

horoscope

ARIES: (Mar. 21–Apr. 19)

This week, you're moving forward with energy. You might be filled with ambition today, and you have the power to make things happen. However, you might not be sure where to point this energy. It's like having the fastest car on earth but not knowing what road to take. Nonetheless, it would be a waste of good energy not to go somewhere. Pick any project and you'll make progress. You are extremely outspoken today. Your voice might be heard at a meeting, on social media, or even in a coffee shop. You're ready to give a speech at the drop of a hat. If you're campaigning for yourself or someone else, you will do well today.

TAURUS: (Apr. 20–May 20)

This week, a small change brings positive results. You're quite the juggernaut today, filled with energy and focus. You could push a train forward with your determination, so progress is likely to be made. But if you're in a rut, you might dig yourself in a little deeper today. You no longer like something you've liked for years. The old stuff seems boring and passé. You might not be sure yet what will replace this old thing (whether it's your career or a new ice cream flavour). You're letting go of what no longer interests you.

GEMINI: (May 21–Jun. 21)

This week, you are driven by a higher force. You might feel compelled to work on a personal creative project. All the other obligations and things people are trying to get you to do feel like interruptions and impositions on your time. Today, you're like a freight train on a track surrounded by people who want you to turn. You're feeling a little rebellious today. You might want to play hooky. You want to break out of your routine and withdraw from the obligations of your day. Your first act this morning might be to shred your to-do list.

CANCER: (Jun. 22–Jul. 22)

This week, you are in touch with magic. Your force of will is more powerful than usual. Your will is like a rushing river that nothing can slow for long, but now you might be like a mama bear, aggressively protecting those you love. Today, you might stand up to defend a family member or friend. A friendship could take a surprising turn. It might start with a longer hug, a kiss on the cheek, or some other show of affection and then passion could ignite. Or perhaps you meet a stranger that you feel you've known your entire life.

LEO: (Jul. 23–Aug. 22)

This week, life takes an exciting turn. You are more determined today than usual (which is saying something). Instead of pushing a rock up a big hill, you now have the power to pick up that rock and throw it over the hill. This is a good day to do something great like start a business or ask for a promotion. There might be a change in the hours you work. Or if you work from home, you might need to go into the office more often. If you own a home business, your interests could be expanding.

VIRGO: (Aug. 23–Sept. 22)

This week, what you wish for can manifest. In a world of a million things to do, you are speeding through tasks. You're checking things off your to-do list at lightning speed. You might feel more productive today than you've felt in months. You are faster than the cartoon Road Runner. If you're in school, you might be making some changes to your class schedule. And if you teach, you could be filling in for someone. But if you don't have a structured curriculum deadline now, you might be bored by everything and not want to study at all.

LIBRA: (Sept. 23–Oct. 23)

This week, you are leading the charge. You are taking the lead today. You're not just at the helm of the ship, you are leading the entire armada. Everyone is listening to you (at least all the people who matter), so it's time to be decisive. Choose a direction and you'll have support when you need it. An unexpected purchase could throw off your finances. An impulse buy could blow up your budget. Be careful of slick-talking salespeople and tantalizing offers. You might want to put a 24-hour hold on any purchases today.

SCORPIO: (Oct. 24–Nov. 21)

This week, you are a force to be reckoned with. Your confidence and popularity rise at the same time. This can open new doors for you. Don't hesitate to ask for what you want or go through one of those doors. This is especially true if you're dealing with loans, mortgages, building and construction, or investments. You could be looking to spice up your relationship. You might try playing some games behind closed doors or going out to new places to try dancing or karaoke. You're having more fun in your relationship.

SAGITTARIUS: (Nov. 22–Dec. 21)

This week, you're seeking something out of the ordinary. You would like an adventure today. You're ready to take off no matter what it costs you. You want to break free of your routine, chuck your tasks, and see something new in the world. Don't bother arguing with yourself. Follow your bliss. A small piece of information could change the way you do just about everything. This data might come from a scientific study, trusted expert, or random video. Today, it's quite likely you will have a breakthrough.

CAPRICORN: (Dec. 22–Jan. 19)

This week, the ball is in your court. While you are naturally an achiever, there are some days when you feel like you could rule the world. Today, you are in command, and you can make decisions like a king. Be decisive and the certainty will inspire those around you. A spontaneous meeting with a friend could bring both inspiration and delight. This individual sees things differently, has an outside perspective, and is willing to share their thoughts. They could answer a conundrum you've been struggling with. Their approach could be the solution you're looking for.

AQUARIUS: (Jan. 20–Feb. 18)

This week, there's joy for you in something new. You can be fixed and focused and heading in a direction until you suddenly pivot, startling all around you. Today, you might make such a change. What was an absolute yesterday seems optional today. You might come to a fork in the road and take the new path. Some changes at work could bring you unexpected benefits. There might be a change in management or teams. There could be new procedures, computer systems, or suppliers. Things at your job might get much easier.

PISCES: (Feb. 19–Mar. 20)

This week, you are unwavering in your decisions. You generally like to go with the flow, but today you are resolute. You don't want to compromise. You don't want to negotiate. And you certainly don't want to wait. Today, your force of will gets you what you want. If you're looking for a job, you could get an invitation for an interview or even a job offer. You might see a job posting you're interested in applying for. There might be a new opportunity at work that fits your skill set.

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Goa's Bakers celebrate thanksgiving Holy Mass at Margao

The All Goa Association of Bakers (AGAB), celebrated a thanksgiving Mass on at St Sebastian Church, Aquem - Alto, Margao on the occasion of The International Bakers Day celebrations in Goa. Traditional Goan bakers and their families from all over Goa participated in the thanksgiving mass, celebrated by Fr Josly Rocha, assistant parish priest, St Sebastian Church, Aquem - Margao in the presence of Fr Agnelo Rodrigues, parish priest, St Sebastian Church. Augustine Gomes, Vice President of AGAB, coordinated the Mass along with various other bakers from Goa.

Fr Josely, in his homily, said that hands of bakers are truly blessed as they mould the dough, pray with folded hands and offer thanks to the Lord with the same hands. Augustine said, "We started celebrating the thanksgiving mass around 12 years ago and wish to carry on this tradition in the years to come to honour and give thanks for God's profound blessings upon bakers, their families who carry forward the bakery business and all bread consumers in Goa."

Before the mass, several types of bread like katre

pao, undo, baegal (kankonn) and regular pao and poie of various shapes and sizes were displayed and later offered during the mass offertory. Fr Josely blessed the bread presented by the Goa's bakers.

The choir for the mass was by Terezin D'Costa, while Sarita Alvares did the reading. Bond Braganza, general secretary and Agapito de Menezes, president of

PICS: CEDRIC DA COSTA



Our Lady of Fatima feast

The Feast of Our Lady of Fatima will be celebrated. The Rosary will start at 5.30 pm followed by mass and procession. Venue: Archbishop's House, Altinho, Panjim Date: October 13 | Time: 5.30 pm onwards

Alexy art exhibition

Grand finale of Alexy exhibition and celebrations, first time 'Humour in Photographs' competition and exhibition curated by photographer Prasad Pankar will be held with Goan Sweet dishes competition and music and dance with Cecille Rodrigues. Venue: Belas de Artes Galleria, Calangute Date: October 15 | Time: 10 am onwards

Panjim City - The Slow Fade

Nilankur Das

As the sun rises over the Mandovi River, casting golden light on the quiet streets of Panjim, the city, still wrapped in the softness of dawn, begins to stir. You can hear the distant clink of metal shutters being rolled up as shop owners prepare for the day ahead. The narrow lanes start to fill with life, filling the air with the rich smells of Bhaji Pao and Chao. Panjim comes alive in these early hours, a city breathing in unison with its people. There's a certain magic in how life unfurls here—small and familiar. The shopkeepers greet each other with nods, their smiles that signify bonds formed over years of shared routines. The honks of scooters and the hum of cars mark the slow build of the day's tempo. And yet, amidst this daily resurgence, an unease hangs in the air—a sense of inevitable change, as though Panjim itself is aware of its own slow fading.

When you look around, you can already see the cracks, in the old buildings that line the streets, and in the spirit of the town. Redevelopment has become a catchphrase here, a promise wrapped in the garb of modernity. But what they don't tell you is the price that Panjim will pay. Take a three-story building, one of those quaint old structures with crumbling plaster but a soul. It stands there, an aging witness to the stories of the generations it has housed. The builder arrives with plans—convert this modest structure into a towering 20-story high-rise. Progress, moving with the times, they say.

The families who have lived there for decades are told to move out, offered meager sums for their displacement. Where do they go for two or three years while the new building rises from the dust of their memories? And when they return, it's not to the home they once knew. It's to a towering block of concrete, impersonal and out of place. The charm of those places where children once played and elders sipped tea is replaced by glass and steel. The weight of this progress presses down on the land and on the hearts of its people.

And then there's the burden on resources. A city like Panjim, with its age-old infrastructure, was never built to support 20 stories where three once stood. Water, electricity, sewage—these systems buckle under the strain. For every high-rise that springs up, Panjim loses a piece of itself, a fragment of its identity. It's more than just the skyline that changes; it's the soul of the city that erodes with each new floor added to the skyline.



Close Encounters of the Goan Kind

You walk down the streets of Panjim and the air would be filled with the smells of local Goan cuisine. Bhaji Pao, Batat

Bhaji, Poi, and Sukhi Bhaji—the simple, rich foods that nourished the body and the community. The small, family-run eateries that lined Cunha Rivara Road and its neighbouring streets are the heartbeats of the city. They aren't just places to eat; they are where life happens. Neighbours met, stories are shared, and strangers became friends over plates of steaming food.

But today, these beloved joints are disappearing. Just as in Baga-Calangute, where the influx of commercial interests drove out local businesses, Panjim too faces this fate. As new buildings rise, so do the rents, and these small eateries—unable to keep up with the skyrocketing commercial rates—are being replaced by chain restaurants and boutique cafes. The demographics are shifting. The people who grew up on Bhaji Pao are being replaced by a newer crowd, one less tied to the flavours and textures that define Goan cuisine. In a few years, will there still be a line of people waiting at their favourite local spot for breakfast? Or will Panjim's streets be dotted with eateries that offer everything but a true taste of Goa?

We are losing more than just food; we are losing a culture, a way of life. These eateries are as much a part of Panjim's identity as its architecture. Their disappearance marks the slow death of a community's soul, one Sukhi Bhaji plate at a time.

AGAB and members of Goa's baker's fraternity attended the Mass and expressed solidarity with traditional bakers in Goa.

Lunar Occultation of Saturn

Association of Friends of Astronomy (Goa) will organise public observations at Public Astronomical Observatory of the Lunar Occultation of Saturn (rare Moon/Saturn Eclipse). Entry is free. Venue: Terrace, Junta House, Panjim and Ravindra Bhavan, Margao Entry free Date: October 14 at 11 pm to 1.30 am

Consecration of St John the Baptist Church, Pilerne to Our Lady of Fatima

On the solemnity of the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, the parish of St John the Baptist Church, Pilerne is for the first time going to entrust the families of the parish to the Immaculate Heart of Mary through a Marian Consecration. The Consecration will take place during Holy Mass at 7 am and 9.30 am where the faithful shall gather and pray as a community, followed by a rite wherein they shall consecrate themselves through an act of consecration under the direction of parish priest, Fr Derick Fernandes.

At 3.30 pm, there will be a Rosary rally with the statue of Our Lady of Fatima through the village, wherein the pilgrims will walk throughout the rally as a sign of prayer, penance and sacrifice as requested by Our Lady to the three children at Fatima. With prayerful reflections of the mysteries of the rosary and Marian hymns recited, alongside a candle lit procession, the rosary rally shall comprise of prayers. Venue: St John the Baptist Church, Pilerne Date: October 13

If the buildings are Panjim's bones and the food its lifeblood, then the trees are its guardians. Tall, old trees have lined the streets of this city for generations, offering shade and respite to all who pass by. But even these sentinels are not immune to the onslaught of modernisation. National Green Tribunal rules dictate that a one-meter gap of soil should surround the roots of trees, allowing them space to grow, to breathe. Yet in Panjim, concrete encases the roots, suffocating them slowly. Pavements are laid without care, and the trees grow weaker.

The other day, a young girl lost her life when a tree, its roots strangled by concrete, fell. A tragedy that could have been avoided, had we only listened to the silent cries of these trees. Not long after, a Silver Oak tree collapsed in front of a friend's house. These trees, once proud and towering, now fall with frightening regularity, unable to withstand the pressures of an urban environment that no longer nurtures them.

What happens when we lose the trees? We lose the shade that protects us from the harsh summer sun, the beauty that softens the edges of our urban landscape. We lose a part of Panjim that has stood the test of time, watching over its people, silently giving more than it takes. In the rush to pave everything over, to create sleek and efficient spaces, we are forgetting the importance of life beyond the concrete.

Panjim is at a crossroads. The old and the new stand side by side, in an uneasy truce, but for how long? Every day, another building falls to redevelopment, another local eatery closes its doors for the last time, and another tree succumbs to the embrace of concrete. If we continue down this path, there will be nothing left of the Panjim we know, the Panjim we love.

It's time for us to slow down, to take a step back and reflect. Redevelopment doesn't have to mean erasure. We can rebuild, yes, but let us do it thoughtfully, with respect for the people who live here, for the culture that has thrived here for generations, and for the natural world that sustains us. Can we ask ourselves—what kind of Panjim do we want to leave behind for future generations?

The city doesn't have to die. It doesn't have to fade into just another soulless urban landscape. There is still time to save Panjim's heart, to preserve its spirit. We must act now, before the shadows of high-rises stretch too long. Panjim's story is ours to write. We can still write a hopeful one—where the old and the new coexist, where heritage is honoured, and where the trees stand tall, their roots deep in the soil of a city that remembers to breathe.

Herald Gaming Console

Comic strips featuring Dilbert, Garfield, and Wizard of Id.

Crossword puzzle 4662 and its solution 4661.

Sudoku puzzle 4662 and its solution 4661.