

# Goans across the globe unite at World Goa Day

Goans across the world come together to celebrate their identity and culture as part of the World Goa Day, conceived to commemorate the inclusion of Konkani as an official language in the Indian Constitution on August 20, 1992. Goan associations and organisations conduct various offline or online events to mark World Goa Day and while some events have already been conducted, others are being planned on or after August 20. THE GLOBAL GOENKAR presents a special coverage on various events and perspectives by Goenkars around the world to celebrate World Goa Day

## Proud to be Goan

RENE BARRETO

World Goa Day is a wonderful opportunity for Goans across the world to come together, to celebrate our Goan identity and to review our accomplishments of the global Goan community.

It all began in 2000, when it was decided to dedicate a day in the year to celebrate our Goan cultural heritage. It is meant to be a day when Goans worldwide focused on and take pride in every aspect of their culture, language, traditions, arts, cuisine, etc.

It is on this day that thousands of Goans remind ourselves of the need to work to preserve our culture and heritage for our children. A day to foster solidarity among Goans all over the world.

Dreams and ambitions take hold more quickly when shared with others. World Goa Day aims to strengthen the cultural roots of Goans and to facilitate their participation in on-going World Goa events.

We have a lot to offer the world and should not be ashamed of or shy away from our own glorious culture. We are as gifted as any other people, and we should be willing to demonstrate that pride in our actions. The theme for WGD2022 is 'Celebrating Our Global Goans'. Let World Goa Day be a beacon of light and inspiration throughout the year and for the rest of our lives. Let us make this our motto 'Proud to be a Goan' and live up to that motto.

(The writer is overall coordinator of World Goa Day)



The World Goa Day 2022 poster designed by Sharmila Coutinho.

### World Goa Day 2022 Official Theme Song

Goa Mhojem

The Official World Goa Day 2022 theme song is 'Goa Mhojem', composed by Colin D'Cruz with lyrics by Bond Braganza and featuring Usha Uthup (vocals), Gerard Machado (guitar), Jason Quadros (piano), Colin D'Cruz (bass) and Angelo Colasco (drums). Watch 'Goa Mhojem' at: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=RroLYbO6pQ>

## World Goa Day: Uniting Goans in Quebec



MELISSA AND PRISCILLA FERNANDES

The commemoration of World Goa Day is the epitome of reconnecting with our Goan brothers and sisters across the globe. A dream of the original founders of the Quebec Goan Association (QGA), this observance was ultimately immortalised as part of our calendar of events by future committees. World Goa Day has been quintessential in sharing our Goan values with our community. A potluck picnic, rain or shine, in the waning days of summer in Montreal, this event assembles the youth, family and seniors.

Beneath the QGA banner, we speak of colourful memories, singing traditional songs accompanied by talented guitarists, and tasting savoury and sweet dishes from our most talented chefs. Children are enthralled, competing in organised games, chasing each other, biking around the park, and rushing for refreshing treats placed out on tables. Everyone is relaxing in the great outdoors and socialising with friends from the city and abroad.

It is in this spirit of conviviality that we await with bated breath for the 2022 edition of the QGA's World Goa Day picnic. Scheduled on August 20, we have the pleasure of welcoming our community to the beautiful Cap-Saint-Jacques nature park and beach.

File photo of the Quebec Goan Association's World Goa Day event in 2015.

All signs point to a gorgeous sunny, summer day to play in the sand and cool off in the waters of the St Lawrence River.

There are games for children and families and lively music to serenade everyone during the meal. There will be delectable dishes to share and opportunities to reconnect with friends.

At every WGD for the past few years now, we have been trying to teach our members Konkani by organising Konkani quizzes/riddles etc. In 2015, we even had a small Konkani class. We also have our Konkani mandos singalong as well.

The QGA participated in the Global WGD online event in 2020 by performing a nice medley of traditional mandos and dulpods. The same year, they also performed Christmas carols in English and Konkani at the Kuswar festival.

Being the 45th anniversary of QGA this year, we will honour two members of our community who have been ambassadors for our Goan culture. We will celebrate a member who has shown kindness to individuals in the community, giving time and effort to help others. We will also acknowledge a member who has made great strides in the business/creative world to put Goans on the map. Recognising these candidates will certainly inspire others to share their skills and love for who we are as Goans.

## Events to mark World Goa Day

### JAZZ GOA

**>>> WHEN:** August 20, 8 pm  
**>>> WHERE:** Jazz Goa YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/bldfyLEKKQk>  
**>>> WHAT:** Jazz Goa has been broadcasting spectacular shows every year on World Goa Day. This year will be very special as the show is hosted by Padmashree Usha Uthup. Songs from her Konkani jazz album will be a part of the show. The show features over 40 artistes, each one introduced by Usha. She professes her love for Goa and Goans right through the two-hour entertainer. Colin D'Cruz, founder of Jazz Goa along with his wife, Diana, carefully curated the show to make sure it touches Goans in Goa and around the world. Many videos are spiked with glimpses of Goa that's bound to evoke nostalgia among Goans living in other countries.

Jazz Goa's World Goa Day broadcast features Adolfo Fernandes, Allan Moraes, Allan Vaz, Ana Monteiro, Andre De Souza, Angelo Colasco, Bob Tinker, Carlos Gonsalves, Clifford Siqueira, Colin D'Cruz, Cynthia Gomes, Darryl Rodrigues, Diana D'Cruz, Donna Noronha, Ernest Flanagan, Evelyn Braganza, Francisco Rodrigues, Gerard Machado, Helga Sedli, Jason Quadros, Joshua Noronha, Kris Kasper, Laura Fernandez, Lulu Fortes, Manuel Gomes, M'tafiti Imara, Mukesh Ghatwal, Prashant Mahale, Queenie Fernandes, Ruth Saldanha, Saby Fernandes, Sancho Menezes, Sandhya D'Mello, Shanice Monteiro, Shannon Fernandes, Sharon Rodrigues, Sherize Monteiro, Sonia Shirsat, Sylvia Monteiro, Tania De Souza, Tony Dias, Usha Uthup, Veeam Braganza, Velrose Pereira, Verphina Dias and Zezinho Fernandes.

**>>> MESSAGE:** On World Goa Day, the Jazz Goa's World Goa broadcast ends with me urging Goans who migrated to return to Goa. I do this in my song 'Goa Going Gone.' Nothing would make me happier than seeing Goans return to our beautiful state.

Colin D'Cruz  
Jazz Goa

### SHARJAH

**>>> WHEN:** September 25  
**>>> WHAT:** St Michael's Sharjah Goan Community in association with the Global Goans Association will organise 'Virtual Celebrations' to commemorate World Goa Day 2022. The event will be broadcast live via Zoom.  
**>>> EVENT:** Goan parishioners of St Michael's Church in Sharjah are invited to record and share video clips of their favourite instrumental pieces, songs, and skits in English, Konkani, or Portuguese. Videos will be broadcast live on the virtual platform as part of the celebrations.  
**>>> CONTACT:** [shjgoancommunity@yahoo.com](mailto:shjgoancommunity@yahoo.com)

### LONDON

**>>> WHEN:** August 20, 4 pm to 11 pm  
**>>> WHAT:** World Goa Day 2022  
**>>> WHERE:** Hounslow Market Place  
**>>> WHO:** The event is organised by Simon Rodrigues of Amigos Nite and is powered by 'Maka Tik Naka'. Rene Barreto (Founder of World Goa Day) is the chief guest while Fr Lucas Rodrigues, Chaplain to the Goan Community, Swindon, and Parish Priest of St Peter's Catholic Church & Sacred Heart Church is the guest of honour.  
**>>> EVENT:** Artists include Risma Leitao, Noywen Fernandes (one-man band), DJ Velfern, Kumbi dance performances, comedy acts by comedy King Agostino and comedy Queen Janet. London-based Goa's famous Konkani singers Tommy Afonso (Jr Nelson), Bab Andrew D'Souza, Joao De Zuari, Princwell, Nicky Carvalho, Andrea D'Souza, Aliston Bareto and Nerisa Bareto will sing Konkani songs and Joao Gomes will play the violin. The show will be compered by Simon Varella.

### MELBOURNE

**>>> WHEN:** August 21, 11 am  
**>>> WHAT:** Goa Day  
**>>> WHERE:** Menzies Hall, Dandenong North, Victoria  
**>>> EVENT:** People are invited to come in Goan attire, carry along any Goan articles that they may have at home and join the event. The event includes a prize for the best Goan theme fancy dress, a skit and Fish Curry and Rice for lunch. Maestro Josefato Vales will provide music and will be accompanied by Alan de Menezes and Xavier Fernandes.  
**>>> CONTACT:** [www.goav.org.au](http://www.goav.org.au)

### SYDNEY

**>>> WHEN:** October 8, 11 am to 4:30 pm  
**>>> WHAT:** World Goa Day Sydney  
**>>> WHERE:** All Saints Parish Hall, Liverpool, NSW  
**>>> EVENT:** Nostalgic Konkani/English music for listening, dancing pleasure. Various stalls with Goan cuisine, Goan Mandos, Bingo and more. There will be a gold coin donation. Come and experience the Taste of Goa in Sydney - Sorpotel, Sannas, Xacuti, Pulao, Fish Curry and Rice, Prawns Banchao, Pork Vindaloo, Chouricos, Chicken Cafreal, Bibinca and Dodol. Dress code is casual.

### QUEBEC

**>>> WHEN:** August 20, 10:30 am onwards  
**>>> WHAT:** The 45th Anniversary World Goa Day Potluck Picnic  
**>>> WHERE:** Parc-Nature du Cap-Saint-Jacques 20099 Boulevard Gouin Ouest Pierrefonds, QC  
**>>> EVENT:** Picnic at the beach, games and prizes. Participants are expected to bring their own chairs, plates, utensils, drinks and dishes to share.

### MUMBAI

**>>> WHEN:** August 20, 7:30 pm onwards  
**>>> WHAT:** The Goan Institute celebrations of World Goa Day  
**>>> WHERE:** The ILA Hall, St Francis Xavier Church, Dabul-Girgaum  
**>>> EVENT:** World Goa Day is being celebrated for the first time by the Goan Institute Dabul, Mumbai. We have numerous programmes to entertain people of all age groups with participants from different age groups as well. A variety of entertainment includes folk dances, youth dances, mando, youth singing, Konkani skit, sport prizes, dancing and games. As the main focus of our first World Goa Day, we will host a Goan food festival with delicious and palate-tickling food dishes like Sorpotel, Pork roast, Pav and fish thali. Entry to this event is free.

We take pride in our wonderful Goan culture, language, traditions, music and cuisine. We invite all to come enjoy our world-renowned Goan hospitality and large-heartedness. By celebrating World Goa Day and showcasing it to other Goans, we are binding with our brethren wherever they may be, giving them a glimpse of our rich legacy handed by our ancestors. Thus, touching on the theme - Celebrating Our Global Goans.

Agnes Fernandes  
The Goan Institute

### SIOLIM

**>>> WHEN:** From August 20 to 22 between 9 am and 6:30 pm  
**>>> WHAT:** 30th Annual Festival of Plants & Flowers  
**>>> WHERE:** St Francis Xavier's School & HSS, Siolim  
**>>> EVENT:** The theme is 'Vegetables from the wild' and 'Save our Soils'. Exhibition of plants, sale of plants, sale of garden implements, organic manure, plant nurseries, biofertilisers.

## Californian Goans hold picnic to mark WGD



JOSEPH LOURENCO

The Californian Goans World Goa Day Picnic 2022 at Whispering Creek Picnic Area, Don Castro Regional Park on August 8 started as a good old Goan picnic starts, right on the picnic bus with the picnickers singing to some picnic classics.

The event kicked off with this year's official WGD song 'Goa Mhojem', followed by a Traditional Kunbi (Vodekara) dance. This was followed by a fancy dress for both kids and adults and a Patoleo and Donne-making session where kids were taught the art of making the popular Goan sweets.

The main attractions of the day were our Open Mic (Singing, Danc-

Goans perform the traditional Kunbi (Vodekara) dance in California to mark World Goa Day on Aug 8.

ing, Poetry, Skits etc), which brought forth a lot of hidden talents from all ages, as the crowd watched on with their plates full of traditional Goan delicacies like Aad Maas, Chana Ros, Green Beef and more.

As the Goan Siesta time rolled in, some freshly made Goan Chau, Kapa, Bhoji and Patoleos were there to keep us on our toes and ready for a Goan Ring Game. It was a fun-filled day, especially for kids as they got not only to watch but also participate in our Goan tradition followed by a swim at the shallow beach.

Like all our events, the party did not end at the park but continued on to the returning picnic bus as some of the energetic few sang songs to the tired but happy crowd.

## GOAn culture on display at WGD in Karachi



PETER MENDES

The Goinkars Own Academy (GOA) in Pakistan was established in 2000 by Maurice Coutinho when Goans in Pakistan joined hands with a multitude of organisations the world over, to celebrate World Goa Day.

Since its inception, the GOA has been edifying and promoting the distinctiveness and diversity of Goan culture as well as sedulously working at keeping our Mai Bhas Konkani alive.

In early 2020, I was elected as the Academy's third president and together with my assiduous team, I continue to revitalise Goan culture and our beautiful mother tongue here in Pakistan.

Despite the Covid pandemic, we celebrated World Goa Day in full swing in August 2020, St Francis Xavier's Feast on December 3, 2020, & 2021 and GOAFEST in July this year, where approximately 300 Goans gathered to celebrate the spirit of Goa Festival. Karachi's most talented young group of musicians came forward to play instruments for the first time with Goan classical music and songs.

Solo performances by vocalists Anthony Pinto, Melanie Nazareth, Clifford Fernandes and Bella Coelho put

Members of Goinkars Own Academy take part in a programme in Karachi.

the audience into a romantic mood with their euphonious Konkani love songs. A Comedy Konkani Interview Skit crooned by Melba Pinto and acted by Rupert D'Costa brought smiles to people's faces. Solo songs were also sung by our young rising talent Liberatta Pinto, Duane Fernandes, while Dylan Fernandes and Miguel Nazareth entertained the crowd with their musical skit.

The musical programme continued with the 'Daring Divas', Samantha Rodrigues and team rocking the stage with their Mando dance moves. Once again, Melba Pinto along with Clifford Fernandes won the hearts of many with their humorous duo performance on stage. Finally, the group hit the stage to sing the Goan Masala Medley.

On the menu was the Goan mouth-watering cuisine, Sorpotel & Sannas prepared by the women of GOA, Chicken Caldinha, Yakni Pulao, which was relished by all.

Our next big event is World Goa Day which will be celebrated on October 9. We plan to take about 200 members to the Arabian Sea Country Club for a fun-filled day of Goan music, dance and eats. Details on these programmes are available on the Goinkars Own Academy Karachi Facebook page.

## WGD with Patoiachem Fest in Madkai

The Festam team organised the Patoiachem Fest in Madkai on August 15 from 11 to 3 pm to celebrate World Goa Day, Independence Day, Our Lady of Assumption, Konkani Day, Ghumtacho Nach and Goenchem Jevonn.

Curated by Goa's Festakar Marius Fernandes and Gwendolyn de Ornelas, the festival featured Konkani skits, Ghumot workshop, cultural programme, workshops, demonstrations and zero waste fest.

The festival also supported the government in the drive to eliminate single-use plastic and to highlight the economic empowerment of communities, especially Goan youth.

The main aim of the festivals is to bind communities, exchange ideas at the grassroots and revive everything Goan.



Goan culture and delicacies were showcased at the Patoiachem Fest in Madkai on August 15.



