Herald Café

AN EVENING AMIDST THE BUDDING PIANISTS OF MARGAO
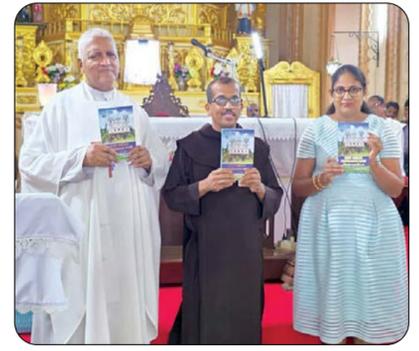
NEW BOOK ON MANDUR'S RICH CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

Goa hits the high notes on International Jazz Day

Sonia Sirsat

International Jazz day will be celebrated on April 30 and musicians from all over the country will come together in Panjim to entertain fans of the genre

Ajit John ajit@herald-goa.com

The International Jazz Day will be celebrated on April 30. It will be celebrated in more than 190 countries with Abu Dhabi selected as the Global host city. In Goa, as in every year, jazz musicians will play and jazz aficionados will listen to their favourite genre of music. This will happen this year at the Jardim Garcia de Orta in Panjim from 6 pm. It will be a free show for everyone with 40 musicians performing.

This year will be the 14th edition featuring a wide range of artistes. From twelve year old Nigel Rebello to 78-year-old jazz veteran Allan Moraes, the concert will present jazz in all its glorious forms from the swinging 60's right up to today's electrifying funk and fusion. Jazz Goa led by Colin D'Cruz will feature some of Goa's iconic singers like Hema Sardesai, Sonia Shirsat, Seby Fernandes and Zezinho Fernandes at the concert. UK's Westend star Jan Graveson along with celebrated artistes like Vivienne

Jazz Junction

History of International Day of Jazz in Goa

● The first International Jazz Day that was organised by Jazz Goa in 2012 was a small affair at Jardim Garcia De Orta in Panjim. Around five musicians took the stage to entertain around 200 music lovers.

● Every year, the venue moved around Goa until the 14th edition when it's back to its original origin but this time a mega production.

● Fifty six artists from Goa, across India and around the world come together to celebrate a great form of music.

Pocha and Merlin D'Souza are among many more outstation artistes lined-up to perform.
The number of performers is quite large and so it means musicians will be allowed to perform just one number. Seby, a veteran musician said he would be performing an original jazz number in Konkani which was very popular. He said, "I would have loved to play more but the number of performers is such that I will not be able to sing more."

Jan Graveson

David Lal, a singer who is travelling to Goa for this show said he will be singing 'Blue Skies'. David loves singing jazz though he sings various other genres. He said, "I love the freedom jazz allows me, I can improvise with notes and beats. I performed last year so I know the audience's tastes. My son, Pratiek, will also be performing so that will be a good evening."

George Hull, who plays the saxophone will be playing with a Goan band. He will be playing tunes like 'Fever', 'Breezin', 'Blues skies' etc. He has a collective in Hyderabad with 8 musicians and loves playing jazz. He has been playing music for 20 years and says playing in Goa is always a pleasure because the audience is so appreciative.

Salim John Sadiq, a guitarist from Siliguiri, who has performed before in Goa will be playing yet again. He will, however, not be playing jazz but the blues. He will be playing a BB King number called 'Sweet Little Angel', a slow blues number which he feels will give an entirely different vibe to the evening. He said, "Colin

gives us the freedom to play our stuff. There is a great deal of openness and honesty." Salim comes here after winning the title of 'The Best Blues Band' at the Mahindra Blues Festival recently.

Another performer at the show will be Sonia Shirsat. She will not be singing jazz or the fado but a Ballan and a Morna. Ballan is from Carpo de Verde and she will be singing a song called 'Coimbra' and a song called 'Morna'. This will be the second time she will be performing, having once performed at the Konkani Jazz Day.

The genre of music may be niche but it certainly has its passionate followers. And the numbers are consistently increasing as the years go by.
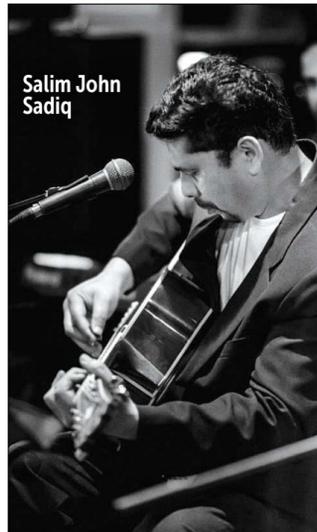
Salim John Sadiq

'The Family Man' actor Rohit Basfor found dead in Guwahati

Actor Rohit Basfor, who was set to appear in Manoj Bajpayee's upcoming web series 'The Family Man 3' was found dead near a waterfall in the Garbhanga forest of Assam on the evening of April 27 (Sunday). Authorities confirmed that his body showed several injury marks. Officials revealed that Rohit had moved back to Guwahati from Mumbai a few months ago. His family mentioned that he had left home around 12:30 pm on Sunday to go on an outing with friends, but later in the day, they were unable to reach him.

Dev Patel to direct and star in action thriller 'The Peasant'

Dev Patel is continuing to establish his triple threat filmmaking skills, coming on board to write, direct and star in 'The Peasant', a unique period action thriller from Fifth Season and Thunder Road Pictures. Patel will also produce via his production firm, Minor Realm. The project reunites Patel with Thunder Road, which produced 'Monkey Man', his feature directorial debut, which he also co-wrote and in which he starred. An adrenalized revenge thriller, the project is being described as having shades of 'Braveheart' and 'John Wick' as well as notes of King Arthur as it mashes up medieval knights with feudal India.

Dua Lipa looks sensational in a sheer black mesh dress as she poses at the 50th Chaplin Award Gala in New York.

Enjoying the depths of the sea from a young age

A young girl, Varuna Unnikrishnan, has achieved the Junior Open Water Diver Certification making her one of the youngest to do so in Goa

Ajit John ajit@herald-goa.com

A young girl of 10 from Goa has successfully completed her Junior Open Water Diver certification, thus becoming one of the youngest divers in Goa to reach this milestone. Varuna Unnikrishnan, a Class 6 student of the Navy Children School, the daughter of a navy man, was introduced to the sea at 9. Varuna means God of Oceans and her love for marine life began at an early age, and her passion for the ocean led her to take the plunge into scuba diving.

Who is Varuna?

● Her passion is to become a shooter and is preparing for the upcoming Goa State Shooting Championship.

● She later hopes to become a diver and work for the Navy in the years ahead.

Her training

She started her Open Water Diver course with Scuba Evolution Dive Centre, where she learned essential skills such as dive theory, buoyancy control, and underwater navigation. Her course included a mix of theory, confined water training, and four open water dives, which she completed successfully with flying colours. She is currently qualified to dive up to a depth of 12 metres.

Her love for water and diving

Varuna, a very confident young girl, said, "I am super comfortable in water. I have seen so many things under water like coral rocks and different kinds of fishes. I also got used to dealing with different situations. Like when the glass is filled with water and when the regulator comes out of your mouth.

You have to keep calm and not panic. If you panic then no one can help you. I love the ocean and everything in it. Diving is like stepping into a new world where everything is calm and beautiful," Varuna shared, her face lighting up with excitement. "I can't wait to explore more of the sea!"

Her future plans

Varuna's instructor, Madhuli P Karmalkar, a highly experienced dive professional, guided her throughout the training process. Under Madhuli's patient and thorough mentorship, Varuna demonstrated incredible focus, learning both the technical aspects of diving and how to

safely navigate the open waters. Her dives took place off the near Grandi Island of Goa, where she encountered vibrant coral reefs and a variety of marine life, making her achievement all the more special. Her father said he was preparing to go to the Lakshadweep Islands after the monsoons to go diving.

With the Open Water Diver certification now under her belt, Varuna has set her sights on expanding her diving horizons. She hopes to make this her career and someday even become a diver in the navy. Perhaps when she is grown up the navy will have a place for someone like her.