

Goan culture takes centre stage across the globe

Goans across the world have traditionally celebrated Goa Day events between July and September. These events are either conducted in association with the World Goa Day Team, Goa Sudharop or by individual Goan associations and event managers. Many of these events are organised by associations to commemorate the day Konkani was included in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution on August 20, 1992, while others host these Goa Day events as part of their annual festivals. Goans come together at these events and proudly showcase traditional food, music and dance as part of their enthusiasm to present and promote Goan culture. **THE GLOBAL GOENKAR** has compiled details of various events around the world which have already been presented or are planned to mark Goa Day.

World Goa Day Team 'Connecting our Global Goan Youth'

MARIA GOMES FERNANDES

orld Goa Day (WGD) was introduced to commemorate the anniversary of the inclusion of Konkani in the 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution by the Indian Parliament on August 20, 1992, when Konkani was recognised as one of the official languages of India. Konkani is the mother tongue of Goans and is spoken by many, both in Goa and across the global Goan world. This year, the World Goa Day team focused on 'Connecting our Global Goan Youth' and with this in mind, Rene Barreto reached out to get our young Goans spread out all across the globe to work towards initiating World Goa Day celebrations wherever they are based. Rene Barreto together with his team across the world, has and continues to be the driving force in getting as many global Goan groups to celebrate this event, a few of which have already held their celebrations over the last month, whilst many will do so on a day most convenient to their community and the rest will celebrate World Goa Day on August 20. World Goa Day has proven to be a unifying event which has brought together so many Goans to come together to celebrate their Goan identity, music, art, cuisine, culture and tradi-

tions, through organizing different kinds of programs at these events.

Some Goan associations and groups of Goans have held large musical star-studded shows interspersed with acts by local Goan artists, musicians and budding talent, while some others have held or will be be holding smaller more closely knit celebrations like a community picnic in more informal settings, sports activities, literature meets, heritage exhibits, etc.

So, be it a large gathering or a more modest one, what World Goa Day achieves is unifying our Goan brethren to come together, bond and share a common love for their homeland, Goa.

This global event also serves to promote the talent of our budding artists, spread word about many of those who work towards serving hu-



World Goa Day has proven to be a unifying event which has brought together so many Goans to come together to celebrate their Goan identity, music, art, cuisine, culture and traditions, through organizing different kinds of programmes at these events

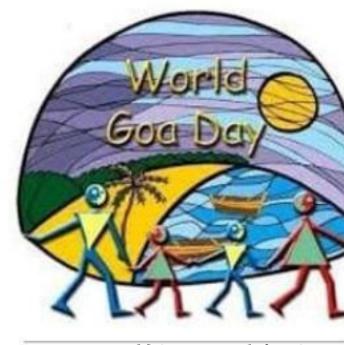
Day supporters religiously continuing with the celebration of this event, we now see newer places joining the World Goa Day bandwagon and readily agreeing to celebrate this day, to express solidarity with Goans all across the globe. So hopefully, wherever you are when reading this, if you do not have access to a World Goa Day event in your vicinity, it should surely encourage you to come forward and get together a few like-minded passionate Goans like yourself to celebrate World Goa Day on August 20 this year or a day most convenient with you and to continue the celebrations every year henceforth.

Goa Sudharop and World Goa Day

GEORGE PINTO

he World GOAN Network established by was Goa Sudharop in 2000 bring together to organisations, Goan non-profits/ associations, NGOs, and individuals - the G.O.A.N. stands acronym Goan Organisations for Associations Network. It is the first and premier Goan network in the diaspora committed to bringing Goans together for the betterment of Goa and Goans.

The World Goa Day was founded in 2000 by Goa Sudharop and holds the international trademark for this special event (See https:// w w w.goasudharop.net/ worldgoannetwork). Since 2000, the event has been celebrated by the World Goan its members. However, the idea of World Goa Day founded by Goa Sudharop is conceptually and organisationally very different. World Goa Day as promoted and



We want World Goa Day to bring Goans together to work for the betterment of Goa and Goans as originally envisioned by us. Over the years, hundreds of Goan organisations/associations, non-profits/NGOs, and thousands of individuals have worked for the betterment of Goa

diaspora together to work for the betterment of Goa and Goans.

The late Jorge de Abreu Noronha (Lisbon) suggested World Goa Day be held in August to commemorate Konkani being included in the Indian Constitution on August 20, 1992. Basilio Magno launched the song 'Proud to be a Goan' which helped

to be a Goan' which helped internationalise this event. Goa Sudharop set up and paid for the initial

logo, website, and sent out promotional and awareness information to kick-start the event. Later, an email group 'World Goan Network' was started.

Goa Sudharop has been recognised for its role in the founding of 'World Goa Day'. We want World Goa Day to bring Goans together to work for the betterment of Goa and Goans as originally envisioned by us. Over the years, hundreds of Goan organisations/ associations, non-profits/ NGOs, and thousands of individuals have worked for the betterment of Goa and Goans and have benefited by being able to tap into Goa Sudharop's resources (time, money, talent) consistent with our aims and objectives.

manity vide their charitable works which are sometimes funded via their World Goa Day events, encouraging tourism to not only Goa but also to the countries that celebrate this event, drawing attention and focus to newer settled communities of Goans in parts of the world little heard of before or where there had never been much of an influx of our Goan people, leading us all to be more aware that the world is indeed a very small place and it's highly possible that wherever you go, you may probably be sure to come across another Goan.

While we still have our previous World Goa

Wishing everyone a very Happy World Goa Day! Viva Goa, Viva Goemkar, Viva Goemkarponn! Mog Asundi Sodanch! Network under Goa Sudharop's founding role.

One of the first projects Goa Sudharop launched in the year 2000 was World Goa Day, an idea mooted by Goa Sudharop co-founder Filomena Giese to bring Goans around the world together.

In the 1990's, one Goan organisation in the Gulf (GWS-Kuwait) had a local stand-alone fun-filled Goa day celebration for

advanced by Goa Sudharop and envisioned by Filomena Giese is to bring Goan organisations in the

CELEBRATING GOAN CULTURE AROUND THE WORLD

ABERDEEN-UK

The Goan Community Aberdeen celebrated World Goa Day with an event at Ashdale Hall, Westhill, Aberdeen, on July 9.

The event included music by Aurvile and Silvia (all the way from Goa), Oceanix and Goan cuisine. The hosts at the event were Jean and Athena.

ABERDEEN-UK

The United Goans of Aberdeen celebrated World Goa Day with a dine and dance at Madri Lounge, Aberdeen Football Club Limited, Pittodrie Stadium, Aberdeen on August 5. The event included performances by Mark Revlon (from Goa), DJ Rohan Peddy and DJ Ethax. The MC was Swiston.

ADLIYA-BAHRAIN

The Young Goans Club, Bahrain, will celebrate World Goa Day and the Bandra Fair 2023 at the Baan Saeng Thai Auditorium, Adliya on September 29 from 1 pm to 1 am.

The event will include live bands, Goan delicacies, spot prizes, competitions, dancing, games and stalls.

Music will be provided by 3 Notes, Muzzik Mania and Sanio Fernandes.

ARUSHA-TANZANIA

The Arusha Institute will celebrate World Goa Day on August 20.

The celebrations will begin with Holy Mass at 10 am followed by coffee gathering, koroga, bingo and games. Goan cuisine will include Chicken Xacuti, Pork Solantulem, rice, salad, Godshem and an open barbeque.

AUCKLAND-NEW ZEALAND

The Goan Overseas Association New Zealand (GOANZ) will celebrate World Goa Day at the Te Atatu Peninsula Community Centre, Auckland, on August 26.



Filoz.

After teatime snacks, the picnic wrapped up with the crowd favourite: The Goan Ring Game.

As the revellers headed home on the chartered bus, the crowd punctuated the evening with their renditions of Goan Mandos.

"Cheers to another fun-filled Goan picnic packed with culture, lots of Goan food, and new memories to draw upon for future generations," said Joseph Lourenço.

EDINBURGH-UK

The World Goa Day will be celebrated for the first time in Edinburgh, with a dine and dance at St Mathew Catholic Church Hall, 36 Carthie Street, Rosewell, on August 20 from 4 pm to 10 pm.

Music will be presented by Chris & Nev (from Swindon), while Goan food will be provided by Valento.

EDMONTON-CANADA

The Edmonton Goan Association will celebrate World Goa Day at the Capilano Park, Site 1.

MANCHESTER-UK

The Goan Association North West, UK, will celebrate World Goa Day with a summer picnic at Heaton Park, St Margaret's Road, Manchester, on August 20 from 11 am to 4 pm.

The event will include food - pot luck, games, Konkani music, singing and dancing.

OAKVILLE-CANADA





SOUTHAMPTON-UK

Awaaz FM Southampton along with RJ Roque Vaz will present a radio programme to commemorate World Goa Day on August 19.

The 2-hour radio programme will be aired from 10 am (UK), 2.30 pm (India), 12 noon (Kuwait) and 1 pm (Dubai).

SYDNEY-AUSTRALIA

The Goan Overseas Association NSW in Sydney will celebrate World Goa Day 2023 at All Saints Parish Hall in Liverpool, NSW on August 19 from 11 am to 4.30 pm, to showcase the rich Goan culture, dance, music and cuisine.

The event will include nostalgic Konkani and English music for listening and dancing, kids singing and performance and Bingo.

Goan cuisine will consist of Sorpotel, Sanna, Xacuti, Pulao, fish curry and rice, Prawn Balchao, Pork Vindaloo, Chouricos, Chicken Cafreal, Bibinca and Dodol.

"Congratulations to Goans all over the world on completion of 23 years of World Goa Day. If there is any event which unites the Goan Diaspora globally and showcases to the rest of the world, what it means being a Goan, this is it," said GOA NSW President Alwyn Henriques.

"WGD is one of the most successful Goan community engagement models ever rolled out on a world scale. The Goan Overseas Association in Sydney has supported the WGD annually. A huge thank you to the entire World Goa team on the good work in keeping our Goan spirit alive."

TORONTO-CANADA

Radio Mango will air an interview with Lulu Fortes about WGD, Rene Barreto and her association with the two. This podcast on August 19 will be available on radiomango.ca and the interview will be conducted by Tina Costa who is based in Goa.

This has been made possible by Milena Marques Zachari-

The event will include an evening of music and dance from 7 pm onwards.

CALIFORNIA-USA



The CalifornianGoans yearly picnic at Don Castro Regional Park, Haywards, California on July 31st to commemorate 'World Goa Day' helped relieve the good old memories picnicking and create new ones with families and friends.

At the venue, a group got together to sing the WGD song, 'Rong Rongit Goem', followed by a Traditional Kunbi dance, an open competition and a Filoz-making session, where kids were taught to make popular Goan sweets.

The day's open mic helped bring out some hidden talents from all ages, while they feasted on freshly cooked Goan Racheado Shrimp and Ribs.

As lunch time rolled around, there was a round of housie. Followng a swim in the later afternoon, the members were treated to some traditional Goan eats: Chau, Kapa, Bhoji and epaper.thegoan.net The participants are expected to bring their own bicycles, food and drinks.

LONDON-UK

Thousands of Goans attended the UK Goan Festival hosted by the **Goan Association UK** at the Cranford Community College grounds on August 6.

The event began with a Holy Mass, followed by a variety entertainment programme.

Music performances were presented by local talent, a Goa Day's introductory song composed and sung by Pio Agnelo Fernandes, the UK band 'Shades', DJ Flaccid, DJ Curly (from Goa) and DJ Claudio (from Goa), Shannon Fernandes and Toni Coelho with their Konkani rap music, guest artiste O'Luv from Goa and Goa's leading band 'Tidal Wave'.

There was also a cultural presentation in song and dance performed by local talent.

There were a number of stalls offering various services, cuisine and games at the festival.

LONDON-UK

The Ultrasonic Impact events, a part of Showbiz Promotions, will host the annual 'Goa Day London' on August 26 and 'Bollywood Festival London' on August 27 at the Cranford Community College ground from 12 noon onwards.

The Goa Day London event on August 26 will feature live music, including traditional Goan and electronic dance performances. Goan cuisine, displays and cultural exhibitions will provide an opportunity for the whole family to experience the best of Goan heritage.

Goa's Nightingale Lorna will be back for a second year running, while other music performances will be presented by 'Black in White' (from Goa), the Bob Marley Experience band, local and international artistes, singers, comedians, DJs and bands. The 'BIGFOOT Summer Fest' celebrated 'World Goa Day' on August 5 at the Ontario Zoroastrian Community Foundation (OZCF) in Oakville-Canada.

The event, organised by the music band 'BIGFOOT' and sponsored by Trevorlyn Menezes, brought the community together under one roof to celebrate its rich Heritage, Music, Goan Culture and Cuisine, a great opportunity for the diverse multicultural community we live in.

Various artistes performed at the event, and they included solo music artistes, DJs and the band BIGFOOT.

"Goan music and Goan cuisine were the highlights of the event. Besides the music and cuisine, this is a summer fest once a year where people get a chance to meet-and-greet one another. The intention of this event is to unite our community and nurture leadership and talent. This was the first time but will be an annual event going ahead in future," said Victor Rodrigues.

QUEBEC-CANADA

The Quebec Goan Association will host its 'World Goa Day Potluck Picnic' at the Parc-Nature du Cap-Saint-Jacques, 20099 Boulevard Gouin Ouest, Pierrefonds, QC H9K 1C6 on August 19 from 11 am onwards.

The picnic will include Zumba Fitness (Goan Music), Lemonade Stand, Tambola, Learn Konkani, Konkani Quiz, Fun games & prizes, lively music and singing, BBQ and Potluck, all overlooking a beautiful sandy beach.

"Our World Goa Day celebrations are focussed mainly on bringing together our community and teaching them the importance of our varied heritage - our Konkani language, our music, our food, our dancing etc. We are very happy to join the WGD global community in celebrating it once again this year in 2023. Viva Goa," said Quebec Goan Association President Blanche Da Costa.

ah on Radio Mango, which is hosted and run by her.

TORONTO-CANADA

The Goan Overseas Association of Toronto hosted its Viva Goa festival at the Croatian Karlovac Park Facility, 1860 Thompson Road South Milton, on July 22.

The event, which drew in thousands of people, was aimed at celebrating Goan culture, cuisine, sports and music.

The festival began with a Thanksgiving Mass, followed by an Opening March of the villages, traditional Goan folk dances, individual music performances, a Konkani Dabazo Fusion Dance and a G.O.A. Kidz cultural fashion show.

Music was provided by Tammy and Roy (from Goa), Sonia Shirsat (from Goa), Keith Pereira (New Zealand) as well as local bands, The Menezes Family Band, The Band Syndicate and Goa Amigos (from Toronto).

In addition, the festival featured various DJs throughout the day and ended with a sundowner for the young adults featuring Dj Kaya. The festival also included a Viva Goa soccer tournament comprising eight teams representing different villages of Goa. There were a number of stalls offering Goan food, various businesses, games held by the youth committee and much more.

WICKLOW-IRELAND

The Irish Goa Day was celebrated at the Burnaby Park, Greystones, Wicklow, on July 22 from 10 am to 7 pm.

The event included Food, games, music and raffle, while the Market consisted of stalls, kids attire, accessories, dog show, dog equipment, live music featuring Robbie Doyle, Ukulele group, face painting with Julie, Henna tattoos, food stalls, Goan cuisine, BBQ and family friendly games.

For Goa Day events across Goa, Mumbai » See pg7