

# Celebrating women empowerment



## NT BUZZ

Internationally acclaimed fashion designer Verma D'Mello recently showcased her collection at the Cannes Fashion and Film Festival in France for the fourth time. This year too her collection was themed on women empowerment. She said that it reflected on her life's work to transform the lives of the underprivileged and under-served rural women in my native Goa. This year, her collection was titled, 'I am Ganga, A Woman of Today', which compared the life of these women to River Ganga. "Ganga is sacred to India and so are these women. The women living in rural areas show great strength of power of healing, replenishment, rejuvenation, and revitalisation," she said. However, when she had an encounter with them she realised that they needed to be empowered as they lacked in basic skills of livelihood. "I thought, I needed to do something to help them just as how we need to do something to recover

Ganga from the deteriorating life cycle of neglect and environment pollution," she said. Verma who had partnered with Goa Sudharop, a California-based sustainable development non-profit organisation was able to impart skills for their transformation to become like jewels. She says: "The dusky skins and beautiful smiles of these women remind me of the charm of a ruby, queen of the precious stones. I wanted to make their lives better and help them create a new identity, gain self-respect and the power to design the life they want, in order to glow like a ruby." Verma, who has now been invited to showcase her collection at other international fashion shows of repute, said that it has always been exciting to showcase her works to an international audience. Also, she mentioned that the love and appreciation she receives inspires her, which is an added responsibility to make better stories through her designs.



Verma D'Mello being presented with the best red carpet designer award



Siddharth Shanghvi in conversation with Lisa Ray

## Lisa Ray unmasked

### NT BUZZ

Canadian-Indian actress Lisa Ray's memoir 'Close to the Bone' was launched at The Project Café, Assagao at an event organised by Harper Collins India. The event was held as part of The Shanghvi Salon, a conversation series hosted by author Siddharth Dhanvant Shanghvi. The event featured Ray in conversation with Shanghvi about her book and her journey so far. 'Close to the Bone' is an insightful travelogue of Ray's experiences and chronicles her journey from being an actress, her fight with cancer to attaining motherhood through surrogacy.

Speaking about what moved her to write it, Lisa Ray said: "I wrote 'Close to the Bone' to reveal, unmask, enchant, terrify and connect - to reveal how important the inner journey is vis-à-vis the outer, to encourage knowing your shadow as well as your light as we are only whole with both sides, and finally, to illustrate that when you stop chasing love to create a life you love, love will follow." The talk was followed by a music reprisal by the band Groove Dakshina.



## Pedal to the medal



Cyclists participating in Cycling Goa's 20 kilometre cycle race

### NT BUZZ

To commemorate World Environment Day, Cycling Goa hosted a 20 kilometre cycle race followed by an environment cycle rally at Verna. The overall first place in the cycle race was won by Sanresh Shedekar of Old Goa who completed the race in 32:43 minutes. The second place was won by Fredsan Marshall of Goa Velha who completed the race in 32:46 minutes, and the third place was won by Sylvano D'Souza of Porvorim who completed the race in 33:03 minutes. In the Masters category, the first place was won by Russell Bell of Bonaulim

who completed the race in 34:35 minutes followed by Francis Rodrigues of Margao who completed the race in 38:19 minutes and Anuradha Guglani of Porvorim who completed the race in 41:56 minutes. An approximate of 100 cyclists took part in the environment cycle rally which followed.



## Oliver Sean makes it to the Billboard charts

### NT BUZZ

Award-winning, indie artist, Oliver Sean's new single 'Doing That' (Time. Love. Happiness) has entered the official Billboard Top 10 in the World Singles category. The artiste, who is of Goan origin, has hit No 1 across the US, Canada and Mexico on iTunes, including hitting various positions in the UK and European iTunes Top 10 list. The music video of the single also won an award of merit at the IndieFest Film Festival. Hitting No 6 in the official Billboard charts in the world singles category cements his breakthrough indie artist status, making him one of the select few DIY artists to hit the top 10. "It is quite surreal to see your song listed in the Billboard charts and that too at Number 6," said the MTV EMA nominated singer, songwriter. "This has been a team effort with my fans and my label getting behind me and my music" Oliver has had a remarkable musical journey thus far and quite a successful run as an indie artist. His debut al-



bum 'I Like it' was nominated for International Album of the Year by AVMax alongside John Mayer, Robbie Williams, Kylie Minogue, and Third Eye Blind. His third studio album 'So Good' had an MTV EMA Nomination and was on the Vh1 Top 10. 'Devil in Blue Jeans', his fourth studio album won several indie awards and also hit No1 on the album charts on iTunes. Several other singles from the album also hit No 1 on the iTunes charts in different countries. Fans can catch the singer songwriter live in concert with his band during the WOA Summer Tour UK (July 25 to August 3) where Oliver and his band are scheduled to headline several concerts across England.

## Archbishop releases pastoral letter



### NT BUZZ

The pastoral letter for the year 2019-20 was released at St Cristo Rei Hall, Borda, Margao by Archbishop Filipe Neri Ferrao on the occasion of the solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord. The pastoral letter is addressed to all priests, religious communities, to the lay faithful and to the people of good will in the archdiocese of Goa and Daman. The pastoral theme for this year is "Go and do likewise" (Lk 10: 37). In his message the Archbishop expressed his joy and gratitude towards all. He said that it is our social responsibility

in the light of faith to spread the goodness of God to others. The parable of the Good Samaritan challenges us to go and do likewise to uphold human dignity, to witness the compassion of God and to give alms to the poor and the needy. A humble prayer and an earnest appeal was made to all the faithful to support and continue the generous contribution towards the 'Good Samaritan Fund' for the benefits of the needy and wounded. Archbishop Ferrao appreciated and expressed his gratitude towards the diocesan pastoral secretariat for preparing the booklet. The animation for this pastoral year has been given to the Diocesan Catechetical Centre, Old Goa.