

Dear Goenkars,

Since the release of the last Goenkar in Feb 2021, there has been a lot of sadness and dismay in our country at the spiraling corona cases and the effect on each of our families and homes. The second wave as it is being termed is quite frightening because it seems to be affecting younger people and even children. As this Issue goes to print, we in Bangalore are still in a lockdown. However, we at the KGA continue to stay positive and upbeat!

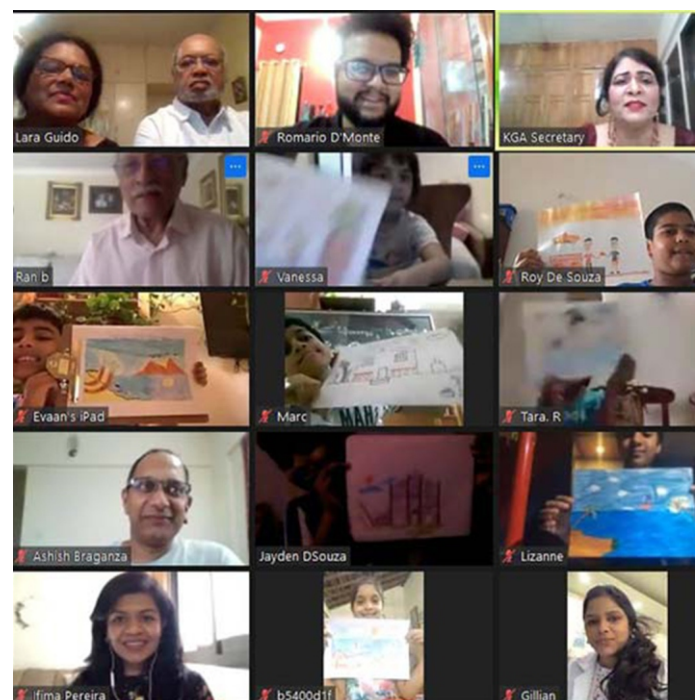
The Konkani Classes with Cyril D'Souza is almost half way through. Though, the age profile of the participants is from 78 years to 25years, it's a fun class and something that keeps our Friday evenings interesting and educative as well. From conversation to prayers and mandos, it covers everything. Credit for this, should definitely go to the teacher Cyril who devotes much time with the learners, just for the love of Konkani!

The Photo Competition was a big hit. The Theme 'Beauty in Everyday life', obviously captured everyone's imagination. The judges Francisco Saldanha and Ryan Lobo, did a wonderful job of identifying the winners. We thank both Francisco and Ryan for giving off their time and putting in effort to identify the winners. Each winner received a monetary prize and everyone received Participation Certificates.

The Short Story Contest didn't see as many entries as the Photo Contest but what was unique was that every Story was set in Goa! I won't discuss the stories here because

you can read them for yourself in this Issue and enjoy the plot created, the language and the flair of our members who sent in entries. The Judges Stanley Pinto and Dr Marianne de Nazareth were very impressed with the standard and quality of storytelling. We thank Stanley and Marianne immensely. Each Winner was awarded a Monetary Prize and everyone received Participation Certificates.

The Art Attack Event, has been just concluded and we have loads of appreciation and praise for a well conducted Event which showcased our kids and our youth. Interaction with children is always refreshing and this Event reinforced that! 35 of our kids were divided into 2 age groups, 5 to 8 years and 9 to 13 years. 'A seaside in Goa ' was the theme for the 1st group and ' Memories of Goa ' for the 2nd group of kids. The themes were given to them just 10 minutes before commencement but their imagination was to be seen to be believed!



While the kids were concentrating on their painting, we had lovely musical entertainment from our youth, playing different instrumental pieces. From the violin to the piano and flute, it kept us mesmerized. Rene Baretto , the architect for uniting Goans all over the world, was our special Guest from England , Dr Norman & Dr Shoba Guido was our panel of Judges, Ifima Pereira the young mother from Dubai was the Guest Artist who kept the kids rivetted with her depiction of an Art form entitled Miniature Masterpieces. The fact that she uses different types of clay in her creations and that most of them depicted miniature food items like burgers, pizzas and doughnuts captured the imagination of the kids, one of whom was a 5 year old who rushed to get his clay skeleton and another 10 year old who made a small dice while the show was going on! Young minds astound us sometimes....mosttimes!!

The Singing in the Rain Contest is proving to be a damp squib with just 8 entries across the Board. Everyone's reluctance to send in a 3 minute video, has surprised us. In all probability, the video clips will be sent to a judge and later winners announced.

The plans made in February of this year to celebrate Sao Joao festival, had to be put on hold because of the spiraling pandemic and the lockdown. The Youth overnight Trip also has been put on hold until things improve.

The KGA AGM which was fixed for the 4th July 2021 in Catholic Club will be postponed until the Government allows clubs to open & a gathering of over 50 people is allowed. The Annual Report soft copy will be sent to you shortly.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families of the following Members:

Ronald Lobo, Martha Fernandez, Christopher Lynn, Amelia Martins, Effie Fernandes, Francis Fernandes, Bridget Rosario and Christina Fernandes.

May their souls Rest in Peace and may God grant comfort and strength to the bereaved families.

Deo borem korum

Adele Britto
President

FOR REGISTRATIONS CONTACT
ROMARIO 8880005766
JOANNE 9845381719



KARNATAKA GOAN ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

SINGING IN THE RAIN

A VIRTUAL SINGING COMPETITION TO USHER IN THE MONSOONS



LAST DATE FOR REGISTRATION : 10 JUNE 2021

AGE CATEGORIES

13-19

20-30

31 -59

60 & ABOVE



Karnataka Goan Association
presents

ART ATTACK

Age Groups

- 1) 5 - 8 years old
- 2) 8- 13 years old

Date & Time

4:00 P.M
12th June 2021

Last Date to Register: 10th June 2021

FOR REGISTRATION CONTACT:

Elaine: 9620072170



Short Story Contest

by Adele Britto

The Short Story Contest evoked a lot of interest.

The story had to be in English, a piece of Fiction and Original. It should not have been taken from any web site or from any other Publication or Competition. It had to be around 1500 words. It should not contain any profanity and avoid topics pertaining to religion and politics. Additional marks was to be given if the story was set in Goa.

We received 9 entries , each one more interesting than the other. The common point was that all the stories were set in Goa. The Judges Stanley Pinto and Marianne de Nazareth, who did a 'blind judging', were very impressed with the level of imagination, language and the art of story – telling put together in all the entries.

You can download the prize winning entries from this issue of the Goenkar.

1st Prize: Audrey Cardozo -

Story Title: [Petrina and Porkulu](#)

2nd Prize: Richa Sardesai

Story Title: [The Homecoming](#)

3rd Prize: Cyrus D'Lima

Story Title: [Home Away from Home](#)

Consolation Prize Adults: Eslinda Louzado

Story Title: [On the High Seas to Goa on a Holiday](#)

Consolation Prize Kids: Vanessa Rebello

Story Title: [My Naughty Grandpa in Goa.](#)

Each person who sent in an entry, was given a Participation Certificate.

Appreciation and thanks to both our Judges.

Ode to our young KGA heroes

2 girls give Covid victims a dignified farewell in city

Pettee.Peter@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: While most youngsters remain at home, hooked to online shows or gaming consoles during this lockdown, two college girls,

A SHOT OF HOPE

► Chefs cook for patients, P 8

shaken by the spiralling Covid deaths, decided to step in. They began transporting bodies of victims and are now involved in giving them a dignified burial at a cemetery.

At 12.45pm Sunday inside Gate No. 4 of the Indian Christian Cemetery on Hosur Road, a line of ambulances is waiting outside with bodies.

Nicole Furtado, 20, and her



Nicole Furtado & Tina Cherian

cousin Tina Cherian, 21, slip into their PPE suits at the right-hand corner of the graveyard. "There are eight bodies so far," Nicole tells Tina.

The girls are part of a team of volunteers called Here I'm Squad which has been helping bereaved families bury their Covid-infected kin.

► Handled 25 bodies, P 2

Nicole Cherian

My family found out about the cemetery work when my dad had gone for one of his cousin's funerals. He had seen a group of young people working there and helping with the burials, like covid deaths. There were very few of them and they weren't able to keep up with the number of bodies coming in. So, he decided to help out and he started going there.

My cousins and I saw, that he was overworked and there were not enough of helpers. A friend of mine, Andrew, put up a story on Instagram mentioning that they were just 4-5 of them burying bodies, and asked for volunteers to come to help out. He called and a few of my cousins and myself decided to volunteer.

We would leave home on cycles and go to the cemetery around 12.30pm-1.00pm. Initially, we didn't know who would be bringing food and stuff so we would eat and

then go. The group was very welcoming and they really needed the help.

We were moving quite a few bodies, it was something we hadn't done before. It was physically exhausting having to move so many bodies with the weight of the body, the coffin and lowering it into the grave. There were about 25 bodies being brought in every day which was a really high number and I was aware that the situation was dire at that point. We helped them with that.

Now, the situation is much better, there are only about 2-3 bodies coming in every day, sometimes 5 maximum of 10, it doesn't cross that. I think this is a kind of lull, in about 15 days it may go up again when the third wave hits. But now, a couple of my friends are coming with me every day, even if there are no bodies, we wait, sometimes they come at random times. When the body comes we take it out of the ambulance or sometimes do the pickups. We go to different cemeteries where there are bodies. We bury them at Ulsoor Cemetery and other cemeteries. We would also pick up bodies from hospitals or from homes. The team does the wrapping and we provide a coffin and do the burial.

It's all done free of cost, every body volunteers their services and we are all doing our part. We get PPE kits, food and water from different people or sometimes people from the group sponsor. It's been a life changing experience, all my friends and I have been together in this.

There is a negative side to this, because we see so many bodies coming in and sad to see them in that condition. Seeing their family at that stage is really hard. We try to keep the air light and be humorous about things.

Sanayah Pasha

Sanayah all of 14 years has worked selflessly last year when people were scared to even come out of their homes because of the spread of the terrifying news of the virus and how contagious it could be. 2020 was a defining year for workers and migrants, when the Government shut down the whole country overnight. Thousands of migrants decided to leave the cities and go back to their villages. The sad situation was that, there were no buses or trains to take them back and our hearts were saddened to see pictures of families with their few possessions, some with babies and toddlers on their backs trudging thousands of miles in the scorching heat.

Sanayah along with her mum, Samantha (earlier Secretary of the KGA) were on the ground, day after day, packing food and other necessary items for the migrant workers, not withstanding the fact that both Sanayah and Samantha contracted the virus later.

This year, 2021, Sanayah along with her mum was involved in a group which cooked wholesome meals for Covid patients and senior citizens affected with covid.

Her inspiration in her own words 'My mom inspires me to do this. I get a different kind of happiness from reaching out to help people, it's the kind that is life altering and will stay with me forever!'





Dr. Ana-Maria Saldanha

Dr. Ana-Maria Saldanha did her MBBS from St. John's Medical College Bangalore. And then went on to do her Masters in Family Medicine from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland

Worked as a Medical Doctor and Medical Activity Manager in Central African Republic and Nigeria respectively with an international NGO - Médecins sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders).

Worked mainly with the pediatric population treating them for HIV, TB, Severe Acute Malnutrition, severe malaria, Measles, Pertussis and other Vaccine Preventable Diseases.

Most recently finished her Masters in Tropical Medicine and International Health from London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, UK.

Currently Dr. Ana-Maria is working as a Medical Officer at the Primary Health Centre in Cansaulim, Goa, in charge of the Covid wards, treating mild to moderate cases of COVID and early detection and referral of severe COVID.

Dr. Alan de Lima Pereira

Dr. Alan de Lima Pereira is a Public Health specialist with a focus on Health in Crisis and Humanitarian Assistance. He is an International Member of the Royal College of General Practitioners.

Having done his MBBS at Goa Medical College, he went on to get his Master of Public Health (MPH), at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, Maryland, USA and later on did his Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (DTM&H) London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, United Kingdom.

Since joining Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders), in 2009 – as a Medical Doctor in Bijapur, Chhattisgarh, he has been all over – from South Sudan to Sierra Leone, from Nigeria to Central African Republic, and most recently, Bangladesh.

Dr. Alan was the medical team leader for Doctors Without Borders / MSF in setting up a CoVid care centre for people experiencing homelessness in London, UK during the first wave in 2020. He then served as the Country Representative for MSF in Bangladesh where the role included setting up treatment centres with a capacity of 250 beds with a focus on providing care to the Rohingya refugees and Bangladeshi host population.

He has just helped set up a safe isolation centre run by the Jesuits at Pedro Arrupe Institute in Raia, Goa.

He now works in the Covid-19 emergency department of South Goa District Hospital during the current second wave



Photography Competition

by Romario D'Monte

The Karnataka Goan Association for the very first time, conducted a virtual photography competition for its members in the month of March 2021. The response received from the members was overwhelming to say the least, with a total of 23 entries for the competition. The theme for the event was 'Beauty in Everyday things'. Francisco Saldanha & Ryan Lobo were the judges for the event.

The first place was shared between two participants - Joanne Louzado & Deborah D'Souza. Joanne's picture captioned 'Labour in Silhouette' depicted the changing of roof tiles of a house in Goa in preparation for the rains. Perfectly captured silhouettes of the labourers toiling in the sun while carefully treading the roof made for a great picture!

Deborah's picture depicted a flawless golden sunset that cast its mellow rays across the historic Gateway of India and the Taj Hotel, paying tribute to the 26/11 Mumbai Terrorist attack. A grim reminder of tragedy that befell the city of Mumbai and the unwavering rays of hope that continue to shine across the city, symbolic of a simple yet powerful source of inspiration for many.

In second place, Romario D'Monte's emotional picture captioned 'Love knows no species, no language. Love exists and is eternal' depicted a family of monkeys closely held together by the love they share for each other. The mother is seen feeding her infant in her arms, while another rests its head on the feeding mother.

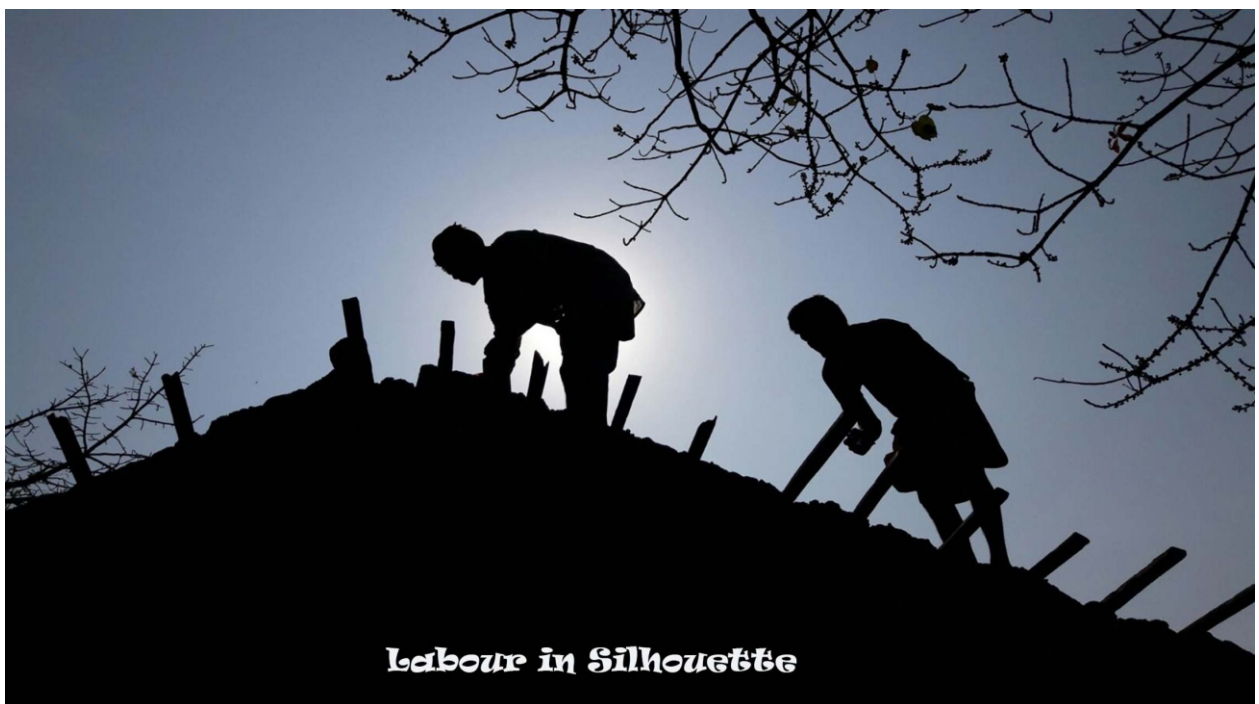
The third place was shared by Michelle Rebello & Sandip D'Souza. Michelle's picture 'Miles to go before I sleep' captured a long & winding path, laden with green foliage on either side. While Sandeep's picture titled 'Keep our sea, plastic free' emphasized the idea of sustainability in nature. It depicted a picturesque crimson sunset over a harbour, with not a spot of plastic in the water, highlighting the beauty of a clean environment.

The winners' pictures were awe inspiring and captured the essence of the theme 'Beauty in Everyday things'. The creative pictures were a reminder that even in these trying times, we can still find that there lies beauty around us.

First Prize



Deborah D'Souza - A flawless sunset caste its mellow rays across the historic Gateway of India and the Taj hotel, paying tribute to the Mumbai Terrorist attack 26/11,2008.



Joanne Louzado - Changing roof tiles in Goa in preparation for the rains.

Second Prize



Romario D'Monte - *Love knows no species, no language. Love exists and is eternal.*

Third Prize



Sandip D'Souza - *Keep our sea, plastic free.... By protecting our oceans we are protecting our future.*



Michelle Rebello - *Miles to go before I sleep.*

Konkani Classes

by Joanne Louzado

KGA organised its second batch of Konkani classes for adults in April 2021. These classes, led by Cyril D'Souza are held every Friday evening over a Zoom conference call.

We had a mix of skill levels in this batch; some students were new learners of the language while others were using it as a refresher course.

Students learn everyday conversational Konkani using the Amchi Bhas textbook provided to all either in a print or online format. The class starts with a recap of previously learnt content either in the form of a quiz or game. Cyril is a great teacher who creates opportunities for students in the class to speak, practice and resolve doubts. Classes are also made more interactive by teaching Mandos, DulPods, etc. Classes are a lot of fun and it is a great opportunity to meet other Goans throughout the Pandemic lockdown.

The continued efforts of the KGA Committee has allowed for Goans living outside Goa to connect back to their heritage and roots.



São João Event

by Adele Brito

The KGA in Feb of this year had put in plans of having a Sao Joao Event and preliminary items like the date, venue, event plans were already in place. However, the spread of the covid pandemic put paid to all those plans.

When the proposal from Carlton Braganza came in, to associate ourselves with his proposed ONLINE EVENT which would include

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6 & Tammy & Roy from Goa, we decided to extend our name to the Event and the idea of a world wide KOPEL Contest was mooted.

As this Issue goes to print, we are greatly indebted to Rene Baretto from England (the architect behind Global Goan ventures) who has put the KGA on the Global Goan forum and we look forward to participation from Goan Associations world wide.

Karnataka Goan Association
Sao Joao 2021
Kopel RULES

1. The Kopel contest is open to all attendees and is conducted by the Karnataka Goan Association.
2. Your full name must be sent with 2 Photos - one close-up picture of the kopel; one picture of the participant wearing the kopel.
3. All pics to be sent to KGA SECRETARY on WhatsApp (+91 99723 45164).
4. Deadline: June 24, 2021 midnight IST
5. The Kopel has to be made using fresh or artificial flowers, fruits, leaves, etc. Closer resemblance to Kopels made in Goa for Sao Joao will receive higher points.
6. Pictures taken off the internet will be disqualified.
7. The most creative pictures will be on the show on June 26 & 27 at the Sao Joao Event. **Winners of the Kopel contest will be brought live on the show as well.**
8. The entries will be sent to a panel of judges whose decision is final.

Art Attack

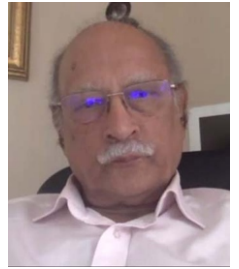
by Adele Britto

Interaction with children is always refreshing and this event reinforced that! 35 of our KGA kids were divided into 2 age groups, 5 to 8 years and 9 to 13 years. 'A seaside in Goa' was the theme for the 1st group and 'Memories of Goa' for the 2nd group. The themes were given to them just 10 minutes before commencement but their imagination had to be seen to be believed!

While the kids concentrated on their paintings, we had lovely musical entertainment from our youth. From the violin to the piano and flute, it kept us mesmerized. Rene Baretto, the architect for uniting Goans all over the world, was our special Guest from England, Dr Norman & Dr Shoba Guido were our panel of judges, Ifima Pereira (a young mother), from Dubai was the Guest Artist who kept the kids rivetted with her depiction of an Art form entitled Miniature Masterpieces. The fact that she uses different types of clay in her creations and that most of them depicted miniature food items like burgers, pizzas and doughnuts captured the imagination of the kids, one of whom was a 5 year old who rushed to get his clay skeleton and another 10 year old who made a small dice while the show was going on! Young minds astound us sometimes....most times!!

Dear Adele,

The Art Attack was a GREAT programme of the Children 's ART. It was a great Music presentation of the youth too. The presentation was one of the better ones I have seen for a very long time. The Zoom meet - with the video presentation was excellent - Adele - you put the children so much at ease. The Youth Musical presentation was superb too. Those who missed the EVENT really missed something I hope you will SHARE a recording of the event - if one has been made.



Kind regards

Rene Baretto

Hi Adele.

I can't express how grateful I am to you to have me today. I was so nervous at first as this is the first time I've spoken about my work to kids. But you have an amazing knack of making conversations. Your first intro of me calmed me so much.

I have always been part of such Goan communities since childhood. We have always been away from Goa. But my parents have always taught us to be true to our roots. So I understand the importance of such communities. And organising such events. You guys are such a wonderful group. May God bless your community

And more so, the excitement and enthusiasm of the kids really threw me off track. I was so worried they may get bored but they were really excited. The competition was organised so well. Kudos to the team!

Ifima Pereira (Dubai).

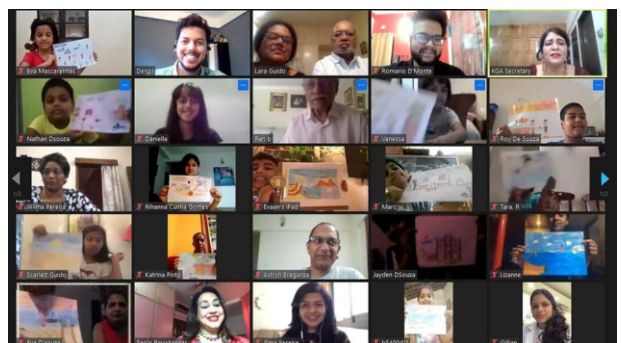
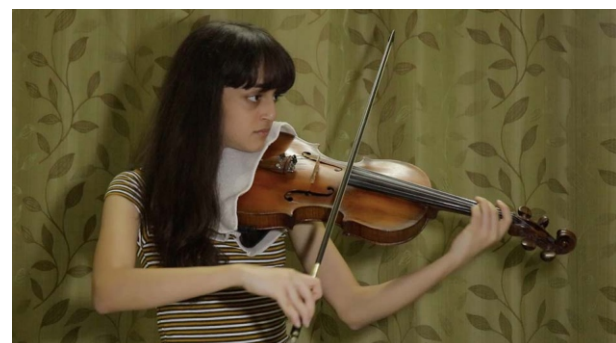
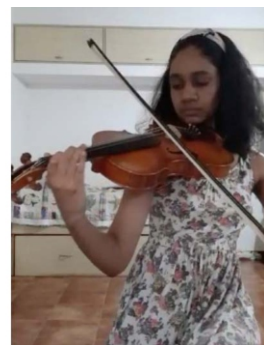
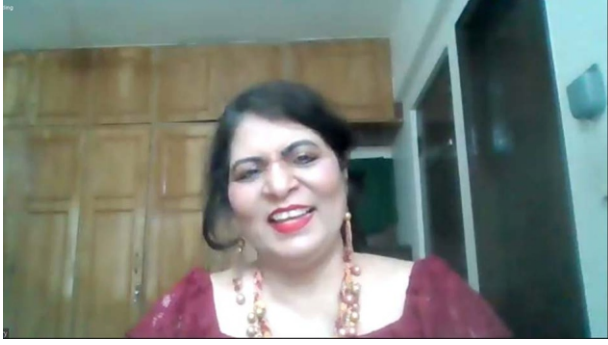
Thank you dear Adele for giving Norman and me the honour of judging the paintings of our creative, budding little Goan artists. Loved the excellent instrumental music played by so many talented young KGA children while the little artists were busy painting.

Congratulations Adele and your KGA team for the superbly organized and innovative talent show.



Dr Shoba & Dr Norman Guido.

Art Attack in pictures



OBITUARIES

Ronald Lobo

passed away on February 21st, 2021.

Martha Fernandez,

wife of Tony Fernandez, mother of Jennifer/Gerard, late David / Asha, Ivo / Crystal, Cookie / Noel passed away on April 8th, 2021.

Christopher Lynn,

husband of (late) Frances Lynn and father of Stephen, John, Andrew, Philip, Mark and Sarah passed away on April 15th, 2021.

Amelia Martins (Amy)

wife of (late) Tony Martins, mother of Jude, Patsy, Paulette, Lorraine and Mark passed away on April 15th, 2021.

Effie Fernandes,

wife of (late) B M Fernandes, mother of Godfrey, Josey and Francis passed away on May 13th, 2021.

Francis Fernandes,

husband of Philomena, father of Twyla passed away on May 14th, 2021.

Bridget Rosario,

wife of Keith Rosario, mother of Rohit, Shonali, Kavita and Kirit passed away on May 15th, 2021.

Christina Fernandes,

wife of Richard Fernandes, mother of Angelina, Peter, Mark, Shalini, Thomas, Zeena and Eliza passed away on May 20th, 2021.



E M A I L

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F A C E B O O K

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/kgabangalore/>

I N S T A G R A M

<https://www.instagram.com/kgabangalore/>

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