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SIBLING DUO 'NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOURS' DEBUT WITH **'CITY OF LIES'** 



INDIAN AUTHOR BANU MUSHTAQ WINS INTERNATIONAL BOOKER PRIZE FOR 'HEART LAMP'

# Why biodiversity matters Smore than ever

The International Day for Biological Diversity. observed by the UN, celebrates the rich diversity of life on Earth and underscores the urgent need for its protection. This year's theme, "Harmony with Nature and Sustainable Development," emphasises the importance of engaging young people in environmental action

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s Goa grapples with climate change, habitat loss, and species decline, World Biodiversity Day reminds us of our shared duty to

protect nature. Amid the challenges, hope shines through the growing awareness and involvement of the vouth

DEVES

### **MOST OBSERVATIONS ON NATURE**

Recently, the City Nature Challenge (CNC) encouraged citizens to document local flora and fauna, focusing primarily on their own backyards. While Goa ranked 18th last year with just 843 entries, this year the state made a remarkable leap, recording 1,927 species and securing the fourth position in India for most observations with 20,265 in total. A total of 155 people from Goa participated, with two rare butterfly species, the Aberrant Oakblue and the Banded Royal, both observed by Devesh Naik during the challenge

"Documentation of biodiversity is an important activity towards inculcating a sense of nature stewardship amongst citizens. Nature documentation encourages people to learn about the biodiversity in their surroundings and help conserve it. It is also a means of collecting large amounts of data in a short span of time, which is often difficult for the scientific community to achieve due to lack of time and capital. The information collected during CNC is vetted by experts and is used to enhance scientific knowledge about biodiversity of an area," says Aditya Kakodkar, State Coordinator Goa, WWF-INDIA



**Paresh Rawal compares** Baburao to a "gale ka phanda"

aresh Rawal has found himself in controversy after Akshay Kumar sued him for Rs 25 crore for leaving the 'Hera Pheri 3' shoot midway. Akshay's production house, Cape of Good Films, reportedly issued a legal notice two



days after Rawal confirmed his exit via an X post. Amid this, an old interview of Rawal has resurfaced, where he compared his 'Hera Pheri' character Baburao to a "gale ka phanda" (tight noose), lamenting being stuck with the image. Referring to his Hera Pheri character, Paresh Rawal added, "It's a 500 crore goodwill character. If a maker wants, he can upscale the character to a different height. But people have either mental bankruptcy or mental lethargy to take a plunge."

'Wednesday' Season 2 to focus on family dynamics



ms Family' will fully reunite in all their ghoulish Season 2. Netflix recently released charm for 'We a sneak peek, featuring the cast and showrunners Miles Millar and Alfred Gough reflecting on the first season's "global phenomenon" and teasing what's to come. Alfred shared that Season 2 would focus more on the family dynamic. Millar added that the new season expands character arcs and explores more of Nevermore Academy. Clips revealed more screen time for Gomez, Morticia, Lurch, Uncle Fester, and a now older Pugsley, as well as the debut of Grandmama, played by 'Absolutely Fabulous' star Joanna Lumley. Morticia and Wednesday are shown fencing, hinting at a deeper mother-daughter relationship. Gomez is seen praising Pugsley, who has developed Fester-like electric powers and is now a student at Nevermore. Season 2 promises a darker, more family-centred evolution of the beloved spooky saga.

important lesser known fauna keep rodent and insect populations in check and thus help keep vector borne diseases at bay. We have always had a reverence for all life forms and this is our culture. However in recent times, tolerance

SATELLITE MAPPING FOR THE WILDLIFE

THE SILENT NATURE OF REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

labar Pit viper

As an ecologist and researcher

working with reptiles and amphibians,

Nirmal Kulkarni stresses that living in

harmony and coexistence with these

ecological services rendered by frogs,

lesser known biodiversity species is

a need of the hour. "We often take

lizards and snakes for granted due

to their silent nature of going about

their own lives. But remember, these

The Wildlife Conservation Trust (WCT) has secured a grant to enhance conservation efforts in the Chambal River region, focusing on crocodiles and turtles. A dedicated team, including Goa-based Dr Madhura Niphadkar and three colleagues, developed a proposal that led to this award. "The primary objective is to utilise high-resolution satellite imagery to map nesting sites and habitats of these species without direct field visits. This approach is crucial due to the area's safety concerns, including the presence of criminal activities and sand mining operations," explains Dr Madhura. The project encompasses three rivers: Chambal, Soon, and Bhadra, and is set to span one year.

Closer to home she has been i

be addressed." he savs

and monitor lizards is dwindling due

to lack of awareness and this must

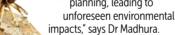
SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGES IN GOA Despite ongoing efforts, the rapid pace of urbanisation in Goa poses significant threats to sustainability. "Infrastructure developments like roads and flyovers contribute to land conversion from green to grey, outpacing conservation measures. The recent flooding incidents in Goa highlight the

consequences of inadequate drainage systems and waste management. Regular maintenance and community-driven cleanliness initiatives are essential to mitigate such issues. Development projects in Goa often lack comprehensive

WHEN GOA RANKS FOURTH IN INDIA FOR for reptiles from snakes to crocodiles

the white-bellied sea eagle project run by the Goa Bird Conservation Network and hopes it will get an extension this year





#### WHY YOUTH ENTHUSIASM NEEDS ADULT SUPPORT

Young people today are increasingly aware of the importance of biodiversity and environmental conservation. However, there's a critical gap in the support system meant to nurture this passion. "Teachers and educators are doing their part. Influencers and environmental activists are spreading awareness. But the message, while welldelivered, often doesn't take root at home. The problem is not with the youngsters as they are interested. The problem is that the support they should receive from their parents is lacking," says Cyril Fernandes, president of the Chicalim Bio-Crusaders.

Aberrant Oakblue

"Students are intelligent, curious, and passionate. But without consistent reinforcement at home their understanding and values risk stagnation. "The teachers **Banded Royal** 

#### THE IMPORTANCE OF **MONSOON FOR THE WESTERN GHATS**

"The monsoons are crucial for our study of herpetofauna (reptiles and amphibians) as it is the breeding season for these creatures. Erratic and unseasonal rainfall as well as short days of rain days in the south west monsoons has affected herpetofauna sightings in the past few years. We do not know long term impacts yet, but there is a growing concern about the impact of temperature rises

and uncertain rainfall patterns on endemic species of reptiles and amphibians in the Western Ghats of India," explains Nirmal.



or made her red carpet debut at the 78th Cannes Film Festival as the cast and crew of 'Homebound' attended the film's premiere. She wore a rose-hued Tarun Tahiliani ensemble in tribute to her late mother, Sridevi, featuring Benarasi tissue fabric, a veil, and pearl jewellery.

## Style recycled: Goa's Gen Z makes sustainability look cool

do what they can within school hours.

or heritage walks, but after that, it

has to be reinforced at home,"

he explains. Even an hour or

two from parents, spent

listening, discussing, and

strengthening what

children learn, could

make a huge

difference

People like us take them on nature trails

From thrift store finds to DIY fashion, young Goans are redefining style with creativity, expression and second-hand flair

#### Surabhi Thakur

n the colourful chaos of Goa's flea markets and the scroll-worthy pages of Instagram thrift stores, a quiet revolution is unfolding. Goa's Gen Z isn't just shopping they're storytelling. Through every second-hand jacket and reworked skirt, they're crafting a narrative that's equally expressive and ethical. Across Goa, college students are not just wearing second-hand clothes, they are selling them too. The rise of local thrift pages, curated racks at pop-ups, and Instagram drops are becoming the new norm

#### Thrift as a voice of identity and rebellion

"Fashion is a tool for change and expression and even rebellion whether to show class or revolt," says Naomi Remedios, a student studying BBA who also owns a thrift page on Instagram. "Everything that we wear shows what we think and what we are, whether consciously or subconsciously," she adds.



On college campuses, the fashion scene

is shifting fast. Thrift pop-ups now share

space with food stalls, and DIY upcycling

workshops draw more buzz than fast

fashion sales. Clothes once discarded

repurposed, and re-loved.

now hold new meaning they're revived,

#### A budget-friendly canvas for Gen Z's creative

expression "Gen Z is using thrifted clothes to show their style in a creative way they like mixing different pieces from different eras to make unique outfits," says Megha Dhupdale, a Psychology student. She adds, "Many also enjoy customising their clothes, like cutting or adding details. Thrifting is also very affordable, it depends on the locality which is important to a lot of them.

#### Styling as storytelling and sustainability

"Thrifted fashion is one of the most exciting avenues for creative expression today. As a model, wearing garments from so many designers, I've come to appreciate how styling isn't just about wearing the newest collection it's about the art of transformation," says fashion model Charlaine Delilah Heredia.

#### Style with súbstance: **Fashion meets** responsibility

With climate change conversations getting louder and the truth behind fast fashion harder to ignore, Gen Z is dressing with intention. They're rejecting the idea that new is better, and embracing clothes that reflect not just their style, but their values.

Creating new outfits from thrifted pieces pushes boundaries, mix eras, and give garments a second life. It's sustainable, personal, and often results in the most unique looks. "I truly believe thrift fashion challenges us to be more intentional and resourceful and that's where real style begins," says Charlaine.

#### A conscious shift from trends to expression

"We're not just shopping differently, we're thinking differently," Naik, a Biotech student. "Wearing thrifted clothes is through fashion."

Thrift culture encourages individuality, reducing the pressure to keep up with fleeting trends. Each piece has a past, and when reimagined by young hands, it gains a new story.

says 20-year-old Sasha empowering. It gives you an opportunity to explore, create, and express