

# Herald Cafe



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HEALING BY THE BRUSH STROKES

## Pedals & Palms: An exotic bicycle adventure through Goa

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Since it kicked off in 2016, thanks to Rohit Chadha and Bobby Ahluwalia, both passionate supporters of the British Asian Trust, the Most Exotic Bicycle Tour (MEBT) has managed to raise about Rs 27 crore. This funding has played a key role in backing various projects by the British Asian Trust, like child protection and conservation efforts. This year, they have selected Goa as their riding destination. After flying in to the State from different parts of the world, the riders won the hearts of the villagers that they passed by on their cycles.

### THE GOAN CYCLING ROUTE

- DAY 1 - Preparations and meet children who have benefitted from the British Asian Trust's projects
- DAY 2 - Utorda to Palolem
- DAY 3 - Palolem to Bhagwan Mahavir Wildlife Sanctuary
- DAY 4 - Bhagwan Mahavir Wildlife Sanctuary to Panjim
- DAY 5 - Panjim to Mandrem

This marks the seventh year of the Most Exotic Bike Tour and the first ride in Goa. Throughout its history, participants have traversed 1,680 kilometers of varied landscapes

The Most Exotic Bicycle Tour (MEBT) organized by the British Asian Trust recently embarked on a 250 kms journey through Goa with 16 cyclists from UK, Dubai and prominent figures from the Indian diaspora. Throughout this four-day event, they engaged with the rich culture of Goa while raising funds aimed at improving the lives of children and young individuals



in the Indian Himalayas, Punjab, Rajasthan, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, and the Serengeti in Tanzania. In 2021,

His Majesty, The King (formerly The Prince of Wales), inaugurated the inaugural UK-based Tour, titled 'Palaces on Wheels.'

"Every year, the Most Exotic Bicycle Tour pushes boundaries. It's a tough endurance test filled with enthusiasm, and everyone involved is committed to raising as much money as they can," said co-founder Rohit Chadha about the tour.

Richard Hawkes, CEO of the British Asian Trust, who also participated in the ride, shared his enthusiasm, "The Most Exotic Bicycle Tour presents a distinctive chance to push our physical limits while significantly impacting the lives of children and young individuals. I was excited to return to India for the 2025 Goa edition."

Cycling through Goa offers a unique opportunity to immerse oneself in the local culture. The group noted that navigating the traffic was surprisingly manageable. They also remarked on the cleanliness of the roads, which were largely free of gravel. Upon observation, they identified a significant difference from the UK: Goa's terrain features more hills than they had anticipated. Many riders found the experience of descending



hills at higher speeds somewhat daunting, particularly if they were not accustomed to such conditions. The local community has shown great support, cheering on the riders as they glide by. While a group of cyclists in bright Lycra might usually attract attention, here they were met with enthusiastic applause, cheers, and honks. The cyclists express their admiration for the stunning beauty of Netravali, highlighting the nature reserve nestled in the heart of Goa. The cyclists strived to ride in a single file and keep to the left to align with

vehicle traffic. Compared to the UK, the riders noticed that drivers here don't always give as much space when passing, as the roads are narrower, but they were very considerate overall.

They took breaks for lunch at local eateries, treating themselves to the delightful flavors of Goan cuisine after a long day of cycling. MEBT Co-founder Bobby Ahluwalia expressed his enthusiasm, saying, that they were incredibly excited to bring the Most Exotic Bicycle Tour to Goa this year. "We cycled from Utorda to Mandrem, and even though the heat and hills made it tough, it's a real privilege to be part of this and back such an important cause," he said.

"At one point we were going through a forest and at another, over a stream. I could not believe how difficult it is to go up. It doesn't look like a steep or tall hill but it goes on forever. It's for a good cause. Little help can go a long way and the children we will support are such heroes, and I feel so inspired and determined to finish this challenge," says Gin Bee, a resident of the UK. Raoul Malhotra, a UK-based CEO, shares his experience. "Goa has been nothing short of extraordinary. From its diverse terrain—stretching from serene coastlines to rolling hills—to the warmth and hospitality of its local communities, every moment of this journey has been worthwhile. Most importantly, meeting some of the beneficiaries of the British Asian Trust

### SWIPE RIGHT

Rihanna slams social media for using her ai-generated voice

Rihanna slammed an Instagram user for using her AI-generated voice in their social media post. After catching hold of the account, the musician commented on the post, following which the admin admitted of the bad move. A video, titled Rihanna's most expensive products, was uploaded on the page called The Scroll TV. The clip included the voiceover of the artist, which in reality happened to be generated technologically. Under the video, Rihanna commented, "Who tf is this talking?!" The admin went on to pin the comment and replied to the musician that it was "AI-generated."

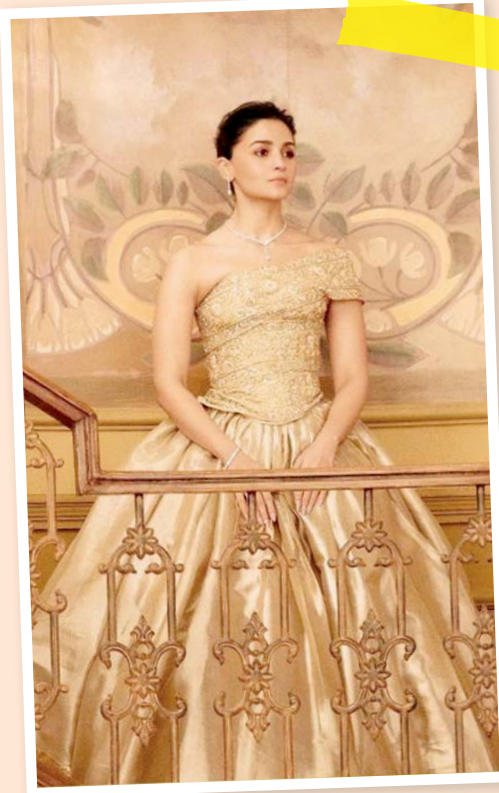


Ram Charan starrer 'RC16' to feature cricket



Ram Charan is currently working on his next film, 'RC16', directed by Buchi Babu Sana. The shooting for the project has been going on in full swing, and the actor has apparently undergone a major physical transformation

and even taken up a completely new look for the movie. The project, which was reported to be a sports drama, also features Bollywood actress Janhvi Kapoor as the female lead. Recently, the Director of Photography for the Ram Charan starrer dropped a massive BTS glimpse of the shooting of 'RC16' where he shared a snapshot of floodlights on the sets of the movie while the filming continued nightlong, revealing that the sequence being shot was of power cricket.



Alia Bhatt turned Golden Goddess in Abu Jani Sandeep Khosla gown; a fashion masterpiece for an ad shoot

## Checking on tenants is the need of the hour

**Tiatr: 'Mhozo Faido Tuzo Kaido'**  
**Cast:** Rony, Augusto de Calangute, Vishal, Antonette de Maina, Caziton de Cacora, Jennifer, comedian Sally, Brian, Fiona, Joyel, Caetano  
**Director:** Francis de Dicarapale  
**Band:** Senon de Souza (trumpet), Nazareth Fernandes (saxophone), Josley Goes (keyboard), Jos Monteiro (bass), Jack Rebelo (drums)  
**Stage/Lights:** Anthony de Ambaji, Tony



### Tiatr Review

#### 'Mhozo Faido Tuzo Kaido'

The curtains unfold to a scene wherein a teenager seeks alms from a well-to-do man. The wealthy man refuses to help, instead abuses the boy. In a fit of rage, the boy picks up a stick and hits on the head of the man, leaving him unconscious. As the cops rush to the spot, the teen flees away from the scene. The police are on the lookout for the murderer and they try to catch their prey even at the railway station. But to no avail. A boy carrying out a small business of boot polish seeks help from the cops and they help him.

Next, the boy hops on the train and paves his way to Goa. Now, from teen to a grownup youth, this abused man in disguise tries to lure girls, murder them and make his living. There's another unknown man (Caziton de Cacora), who keeps a track of this abused man and murderer. Shawn (Vishal) is impressed by gorgeous looking Celina (Antonette de Maina) and proposes. There's an instant no from the girl, but acceptance follows and love grows

between them. Celina also has a twin sister, Monica, who is in the UK. On the other hand, there's Candy (Jennifer), who is married to a dumb (Vishal). But she loves him passionately. She also has her brother-in-law taking good care of her in her husband's absence. At the police station, there's an upright PI (Rony), who wishes to clean up the messy system existing around the place. He asks his two constables (Sally, Caetano) to review all those staying on rent and cross-check the tenant verification list. What follows next in those two households is worth the watch on stage. There are several twists and turns as the tiatr progresses and a good dose of suspense too throughout the show. Francis de Dicarapale's fourth production 'Mhozo Faido Tuzo Kaido' throws light on the influx of migrants in Goa and the need for tenant verification. Before things move out of hand, there's an urgent need to keep a check

on those travellers making an entry from neighbouring states. Change in names by migrants and its repercussions have also been tackled in the drama. There are a couple of scenes to be watched and admired. As a strict PI, Rony stands tall in his acts and dialogues. There's double roles coming from Vishal, Caziton de Cacora and Antonette de Maina and they have handled them with confidence and in style. Augusto de Calangute makes a cameo. In the comic acts, there's comedian Sally and Caetano as constables and Brian, Joyel and Fiona join in, extending good support. One scene showing undergarments could have been avoided. In the section of songs, there are seven renditions wrapped up in the presentation. The opening song is rendered by Augusto de Calangute, followed by solos from Xavier Gomes, Benny de Aldona and Tony de Ribandar. Other songs are by Jennifer and Tony de Ribandar, Benny de Aldona, Caziton de Cacora and Jennifer. A political song by Benny, Xavier and Tony de Ribandar receives an encore. A duo and a quartet went amiss in the presentation. Senon and his musical team have extended good support to the singers on stage. The stage sets are by Anthony de Ambaji and lights effects have been handled by Tony.

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