# Sibling duo 'Next Door Neighbours' debut with 'City of Lies'

**Goan sibling duo 'Next Door Neighbours', made up of Siddhant and Shanaya Vas, have launched their musical journey with the release of their debut single 'City of Lies', blending electronic production with soulful songwriting**

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What do you get when two musically inclined siblings decide to form a duo? Next Door Neighbours, a Porvorim-based pair bringing their unique talents together in a captivating debut single that blends introspective storytelling with electronic soundscapes.

Siddhant Vas (24) and Shanaya Vas (18) are the siblings behind the project. They recently released their first track, 'City of Lies', which showcases their distinct musical styles and shared creative vision. Coming from a musical background, their grandparents, Anthony Vas, a double bass player and Celia Vas, a vocalist were musicians and part of the Goa State Symphony Orchestra.

Siddhant is a self-taught producer who began exploring music production software and experimenting with different styles in Class 8. Shanaya has been singing since the age of five, taking part in competitions like Vem Cantar and developing a deep love for music.

"I've always been drawn to electronic music and was heavily influenced by it during its rise in popularity when I was in school," says Siddhant, who recently completed a Bachelor's degree in Architecture. "Shanaya has been writing lyrics since she was 10 as a form of creative expression and enjoys all aspects of music, singing, composing, and performing."

The name Next Door Neighbours comes from the arrangement of their side-by-side bedrooms and the musical journey that began at home. Their collaboration started in 2019, when Shanaya was 12 and Siddhant was 18.

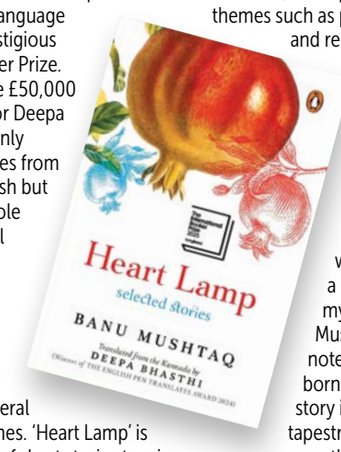
"'City of Lies was born out of a story Shanaya read in school that struck a chord with her and influenced the theme of the song. She then showed it to me and I took on the project and built the music around it," says Siddhant. With her subtle, melancholic piano melodies and Siddhant's edgy electronic production, the song is immersive.

"City of Lies' questions comfort, illusion, and what we choose to ignore. The lyrics call out how people shield themselves from reality, closing their eyes to what's happening around them. It's about seeing others clearly, and what happens when worlds that usually stay apart are suddenly forced to meet. Set to an edgy EDM vibe, it's raw, reflective, and built to make you feel something real," explains Siddhant.

Together, Siddhant and Shanaya fuse their strengths as 'Next Door Neighbours' to create a sound that's their own. The single was produced by Siddhant, with lyrics by Shanaya and mastering by Emmanuel de Noronha and is available on all streaming platforms. They are currently working on new music. With every track they invite listeners into a world of vulnerability, energy and emotion.

# *Indian author Banu Mushtaq wins International Booker Prize for 'Heart Lamp'*

Indian writer, activist, and lawyer Banu Mushtaq made history as her short story collection 'Heart Lamp' became the first Kannada-language title to win the prestigious International Booker Prize. Mushtaq shares the £50,000 prize with translator Deepa Bhasthi, who not only translated the stories from Kannada into English but also played a key role in curating the final selection.




The award, announced at a ceremony held at the Tate Modern Museum in London, marks several significant milestones. 'Heart Lamp' is the first collection of short stories to win the prize, and Bhasthi becomes the first Indian translator to receive the honour since the prize adopted its current form in 2016. The International Booker Prize, awarded annually, celebrates outstanding works of long-form fiction or short stories translated into English and published in the UK or Ireland.

Max Porter, a bestselling author and former Booker Prize longlistee who chairs the five-member voting panel, described 'Heart Lamp' as "something genuinely new for English readers." He praised the collection for its "beautiful, busy, life-affirming stories" that rise from Kannada and are interwoven with the socio-political richness of India's multilingual culture. "It speaks of women's lives, reproductive rights, faith, caste, power, and oppression," Porter said.

During her acceptance speech, the 77-year-old Mushtaq said the award was "a great honour," adding, "This moment feels like a thousand fireflies lighting a single sky – brief, brilliant and utterly collective." She stressed that she received the prize "not as an individual but as a voice raised in chorus with so many others."

Written between 1990 and 2023, 'Heart Lamp' explores family and community tensions with wit, warmth, and incisive social commentary. The collection has been lauded for its dry humour and vivid, colloquial style, tackling themes such as patriarchy, casteism, and religious conservatism.

Bhasthi's translation preserves the multilingual texture of southern India, capturing the nuanced interplay of languages and dialects.

Reflecting on the win, Bhasthi said: "What a beautiful win this is for my beautiful language."

Mushtaq, in her remarks, noted: "This book was born from the belief that no story is ever small, that in the tapestry of human experience every thread holds the weight of the whole. In a world that often tries to divide us, literature remains one of the last sacred spaces where we can live inside each other's minds, if only for a few pages."

The 2025 shortlist included five other titles translated from Danish, French, Japanese, and Italian. Each shortlisted author and translator received £5,000, while the main prize was split equally between Mushtaq and Bhasthi, with each receiving £25,000.

Max Porter concluded, "These mind-expanding books offer knotty, sometimes pessimistic, sometimes radically hopeful answers to questions about our shared human experience. They are highly specific windows onto a world, yet gorgeously universal."

# *Olaulim parish hosts joyful community fête at St Anne's Church*

PICS: JOSEPH FERNANDES

The heart of Olaulim Parish beat a little louder this past weekend as parishioners came together for their very first community fête. The evening began with a warm welcome from one of the organisers, Elvira D'Cruz, and the celebrations were expertly carried forward by the energetic emcee, Grace Martins. With vibrant live music by Johnny B Gud & Reza and Ivo Gonsalves, the crowd swayed along, enjoying a variety of delicious food and the joyful community spirit.

Held on the premises of St Anne's Church, the fête came alive from 6 p.m. to midnight. Children delighted the audience with a fancy dress competition, bringing to life Bollywood stars, superheroes, and fairytale princesses. Homemade snacks and savoury treats were served at food stalls, while lively game booths drew crowds eager to test their luck and skill.

## FILM SCREENING

Cinephile Film Club will be screening the French thriller 'Z', directed by Costa Gavras. Based on the Greek novel of the same name by Vassilis Vassilikos, 'Z' is a political thriller. A leader is assassinated but it is passed off as an accident. A photographer and investigating magistrate then uncovers the truth about what actually happened. Even though the film was made way back in 1969, it still holds good now. It is also among those rare films which were nominated for both the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film and Best Picture. Dibakar Banerjee's `Shanghai' was also inspired by the same novel.

**Venue:** ESG, Auditorium 1, Panjim
**Date:** May 22 | **Time:** 6.30 pm

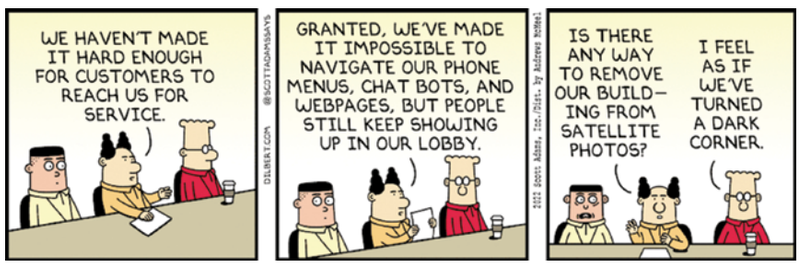
# Utorda celebrates 'Melodical Spark'

PICAS: INACIO NORONHA

The parishioners of Utorda presented a musical evening titled 'Melodical Spark' at the church square in Utorda, under the direction of the parish priest, Fr Arvino Fernandes. A large crowd from the village and neighbouring areas gathered to witness the vibrant musical show. The event also featured various attractions, including stalls, games, spot prizes, and activities such as ball in the tyre and darts, adding to the festive atmosphere.

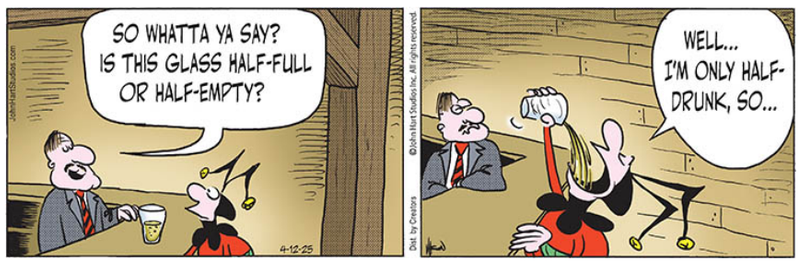
# Herald Gaming Console

### Dilbert

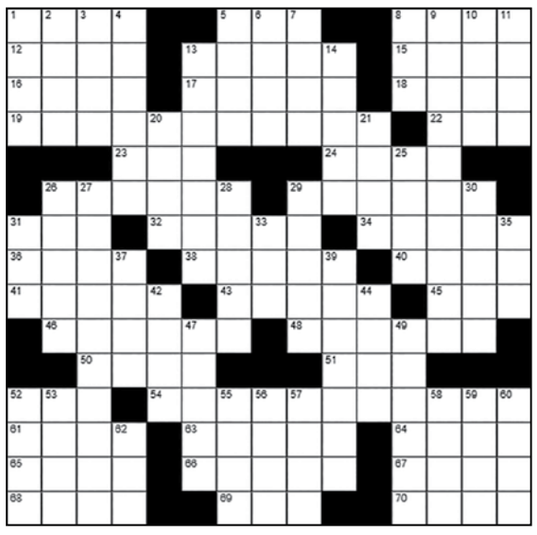



### Garfield

### Wizard of id



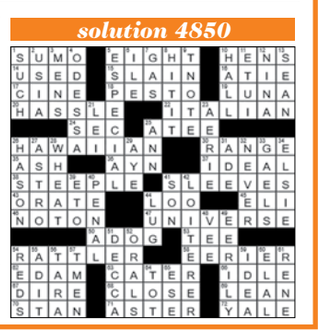

## crossword 4851



**ACROSS**
1- Shaker contents; 5- Cries of surprise; 8- Killer whale; 12- Would ___ to you?; 13- Davis or Midler; 15- Munich mister; 16- Rocket launcher; 17- Door sign; 18- Polite address; 19- Leaping insect; 22- Weigh-in abbr.; 23- A really big shoe?; 24- Deal (with); 26- Some mattresses; 29- Finally; 31- Triple ___; 32- Decorate; 34- Rocker John; 36- Tons; 38- Twisted expression?; 40- Boy or man; 41- Wine grape; 43- Girder; 45- Hanoi holiday; 46- Medieval; 48- Young roarer; 50- Poetic daybreak; 51- Elton's john; 52- Yalie; 54- Sponsor; 61- Fabled fliers; 63- Ancient region of Asia Minor; 64- Alluring; 65- Smell ___; 66- Reflection on death; 67- Robt. ___; 68- Put on the market; 69- Trauma ctrs.; 70- Cong. meeting;

**DOWN**
1-Vocalize melodically; 2- Banned apple spray; 3- One of the Simpsons; 4- One making fun; 5- Vintner's prefix; 6- URL starter; 7- Dance move; 8- Resistance unit; 9- Property; 10- Pinchy crustacean; 11- Weaponry; 13- Decapitates; 14- At attention; 20- ___ precedent; 21- Portrayal by an actor; 25- Inner surface of the hand; 26- Baseball commissioner Bud; 27- Thrifty; 28- ___ boom; 29- Slippery as ___; 30- Apartment sign; 31- Tree syrup; 33- Graycoat; 35- Open mesh fabric; 37- Dorothy's dog; 39- Railroad; 42- Drive-___ window; 44- Heath; 47- Bellybutton type; 49- Sounds; 52- Historical periods; 53- Anecdotal knowledge; 55- Pineapple vendor; 56- Cabinet dept.; 57- Fixes illegally; 58- Prefix with conference; 59- Former partners; 60- Deli loaves; 62- NL cap monogram;

### solution 4850



## sudoku 4851

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | 7 | 6 | | |
| 2 | | | 5 | | | | 9 | 7 |
| 7 | | 4 | | 8 | | | | |
| | 1 | | | | 4 | 2 | | |
| | | 7 | | | | 4 | | |
| | | 5 | 9 | | | | 1 | |
| | | | | 2 | | 3 | | 5 |
| 3 | 7 | | | | 8 | | | 1 |
| | | 6 | 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 4850

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