

# Herald Cafe



A TIME CAPSULE: 'GOA THEN AND NOW' EXHIBITION SHOWCASES 125 YEARS OF CHANGE



ROMI KONKANI COURSE CERTIFICATE DISTRIBUTED AT AROSSIM-CANSAULIM

## Guardians of the voiceless: Unsaid stories of animal rescuers

Pure love, boundless empathy, and unwavering selflessness drive a special few who dedicate their lives to caring for stray and abandoned animals

Elsa Angel Rose

For these passionate animal lovers, love isn't just a feeling, it's a mission. Veterinary hospitals have become their second homes, while their own homes are safe havens for the voiceless. Each rescued life is a testament to their perseverance, proving that compassion can thrive even in the most overlooked corners of our communities. What motivates them to turn care into a calling?



### COMPASSION ON CALL

"My neighbours had kept him tied all the time, starved him, beat him up in the night, I was 15 at the time, I couldn't stand it, I fought with them and adopted the dog," Christabelle Araujo from Loutolim recalled about the first dog she adopted. This young lady's love for abandoned and stray animals, especially dogs, is endless and deep. She feeds almost 100 dogs daily. She is part of many sterilisation, feeding, and

rescue campaigns for dogs. Christabelle, herself, has adopted 10 dogs over the years. It was never an easy path to choose, but her love for them runs deep. No matter how hard it gets, she wants nothing more than to be there for them, always.

Christabelle said, "When you adopt a dog, it's a lifetime commitment. They become part of your family, you should be willing to do anything for them. Huge amounts of time, money, and effort go into taking care of them." At 20, she left her job to be with one of her dogs, which had a tumour in its throat. All her proceeds from her full-time jobs as a dietician, sales and marketing expert go into taking care of these paw friends.

Immense support from her family keeps her motivated every day to embark on this life mission of hers. She said, "Dogs are voiceless, they are the most faithful and loving animals, and they will even give up their lives for you."

### FOR THE LOVE OF STRAYS



"Whenever we see an animal in distress, we adopt them. As of now, we have 72 cats and eight dogs living with us. In addition, I feed animals around our home, about 20 cats and 10 dogs. At the Panjim fish market alone, there are another 18 to 20 cats and around 20 dogs that rely on us for food," shared M Azeez Khan from Assonora. He is another humble soul caring for abandoned and distressed animals. He does this with the enormous support offered by his wife Zubeda. Together, they share a deep and unconditional love for animals, which drives everything they do.

Azeez noted, "Every few months, we have to change locations, often staying

in remote, lonely places. Sometimes, we set up temporary shelters and care for the animals there, especially during the monsoon season. Visiting the veterinary doctor daily has become a routine, and the medical bills often run into lakhs." Azeez and his wife are bridal gown designers who previously ran shops in Panjim and Caranzalem. However, to fully dedicate themselves to caring for abandoned animals, they had to close their businesses and commit to pet care full-time. "Our lives have been dedicated to this. We can go to sleep hungry, but we would never let them down. They are voiceless and vulnerable in ways humans are not," said Azeez.

### A HOME WITH 52 PAW LIVES

To Suzette Advani from Bambolim, happiness is simple: it's her dogs, her husband, daughter, and a heart full of love. Since day one, her home has been a shelter for these fur babies, offering



them love, safety, and a second chance at life. Feeding around 250 dogs every day is something she manages with ease and love. Suzette's home is, first and foremost, a sanctuary for her 52 four-legged companions—only then is it her own. Her kitchen is dedicated entirely to preparing their meals.

Every day, eight to nine buckets of food are prepared at her home to feed the dogs. From Bambolim to Dona Paula, they feed around 100 dogs a day. Suzette said, "I began adopting dogs passionately at the age of 21. Now, at 60, I have adopted 52 dogs, though at one point, we had more than 100." Suzette is a fashion designer, and all her income goes toward caring for dogs. Her husband also supports her financially. She takes in dogs that are in the most desperate and neglected conditions, providing them with sufficient care they need.

She noted, "You can't help but feel sorry for them, their misery stirs something deep within you. That's where empathy begins. It compels you to help. No rescue is ever easy, but I do it because they need someone. And deep down, I believe I was meant to do this." She went on to say that living with dogs had taught her the true meaning of purity, divinity, and selflessness. Their presence, she said, was the purest form of companionship she had ever known. Each one of them had once been stray or abandoned, and that made their bond even more profound.

### CHALLENGES FACED BY RESCUERS

- Limited funding and resources
- Emotional and physical stress
- Lack of public awareness and support
- High rates of abandonment and neglect
- Difficulty finding suitable adopters
- Inadequate veterinary access, especially in emergencies
- Burnout due to long hours and traumatic cases
- Resistance or hostility from communities during rescues

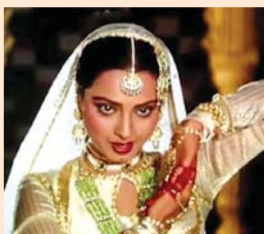
### TIPS FOR RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP

- Commit to caring for your pet for life
- Ensure regular veterinary check-ups and vaccinations
- Spay or neuter to prevent overpopulation
- Provide a safe and comfortable living space
- Never abandon or neglect your pet

### SWIPE RIGHT

#### 'Umrao Jaan' returns to theatres in 4k restoration

One of Indian cinema's most cherished classics, 'Umrao Jaan' is set to return to the silver screen in a dazzling 4K restoration. A multiplex giant has announced that the film will re-release in theatres across India on June 27, as part of its Timeless Classics initiative. Directed by Muzaffar Ali and featuring the legendary Rekha in one of her most iconic roles, 'Umrao Jaan' originally released on January 2, 1981. The film, based on the Urdu novel 'Umrao Jaan Ada' by Mirza Hadi Ruswa, transports audiences to the opulent world of 19th-century Lucknow. Produced by SK Jain & Sons and Integrated Films, the period musical romantic drama tells the poignant story of Amiran, a young girl kidnapped and sold to a brothel, who later transforms into the refined courtesan and poetess Umrao Jaan. Her tragic love story with Nawab Sultan remains one of Bollywood's most enduring narratives of heartbreak and grace.



#### Blake Lively drops emotional distress claims in dispute

Blake Lively is reportedly seeking to withdraw her claims of intentional and negligent infliction of emotional distress against 'It Ends With Us' co-star and director Justin Baldoni, according to recent legal filings. The move comes after Baldoni's legal team sought access to Lively's private medical information including therapy notes as part of the discovery process in the ongoing legal dispute. Attorneys representing Baldoni's Wayfarer Studios filed a motion to compel Lively to sign a HIPAA release, which would grant them access to her medical records. The filing states, "Instead of complying with the Medical RFPs, Ms.



Lively's counsel recently advised us, in writing, that Ms. Lively is withdrawing her [infliction of emotional distress] Claims." The two stars are entangled in a series of legal actions stemming from Lively's allegations that Baldoni sexually harassed her during the production of 'It Ends With Us'.



Ed Sheeran shared a carousel post on his Instagram handle with BTS moments from his upcoming track 'Sapphire', singing with Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan. "SRK, I love that guy so much," Sheeran wrote as they lip-synced the hook together.

## Young Indian achievers shine bright on the global stage

From the dazzling stage lights of 'Britain's Got Talent' to the focused silence of the 'Scripps Spelling Bee' and the intense concentration of Norway Chess 2025, young Indians are making their mark on the global stage with grit, talent, and determination

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### Nine-year-old Binita Chetry creates history on Britain's Got Talent



In a moment of immense pride for Assam and India, Binita Chetry, a nine-year-old dancer from the hill district of Karbi Anglong, secured the second runner-up position in the grand finale of Britain's Got Talent (BGT) 2025. Binita's achievement is especially significant as she became the first-ever Indian contestant to reach the finals of the prestigious talent show.

Binita's journey from the small village of Talbalijan near Bokajan to one of the world's most watched platforms has captivated millions. Her energetic and intricate dance performances, which included physically demanding moves such as backflips, earned her admiration from both the judges and audiences throughout the competition. The grand finale, saw Harry Moulding, a magician, take the top spot, with the LED dance troupe The Blackouts finishing second. Binita claimed the third position in a tightly contested final with her mesmerising two minute performance to the song, "Everybody wants to rule the world". Binita's success was made possible by the financial and emotional support of her family and the local community. Despite modest means, her father, Amar Chetry, ensured she received professional dance training, propelling her to global recognition.

### Faizan Zaki claims Scripps Spelling Bee title in triumphant return

In a powerful comeback story, 13-year-old Faizan Zaki from Texas was crowned champion of the 2025 Scripps National Spelling Bee, just a year after finishing as runner-up. Standing on the same stage where he narrowly missed victory in 2024, Faizan remained composed as he was given the final word: éclairsissement. Without hesitation, he spelled it correctly, securing the win and a thunderous standing ovation.

Faizan's triumph marks a continuing legacy, he is the 32nd Indian American to win the prestigious spelling competition, four decades after Balu Natarajan became the first in 1985. Faizan will receive \$50,000 in cash from Scripps, \$2,500 cash prize and reference library from Merriam-Webster and \$400 worth of reference works from Encyclopedia Britannica, according to Scripps. A major source of Faizan's strength came from his family, especially his twin sister Zara and he credits his parents, Arshia Quadri and Zaki Anwar, for their unwavering support.



### India's D Gukesh makes historic victory at Norway Chess 2025

In a thrilling match at Norway Chess 2025, India's chess prodigy D Gukesh secured a historic victory over World No 1 Magnus Carlsen in Round 6, marking his first-ever classical win against the Norwegian grandmaster. Despite being in a losing position for much of the game, Gukesh capitalised on a rare endgame mistake by Carlsen, completing a remarkable comeback after 62 intense moves and more than four hours of play. The game's tension peaked when Carlsen, visibly frustrated, slammed the table, scattering the chess pieces.

However, the World Champion quickly regained composure, shaking Gukesh's hand and offering a congratulatory pat, an admirable show of sportsmanship. Gukesh, still processing his victory, humbly remarked, "99 out of 100 times I would lose. Just a lucky day!" With wins in their round seven classical games of Norway Chess 2025, GM Fabiano Caruana has taken pole position while World Champion Gukesh Dommaraju follows a point behind, after scoring his first-ever classical victory against GM Arjun Erigaisi.