

# Herald Cafe



TOP AI TRENDS SHAPING MUSIC TODAY



SÃO JOÃO CELEBRATION AT TEEN MANSHER AT COIMA VADDO IN ALDONA

## Knitting comeback: How Gen-Z in Goa is picking up the needle

Knitting is no longer just about wool and needles. It's about peace, passion, and purpose. In a world ruled by fast fashion, knitting is making its way back into the lives of Goan youth. Knitting, once seen as a hobby among the elderly, is now gaining popularity among Gen Z in Goa

Alishka Irla

### KNITTING AS THERAPY

"Knitting is my therapy, my joy, my peace," said Siddika Naik, a professional fashion designer and a venture owner. Siddika Naik is also an Apparel (NSQF) instructor at Holy Cross High School, Bastora. But beyond titles and classrooms, she is someone who found a lifelong companion in the art of knitting. "I was drawn to it since childhood. Watching others knit would spark something in me. And I'd pick up the skill instantly," she said.

What began as a childhood fascination, watching others knit and instantly picking up the skill, has become her source of calm and creativity. She now teaches these traditional crafts in school, hoping to revive what was once forgotten and inspire the young minds of Goa to embrace the beauty of handmade art. For Siddika, it's not just about creating. It's about passing on a legacy that continues to weave joy from one generation to the next.

### CASUAL HOBBY TURNED PASSION

"Crochet is my calm, my joy, my little world of peace," said Lakshmi Chavan, a passionate crocheter from Caranzalem. Lakshmi began her journey with yarn and a hook at the age of 19. She started crocheting during the lockdown as a simple way to pass the time, learning from her mother, but what began as a casual hobby soon turned into a true passion. But beyond the stitches and patterns, she is someone who found a sense of purpose and peace in the art of crochet. "As I kept crocheting, people began to notice and appreciate my work. Their love and encouragement gave me the confidence to turn this passion into something more," she said.



mother and sisters. Entirely self-taught, Whitney learned the art through YouTube tutorials, picking up techniques stitch by stitch. For her, crocheting late into the night became more than just a hobby; it became her way of unwinding, a peaceful retreat after long workdays. "I usually crochet at night. It's when I finally get time for myself," she added. Whitney began with small pieces like bookmarks, slowly working her way up to hats, bags, baby blankets, and now, clothing. "There's something magical about creating something out of almost nothing," she said. With every item she creates, Whitney feels proud of the magic of her hands.

### CROCHET FOR FREEDOM

"I make magic using thread," said Ciena Fernandes from Chandor. For Ciena, crochet isn't just a craft; it's her career, her joy, and the reason she's living life on her own terms. She started her crochet business while still in her second year of college, and over time, it became her whole world.

"I love how crocheting has given me the financial freedom," she adds. Ciena learned the basics of crochet as a child, watching her mother. Back then, she never completed anything. But the spark was there. It wasn't until the COVID-19 lockdown that she picked it back up, stumbling upon her mom's old yarn stash. She made a top for herself, and when a friend saw it and paid her to make one too, things began to shift. Today, she crochets full-time, turning threads into stylish clothes, delicate flowers, and charming Amigurumi toys.

### PURE JOY OF KNITTING

"For me, crochet is where creativity meets comfort," noted Khajabi Karadgi. From Sanquelim, Khajabi is someone who finds pure joy in turning yarn into beautiful art. What began as a calming hobby slowly grew into a creative obsession, especially the one that fills her days with endless possibilities. Khajabi loves exploring new patterns, experimenting with techniques, and bringing fresh ideas to life through her crochet hook. From cozy blankets and stylish wearables to adorable Amigurumi toys and unique home décor, she crafts each piece with love and care. "I like trying new things with colours, patterns, and textures. It keeps crocheting fun for me," she said.

### FROM SIMPLE CURIOSITY TO SOMETHING SPECIAL

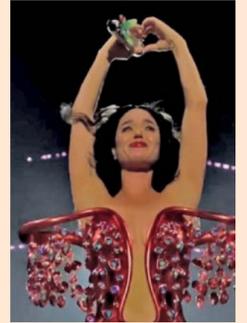
"It's my me-time, my peace, my slow joy after a long day," said Whitney Fernandes. Whitney, from Benaolim, is employed at a publishing house in Margao. She discovered crochet at the age of 19, inspired by her



### SWIPE RIGHT

#### Katy Perry holds back tears in the show

Katy Perry's fans are praising the pop star for "pushing through even in the hard times," in light of her recent breakup with actor Orlando Bloom. The emotional moment came during her final show of the Australian leg of her Lifestyles tour, held at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre. This marked Perry's first performance since news of her split from Bloom, her partner of nine years, became public. With tears in her eyes, she formed a heart gesture with her hands, a touching sign of gratitude to the crowd. "Thank you for always being there for me, Australia. It means the world," Katy added before powering through a moving performance of Firework.



#### Jennifer Aniston to star in a new Apple TV+ series



Jennifer Aniston is set to executive produce and star in a new Apple TV+ series inspired by Jennette McCurdy's 2022 memoir, 'I'm Glad My Mom Died', the streaming platform announced on July 1. The upcoming 10-episode dramedy will be adapted for television by McCurdy herself, who will also serve as executive producer and showrunner alongside Ari Katcher.



Businessman Sunjay Kapur's recent death in London has left his family devastated. His sister, Mandhira Kapur, took to Instagram to express her sorrow, posting emotional tributes. In one of her messages, she wrote, "We are incomplete without you."

## BUTTERED BREAD ON A CAT'S BACK: ART SHOW COMMENCES

An exhibition as part of the Sunaparanta Art Initiator Lab (SAIL) 2024 - 25, 4th edition, it is from the 1st to the 15th of July

I have designed the Sunaparanta Art Initiative Lab, an entirely free program, which has been running smoothly for the last four years," said Lina Vincent, an art historian and curator, who is also the lead mentor for the programme. SAIL is Sunaparanta's 10-month mentorship programme for creative practitioners, launched in June 2021.

### Shrine to letters

DEEPA GEORGE

Deepa George, a communications professional and journalist, presents her exhibit as a tribute to the fading tradition of handwritten correspondence. "This is my interpretation of the lost art of writing letters," said Deepa. She aims to highlight the emotional depth and resonance that the written word carries. Among the notable pieces featured are letters from legendary Goan figures such as T. B. Cunha and Wendell Rodrigues, along with several others.

### Complex family ties

SHUBAM CHARI

Rooted in the emotional fabric of an ancestral home, this project explores the intricate layers of family and social dynamics through a deeply personal perspective. Visual artist Shubham Jagannath Chari, based in Goa, said, "There are joint families in villages that have conflicts, so I want to explore what these conflicts are and more."

### Exhibit B

SIDHI ARSEKAR

Exhibit B is a mixed-media installation that uses the familiar structure of a household cabinet to explore how beauty standards are formed, consumed, and subtly passed down through generations. The inspiration for the work is from the historical concept of the 'Cabinet of Curiosities'. The artist, Siddhi, is an arts researcher and educator based in Goa, with formal training in painting and art history.

### Echoes of the land

NEHAL PARKER

Nehal Parker, a visual artist and educator from Goa, presents Echoes of the Land, an evolving and interactive art installation that encourages viewers to participate as co-creators of an imagined landscape. The installation is structured across six distinct levels.



### The union of souls

GEETESH GAWAS

Geetesh Gawas, a self-taught filmmaker based in Goa, creates work that navigates the space between commercial and artistic cinema. His audio-visual piece symbolically follows the continuous, unresolved journey of two souls striving to unite, set against the backdrop of the noise and pressures of contemporary social expectations.

### Tales intertwined: A Goan animal puzzle

LETICIA ALVARES

In Goa, everyone knows everyone, woven together by a web of relationships, stories, and shared history. Drawing from that spirit, this sliding puzzle incorporates animals from Goan folktales to evoke a sense of connection and cultural memory. The piece is created by Leticia Alvares, an artist and educator based in Goa.

### Between brain and fingertip

PRITESH NAIK

This installation stems from the artist's reflection on their dual role as both creator and caretaker. It subtly challenges the conventional notion of creation and instead proposes an alternative perspective—one rooted in stewardship, responsibility, and reverence. The work is by Pritesh Naik, an artist, researcher, and educator based in Goa.

### What I carry within

RUTIKA DESSAI

This work reflects on the quiet grief experienced as the natural landscapes that once defined the artist's childhood slowly disappear. Rutika Anand Desai, an artist from Sanguem in South Goa, draws from personal memory to express the loss tied to environmental change.

### A walk in the park in the eain

and Kitchen Conversations

SHRIYA PANT

Kitchen Conversations is an ongoing interactive project that documents personal and intimate dialogues with women from various fields. A Walk in the Park in the Rain is a stream-of-consciousness zine that traces the protagonist's experiences through the 'Everyday'. Shriya Pant is a multidisciplinary artist behind these works.

### Sanctuary

VENKATESH PAI

The Sanctuary examines the interplay between solitude, nature, and modern life. Housed within a small greenhouse structure, it offers a quiet, enclosed space for viewers to sit, pause, and reflect. Venkatesh, an artist based in Canacona, Goa, works fluidly across multiple media.