

Herald Cafe



GOA: FINAL PROFESSION OF SR. RAIZA FERNANDES, SEALED WITH A RING



THE RISE OF ENERGY HYGIENE: CLEARING STRESS THROUGH MOVEMENT, SOUND, AND BREATH

The Enduring Legacy of Azulejos: From Portugal to Goa's Cultural Tapestry

Azulejos are decorative ceramic tiles that hold both artistic and cultural significance, especially in regions influenced by Portuguese heritage, such as Goa. Traditionally characterised by intricate designs in blue and white, these tiles have evolved to include a broader palette and a fusion of motifs that reflect local cultures

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THE LEGACY OF AZULEJOS IN PORTUGAL

Blue glazed ceramic tiles, or azulejos, are iconic in Portugal, adorning everything from Lisbon's streets to churches and public fountains. Originally influenced by Islamic art brought by the Moors in the 8th century CE, azulejos became a royal fascination during King Manuel I's reign. Inspired by the tilework of Seville and the Alhambra, he decorated his palace with Hispano-Moresque styles. The art evolved with the arrival of Italian and Flemish artisans in the 16th century, who introduced the majolica technique, allowing complex scenes and religious imagery. By the 18th century, under the Marquis of Pombal, azulejos became a widespread urban feature, marking a shift from elite patronage to broader public use. The intricate designs, vibrant colors, and classic blue-and-white palette of azulejos make them highly attractive. Their elegance enhances the beauty of homes, nameplates, altars, and garden walls, often drawing attention from visitors', said Frasier D'costa from Majorda, as he intends to use them in his newly constructed home.



THE CULTURAL EXCHANGE: AZULEJOS IN GOA

Portuguese colonial influence extended the art of azulejos to Goa, particularly in Augustinian buildings like the churches of Nossa Senhora de Graça and Santa Monica in Old Goa. These tiles reflected the dynamic cultural exchanges between Portuguese India and neighboring Islamic empires, such as the Mughals and Ottomans. This cross-cultural blend is described by the term *Islamicate*, highlighting Islamic-inspired, yet non-religious art present in both Catholic and Hindu spaces. Some Goan azulejos may have been brought from regions like Bijapur, exemplifying the global flow of artistic traditions during the Portuguese colonial period. 'Azulejos evoke the Portuguese colonial past of Goa, blending European aesthetics with local identity. I feel a strong cultural connection to these tiles, which are seen as visual stories of their ancestry and architectural legacy', says Antoneta Rodrigues from Orlim. Orlando de Noronha, a prominent figure in reviving azulejo art in Goa, notes that Goans often prefer tile designs that reflect their cultural heritage, blending traditional



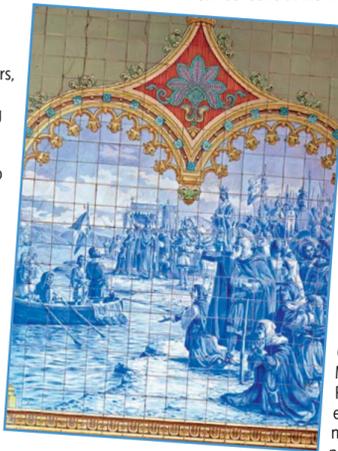
Portuguese aesthetics with local Goan elements. 'Many people opt for artwork inspired by Mario Miranda's famous cartoons, usually in black and white or blue and white. Sometimes, if clients request it, a bit of color is added,' Orlando explains. Classic shades like blue and white, along with earthy hues such as yellow and brown, remain favorites, echoing Portuguese artistic traditions.

Azulejos in Goa are widely used as nameplates, souvenirs, and decorative pieces, underscoring their significance in everyday Goan life and art. Orlando also shared that the cost of azulejos varies based on factors like the size of the order, the complexity of the design, and whether the tiles are hand-painted or printed. He crafts glazed azulejos using two approaches: with raw tiles or pre-baked ones available in the market. The colors he uses are classified into two types—high-temperature colors, which are fired at over 1000°C, and low-temperature colors, fired between 750°C

and 810°C. At times all colors cannot be fired together and need to be fired separately based on the temperatures at which they have to be fired, he said.

GOA'S ICONIC MOSAIC AND THE CALL FOR REVIVAL

One of Goa's most stunning azulejo displays can be found at the Institute Menezes Braganza in Panjim. The mosaic depicts scenes from *Os Lusíadas*, the Portuguese epic by Luis Vaz de Camões, and was designed by artist Jorge Colaço in 1934. The tiles, likely painted in Portugal, were assembled in Goa by artists from Bombay and inaugurated in 1937. The work remains a powerful testament to cultural storytelling. 'Many azulejo tiles in Goan homes depict Christian saints, Mother Mary, or Jesus Christ. For Catholic families, especially, these tiles are not just decorative but are part of their daily devotion and spiritual space. I am a devout follower of St Anthony any thus thought of getting a portrait of the saint made for my home', said Anthony Miranda from Cavelossim.



SWIPE RIGHT

Nushratt reveals why she likes Ranbir more than Kartik



Nushratt Bharuccha and Kartik Aaryan share a friendly bond since they have been part of many movies. On the other hand, she has grown up being mesmerized by Ranbir Kapoor's performances in his films. While she agreed to being fond of the Animal star, she admitted not feeling the same for Kartik. The actress stated that she started her career with Kartik and over time, they have grown together. We have done so much work together that you can't see him the way the audience perceives him, she expressed, adding that they have now become buddies and partners in crime. Hence, that was the vibe she shared with him.

Gwen Stefani and Blake Shelton include a 'Third Party' in their marriage



Gwen Stefani and Blake Shelton are leaving room for Jesus. In a new interview, the "Hollaback Girl" singer, 55, opened up about the "best advice" she's received since getting married to Shelton, 48, in 2021. "Best advice would probably be to make sure you have a third party," said Stefani, pointing up as she seemed to reference God.



Olivia Rodrigo looks angelic in all white at planned parenthood Gala red carpet

Goa Gunners dream big: Arsenal fans ride high on UEFA Champions League semi-final surge

Arsenal will be playing in the semi-finals of the UEFA Champions League after a gap of 16 years. Fans in Goa had much to say about this achievement

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After a long wait of 16 years, Arsenal have finally reached the semi-finals of the UEFA Champions League, where they will face French giants PSG over two legs. For Arsenal fans in Goa, this is a momentous occasion—an opportunity that has been a long time coming. The excitement is palpable among the faithful. Neroy Costa from Shiroda, a passionate Arsenal supporter, summed it up best. "It's been a long 16-year wait to reach this stage, and the team's hunger is clear. I'm expecting a high-intensity clash with PSG, full of tactical battles and standout moments. With the form and spirit Arsenal have shown, this



could be their moment to finally break through and make history." For Aldrich Rodrigues, a teacher and musician from Majorda, the journey has been deeply personal. "There was once a time when Arsenal were a laughing stock, especially after those heavy defeats to Bayern. But slowly and steadily, we've clawed our way back to the top. Those horror-ridden nights feel like a distant memory now. This is a prodigious moment to be a proud and persistent Gooner!" He further adds, "It all feels utterly surreal. Football brings both victories and defeats, but these boys deserve the highest accolades. No matter what the final whistle brings, our time has undeniably arrived." Yogesh Khandeparkar from



Ponda believes Arsenal have what it takes to go all the way. "We've beaten PSG in previous European contests, so the odds favour us. I believe teamwork will triumph over individual brilliance. I see Arsenal making it to the final."

The match promises to be finely balanced. Nathan Po from Corlim shared his thoughts, "This semi-final is more than just a clash between two top sides. It's a meeting of clubs who've come heartbreakingly close but are still chasing

their first Champions League title. PSG have already wrapped up League 1, giving them full focus on Europe. Meanwhile, Arsenal—despite being in a tough Premier League title race—are playing with belief and momentum, especially after knocking out the reigning champions. For both teams, this could be the best chance in years to lift the trophy. That hunger might just make the difference. It's a thrilling tie to look forward to."

The passion among fans is undeniable. Elton Fernandes, an engineer from Siolim, expressed his excitement, "Arsenal vs PSG promises to be a thrilling encounter. The Gunners are determined to outplay the French giants. I'm hoping for a memorable Arsenal victory on European soil."



Fans haven't forgotten the tough years either. Arthur Trindade from Assonora shared a heartfelt message, "Come on, Gunners! This is our moment to win the Champions League. They've doubted us, mocked us—but every time, we've come back stronger. We've already taken down giants, and now it's time to prove we belong at the very top. Believe in the badge. Believe in the team. Believe in each other. If we can conquer one of the best, we can beat PSG too. This is more than a match—it's our chance to make history. Let's bring it home. Come on, you Gunners!"

One can only hope the dreams of these passionate fans are realised.

