

Goan play 'Ganv Zala Zantto' aims to set world record

Ajit John
ajit@herald-go.com

Cast: Rajdeep Naik, Suchita Narvekar, Rajesh Lohia, Prashanti Chari, Nigam Naik, Ramanand Naik, Mohandas Naik, Bhume Naik Narvekar

Goa's iconic play, 'Ganv Zala Zantto' is aiming to set a world record by staging seven performances in a single day on May 18. Centered on the Mhadei river and the broader challenges faced by Goa, the play is both socially impactful and emotionally compelling. All seven performances will be held at the Rajiv Gandhi Kala Mandir in Ponda. The production has already captivated audiences and has been staged over 182 times across Goa, Maharashtra, and even the United Kingdom.

Each performance runs for two hours, starting with the first show from 7:30 am to 9:30 am. A 30-minute break will follow each performance, continuing in

SHOW TIMINGS AT RAJIV GANDHI KALA MANDIR ON MAY 18

- 7:30 am to 9:30 am
- 10 am to 12 pm
- 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm
- 3 pm to 5 pm
- 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm
- 8 pm to 10 pm
- 10:30 pm to 12:30 am

this pattern until the final show begins at 10:30 pm and ends at 12:30 am.

The cast has been preparing rigorously—not only through rehearsals but also physically.

Performing seven times in a day is a significant challenge, and the actors are taking comprehensive steps to be ready.

Sailee Kudtarkar, an event partner for the production, shared that the cast is following strict diets and has even brought in a dietician to support them through the process.

Lead actor Rajdeep Naik, who plays the role of Jalesh, said preparations are going smoothly. "We've done 182 shows all over the world, including in London and Mumbai. Each show must run exactly two hours—any overtime

could cost us at the end," he explained. "By the way, my five-year-old daughter, Bhume Naik Narvekar, will appear in five of the performances that day. She has already been part of 170 shows and is ready for the challenge," he added.

When asked about the difficulty of drawing a crowd for the 7:30 am show, Sailee noted that the Konkani-language play has generated substantial interest. Bookings are already underway. Since the event falls on a Sunday, many working individuals are expected to attend either the early morning show before heading to work or the late-night performance. While entry is free, the cast welcomes and appreciates donations. The venue has a seating capacity of 1,000, and organisers expect between 700 to 750 attendees per show based on the volume of inquiries received. Sailee also mentioned receiving several requests from London audiences hoping for a livestream of the performance so they can tune in from abroad.

Reflecting on the inspiration for the play, writer Suchita Narvekar shared that the story is not solely focused on the Mhadei River. It also touches on the increasing trend of people moving away from villages to cities, contributing to a gradual erosion of rural life. "People are leaving the villages," she said. "In the past, people settled in villages because of water availability. If the Mhadei is diverted, what will happen to those communities? That's why I chose to combine these two themes in the play."

Goan Welfare Association to celebrate 25th annual May Queen Ball in Doha

The Goan Welfare Association, Qatar (GWA), in collaboration with Orbit Events and Marketing, is all set to celebrate its Silver Jubilee and the much-awaited grand gala traditional 25th Annual May Queen Ball on May 9 at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Doha, from 7 PM onwards. The highlight of the evening will be the crowning of the 25th May Queen. It promises to be a fun-filled and exciting event, celebrating 25 years of the association's establishment and a quarter-century of continuously organising the May Queen Ball.



For the past 25 years, the Goan Welfare Association (GWA) has been the face and voice of Goans living in Qatar. Ably led throughout by Simon D'Silva, the association has collaborated with charitable organisations such as CRY and Caritas, offering yeoman service in nurturing Goan culture and spirit among the large Goan expatriate community. On a broader level, the association has consistently supported causes back in Goa, setting a shining example for others to follow. It's no surprise, then, that their events have been hosted with great aplomb and consistent success over the past two and a half decades. Known for meticulous planning and flawless execution, the annual May Queen Ball has become a hallmark of their dedication.

"The 25th edition of the May Queen Ball promises to be an unforgettable evening of entertainment with the best of music, attractive prizes, and surprises," claims Simon D'Silva.

Global Goan singing sensation Mark Revlon will mesmerise the crowd with his melodious voice. A self-taught musician and music producer, Mark leads the Mark Revlon Band, one of the

most popular bands in Goa. He recently performed in Kuwait for Goa Day and has captivated audiences across the USA, UK, Scotland, Canada, Australia, Italy, Kazakhstan, Bahrain, Oman, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Qatar, India, and especially Goa.

To set the floor on fire, Goa's top live band and India's hottest act, Raagas2Riches, will perform at the event. Known for their viral reputation in the live music scene, the band is celebrated for its musicianship, dynamic performances, and magnetic stage presence. Their diverse repertoire spans retro, pop, Latin, reggae, blues, rock, metal, Bollywood, and more. Popular not only in Goa but across India and abroad, their music bridges genres including Bollywood, Sufi, Punjabi, South Indian, and Western styles. Also joining the lineup is DJ Quency, a dynamic Indian DJ hailing from the vibrant shores of Goa. She has honed her craft at private events while refining her technique and production skills at the London Sound Academy. DJ Quency brings a fresh, global perspective to every set she plays.



The event will be hosted by Goa's leading emcee, Updesh Swar. Renowned for his natural communication skills and professional poise, Updesh has had a highly successful career at the top of his game. He is known for his unique and detailed approach to every event.

Over the years, the May Queen Ball has been graced by Indian celebrities, ministers, MLAs, Indian ambassadors to Qatar, diplomats, and VIPs. This year, top state leaders from Goa are expected to attend.

The May Queen Ball remains one of Doha's most eagerly awaited annual events, consistently attracting a full-house audience and creating lasting memories. The glamorous May Queen contest will once again be conducted in true style and fanfare.



Inauguration of the Holy Family Chapel at Margao

The Catholic community of Housing Board, Borda-Margao came together in faith and celebration for a truly historic and joyous occasion—the blessing and inauguration of the newly constructed Holy Family Chapel. This long-awaited milestone was marked by a solemn and spiritually uplifting ceremony.

His Excellency, Most Rev Simão Purificação Fernandes, Auxiliary Bishop of Goa and Daman, was warmly welcomed by the sound of a brass band as he arrived to lead the celebration. The Bishop unveiled a commemorative plaque and then presided over the Solemn Eucharistic Celebration, during which he blessed

the chapel and offered words of encouragement and reflection.

The inauguration drew a large and enthusiastic gathering of parishioners, clergy, religious, and benefactors, all united in thanksgiving for this long-cherished dream becoming a reality.

During the ceremony, Fr Simon D'Cunha, chaplain of St Joaquim Chapel, extended heartfelt thanks and acknowledgments. Special mention was made of Fr Jovial Fernandes, whose tireless commitment and attention to every detail—from the construction to the interior furnishings—greatly contributed to the success of the project. Appreciation was also extended to Engineer Pascoal Noronha, whose expertise, supervision, and constant presence on-site ensured the construction preceded smoothly and efficiently, and to Cipriano Desouza, president of the Holy Family Chapel, for his untiring support in coordinating various works, getting paperwork ready, and leading fundraising efforts.

Gratitude was also expressed to the generous donors, dedicated volunteers, and hardworking community members who contributed selflessly towards the chapel's completion.



PIC: GERICA COSTA

Ambeachem Fest 3.0

Pilerne's vibrant Thursday Heritage Market is all set to turn golden as it hosts Ambeachem Fest 3.0, a lively tribute to Goa's most beloved summer fruit—the mango. This mouth-watering celebration promises an evening brimming with flavour, fun, and festivity for the entire family. Dive into the rich, juicy world of mangoes with fresh local varieties available for sale and special mango dishes prepared just for the occasion. Horticulturist Nestor Rangel, will deliver a fascinating talk on mango varieties, grafting techniques, and mango secrets and will also provide mango grafts.



Little ones under 10 can express their fruity creativity in a Kids' Mango Painting Corner, while the curious and competitive can test their knowledge in the Mango Quiz, filled with fun facts and fruity prizes. Try your luck at Guess the Weight of the Mango Basket. Maria Fernandes' Mixology workshop will teach how to craft mango-based drinks followed by the rhythms of Cheeky Doughnuts, setting the stage for a spirited night of live music, game stalls, and spot prizes. Shop and savour your way through a colourful spread of local Goan food, traditional bakery treats, desserts, pickles, drinks and handmade crafts by talented local artisans. Entry is free.

Venue: St John the Baptist Church, Pilerne
Date: May 8
Time: 5 pm

Loliem parish feast celebrated



The parishioners of St Sebastian's Church, Loliem, celebrated the feast of their patron,

St Sebastian, with devotion and solemnity. Fr Diogo Fernandes, chairman of Aninha Education Institute, São José de Areal, presided over the solemn feast Mass. Fr Victor Rodrigues, Fr Vency Fernandes and Fr Rui Pereira concelebrated the Eucharistic celebration.

Delivering the homily on the theme, "Inspired by St Sebastian, fostering hope within communities through communal living," Fr Diogo called upon the faithful to emulate the virtues of St Sebastian and become signs of hope, especially in the Small Christian Communities (SCCs) and among the needy. Recalling the life of St Sebastian, he emphasised that the saint's deep faith strengthened Christian communities and helped them live lives rooted in hope. Fr Diogo also encouraged the faithful to live lives of communion, forgiveness, compassion, and concern for others, inspired by the early Christians.

The novena in preparation for the feast was based on themes from the Jubilee Year and was preached by various priests: Fr Theo Fernandes (chaplain, Our Lady of Fatima Chapel, Xellim), Fr Freddy Lobo (parish priest, St Francis Xavier Church, Bhatpal), Fr Ryan Fernandes (assistant parish priest, St Teresa's Church, Canacona), Fr Rui Pereira (parish priest), Fr Snyter Pereira (prefect, Patriarchal Seminary of Rachol), and Fr Joseph Correia (St Francis Xavier Church, Bhatpal).

Fr Joseph Correia presided over the first Mass on the feast day. The parish choir led the liturgical singing. Fr Rui Pereira expressed his sentiments of gratitude at the conclusion of the celebration. A tiatr, 'Aiz Mhaka Faleam Tuka' by Matias Mascarenhas was staged in the evening, adding a cultural touch to the day's festivities.



Herald Gaming Console

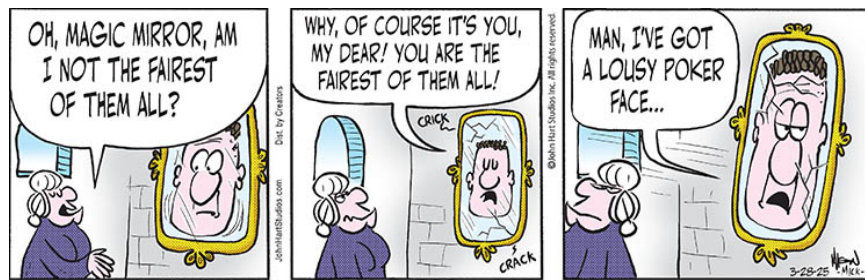
Dilbert



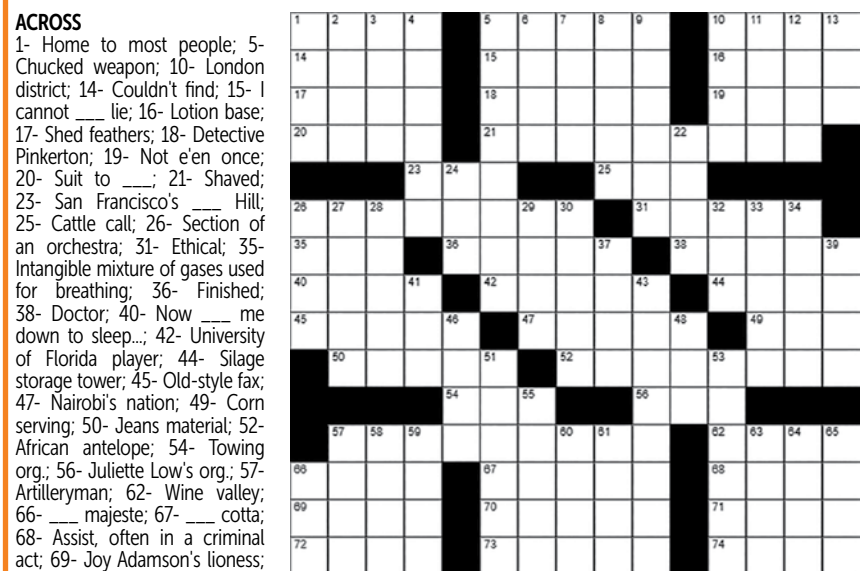
Garfield



Wizard of id



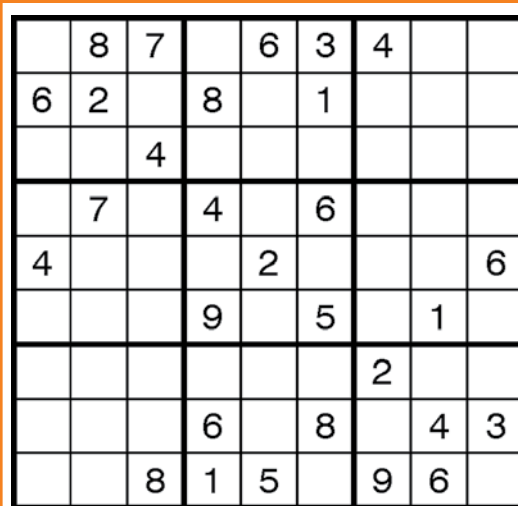
crossword 4838



solution 4837



sudoku 4838



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 4837

