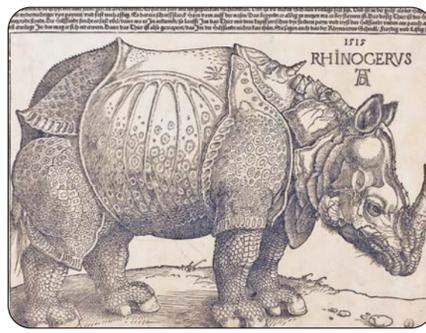


Herald Cafe



THE RHINO IN THE PRESS: GOA, MASS MEDIA, AND THE ART OF CAPTIVITY



I-HELP FOUNDATION GOA AND TEDXPANAJI LEAD BEACH CLEANUP IN CELEBRATION OF WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

GOA UNPLUGGED: The rising wave of student musicians taking the stage

Student musicians from diverse academic backgrounds are stepping into the spotlight, crafting original sounds and performing at gigs, festivals, and cafés across the state



ZURIEL D'SOUZA



GRACE SEQUEIRA

is now a regular at live venues. He recalls how he first broke into the scene, "Initially, I had a partner who had good connections with restaurant owners and musicians. That helped me a lot. But now I find gigs either through other musicians or by walking into places and pitching myself."

"Music started as a hobby," Nevil adds, "but soon it turned into live shows and performance nights. Education is still a must, so keeping the scale balanced is really important." Having grown up in Goa, Nevil believes the region naturally shapes musical identity. "The music culture here is something every Goan kid grows up with. We all have a unique flair and with time and practice, it comes out well."

GRIT AND GIGS

"I don't think my tech background makes much of a difference. It's all about taking things part by part," says Zuriel D'Souza, a final-year BCA student at St Xavier's College, Mapusa. "There are weeks I lock in and revise for exams, but I try not to cut out gigs. Sometimes that means sleepless nights. Honestly, it's more of a headache for my classmates than for me."

Zuriel, who sings and plays lead guitar, is known for his energetic performances and classic rock style. "I love loud guitars and ear-shattering solos. So even when I'm playing Konkani, especially rock-n-jive numbers, I try to bring that energy in."

He began performing regularly at a place in Candolim. "That built my rep. I met so many musicians there. Now, whenever someone needs a lead guitarist, I usually get a call."

THE MUSIC AS MEDITATION

For first-year engineering student Jaeden De Souza from Agnel Institute of



REUELLA AZAVEDO

Technology and Design in Assagao, music offers a daily sense of calm. "Taking short breaks to play the piano helps me avoid burnout. It improves my focus and keeps my mind at ease," he says. "Even listening while studying makes it more enjoyable." Though his main interest is in Western classical music, Jaeden values Goa's sonic diversity. "With music constantly evolving, I feel that Goan music has the potential to grow exponentially and influence society in meaningful ways."

Like many others, he began performing at college events, guided by his music tutor. "Playing in front of an audience really boosted my confidence. I haven't collaborated with bands yet—but I definitely plan to."

FINDING HARMONY IN PASSION

"Balancing academics and music is a challenge, but I've learned to manage my time effectively," says Grace Sequeira,

a Mass Communication and Journalism student at St. Xavier's College. "I schedule blocks for studying, rehearsals, and performing. Music and even Tiatr fuels my creativity and helps me stay focused. It's about finding harmony between both passions."

Grace's sound is rooted deeply in Goa's cultural texture. "The state's laid-back vibe and rich heritage influence everything I write. Our one and only nightingale, Lorna, is my biggest inspiration. The ocean, sunsets, nightlife—they all shape my lyrics and melodies with that carefree Goan spirit."

She often collaborates with local musicians. "We create fusion sounds blending traditional Goan rhythms with modern styles. It's built my confidence and given me a sense of community among artists."

When it comes to opportunities, she keeps things dynamic. "I find gigs through college events, local venues, and festivals. Social media, networking,

and word of mouth play a big role. I'm always on the lookout—whether it's a small café set or a big festival."

A CULTURAL SOUNDTRACK

"From a young age, I was surrounded by different styles—Konkani folk, church hymns, and even Western classical, which I studied more seriously later," says Reuella Azavedo, a BA student at St Xavier's College, Mapusa. "Being in such a culturally rich place helped me develop a sound that's emotional and expressive. I naturally lean toward playing in a soulful way."

That fusion of tradition and individuality defines much of Goa's emerging indie sound—one that feels rooted yet exploratory. While some students perform solo, others form bands or informal collectives, helping each other with recordings, promotions, and gigs. Most rely on social media especially Instagram and Spotify, to share their work and grow their audiences organically.

THE ROAD AHEAD

As Goa continues to evolve musically, these students are crafting a vibrant, genre-blending indie culture—one open to experimentation, storytelling, and raw emotion. "I believe there's going to be a really engaging indie scene in Goa in the years to come," says Zuriel. "We're just getting started."



NEVIL NORONHA

Surabhi Thakur

In the balmy, tropical rhythm of Goa, famous for its beaches and electronic music festivals, a quieter, more intimate revolution is unfolding. Indie music, rooted in authenticity and driven by passion, is being nurtured by college students across disciplines who juggle academics by day and perform at open mics and local gigs by night. From engineering classrooms and hostel corridors to soulful cafés and artsy festivals, Goa's next wave of independent musicians is finding its voice.

BUILDING A REPUTATION

One of the most valuable skills student musicians develop is learning how to market themselves. MBA student Nevil Noronha, from Goa University in Taleigao,



JAEDEN DE SOUZA

Curtains down on culture: Goa's tiatr directors hit by sudden auditorium closures

As the Easter season wraps up, monsoon marks the next wave of tiatr releases. But this year, city auditorium closures have cast a shadow over Goa's beloved stage tradition

Pio Esteves

Soon after the Easter releases from Goa's accomplished tiatr directors, a second wave of productions typically rolls out during the monsoon. These seasonal performances, mounted by a select group of noted directors, are usually staged in city auditoriums due to their elaborate sets and large casts.

When these directors unveil their new monsoon productions, they come armed with star-studded troupes and striking, large-scale stage designs—elements the tiatr audience eagerly looks forward to. The grandeur is only possible in fully equipped city venues, where technical setups can accommodate such ambitious productions.

However, abrupt closures of these



A scene in Sammy Tavares' tiatr 'Sasumaim, Dhuv vo Sun?'

DIRECTORS WITH NEW PRODUCTIONS FOR THE MONSOON:

- Constantino Crasto's 'Sunnem'
- Mariano Fernandes' 'Devachem Nanv Jietam Hanv'
- Irineu Gonsalves' 'Patkachi Savlli'
- Pal Soares' 'Mon'xak Utor, Gorvak Dhayem'

auditoriums—often under the pretext of renovations and repairs—have become a serious setback. Directors who plan months in advance are forced to cancel shows, and their teams are left in limbo. Equally disheartened are tiatr fans, deprived of live entertainment during Goa's wettest months.

The recent closure of Ravindra Bhavan, Margao, has particularly upset many in the tiatr community. Directors who were ready

to stage their new monsoon releases have found themselves at the mercy of authorities. The sudden postponement of the shutdown, with no clear timeline, has only added to their uncertainty.

Adding to the concern are unofficial reports about potential closures of other key venues, like the Kala Academy auditorium in Panjim. Should these go from rumour to reality, the entire tiatr circuit may be silenced for the season. For directors with large ensembles and elaborate productions, the question remains:

where can they go?

Retired SP and veteran director Sammy Tavares, who recently released his monsoon tiatr 'Sasumaim, Dhuv vo Sun?', expressed his frustration. "I had booked Ravindra Bhavan for May 26, June 3, and 7—all were forcibly cancelled. Now I'm trying for June 18, but I'm unsure if it'll be available," he said.

"Ravindra Bhavan is the main venue in Margao. When tiatr directors can't stage their productions, what more can we expect from the authorities?" he added. "It's basic sense to carry out maintenance before the rains. This negligence shows a complete lack of seriousness—and in the end, it's the artists and audiences who suffer."

Sammy also raised concerns about potential disruptions in July and August due to preparations for IFFI. "If June is already lost, at least give us July-August. Push repairs to September instead," he urged.

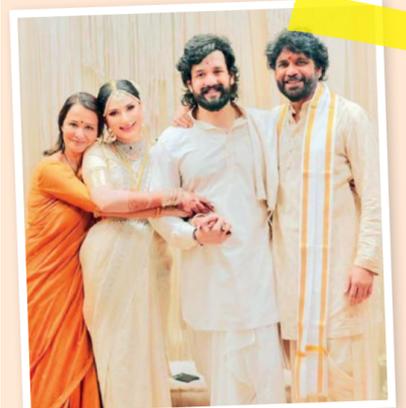
Another returning tiatr director, comedienne Anita, who made her comeback after five years with 'Smile Please', echoed similar sentiments. After a successful premiere in Sankhali and two packed shows in Margao, she was forced to move to Gomant Vidya Niketan for her May 29 performance, which also ran to a full house. Responding to demand, she held additional shows on June 1 and 3.

However, her June 15 show at Ravindra Bhavan, Sanvordem, was cancelled due to AC maintenance. "Pre-monsoon government works are common. But when they're left incomplete, the ripple effect is felt everywhere. This is no different. Caution is better than cure," Anita remarked.

SWIPE RIGHT

Jennifer Garner is embracing aging gracefully

At 53, Jennifer Garner seems to be defying time much like her beloved '13 Going on 30' character, Jenna Rink. She's leaning into the joy, wisdom, and strength that come with growing older. "I don't want to be younger. I'm very grateful to be exactly this age," she says. A devoted workout routine and consistent skincare regimen contribute to Garner's radiant glow. She swears by sunscreen as a beauty essential and isn't shy about sharing her thoughts on ageing gracefully.



Amala Akkineni warmly welcomes Zainab as her daughter-in-law in a heartfelt Instagram post. Akhil and Zainab tied the knot in an intimate early morning ceremony surrounded by loved ones