give more details of the individual birds.

Goa has several wildlife Sanctuaries such as Mollem National Park, Bhagwan Mahavir Wildlife Sanctuary, Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary, Bondla Wildlife Sanctuary, Dr Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary, Madei Wildlife Sanctuary, Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary etc.

Two philatelists, R R Radha Bai and Dr M R Ramesh Kumar, former President of GPNS with Benhail Antao, who photographed all the snakes used in the set of 10 Picture Post cards. The Augmented Reality has been done by Lance Randall de Melo and the Graphics Designing has been done by Siya Nadkarni and Aslesh Kamat, both members of GPNS.

Olive Ridley Turtles

A special cover on the Olive Ridley Turtles which hatch their eggs in the various beaches in Goa. A couple of beaches in Goa are natural habitats for Olive Ridley turtles, and are the best spots to witness



including the king cobra, the common Indian krait, the coral snake, the Russell's viper, the saw-scaled viper and the bamboo pit viper.

this phenomenon. The popular beaches are Morjim in North Goa, while Galgibaga (sometimes called Turtle Beach), Agonda and Talpona are located in South Goa. These beaches were notified for protecting and facilitating turtle nesting in the 1990s.

ODOP Products

Under the Ministry of Food Processing Industries has formally notified Jackfruit based products for North Goa and Coconut based products for South Goa under the One District One Product component (ODOP) of Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme (PMFME). A special cover on the ODOP was released by the Department of Posts, Goa in October 2022.

(Dr M R Ramesh Kumar is a senior philatelist, Goa Philately and Numismatics Society)

Snakes of Goa

Twenty-three species of snakes are found in Goa. The non-poisonous variety of snakes include the common blind snake, the Russell sand boa, the Indian python, the Indian wart snake, trinket snake, Indian rat snake, golden tree snake, common wolf snake, chequered keelback, striped keelback, Indian gamma and common green whip snake. Among the few venomous snakes in Goa are the cobras, including the king cobra, the common Indian krait, the coral snake, the Russell's viper, the saw-scaled viper and the bamboo pit viper.

Understanding Goa's Biodiversity

An interactive session that will delve into Goa's rich and diverse biodiversity will be conducted by Harshada Gauns, founder - Arannya Environment Research Organisation. This session will deepen



one's understanding of its ecological treasures and inspire them to help document its biodiversity for the City Nature Challenge.
Venue: WWF Goa Office, Miramar
Date: April 23
Time: 4:45 pm onwards

Indo-Portuguese Night

Indo Portuguese Friendship Society-Goa will organise its annual Indo Portuguese Night. The evening will include performances by the band, Crimson Tide and the sister duo - Srushti and Swaraa.

Venue: Kesarval Garden, Cortalim
Date: April 27
Time: 7 pm

World Book Day celebrations

The Dogears Bookshop will meet to celebrate World Book Day with a Read Aloud. If you have a favourite poem or passage, share it on this platform.

Venue: The Dogears Bookshop, Margao
Date: April 23
Time: 5 pm



Celebrating the power of books

Manali Sunil Acharya

What if you were told that a single day each year could inspire millions across the globe to pause, pick up a book, and reconnect with the magic of words? That day is April 23 — World Book and Copyright Day. More than just another observance, it's a global tribute to the stories that shape our minds and the creators who pour their hearts into them. Declared by UNESCO in 1995, this day goes far beyond simply enjoying a good read. It's a celebration of literature's unique ability to connect people across ages and cultures. It's also a moment to spotlight the importance of copyright—a term that might sound technical but is crucial in safeguarding the creative rights of the writers and publishers we admire.

April 23 marks the passing of some of the greatest literary minds in history—William Shakespeare, Miguel de Cervantes, and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega. Their contributions to the world of literature were so profound that the day has become a celebration of all things literary—from timeless classics to modern storytelling.

Each year, UNESCO names a World Book Capital—a city that demonstrates its dedication to reading and literary culture. For 2025, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, has been given the spotlight. The city's focus is using books as tools for social change. Their plan includes promoting youth literacy, encouraging sustainable publishing, and linking reading with poverty reduction and education. That's the kind of change that can truly turn a page in society.

In today's world of quick scrolling and short attention spans, books give us something special—they help us slow down and think deeply. They allow us to explore emotions, history, science,



HOW TO CELEBRATE THE DAY

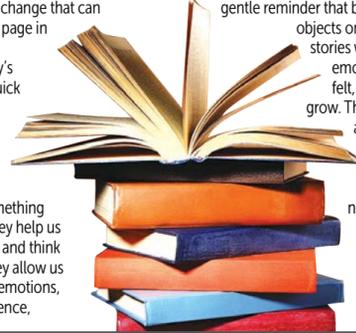
- Pick up a book—perhaps an old favourite or a new adventure.
- Visit your local library or independent bookstore and rediscover their charm.
- Donate books to schools, shelters, or reading clubs.
- Support authors—buy original editions or share your love for their work.
- Educate yourself and others about the importance of copyright.

imagination, and so much more. Reading improves empathy, sharpens our vocabulary, and makes us better thinkers. More importantly, books let us walk in someone else's shoes—even if just for a few chapters.

As we celebrate books, we must also honour those who write, edit, publish, and illustrate them. That's where copyright comes in. These laws aren't just about legal jargon—they're about fairness. Copyright ensures that creators are rewarded for their work and helps keep the world of publishing alive and thriving. Supporting original works, buying from credible sources, and giving proper credit all contribute to a healthier literary ecosystem.

World Book and Copyright Day is a gentle reminder that books are not just objects on a shelf—they are stories waiting to be told, emotions waiting to be felt, and ideas ready to grow. This April 23, pick up a book—you never know, it might just open the door to a whole new world.

(Manali Sunil Acharya is a college librarian at St Joseph Vaz College, Cortalim)



Orchestrating elegance: A classical night to remember



delivered an exquisite programme of chamber music by Joseph Haydn, Dmitri Shostakovich, and Antonin Dvořák. Winners of the prestigious 10th International Joseph Joachim Chamber Music Competition, the quartet's expressive interpretations, technical finesse, and vibrant chemistry left the audience enthralled.

One of the highlights of the evening was the warm interaction between the musicians and the audience, making the performance feel intimate and inclusive. Children listened in rapt attention, while adult attendees engaged with the musicians during the post-concert meet and greet. The concert also celebrated a decade of Quest for Passion, a cross-cultural music initiative led by Dr Marialena, who continues to inspire through her commitment to nurturing young talent and bridging artistic communities between Europe and India.

An interactive workshop with the Motus Quartet was held with a small group of enthusiastic and committed creative professionals. The musicians took time to engage with each participant individually, offering personal attention.

Sunaparanta Goa Centre for the Arts hosted a mesmerising performance by the Austrian Motus Quartet featuring Dr Marialena Fernandes on piano. The evening, which marked the 10th anniversary of the Quest for Passion initiative, drew a full house with nearly 300 guests in attendance — from toddlers and young children to adults, music students, and professionals.

Performing to a packed audience, the Motus Quartet — Tim de Vries (violin), Karla Kriz (violin), Erin Pitts (viola), and Domonos Hartmann (cello) — along with Dr Marialena.



Utsovache Rong 2025: A four-day Goan celebration

St John the Baptist Church, Pilerne, will present 'Utsovache Rong 2025', a four-day cultural festival celebrating the vibrance, diversity, and unity of the Goan spirit. This four-day event promises to bring the community unique blend of tradition, music and festivity. Step into the vibrant Pilerne Thursday Heritage Market for 'Kajucho Utsov' on April 24, where heritage comes alive through traditional crafts, local flavors, and a nostalgic ambiance that celebrates Pilerne's rich cultural legacy.

'Songitacho Utsov' will be celebrated on April 25 with an All Goa Konkani Singing Competition at an evening dedicated to Konkani music. 'Songitacho Utsov' invites singers from across Goa to showcase their vocal talents in an exhilarating competition. Four performance categories include duet, duo, trio and quartet/quintet: Winners and runners-up in each category will receive Attractive Cash Prizes and Trophies. Singers, musicians, and music enthusiasts are encouraged to participate.

'Ekvottacho Utsov' will be celebrated on April 26 with a fete and live band performance at a family-friendly evening featuring food stalls, games, and entertainment for all ages. The night will be highlighted by a dynamic live



performance from Goa's beloved band, Knight & Day. The concluding day of the four-day celebration will be held on April 27 with 'Kakluticho Utsov'. On the Feast of Divine Mercy, witness a unique and inspiring musical concert as 'Band of Priests', a group of priests come together to perform and spread joy through their musical ministry.

Venue: St John the Baptist Church, Pilerne Festival
Dates: April 24 to 27
Time: 6 pm – 10 pm

Herald Gaming Console

Dilbert



Garfield



Wizard of id



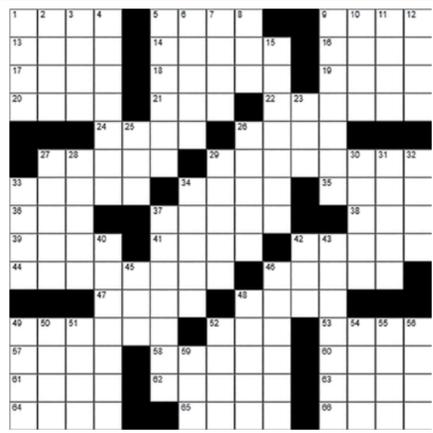
crossword 4826

ACROSS

- Clock face; 5- Baseball glove; 9- "The Sweetest Taboo" singer; 13- Beige; 14- Flaming felony; 16- Like a line, briefly; 17- Exchange for money; 18- Persona non ____; 19- Look ____ I'm Sandra Dee; 20- Golden calf; 21- Neth. neighbor; 22- Bodily organ; 24- Sick as ____; 26- Discover; 27- Automaton; 29- Chair for two persons; 33- Color anew; 34- Pleasing; 35- On a single occasion; 36- Ancient; 37- Counterfeit; 38- RR stop; 39- Borscht ingredient; 41- Sounds of pleasure; 42- Snob; 44- Without a bend; 46- ____ is human; 47- Badgers; 48- ____ precedent; 49- Australian lizard; 52- Debussy's "La ____"; 53- Stumble; 57- Opponent; 58- Stare angrily; 60- Simplicity; 61- Fruit of the coffee plant; 62- Some bridge players; 63- Normandy battle site; 64- Do a number; 65- March Madness org.; 66- Adolescent;

DOWN

- Arnaz of "I Love Lucy"; 2- Frosted; 3- Woody's kid; 4- Cradlelegs; 5- Legless larva of certain flies; 6- Like some vbs.; 7- Romanov ruler; 8- Small child; 9- Dirty rat; 10- Fornicary residents; 11- Actress Moore; 12- Pulitzer-winning biographer Leon; 15- Indigenous inhabitants; 23- The loneliest number; 25- Buck's mate; 26-



solution 4825

Central point; 27- Sublease; 28- More peculiar; 29- Luminous; 30- Belgian painter James; 31- Role player; 32- Circus structure; 33- Steals; 34- ____ Ark; 37- Luggage; 40- Converting to leather; 42- Boozehound; 43- Most orderly; 45- McKellen or Holm; 46- Mother of Callcutta; 48- Sealy rival; 49- Chews the fat; 50- Dedicated to the Love; 51- ____ all-time high; 52- Not fem.; 54- Appraise, charge per unit; 55- Wight or Man; 56- Unskilled laborer; 59- PC linkup;

sudoku 4826

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

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 4825

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