

Herald Café



BITS PILANI, GOA, OBSERVES INTERNATIONAL DAY OF IMMUNOLOGY 2025



DON BOSCO COLLEGE, PANJIM, HOLDS THE 15TH EDITION OF METEORA

FOCUS ON FOLK: Fest to highlight traditional arts

A three-day Folk Festival will celebrate the sounds and colours of Chhau and Gadaba dances from Jharkhand and Odisha at ICG Goa from May 9 to 11

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A three-day festival is bringing the sounds and colours of Jharkhand and Odisha's folk arts and heritage to Goa this weekend. The three-day Folk Festival, from May 9 to 11, will be held at The International Centre Goa (ICG) and will mark the first visit to Goa of a 65-member delegation of artists and performers from the two eastern states. Contact Base, in collaboration with the Axis Bank Foundation, is launching a project titled Roots to Prosperity, aimed at promoting culture-based livelihoods in Jharkhand and Odisha, and this festival is a part of that initiative.

Amitava Bhattacharya, founder of Contact Base and curator of the festival, said, "Goan audiences are special to us. In the past, we've



presented folk forms from West Bengal, Rajasthan, and our World Peace Music Festival, Sur Jahan. Goa embraces traditional culture, and the warmth of its people is deeply appreciated by artists. That inspired us to bring the folk traditions of Jharkhand and Odisha here, many of which—like Seraikela Chhau, Kharsawan Chhau, and Gadaba tribal dance—will be performed in Goa for the first time." The festival will also feature Warli painting and Bohada mask makers from Maharashtra, along with Kotpad and Ikat weavers from Odisha. Lecture-demonstrations, performances, and interactive workshops will be the highlights.

WHAT IS CHHAU DANCE?

Chhau, listed by UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, is a dynamic dance tradition rooted in martial arts. There are three main forms—Seraikela, Purulia



(Manbhum), and Mayurbhanj—practiced across West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Odisha. Jharkhand's Seraikela Kharsawan district is unique in that all three styles are performed there. Seraikela Chhau: a semi-classical form using small masks and martial movements, Manbhum Chhau: known for its large, ornate

masks and costumes and Kharsawan Chhau: combines painted faces with a blend of Seraikela and tribal dance elements. These dances often depict themes from mythology, nature, and everyday life. Jharkhand artists Bijoy Sahoo and Nando Lal, representing Seraikela and Kharsawan

Chhau, shared their excitement: "This is our first visit to Goa, and we invite everyone to join us. I'm especially looking forward to teaching Seraikela dance steps at the workshop on May 10, from 11 am to 12.30 pm."

GADABA SONG AND DANCE

Koraput district in Odisha is home to several tribal communities, including the Durua, Poroja, Gadaba, and Kandha. The Gadaba tribe's performances are vibrant expressions of community, nature, and celebration, with songs and dances rooted in everyday life and festivals. Their attire is also culturally rich—Gadaba women wear Kerang, a hand-woven wraparound cloth traditionally made from tree bark.

Manas Ranjan Muduli, leader of the Gadaba dance troupe, said, "We are the Gadaba tribe from Lamtaput in Koraput, and this is our first trip outside Odisha. We're very happy and excited. We look forward to sharing our dances and stories—and we welcome you to join us on stage and learn our steps."

SWIPE RIGHT

Liam Payne's ex Cheryl named administrator of his estate

Liam Payne's former partner Cheryl has been named the administrator of his \$32.2 million estate, seven months after the One Direction singer died without a will. Court documents issued officially named Cheryl, with whom Payne shared 8-year-old son Bear, and attorney Richard Mark Bray as the administrators of his estate. The documents indicate that the gross value of the Payne's estate in the UK amounts to \$38 million, and his net value to about \$32.2 million. Estates in the UK are typically issued to the deceased's lawful spouse, or if they were not married, to their nearest blood relative.



Jackie Chan will do his own stunts until the day he retires



Jackie Chan isn't one to back down from a physical challenge. The 'Karate Kid: Legends' star, 71, is known for his action-packed movie roles, with his latest project being no different. Chan said he has no immediate plans to the contrary. "Of course, I always do my own stunts. It's who I am. That's not changing until the day I retire, which is never!" he said with a laugh. Chan added, "When you've done it for 64 years straight, there's no physical preparation anymore," he explained. "Everything is in your heart and soul; it is muscle memory."



Kylie Jenner and Timothée Chalamet finally make their red carpet debut at the 70th David Di Donatello awards in Rome, Italy after being romantically linked since 2023. Timothée was honoured with a David Award – the Italian equivalent of the Academy Award



King snubbed? Fans disappointed at Met Gala

'Who are you?' SRK is asked on the red carpet. Does Western media not know who Shah Rukh Khan is, ask angry fans. But is it ignorance or just the way the Met inauguration is conducted?

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Fans of Shah Rukh Khan across the globe were left disappointed and disheartened after witnessing what many saw as a snub of the actor and other prominent South Asian, particularly Indian, stars at the Met Gala. Held annually as a charitable fundraiser at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, the event appeared unprepared—and seemingly uninterested—in properly acknowledging the presence of Indian celebrities.

As Shah Rukh Khan stepped onto the blue carpet, a reporter asked, "Who are you?" to which he responded with his usual charm and composure: "I'm Shah Rukh." For many fans, the apparent ignorance and disregard by Western media toward a

global icon was hard to watch. In a subsequent blue carpet interview, the hosts appeared unfamiliar with Khan's immense global popularity and his three-decade-long legacy in Bollywood. The exchange felt noticeably awkward until designer Sabyasachi Mukherjee stepped in to clarify that Shah Rukh Khan is "one of the biggest stars in the world."

King for a reason

This was the debut Gala for Shah Rukh Khan, and he is also making history by being the first Indian male actor to appear in this Gala. Many people in the United States might be unaware, in 2023, Time magazine named him among the world's most influential people, and in 2015, Forbes estimated that his earnings make him possibly the biggest movie star in the world.



Other Indian stars face the same

A while after Khan's interview, Diljit Dosanjh appeared on the carpet in a very culturally significant outfit. However, the Western media focused on him for a few seconds and quickly cut away. He was not interviewed as well. Kiara Advani, Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Isha Ambani, Natasha Poonawalla, and Mona Patel are a few other Indians who graced the glorious carpet.

Double standards of Western media

In a series of similar videos posted by a Western media channel on their Instagram handle, they showed reporters asking introductory questions like "Who are you?" "Where are you from?" to global celebrities. Actress Anne Hathaway and supermodel Gigi Hadid were seen answering these same types of introductory questions. However, it seemed very clear that the media lacked any information concerning Indian stars. They seemed visibly awkward and unaware of the popularity and contributions of Indian stars, failing to show them the respect that was readily extended to other global celebrities.

FAN REACTIONS

"The carpet was lucky he walked on it!" a content creator on Instagram, Jeremy Franco, said in an Instagram video. That video has been viewed three million times.

DietSabya, the popular Indian pop-culture account, put it bluntly, "That kind of disrespect wouldn't have happened to anyone else of Khan's stature."