

Herald Cafe

Can you keep up with these dance songs?

The wedding season in Goa is in full swing with couples booking their favourite bands, months and years in advance. The reason? They want everyone to dance their hearts out to the most trending songs



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The month of December and January were filled with weddings of near and dear ones, some coming down from abroad to celebrate their special day with their loved ones in Goa. Keeping up with the latest chartbusters and songs that everyone will groove to, bands in Goa are always up to the task to playing the best of songs.

Alison Gonsalves, founder of the three-year-old Goan band, Black Sapphire, had a hectic season at the end of the year and still have many more weddings to perform. "Season has been crazy good for us. December and January is almost packed including weekdays with weddings across Goa. January 2025 was packed a year or year and a half back. December was also good, but October and November was little slow as it was a leap year," says Alison.

The band also plays original compositions which are Konkani songs for the first dance of the couple. "This year, we are trending with Bruno Mars' song, 'APT', that is going viral on social media. Some people who like Marathi like 'Gulabi Sadi' and 'Zingaat'. The other songs are the dance numbers that have been favourites like 'Follow the Leader', 'Put Your Hands Up (Echa Pa'lla)', 'Fireball'. Those are still working magic like they used to do years back. You can't go wrong with evergreen songs like Remo's

'Maria Pitase' and 'Summer of 69'. Princeton Colaco, a member of the band, The Runks, informs, "The band has been booked from November till February. If the couple have any requests, like the first number or the last song, we take that into consideration. In between the set if they want like a fast number, we sing that and we also play according to the crowd. 'Macarena' is still one of the favourites and 'Dollar song' which is an action dance. We also play Hindi numbers, like 'Subha Hone na de', 'Hey Baby'. It depends on each wedding. This year there are more weddings compared to last year as it was a leap year. This month we have 25 weddings. The Runks will be heading to the UK for a Carnival show in March.



Seby Pinto, founder of Forefront has been following the music trends and right now it is 'APT' that is a must for a wedding. "We play only retro songs besides the trending numbers. This season has been busy, although it was Leap Year, towards the end, in December, there was a lot of bookings throughout Goa. Many couples planned their wedding during the exposition as they knew the family would fly down. Now most of the people are getting married in UK only. A lot of our clientele, which were here in Goa, now they prefer to marry there," says Seby.

MOST TRENDING SONG OF THE WEDDING SEASON

APT

'APT' by Rose and Bruno Mars has over 87 crore views on YouTube and if that is not enough it has gained so much popularity with its catchy music and dance steps, it is become unmissable for Goan weddings.

Dance steps songs that can never be out of fashion

Colin Lucas – **Dollar Wine**
Pitbull – **Put Your Hands Up (Echa Pa'lla)**
The Soca Boys – **Follow the Leader**
Pitbull – **Fireball**
Tushar Kamat and Jairaj Joshi – **Soro**
Sanju Rathod – **Gulbai Sadi**
Sairat film – **Zingaat**



THE SAGA OF THE MISSIONARY ACTIVITIES OF ST JOSEPH VAZ



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French woman scammed by 'sick Brad Pitt'



A French woman was defrauded out of €830,000 (€700,000) by a scammer using AI-generated images of Brad Pitt who said they needed the money for cancer treatment. The woman, Anne, aged 53, was scammed out of the money in a scam where the Hollywood A-listers' images were faked to make it look like he was seriously ill, French media reported. She uncovered the fraud after reading media reports of his separation from Angelia Jolie and seeing reports of his romance with a new partner.

Rakesh Roshan says underworld wanted Hrithik to work in a film



The movie 'Kaho Naa Pyaar Hai' was a massive hit making Hrithik Roshan so popular that even the underworld approached him to work for them in a movie funded by them. But since his father, Rakesh, refused, he had to face the consequences. Rakesh said "I never gave any indication that Hrithik could do a film for them. I kept putting them off, saying Hrithik had no dates, which, in any case, was the truth. They then asked me to take dates away from other producers and give it to them. This again, I refused to do."



Beyonce was supposed to reveal something with fans speculating it to be either a tour or album, however, she posted on Instagram, "The January 14th Announcement will be postponed to a later date due to the devastation caused by the ongoing wildfires around areas of Los Angeles."

A treasure within the four walls of a Goan house

'The Memory Keepers and Future Seekers' features well-known homes from India including six Goan houses by photographer, Ulka Chauhan with text by art writer and curator, Samira Sheth

Arti Das

Goa's heritage houses which are heavily sold today as 'Portuguese villas' to non-Goans are actually a repository of Goa's chequered past with strong syncretic tradition. These are the quintessential Goan homes telling stories about past through its people and objects. Celebrating such six Goan houses is the new photo book by photographer, Ulka Chauhan with text by art writer and curator, Samira Sheth, titled, 'The Memory Keepers and Future Seekers.'

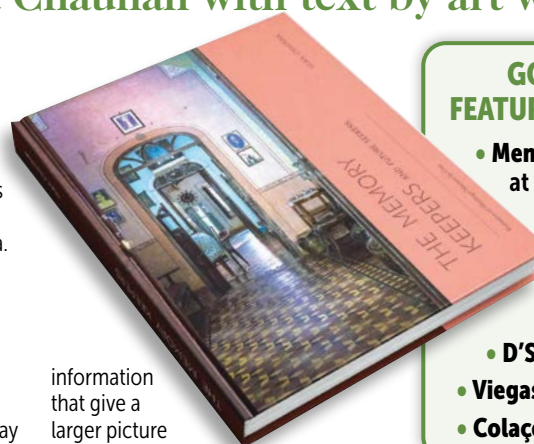
Ulka who lives and works between Mumbai, Goa and Zurich spent around four years for this book. Initially, her focus was on its architectural style but it evolved over the time. "As a photographer,

initially it was the architectural aesthetics of these homes that spoke to me. But as I visited them over a period of four years, capturing countless frames on my viewfinder, I realised that it was the personal stories and fragments of memories of the families that in captured me," says Ulka.

"The bond that Samira and I share with the families was developed over a period of four years as we visited their homes and spent time over cups of coffee, elaborate lunches and invitations to birthday parties. Celebrating Rafael Viegas' 92nd birthday was truly special and so was the invitation to Yvonne Menezes' Sunday lunch with her friends. The relationship we have with each of the families transcends well beyond the scope of the book as we are still in touch with all the families."

The book along with stunning images of these houses and its people is also peppered with interesting

information that give a larger picture about Goa's past, its history, especially the trade history, and also some anecdotes. Like Rohan Bragança sharing a memory of opening 24 doors of Menezes Bragança house at Chandor, every morning during his holidays with his paternal grandmother Aida de Menezes Bragança (1917-2012). It is the house of the renowned free thinker, journalist and freedom fighter,



GOAN HOUSES FEATURED IN THE BOOK

- Menezes Bragança house at Chandor
- Figueiredo Mansion at Loutolim
- Fernandes house at Chandor
- D'Sa house at Aldona,
- Viegas house at Curtorim
- Colaço house at Ribandar

Luis de Menezes Bragança (1878-1938).

Looking at the beauty and the grandeur of these homes it is not a surprise that the home owners were offered some crazy offers to sell it off. Fatima de Figueiredo house mentions that this house was requested by the Indian government twice. Once immediately after the Liberation by

Jawaharlal Nehru and then by Indira Gandhi. She says, "Indira Gandhi had a bigger desire and intent to acquire the house so she sent some ministers to the house and my aunt at that time said, "No, this is a family house." These ministers told her you cannot say no to the Prime Minister of India, and she said, "I can. She is not my mother-in-law!"

Samira while quoting Alvaro Viegas from the Viegas home says, "Goan houses are not merely memory keepers, they are also future seekers. The house grows and lives with you, nothing is permanent, everything is in transition and change is inevitable." Samira also maintains that these houses are not just structures in stone and wood or symbols of a nostalgic past. She states, "They are actual repositories of memory, history and culture, much like living museums in themselves and deserve to be cared for and cherished as such."

(Arti Das is a Goa based freelance journalist)

