



14 June 2026

PRESS RELEASE:

Musical Evening Jazbaat, Awards Ceremony and Book Release to Mark the 20 Years of the Ganga Zuari Academy

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Arunava Roy

Utsav
Devinder Anand

Regd. No
320/GOA/2007

Office
6 Raviraj Colony, Nagali
Hills, Dona Paula, Goa

Email:
gzaculture@outlook.com

Phone
91-9422438821

Website
www.gangazuari.org

Panaji, 14 June 2026: The Ganga Zuari Academy (GZA) celebrated its 20th Foundation Day with a memorable evening of music, literature, culture, and social recognition through **Jazbaat**, a garland of songs that redefine sentiments, held at the packed University Auditorium, Block E, Goa University. The event brought together artists, scholars, community leaders, students, and citizens in a unique celebration of human emotions, cultural heritage, and public service.

Founded in 2007, the Ganga Zuari Academy has emerged as a distinctive platform dedicated to fostering dialogue between India's diverse cultural traditions and intellectual streams. Over the past two decades, the Academy has promoted cultural exchange, youth engagement, heritage preservation, and interdisciplinary scholarship through its various initiatives and publications.

The evening commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp and an introduction to the Academy's journey and vision. This was followed by the first segment of **Jazbaat**, a carefully curated musical presentation featuring twenty timeless songs that guided the audience through themes of memory, love, longing, companionship, hope, and life itself. The performances by talented singers- Rajesh, Deepa, Sanjay and Shivangi and musicians (Sweet Mix) created an atmosphere of nostalgia, warmth, and emotional resonance. The budding drummer, 12-year-old Aarman, superbly performed, drawing the attention of all.

A major highlight of the evening was the release of the book **Primordial: Confessions from Deep Time**, an innovative interdisciplinary work that combines Earth science with reflective storytelling. The book explores geological processes, mantle hotspot dynamics, planetary evolution, and humanity's relationship with deep time through an engaging narrative voice. The book has been authored by Dr Poornima Sawant, Syntheia Towhidy, Dr S. M. Karisiddaiah, and Ranadhir Mukhopadhyay.

The Academy also conferred its prestigious annual honours recognising exemplary contributions to society and culture. The **Social Goodness Award**, instituted in memory of Mrs Mita Dey, to honour individuals and organisations demonstrating compassion, selfless service, and commitment to community welfare, was presented to **Cyril Aleixo Fernandes** of Chicalim following a rigorous selection process. The **Cultural Stewardship Award**, established in memory of Prof Anil Kumar Ghosh, to recognise efforts to preserve and promote cultural heritage, artistic expression, and intergenerational knowledge transfer, was conferred on the Pilerne-based **Museum of Goa** during the ceremony.

Adding colour and energy to the event was a captivating Rajasthani dance performance by Devika Mehta to Ila Arun's song "Banjaran," which was warmly received by the audience.

In his address, the Chief Guest of the evening, Professor Sunil Kumar Singh, Director of the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), commended the Academy's sustained contribution to cultural dialogue, public engagement, and intellectual exploration. As it enters its third decade, the Ganga Zuari Academy reaffirms its commitment to nurturing culture, scholarship, creativity, and social responsibility while building bridges across communities and generations.

The forthcoming Academy initiatives include **ManavNama**, a three-day conclave on rediscovering the art of being human (24-26 July), and **Jazbaat Episode 3**, scheduled for 30 August 2026.