

Herald Cafe



GOA CELEBRATES NATURE'S BOUNTY AT THE 19TH KONKANI FRUIT FEST



THE 2025 PULITZER PRIZE WINNING BOOKS

From doormats to Met Gala red carpet: The journey of Cherthala craft

Woven in Kerala, walked by icons — Neytt's Sisal Carpet from Cherthala stuns at the Met Gala 2025. A brand born at home, now reaching for the stars



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The stunning blue carpet featured at Met Gala, world's most glamorous fashion event held in New York City, was crafted by Neytt by Extraweave, a Kerala-based brand founded by Sivan Santhosh and Nimisha Srinivas. From Cherthala, a place famous for its coir industry, Neytt by Extraweave is a five-year-old company but their legacy is a century-old.

Sivan's granddad Velayudhan, established Travancore Mats and Matting Company in 1917, while his father, Santhosh, founded Extraweave two decades ago. Continuing the tradition, Sivan started his own company, Neytt which in Malayalam means weaving. This marks their third consecutive appearance at the Met Gala.



How did a design firm from Cherthala, Kerala, make its mark at the Met Gala?

They got in touch with the Met Gala organisers through a customer of their named Fiber Works in the USA. It was their long-standing clients who recommended Neytt by Extraweave to the Met Gala organisers. Neytt Wave manufactures the carpets, while they were hand-painted by artists in the USA.

The carpet was woven from sisal fibre—

derived from the bark of the Agave cactus, a plant native to East Africa and Central America. Sivan explained that the fibre was sourced from regions including Brazil, Tanzania, and Madagascar, and the bark of the plant is used to make the carpet. The fibre is very strong and can stretch upto 120 cm—perfect for making carpets. The Met Gala organisers specifically asked for the sisal fibre.

The production process

According to Sivan, the team dedicated 90 days to crafting the carpets at their Cherthala factory, with the support of 500 skilled workers. They produced 57 rolls of carpet, covering approximately 6,840 sq metres. "We always prioritise quality and execute our work with precision," Sivan said.



CHERTHALA – the hub for the coir industry

Cherthala, located in Alappuzha district, stands as a cornerstone of Kerala's coir industry—a legacy that intertwines tradition with innovation. This coastal town, renowned for its coconut groves, has been a hub for coir production since the 19th century. Cherthala's coir industry transforms humble coconut husks into beautiful mats, rugs, ropes, and more. The rhythmic thrum of traditional spinning wheels blends with modern innovations, sustaining livelihoods while honoring age-old traditions. As sustainability becomes a global mantra, Cherthala proudly stands as a symbol of green enterprise and cultural heritage, one coir fiber at a time.



Going places

From traditional coir craft on the shores of Kerala to the red carpet of the Met Gala, they showed the world that hard work pays off. The weaving company has previously supplied its carpets to Buckingham Palace and the White House and has created rugs and carpets for many Taj properties. Sonam Kapoor's house in London has also been furnished using their rugs.

'Sounds Like Goa': A sonic tribute to home and memory

Nasya Pereira is releasing her debut EP 'Sounds like Goa' on May 9 with six songs on this album that are written, composed, produced and performed by her

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Nasya Pereira from Revora, a content creator who has also pursued her passion for music by releasing three singles, is now set to launch her debut EP, 'Sounds like Goa', on May 9 across all major streaming platforms. The six-track album is entirely written, composed, produced, arranged, and performed by Nasya herself.

Inspired by her experiences growing up in Goa and her digital archive 'Vintage Goa Memories', the album captures the essence of her roots. "This album is a sonic diary of some of the greatest sounds I heard growing up that will forever be part of me. I grew up in Revora, I spent most of my college days with my friends at the beach or at nights partying at Vagator and holidays at Oxel and Siolim," she explains.

Tracks such as 'Dawn Oxel' and 'Summer Noon Sorbet' offer a deeply personal lens into her memories. 'Dawn Oxel' was inspired by a March morning in Oxel, featuring birdsong recorded live on the hill near Our Lady of the Sea Church. 'Summer Noon Sorbet' evokes the

SOUNDS LIKE GOA TRACK LIST

- Dawn Oxel
- Summer Noon Sorbet
- My Ode to a Revora
- Sundown Sossegado at Siolim Dusk
- Vagator

carefree days of childhood summers spent with cousins around her home in Revora and Siolim during the 2000s.

The EP blends organic house with a mix of genres, offering three instrumental tracks and three vocal-led pieces—all recorded in Nasya's home studio.



"Before this, I've released three songs, 'Dawn Oxel', 'Summer Noon Sorbet', and last month, I released 'Vagator Moontrance'. They are the ones which are on the album. 'Summer Noon Sorbet' did quite well worldwide. Most of my listeners on that track are from America and other countries," says Nasya.

She spent over a year developing the album, teaching herself music production along the way. "I knew nothing about music making or even singing. I decided to make music in 2022. The whole album is quite experimental. I did everything myself because I thought it would be easier than to go to a professional. Experimenting and figuring it all out by myself would be much better as a foundation to start my own music."

A 2018 graduate in Mass Communication from St Xavier's College, Mapusa, Nasya was introduced to basic filmmaking techniques during her studies. "When it came to like music, the only thing we did was these softwares for filmmaking and how to adjust like the voice, just a little EQing and the volume automation."



SWIPE RIGHT

Tom Hiddleston and Willem Dafoe in Nepal for 'Tenzing'

Hollywood stars Tom Hiddleston and Willem Dafoe were spotted filming in Nepal for 'Tenzing', an upcoming high-profile mountaineering drama backed by Apple. The film, which tells the story of Sherpa legend Tenzing Norgay, who summited Mount Everest with Sir Edmund Hillary in 1953, has transformed historic sites like Patan Durbar Square into cinematic sets. Locals and tourists watched in fascination as camera crews worked with the actors drawing crowds and setting Nepal's TikTok sphere alight with selfies and behind-the-scenes clips.



Allu Arjun meets his idol Amir Khan

A memorable photo moment was captured when Tollywood star Allu Arjun met his idol, the Bollywood superstar Amir Khan, at his residence in Mumbai. This unexpected rendezvous has sparked viral speculations about a possible collaboration between both the stars. Nothing is confirmed yet, but fans are already dreaming big. As the photo went viral among fans, the way they posed together makes people think it was more than just a friendly visit. Allu Arjun is busy with 'AA22', where he will play a tough new role with a completely new look. Amir Khan is working on 'Sitare Zameen Par', which will release in June 2025.



The first 2025 Met Gala bathroom selfie has been unveiled, taken by actress Laura Harrier. The 'Spider-Man: Homecoming' actress appears alongside designer Zac Posen, Keith Powers, Sarah Snook, LaKeith Stanfield, Justice Smith and Andrew Scott.

Allegro Music Academy Presents

CRESCENDO

MUSICAL CONCERT

Conducted By :
Rev Fr. Peter Cardoso



Date: 9th May 2025 Time: 07.00 PM
Location: Kala Academy, Panjim



For tickets contact:
Hazel-9922509504/Rashid-9822101782