

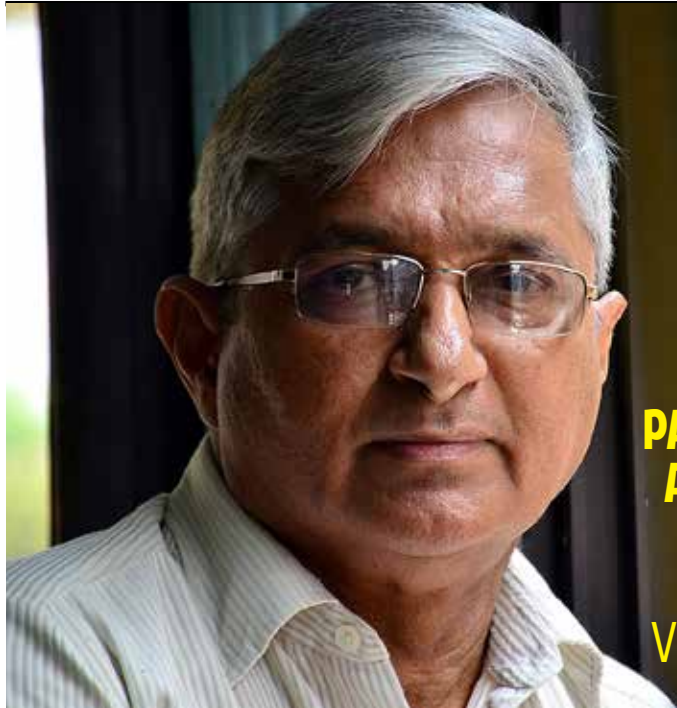
The Neutral View

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SIDDHESH
Bar & Family Restaurant



Vijay Nagar, Near SBI Bank, Alto Torda,
Alto Porvorim, Goa
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Abki bar kya hoga yaar




THIS INDEPENDENCE DAY ITS RAINING DISCOUNTS

PRITESH NAIK

It's Independence Day, the time of the year again when major e-commerce giants roll out their big discount offers in a tussle to woo customers. The online shopping majors have announced their pre-Independence Day sales. During this period, all major online shopping portals are offering discounts, cash backs and top deals on popular brands. Flipkart's Big Freedom Sale is believed to have some mind-boggling offers on smartphones, TVs, laptops, tablets, headphones, cameras, and accessories and more during the sale period. Meanwhile, the Amazon Great Indian Sale is all set to woo users by offering up to 35 percent off on mobile phones.



Amazon

Amazon India is offering up to 35 percent off on mobile phones and up to 40 percent off on power banks, headphones and Bluetooth headsets in its Great Indian Sale. Other electronic appliances will be available at a discount of up to 50 percent. The sale sees maximum discount of up to 70 percent on fashion and home appliances. Additionally, Amazon is offering 15 percent cash back on payments through Amazon Pay and SBI debit/ credit cards on the app and 10 percent on the website. There will also be Prime exclusive deals for Amazon Prime members during the Amazon Great Indian Sale.

Myntra

Myntra's Right to Fashion Sale from 13th to 15th August will flaunt heavy discounts on the big fashion brands on Myntra to celebrate the occasion of Independence Day. Flat 80 percent off on Independence and Independence Club store and up to 85 percent off on women's fashion such as tops and dresses from popular brands will be available only on Myntra's Right to Fashion Sale. Log on to the Myntra app and exercise your rights to fashion this year on Independence Day. Myntra is offering fashion sale filled with discounts, but that is not enough shopping as Myntra can give you an added 15 percent discount. If you have an ICICI bank debit or credit card then you can avail the extra 15 percent discount just by using the card to pay the bill online and grab fashion products worth of Rs 2000. The 15 percent discount can only be availed on the billing amount at the time of check out.

Flipkart

Smartphones, TVs, electronics and more such products will see a discount during Flipkart's Big Freedom Sale from 9th to 11th August. Flipkart is also offering a minimum discount of 70 percent on some of its products under the category 'Largest Democracy, Legendary Deals'. Buyers can avail additional 10 percent cash back upon using HDFC Bank debit and credit cards.

Star CJ Independence Day Sale

This independence day, Star CJ is celebrating the Independence Day with Star CJ's 'Shopping ki Swatantrata' offer. Star CJ has planned to bring the best deals on this glorious day to show their respect for the country. They have brought mouth-watering discounts on the most amazing products, which you can buy at exciting prices.

If you are one of those who is health conscious, this offer is for you. You need to make juices every morning, don't you? No worries, there are discounts on juicer mixer grinders. Are you very particular about the oil you use? You are lucky as there is a discount on olive oils as well. There is also a discount on the Avento six pack machine; this will help you keep your abs in shape.

This year get independence from being unhealthy. There are offers available on double side pans, microwaves, and many more kitchen essentials. These offers are a dream come true for those who are kitchen lovers.

WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE RAJASTHANI FOOD FESTIVAL UNDERWAY AT GRAND HYATT

RAHUL KAMAT

From Rajasthani classics like pithod ka tikka and maans ka soweta to Rajasthani inspired cocktails, the Rajasthani Food Festival at Chulha in Grand Hyatt Goa is every bit of regal. The exquisite décor, delightful Rajasthani cuisine and Hyatt hospitality makes for a perfect Rajasthani dining experience. The interiors are ethnic, and features puppets dressed in Rajasthani attire in several places while the entrance resembles a pathway to a majestic Rajasthani haveli.

The menu features aromatic Rajasthani delicacies and cocktails from the kitchens of royals and warriors. The specially crafted cocktails by expert mixologists at Grand Hyatt include Lake Pichola, Royal Mewar, Khamba Gani and Mathania. The focus here is infusing exotic drinks with Rajasthani flavours to create an ethnic experience for the diner. Most of them include locally available spices and condiments. For example, the Lake Pichola is a spiced rum and triple sec concoction with ginger, orange zest and lime juice, which balances the flavours and leaves no trace of the presence of egg white. The Royal Mewar is a whiskey cocktail, containing cardamom which adds a distinct flavour to it. The Khamba Gani is a tequila based concoction that comprises of ginger, lime juice, sugar syrup, grenadine and orange zest. They also have other Rajasthani favourites



like the lassi, chaas and milkshakes in several variants like kesar, rose and masala.

Because majority of Rajashtanis are vegetarians, the menu features a variety of vegetarian food. However, the Rajputs loved their meat and there are traces of chicken and lamb on the menu too.

The 'Pathod ka tikka' was the most delicious chickpea flour cube, stuffed with spiced minced vegetables that were incredibly flavourful and done well. The 'Hing aur mirch paneer



ticka' was cooked to perfection with the fluffy cottage cheese cubes stuffed with green chilli paste and a distinct flavour of asafoetida. Some of the other favourites would be the 'Banjara murgh tikka' – chicken cooked in cashew paste, spices and bell pepper and 'Achari gosht tikka' – spicy lamb cutlets that were oozing of flavours till the last bite.

For the main course we tried a bunch of Rajasthani classics which included both, veg and non-veg items. The menu is a la carte, however, we chose to try a bit of everything on offer, thus letting the chef serve us a platter comprising of Rajasthani gravies along with assorted Rajasthani breads like 'Laal mirch ka parantha' and 'methi missi roti'.

On the vegetarian front, there is the 'Ker Sangria', which is unlike any other sangria we have had, 'Papad methi

aloo mangodi' – a dry lentil dumpling and Dal bati churma. However, The Rajasthani thali was a riot of flavours and colours.

Coming to desserts, they featured two popular Rajasthani mithais – the 'Khaas malpua', served with rabdi and 'badaam ka sheera'. Malpua, the sweetened flour pancake went really well with creamy rabdi served fresh. The badaam ka sheera, in which the samolin and almonds were cooked really well in desi ghee and made extra sweet, was as delicious as it can get.

Verdict: The menu is large enough for you to experience a bunch of Rajasthani flavours and taste the authentic food of Rajasthan. However, how much ever one tries, you cannot get a real Rajasthani flavour dining at a five star restaurant, though the folks at Grand Hyatt have really worked hard on preserving the authenticity. But, it's a great place to satisfy your Rajasthani food cravings. If you prefer non-vegetarian food over vegetarian, you will have limited options. The service is excellent and the ambiance is perfect for a fulfilling dining experience.



WILL GOA BY-ELECTIONS MIRROR 2017 ASSEMBLY POLL RESULTS?

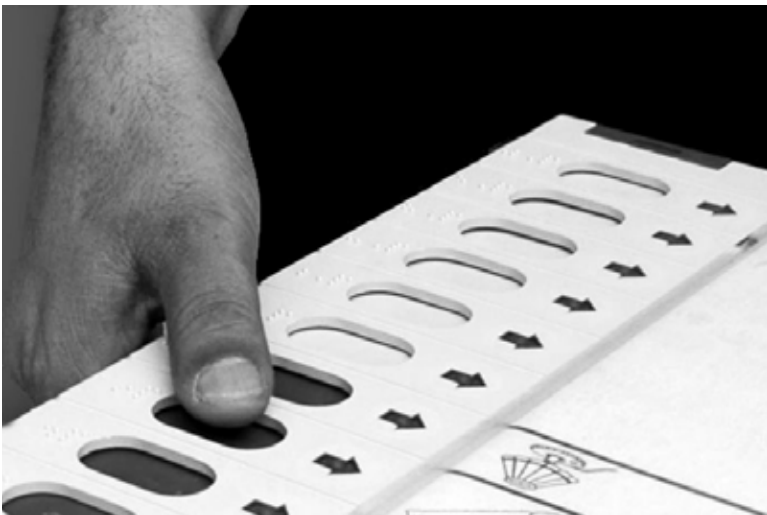
The analysis of by-election in Panaji and Valpoi constituency is going to be straight and simple. That is what at least I thought before actually sitting down to write about it. It is a fight between well-established, heavyweight politicians ruling the state versus Congress' nondescript candidates.

But, as we started talking to people over the crucial by-election issue, the picture was little different. The fight may look smooth but it is not as smooth as we predicted it to be. It will be smooth in a way that Manohar Parrikar and Vishwajit Rane will get elected, but it will not be a cakewalk for them.

Initially when state was getting readied for by-election, the focus was on Panaji constituency. It is but natural that the attention will be on this constituency because it would decide whether Parrikar will continue as Chief Minister or not. The constituency has always stood by Parrikar for last 25 years. His popularity has always increased. In fact, the election of 2012 saw it skyrocketing further, not just in Panaji constituency but also across the state.

Since the year 2012, many things changed in the state. Parrikar became Union Defence Minister. He was cynosure for all eyes when he was shown on television striking deals with foreign defence ministers or seen on the news from Delhi. The 'bhai' next door had suddenly become a pride for the state. While leaving he had said 'nation first.'

Then came 2017 elections, and BJP's popularity plummeted to the lowest ebb.



From 21, the party came down to 13 with heavyweights like Laxmikant Parsekar, Dayanand Mandrekar, Dilip Parulekar, Mahadev Naik and others shown the door by voters.

Parrikar was sent back and suddenly the parties like Goa Forward, MGP and Independents found him to be the best Chief Ministerial material. Rest is past. But not that old past that we have forgotten. BJP too has not forgotten the humiliations that it had to face in 2017 Assembly polls.

So, when we speak of Panaji and Valpoi by-polls, we cannot push under the carpet the history of BJP's failure to win over the state. The party also cannot forget that the voters rejected few of their popular faces.

When we look at the current Valpoi and Panaji by-election at the backdrop of 2017 Assembly polls, we can certainly not take things for granted. I feel Parrikar or Vishwajit Rane too should not take it for granted.

During last few months, Congress has been exposed as a major divided house which could not form the government despite inching closer to the majority figure. The incidents that happened in recent past also reflect the current phase of India's oldest political party. Babush Monserratte suddenly deserting the talks to join hands with Goa Forward Party and their candidates like Adv Surendra Desai and Ashok Naik refusing to accept the ticket, forced them to go for a lesser expected option of fielding Girish Chodankar.

Chodankar's loyalty to Congress cannot be challenged. For the first couple of days, it looked like Congress was just trying to stop Parrikar from getting elected unopposed by fielding Chodankar.

But things are changing slightly. Chodankar has been getting good response during his campaign. Also, Goa Suraksha Manch is another factor that has emerged in a big way. Subhash Velingkar has focused his entire strength in Panaji by fielding his close aide and party president Anand Shirodkar as its candidate. The party now claims that they have received support from Shiv Sena, RSS and also from BJP cadres. If that is true then Parrikar needs to be worried. But on the ground, it does not seem that BJP is on a sticky wicket.

One cannot judge the undercurrents of elections till the last date. Since we are

writing this edit a fortnight before the polls, whatever we might say could be a premature comment.

Babush always played a crucial role in Panaji by-election, but this time he has been silent. Where will his supporters go? Will they vote for Parrikar whom they always saw as their political rival or will they go with Shirodkar or with Chodankar? The results will reveal the answers. But certainly, the entire strength of Babush will not be behind Parrikar for local political reasons.

Leaders like Surendra Furtado and Yatin Parekh are not active in the constituency. What does this mean for Parrikar? The results will tell.

In Valpoi constituency, Vishwajit is looking at a comfortable victory. Then again, here he cannot be dormant. One issue that he is likely to face is about the election symbol. All these years and till recently, he had stood in Valpoi on Congress' Hand symbol which had become synonym with 'baba'.

The less exposed electorate of this constituency will take time to adjust to the fact that baba this time is on Lotus and not on Hand. Vishwajit has to undo the things which he did during the last election. People close to him claim that the process of replacing Hand with Lotus symbol in the minds of the people has already started.

Congress candidate Roy Naik who was in the news in the past for all the bad reasons is entirely banking on the political acumen of his father Ravi Naik. The Congress leader is currently camping in Valpoi for his son, and has been up to the political tricks like visiting Valpoi's primary health centre or visiting door to door.

The fight in Valpoi which looked completely one sided till few days ago have suddenly taken a different turn. However, this turn will not be politically fatal for Vishwajit, but the uncrowned king of Valpoi cannot take things for granted here.

Since we are coming up with this issue a fortnight before the elections, some of our predictions might not be correct as we all know that politics is not static, but we have tried to be as accurate as possible. The Neutral View magazine, as our name suggests, has remained politically neutral and true to the sentiments of the people. We can only say that, may the best candidate win.

MANOHAR PARRIKAR'S CHARISMA AND MY POPULARITY WILL RIDE BJP TO WIN IN VALPOI CONSTITUENCY: VISHWAJIT RANE

Vishwajit Rane faced last election on a Congress ticket where he polled maximum votes. Now, junior Rane is facing election again, but this time on a BJP ticket. Will Valpoi constituency accept Rane again? We spoke to him at length during his campaign in Valpoi constituency.

IS IT A DIFFICULT ELECTION FOR YOU BECAUSE YOU ARE FIGHTING ON A BJP TICKET?

A. Not at all. In fact you all have seen how BJP has been sweeping the constituency since the time I have joined the party. We are working under able leadership of Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar who has been known as a person who knows to perform. His charisma is adding to my existing popularity in the constituency. The results were seen during Panchayat election. BJP is for the development of the constituency and its people.

DOES BJP HAS ACCEPTABILITY IN THE CONSTITUENCY?

A. You must have seen how people are now getting attracted towards BJP. Valpoi municipal council created history in Goa when it elected first Muslim woman as its chairperson. She is affiliated to BJP. We have Muslim vice chairperson too. If you go to see, people from all religions, caste and creed are getting attracted towards BJP, and Valpoi is not an exception to it.

HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO ADJUST YOURSELF IN THE PARTY?

A. My performance speaks. Under the leadership of Manohar Parrikar we have been working on improving healthcare sector in the state. You have been a witness to a number of changes that we have made. We have introduced new ambulances, and hospitals are being managed in a better way. The new concepts are being introduced. We are also going to have Regional Cancer Centre in Goa. Healthcare is always the most important sector, and the Chief Minister has given me free hand to improve it. This government is



working for the welfare of the people. Various infrastructure projects are being completed and new initiatives are taken.

WILL YOU ASK YOUR FATHER TO CAMPAIGN FOR YOU IN VALPOI BY-ELECTION?

A. He is a Congressman and has been loyal to his party. I have not requested him to campaign for me. He himself has made it clear that he would not be campaigning for Congress candidate against me. Finally, it is a matter of family.

WHAT KIND OF RESPONSE ARE YOU RECEIVING FOR YOUR CAMPAIGN?

A. People of Valpoi know me very well. I have a personal connect with every voter. You should see the tremendous

response at the small meetings that I address. People have decided to elect me. This time my margin will increase than last time. I have worked with the people to solve their problems. This constituency is like a home for me.

YOU HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF FORCING BY-ELECTION IN VALPOI CONSTITUENCY. YOUR REACTION.

A. I have reacted to this time and again. I have made it clear; under what circumstances I had to leave the Congress party. The leadership in Congress party was not willing to form the government. I could not force my constituency into opposition again. It was my conscious decision to join BJP and you can see the results now. We are fortunate to have a Chief Minister like Manohar Parrikar who has been

progressively thinking about Goa. Congress party is busy fighting amongst themselves. They are dreaming of forming the government. Let them keep dreaming. We are here to take Goa ahead.

WHAT IS YOUR COMMENT ON YOUR RIVAL CANDIDATE?

A. I don't want to comment anything on him. I am fully confident that I will win comfortably with a thumping majority. People of Valpoi know what is good for them, and they have always stood with me. This time also, if you see the response of the people you will know that they are with me and the BJP. Valpoi constituency will witness more development in future. We have a clear focus and a clear agenda. We will follow that agenda.

MANOHAR PARRIKAR IS A MAFIA OF SETTINGS: SUBHASH VELINGKAR

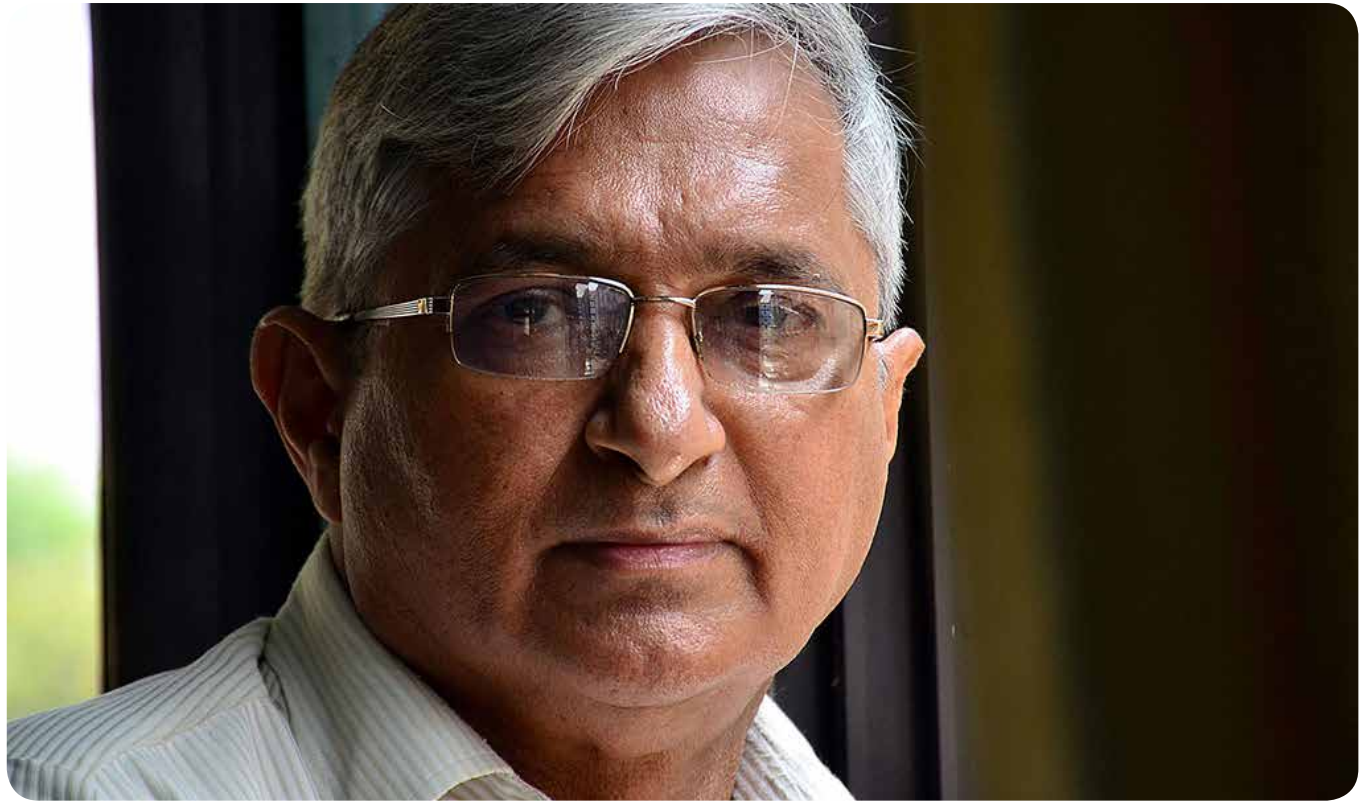
The fight put up by RSS leader Subhash Velingkar against Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar was historic. As Goa Suraksha Manch is back in the fray against Parrikar, the fight continues. The Neutral View talks to Velingkar on the upcoming Panaji by-poll.

HOW IS THE RESPONSE TO GSM IN THE UPCOMING PANAJI BY-ELECTION?

We have fair chances in Panaji by-election. Initially we could not sense the support that we had, but as we started meeting people, we realised that we are getting encouraging response from different quarters. Manohar Parrikar has been unleashing terror amongst the people through his workers. He had also threatened Ashok Naik. He corners people and warns them. That has not gone well with the BJP workers. BJP cadres are not being taken into confidence. In 2017 elections, BJP was reduced to 13 from 21. If you see, there is nothing called Bharatiya Janata Party, now it is Bharatiya Janata Parrikar Party.

WILL THIS HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON BJP?

Certainly, it will have a negative impact. If you see, of the 13 candidates who have been elected, 7 are Catholics. Except Francis D'Souza, rest of them does not have any link with the cadres. They have their own cadres. Wherever they have got elected, there they have eliminated the party. Also, they have taken four former Congress leaders. There is no cadre in the BJP. Parrikar does not have the habit of having consultation. When he was with us, we used to adjust. But since the year 2012, when he started fooling the society and tried to finish our culture, from that time onwards, we started realising. The ideological group which BJP belongs to believes in collective leadership. Whenever any person tried to eliminate collective leadership and tried to project himself, he has been removed from there. In Goa, Parrikar has tried to have his individual leadership.



IS GSM GETTING SUPPORT OF THOSE WHO ARE IDEOLOGICALLY DISCONNECTED WITH BJP?

They are not coming out openly. There are several reasons why such people don't open up in public; one reason is that they are afraid. The fear is unwarranted. BJP does not give them their bread and butter. The true BJP cadres have reduced. Those who are in the party are hired ones. They work for money. The workers from Congress culture are in BJP because of the power. They won't help to win election.

DO YOU THINK THAT BJP IS THE BRAIN BEHIND BABUSH'S ENTRY IN GOA FORWARD PARTY?

Absolutely. Manohar Parrikar is a mafia of setting. He does not do setting for the party but for himself. This is a unique example. He has not done the setting for the party. Parrikar has forced the BJP leaders to keep mum. They are told that if they speak out, they will have to sit in the opposition. All the scams would be out. We have come to know this through top quarters that people in BJP are with us.

DO YOU THINK THAT MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION CAN BE AN ISSUE FOR THE UPCOMING BY-ELECTION?

BBSM has been constantly working

on the medium of instruction issue. During that time we realised that BJP as of today should be replaced. The cadres from RSS which had moved out and went back are still supporting BBSM and GSM. 95 percent of the RSS cadre in Goa is against BJP. GSM is our political ammunition to fight for medium of instruction in mother tongue.

WHAT OTHER ISSUES WILL BE ADDRESSED BY GSM?

GSM will take up all the issues of Panaji during this election. Language is one of the issues but there are several other issues which have been affecting the society. Parrikar was the MLA for 21 years and he was the Chief Minister for seven and half years, and now he is talking about appointing IAS officers to solve the issues of the constituency. He realises this after 21 years. Parrikar has assured to solve all the issues of Panaji in 365 days. That is a big lie. Parrikar has been frequently lying. His theory is to give assurance and not to abide them.

WHY ARE YOU NOT CONTESTING THE ELECTION?

There are several people in the country who feel that they should play a role socially by not entering into politics. I

am one amongst them. But that does not mean we have ignored the political happening. We will not allow the bad governance to flourish in the state. We will break it down. Last elections GSM fared very poor in Panaji, we faced awkward situation when Rajubhai Sukerkar withdrew his candidature during the last assembly election. We had to settle down with Ketan Bhatikar. Everyone knew antecedents of Ketan Bhatikar and that he was a supporter of Vijai Sardesai. Our cadre does not follow anything blindly. They are always concerned about integrity of the person. Babush was another factor. The voters did not want to vote for Babush, so in the absence of a proper option they had to vote for Siddharth Kuncolienkar.

IS THIS A PRESTIGIOUS ELECTION FOR GSM?

Yes, this is a prestigious election for us, because of which we are channelising all our power. We are not arrogant. We are not saying that we are overconfident. The way BJP worked from grass root level, we are also working the same way. GSM was not rejected by people. Voters rejected BJP by reducing them from 21 to 13. The party in power was rejected.

THERE IS AN UNDECLARED WAR AGAINST PARRIKAR BY THE PEOPLE OF PANAJI: GIRISH CHODANKAR

While Congress party faced unprecedented sequence of events in the run-up for Panaji by-poll, they delivered a shocker by fielding Girish Chodankar against Manohar Parrikar. Will Chodankar be a giant killer or will he struggle to save his deposit? The Neutral View in conversation with Girish Chodankar.

EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE NOT FROM HERE, WHY DID YOU THINK OF CONTESTING FROM PANAJI?

way things were unfolded after Babush's issue, thereafter advocate Surendra Desai and then Ashok Naik, it was looking like BJP did not want anyone to contest. They were using their might and money power to bulldoze everyone who wanted to contest. So, in a healthy democracy, people are masters and you should give option to the people and they should decide. Therefore, I wanted to give an option to the people of Panaji. Right now, Panaji is under the fear of Manohar Parrikar. No one wants to talk about it but there is a tremendous fear amongst them.

DO YOU THINK THAT CONGRESS HAD NO CANDIDATE FROM PANAJI THAT YOU HAD TO COME ALL THE WAY FROM SOUTH AND CONTEST IN THIS CONSTITUENCY?

It is not a question of candidate. It is a question of who will withhold the pressure. We had many candidates but after three of our candidates were hijacked by BJP, it looked like Parrikar was aware of ground reality that the people are against him because he served last 23 years as a MLA without performance. There has been no development here. The fact that Parrikar has now declared that he will be appointing IAS officers to find and solve the issues of Panaji, shows that even after 23 years Parrikar has not understood Panaji. This is very unfortunate.

DO YOU THINK BABUSH'S POACHING BY GOA FORWARD IS BJP'S MOVE?



Parrikar was afraid of Babush. If Babush had to contest, Parrikar would have lost, so he used his powers to see that Babush is not in the fray. This is not a healthy democracy.

WHAT WAS YOUR REACTION WHEN YOU HEARD BABUSH IS JOINING GFP?

It sent shock to everyone, but more than Congress, people of Panaji who were depending on Babush to defeat Parrikar were more shocked. It was much shocking to them than us.

IN CASE YOU MANAGE TO DEFEAT PARRIKAR, DOES IT MEAN THERE WILL BE A CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT?

It is not the question of me defeating Parrikar. I have said it time and again that people of Panaji have decided to defeat Parrikar for several reasons. Especially after what happened post-assembly election (in 2012), they also

have anger for the way he ran to Delhi from Goa after promising 'parivartan', and giving tall promises. The way he became Chief Minister also shows that he does not respect democracy. All these issues are there. I think on top of it, the way candidates were crashed has angered people. I think people of Panaji are going through an undeclared war against Parrikar.

WHAT RESULTS ARE YOU EXPECTING FROM THE UPCOMING BY-ELECTIONS?

We are going to win both the by-elections. In both these constituencies, people have decided to send these people (BJP) home. They have forced a by-election on them. We will come to 18 and we are confident that a stable government will be in place.

WILL YOU BE TAKING HELP OF VIJAI SARDESAI IF YOU NEED TO FORM THE GOVERNMENT?

I think Vijai Sardesai's chapter is closed as far as Congress is concerned. When our leaders were talking to him, that time he might have promised something to them... but I think that chapter is closed now.

WITHOUT HIS HELP WILL YOU BE ABLE TO FORM THE GOVERNMENT?

When we say that we are forming the government, and we are also saying that Vijai's chapter is closed, it is natural that we have many more options.

DO YOU THINK CASINO ISSUE WILL CLICK AMONGST PEOPLE?

Parrikar has been the chief patron of casinos. He has done a big U turn, and the people of Panaji have witnessed it and are waiting to respond to it. The worst thing a politician can do is to tell lies. People won't mind even if there is no development, but I don't think that they will like somebody lying to them.

FOR LAST 25 YEARS, PANAJI HAS ELECTED BJP. HOW CAN YOU EXPECT THAT THINGS WILL CHANGE NOW?

You will come to know only on counting date. I don't have a machine like Mr Parrikar is having, where he can predict exactly how many votes he will get. I cannot take people for granted. It is people's choice and people will decide whom to vote. People's anger is tremendous. I can feel that people have decided to defeat Parrikar.

WHY WAS NO CONSENSUS CANDIDATE FIELDING AGAINST PARRIKAR? WHY THERE WERE NO TALKS WITH AAP OR OTHER PARTIES?

Through your medium I want to thank AAP leaders because they have proved that they want to defeat Parrikar in Panaji. If they had to put up a candidate, it would have been very difficult for us. But now, since AAP has not put up a candidate, it is good for us. We had appealed to AAP along with several parties not to field their candidates and support us. This is a good opportunity to defeat Parrikar. AAP has listened to the people of Panaji and not fielded a candidate. I am thankful to AAP and especially Valmiki Naik as he had lot of pressures to contest by-election but he decided not to.

Coming of Age

CONTEMPORARY ART IN GOA

SANGITA SHARMA

Art has been an integral part of human life from times immemorial. It is an extraordinary medium which elevates one from a mundane existence, to lead a life a little less ordinary than the rest. The world of art is one of contemplation, exploring new horizons and continuously searching for that which is greatest within.

Art stems from the inborn talent of an individual. Each one of us has been bestowed by a unique talent that needs to be identified, explored and worked upon. When that happens, it becomes the fountainhead and expression of the individual's identity. It fosters rich experience and generates new thoughts and ideas.

Art is constantly evolving. Conducive environment helps art flourish and free thinking gives expression to masterpieces. The mystic spirit of the artist seeks peace and harmony though it has the tenacity to survive strife and fanaticism.

"Art is a solitary pedestrian who walks amongst the multitude, continually assimilating various experiences unclassifiable and uncatalogued"Rabindranath Tagore.

Contemporary art in India has its roots in the Modern Indian Art which was the culmination of the freedom struggle against colonialism. The movement spearheaded in Calcutta, and artists moved away from European styles and themes to reclaim the Indian heritage. The progressive artist group in Bombay, however, had a western approach and broke away from ideologies and existing art styles in India. Amongst the eminent artists were FN Souza, SH Raza, MF Hussain, VS Gaitonde, Ganesh Pyne and others. Today, the works of FN Souza, whose roots are in Saligao, Goa, are highly acclaimed and sought after in the international art circuit and are some of the most expensive in the world.

Goa, today, is an art and cultural cauldron, providing a space where intellectual and inter-religious artistic dialogues are setting standards for others to follow. In the words of Bakibab Borkar, the iconic poet – "Goa has a supernatural quality of refining the human mind" which gives Goans "depths of creativity and spirituality." The Goan ethos of embracing diversity with tolerance and comprehension are attracting artists not only from different parts of India but also from other countries. Goa itself has some fine artists, creating exceptional works of art and paving way for others.



The late Mario Miranda stands tall amongst the contemporary artists of Goa, giving an interesting and often a humorous expression to the life and culture of Goa by creating spectacular cartoons, sketches and illustrations. The 'Mario' galleries have an interesting array of souvenirs in different mediums and are a major attraction for the common tourist.

Lakshman Pai, born in Margao, studied at the JJ School of Arts, Mumbai, and later went to Paris. His works are influenced by Goan themes, travels and music. A Padma Shri awardee, his works adorn major art galleries of the world.

Subodh Kerkar is an extraordinary versatile artist and is the founder of the 'Museum of Goa (MOG)', at Pilerne which has come to truly represent the contemporary art in Goa and is also acclaimed internationally. The



gallery exhibits paintings, installations and sculptures by Subodh Kerkar and selected works of contemporary artists from all over India. It is an inclusive space for artists, curators, students, educators and art enthusiasts.

Lesser known and amateur artists too flock to Goa. At a recently held exhibition of contemporary paintings at Carpe Diem Art Gallery at Majorda, Suhasini Kirloskar from Pune says that it is the Goan aesthetics which attracts her to exhibit her paintings in Goa.

The 'Harshada Art Gallery' at Panaji is also constantly promoting new artists. The corporates too have taken a plunge in the contemporary art circle of Goa with the Salgaocar's Art Gallery 'Sunaparanta' playing host and promoting many art exhibitions.

The Fundacao Oriente at Panaji was established in 1995 for historical and cultural reasons. It supports and

organises cultural events and festivals, concerts and exhibitions by Indian and Portuguese artists and also carries out exchange programmes for the artists of the two countries. The building has an art gallery where the works of Goan painter Antonio Xavier Trindade are permanently displayed.

'Sadhana Dell Arte' is an initiative of the Old Goa Music Society and has set-up the Centre for Research and Coexistence of Arts, Music & Cultures, at Casa Joao Francisco at Bhuttem Bhat Merces Road. The focus is on awareness of arts and reconstructing new ideas from ancient Indian and Western art traditions.

Art experiences in Goa can be singularly unique.

- 'Serendipity Art Festival' held in Panaji in December 2016, featured various forms of contemporary art ranging from craft, music, theatre, dance, culinary arts, visual arts and photography and was spread over multiple venues.

It was a visual and an emotional treat for the common public. The response for the festival was amazing as people from all walks of life and age groups attended the festival. The works displayed by 'DAG Modern' showcased paintings of eminent artists like MF Hussain, FN Souza, SH Raza, Ganesh Pyne and even rare paintings of Rabindranath Tagore.

- 'Notes from the Zeitgeist' - An art exhibition by Pravin Naik held at 'Geetanjali Art Gallery' was a unique experience for the audience as his works are visually and contextually potent. It was a discourse of sorts as ballet dancers gave a performance on gender inequality whilst the artist completed a truly enigmatic work on canvas.

- 'Morphology of Archives' - A painting exhibition held at MOG showcased the works of 32 artists from India and abroad. It was based on the metamorphosis of Goa over centuries and major influences that have shaped the present fabric of Goan life.

Art has become an intrinsic part of Goa today. Art cafes have mushroomed in different parts of Goa creating a space to savour art in more informal surroundings. It's not only the people but also the state government which has been encouraging the artists over the years. The 'Kala Academy' at Panaji is vibrant and dynamic as it gives the space and platform to innumerable art shows and other cultural activities. Though a lot has to be done and the process of evolving has to continue, it would be right to say that Contemporary Art in Goa has certainly come of age.

THE AKSHAYA PATRA FOUNDATION

PRITESH NAIK

In mythology, Akshaya Patra refers to the magical vessel with unending supply of food ... an inexhaustible vessel to be precise. The Akshaya Patra Foundation seeks to script a similar narrative by providing nutritious meals to children every school day in a bid to fight classroom hunger. On its part, it has been successful in reaching out to over 1.6 million children across 30 locations in the country, right from Jaipur in North to Mysore in South and Ahmedabad in West to Guwahati in East. The mission is to reach out to 5 million children every school day by 2020.

The Foundation started its school lunch initiative 17 years ago, with the feeding of 1,500 children of five schools in Bangalore. The intent was to provide nutritious meals to children so that they don't have to choose between education and food. The aim was to serve meal as an incentive for children to come to school and at the same time, ensure that hunger doesn't hinder learning. More importantly, the

guarantee of a meal was to prompt parents to send their children to school instead of sending them to work for supporting the family.

On 28th November, 2001, the Supreme Court of India directed all states and union territories to provide cooked mid-day meal to children studying in government and government-aided primary schools. By then, Akshaya Patra was already serving 23,000 children. The Supreme Court directive presented an opportunity for the Foundation to partner with states, thus providing an impetus for the further growth of the programme. In 2003, Akshaya Patra signed a MoU with the Government of Karnataka for the latter's Mid-Day Meal Programme, Akshara Dasoha. It thus became the first organisation to forge a public-private partnership in the mid-day meal space.

The partnership with Karnataka



government served as a template for future partnerships, and over the course of time, the organisation partnered with several other state governments. The initiative served as a platform where a non-profit organisation collaborated with the central and state governments, and brought on board individual and corporate donors—with a strong belief in the concept of 'giving back to the society'—for a common cause.

As for the cost breakup, each meal costs Akshaya Patra Rs.10.19, of which Rs. 6.10 is provided by the government in the form of subsidies. The Foundation raises the deficit amount through fundraising from within India and abroad. The permission to raise funds from within the country is granted by the Ministry of Finance, while the Ministry of Home Affairs has granted the permission to raise funds from abroad under the Foreign Contributions

(Regulations) Act (FCRA).

The availability of funds collected from individuals and corporate donors in the form of donations helps Akshaya Patra provide multi-item menu. The menu is tailored to suit the local palate, as such in North Indian kitchens,

it is wheat-based, and in South Indian kitchens, it is rice-based. Also, these meals are cooked in state of the art centralised kitchens where proper hygiene is given due importance.

As an organisation that solicits and uses public funds, Akshaya Patra understands the importance of financial transparency and operational excellence. All the information pertaining to finance is made available in the annual report and on its official website. In 2008, it became the first non-profit organisation to comply with the International Financials Reporting Standards (IFRS). The Foundation has also been inducted into the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India's (ICAI) Hall of Fame, after having won the Institute's Gold Shield Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting for five years in a row. In addition, the Foundation has also won awards such as the CII Award for Food Safety 2016

and Quality Mark Award 2015, which highlight the importance given to food safety and operational excellence.

In 2016, the Government of India conferred the prestigious Padma Shri upon Madhu Pandit Dasa, chairman of the Akshaya Patra Foundation. He was honoured with the award in recognition of the distinguished service rendered by Akshaya Patra for the children of India.

The Foundation served its cumulative 500 millionth meal in 2009 and went on to serve the next 500 million meals over the course of next three years, reaching the billionth meal milestone in 2012. Furthermore, it took the organisation mere four years to serve the next billion meals, reaching cumulative 2 billionth meal in 2016—a milestone which was commemorated by the then President of India, Pranab Mukherjee in Bengaluru.

Akshaya Patra's mission to reach 5 million children every day by 2020 may have seemed like a daunting task when the journey began. However, the rate at which the Foundation is growing, the goal seems well within the reach now. With the Foundation already in talks with several state governments, it is clear that there is a sustainable expansion strategy on the cards. It is a matter of time before Akshaya Patra reaches new milestones, with each milestone taking it closer to its mission.



INDIAN ASTROLOGY V/S MEDICAL SCIENCE

PRITHVIRAJ THALI

"He who practices medicine without the benefit of the movement of the stars and planets is a fool"
-- Hippocrates.

As within, so without!!! Our forebears realised this truth long before civilisations in other parts of the world were still living through their infancy. Rightly then, what they saw around was a mere reflection of the essence within.

The ancient seers of India realised that the human body, confined within the framework of time and space, was subject to external influences of heavenly bodies in our solar system. But contrary to what some practitioners of astrology would have us believe, these ancient ones knew one fundamental truth about the dispositions of the stars: The heavenly bodies indicate; they do not dictate your karma, or the fruition of it.

Vedic astrology, or more truly, the ancient Indian astrology, is a divining art sieved by colossal minds of yore through layers of logic, discriminatory wisdom and unerring discernment. What has been filtered today to us is that same infallible science in its most refined form.

The twenty-first century charlatans consider it fashionable to reject astrology, tagging it as unscientific and baseless. It is basic human nature to discard as untrue that which cannot be categorised and catalogued by the mind on pre-formed mental library shelves. Consequently, astrology and other divining arts are taboo and merely ways of making money for astrologers by instilling fear in their clients.

Medical science has come of age, in that there are hardly any ailments which have not been examined and their causes and preventive measures not yet discovered. And yet, diagnosis and prognosis of diseases, and their prevention or cure, at times, fail owing to the lack of competence or requisite skill on the part of the doctor or physician. Those same people, who discard the entire science of astrology as unscientific, citing examples of flawed predictions by its practitioners, do not discard the very science of medicine as unscientific just because of the failures of some physicians in cure of certain ailments. Clearly then, the infallible principles of both these sciences – Medicine and Astrology -- are distinct and have no bearing on the inadequacies and the lack of competence of their practitioners. The self-styled rational geniuses of today

fail to show the same open-mindedness to astrology as they would to medicine.

What is not known to many is that spherical astronomy and basic mathematics are the foundation of Indian astrology. Precision in calculation and a sound knowledge of the movement of the planets and the Nodes (Rahu and Ketu) as well as the luminaries (the Sun and the Moon) is thus the hallmark of astrology and is essential for accurate predictions. Such mastery and insight is seen embodied in the classic Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra by Sage Parasara, who is widely considered as the father of Indian Astrology.

My first visit to an astrologer long ago was marked by general distrust and doubt. Here was this person who claimed to know what was in store for me based merely on the planetary placement in the heavens at the time of my birth. What intrigued me even further was that he claimed he could even time the good and the bad times for the remainder of my life fairly accurately. I was shaken out of my disbelief and cynicism only after his predictions came true. Moreover, the timing was unbelievably exact, allowing for an understandable margin of just one day on certain counts. The agony and shame of lacking in knowledge about astrology, was what piqued my curiosity and I resolved to study and acquire, at least, a working knowledge of something that was truly 'Indian'. Though the predictive skills still elude me till today, I nevertheless have a fair grasp of this art.

It might come as a shocking revelation to the practitioners of modern systems of medicine that Hippocrates, the father of modern medicine, espoused the use of basic principles of astrology to aid the effectiveness of medical procedures. This is amply evident through his sage counsel: "Touch not with iron that

part of the body ruled by the sign the Moon is transiting". For the uninitiated reader, as per Indian astrology, each of the twelve signs of the zodiac is sequentially assigned the rulership of specific parts and organs of the human body, right from the head to the feet. The medical fraternity and votaries of modern systems of healing, only of late, are waking up to the efficacy and worth of astrology. A branch of astrology called Medical Astrology is being employed, only recently, in at least the initial detection and proneness of the human body towards certain ailments. It is heartening to know that what has been discarded as baseless by native Indians, has been received with reverential inquisitiveness and open-mindedness by the western community of doctors, physicians, healers and physio-therapists. They have begun to acknowledge, and even successfully combine, the vital role of medical astrology in more effective diagnosis, prognosis and eventual cure of diseases. These same physicians are taking up a serious study of this hoary science handed down by Sage Parasara and others, and are coming up with some startling, and yet accurate predictions suited to the dynamics of the modern world.

Fortunately for us today, there are very insightful books on Indian Astrology written by our Indian and Western astrologers in a language we can relate to, without the need for dire generalisations that were unnecessarily couched in confusing mumbo-jumbo by conventional Indian astrologers.

Instead of a combative stance, a happy marriage between Indian astrology and modern systems of medicine could just be the key to a better understanding of the human body and its more holistic treatment.

May this ancient wisdom find us worthy receptacles and may the stars dispose well for all of us.



Legal Corner

Advt. Atreyee A. Kukalekar

Since we have reached to the maximum number of people through our widespread news and feature coverage, we are taking yet another step. The introduction of 'Legal Corner' is an initiative to advice people about matters related to judiciary. There are times when people are caught up in a mess and they want to have basic knowledge about their legal rights or the way to deal with the troubles. So here we are.

Our legal expert Atreyee Kukalekar is a practicing lawyer with the detailed knowledge of law books. She will give you practical solutions for your problems. What you have to do is just send us your queries on email address: features@theneutralview.com or contact us at 9834407404

We will also feature the answers on our website on regular basis. Also, if you intend to get your name published we will do it, or if you don't want, we will maintain confidentiality.



1 My divorce case is going on and I am staying at my parents place now, but all my belongings, including my jewellery, are still with my in-laws. Just wanted to know whether 'Streedhan' include jewellery and other gifts given by in-laws? Or does it mean, only the gifts given by my parents? Can I claim them at the time of my divorce?

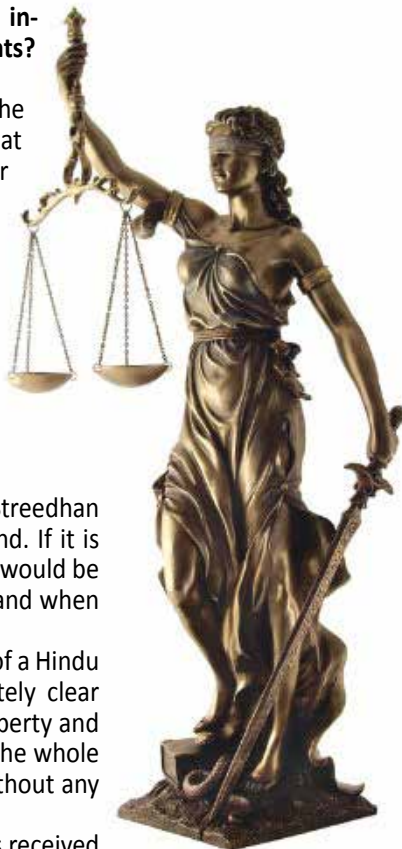
Streedhan is the property that a woman obtains at the time of her marriage, it differs from dowry in the way that it is a voluntary gift given to a woman before or after her marriage and has no element of coercion. The Courts have also made this distinction clear. Women have an absolute right over their Streedhan. A woman's right to her Streedhan is protected under law. S. 14 of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 Read/with S. 27 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 make a female Hindu an absolute owner of such property. In the case of Pratibha Rani vs. Suraj Kumar[10], the Supreme Court of India explained the concept of 'Streedhan' and its legal position under the Indian Laws. The Supreme Court of India held that:

"A Hindu married woman is the absolute owner of her Streedhan property, and can deal with it in any manner she likes and. If it is placed in the custody of her husband or her in-laws, they would be deemed to be trustees and bound to return the same if and when demanded by her".

It is, therefore, obvious that the position of Streedhan of a Hindu married woman's property during covertures is absolutely clear and unambiguous; she is the absolute owner of such property and can deal with it in any manner she likes. She may spend the whole of it or give it away at her own pleasure by gift or will without any reference to her husband

Under the Act, there is no distinction between the gifts received by her from relatives or strangers and at any stage of her life, and all gifts that she receives will be her absolute property. Ornaments received by her at the time of her marriage are ordinarily her Streedhan property. A full bench in Vinod Kumar Sethi vs.State of Punjab held that dowry and traditional presents made to a wife at the time of the marriage constitute her Streedhan.

Domestic Violence Act, 2005, provides for women's right to her Streedhan in cases where she is a victim of domestic violence. The provisions of this law can be easily invoked for recovery of Streedhan. Under the residence orders: Prov. (8) the magistrate may direct the respondent to return to the possession of the aggrieved person her Streedhan or any other property or valuable security to



which she is entitled.

Going by the above position, you can always legally make a claim of your ornaments as they constitute your movable property.

2 I had rented a flat in Panaji, and at the time of making an agreement, I had paid the owner three months of advance rent as security deposit. I stayed in the flat for eleven months and paid the rent regularly, but now, after I vacated the flat, the owner is not returning the security deposit. What should I do to claim the money back?

When there is a written agreement executed between the parties, both the parties are bound by the terms and provisions of the agreement, and when there is a default on the part of any party, you can sue for getting the specific performance of the agreement. You can follow the legal process for claiming your money and also file complaint with the Police against said person for causing criminal breach of trust.

3 I am continuously getting calls from a private bank asking for credit card payments which I supposedly have defaulted nine years back. I don't remember any outstandings. Can a bank ask for outstanding after nine years, is there any limitation period for the same?

Legally, Law of Limitation is not in favour of the bank because bank cannot exert right to recover dues from you after lapse of 3 years, unless that time is enlarged by the Court under section 5 of limitation act. The limitation period is 3 years starting from the last due date or last payment of default or the completion of loan period. In the present case, there is negligible chance of the bank taking up any legal proceedings for recovery of the any defaulted amount.

4 I want to sell my car which is in the name of my demised father. What is the procedure? Can you please help?

In case of demise of the owner/your father, the car should be first transferred in your name, as a legal heir (with the consent of other legal heirs; in absence of a 'will' to transfer the car in your name) or in name of any other legal heir. The office of RTO has specific forms which are required to be filled along with consent of other heirs, and other requirements should be complied including giving of indemnity bond. Once it's transferred in your name, you can sell it off to any third person.



BJP MAY HAVE SMOOTH SAILING THIS BY-ELECTION, BUT PARRIKAR HAS HUGE PENDING CHALLENGES AHEAD

With a sizeable number of votes from the Goud Saraswat Brahmin (GSB) community, Parrikar managed to retain his dominance over the constituency for the last 22 years. Parrikar has banked on his voters by providing them government jobs, developmental works and better governance as compared to the previous MLAs.

TEAM TNV

The stage is set for the August 23 by-elections which are to be held in the constituencies of Panaji and Valpoi. While Valpoi by-poll is not the talk of the town, all eyes are set on Panaji constituency, where former Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar is contesting to get elected as local MLA. This is the fourth general election in last five years that the Panaji Assembly seat will witness. For February 2017 election, BJP, which ruled the constituency for over two decades under Parrikar, had tough time with its then candidate Siddharat Kuncolienkar winning by just a mere margin of 1000 votes. It was not an expected result for the saffron party who is used to win elections with hefty

margins. But this time, it seems to be a cakewalk for the Chief Minister, and all thanks to Congress- which is turning out to be weaker opposition.

Congress, which failed to establish its base in the constituency since 1994, has fielded a non Panjimate, a lesser known face for the Panaji voters- Girish Chodankar- a member of core team headed by party vice president Rahul Gandhi. "I am going to win the election...no doubt...but I am worried that their candidate (Congress) may even lose the deposit," Parrikar had said while launching his election campaign in presence of over hundreds of party workers. Since 1994, when Parrikar won the assembly seat for the first time, his winning margin has always seen a rise. And this time he is expecting a winning

margin of not less than 8000 votes.

Political pundits believe that he managed to keep the opposition at bay either by striking deals or hanging the sword of legal action against them. And it was evident even during this election. Atanasio 'Babush' Monserrate, who is known to be Parrikar's secrete well-wisher, was the initial contender of Congress party against the BJP's heavyweight. However, in an unexpected sudden development- something that Congress never imagined even in its dream- Monserrate joined the Goa Forward Party (GFP), the coalition partners in the BJP-led government.

Sources say that the deal was that government will close down the cases pending against Monserrate including an alleged rape case involving a minor. If this was not enough, Parrikar, may be through a deal, managed to settle his former colleague and city Mayor Ashok Naik, who was seen as consensus Congress candidate backed by other political outfits. "Parrikar is known as the master of political deals, and these two are its latest examples. Parrikar knows very well how to change the situation in his favour," social activist Adv. Aires Rodrigues said.

With a sizeable number of votes

from the Goud Saraswat Brahmin (GSB) community, Parrikar managed to retain his dominance over the constituency for the last 22 years. Parrikar has banked on his voters by providing them government jobs, developmental works and better governance as compared to the previous MLAs. However, with the issues like- offshore casinos in river Mandovi, poor road conditions, no permanent site for garbage dumping and treatment, haphazard/ mismanaged parking, stinking St Inez creek, etc. are left as they were, ten to 15 years back. People today believe that "Panaji has turned out to be worst from bad".

Though Parrikar, officially represents Lucknow at this stage, his heart and political career are rooted in the GSB-dominated constituency. The GSB-RSS cadre combination and Parrikar's strong Catholic supporters in Panaji have always given the BJP an advantage over the Panaji seat for seven consecutive terms, including the last by-election in February 2015 and the recent Assembly election. But this time, the political observers say that there is resentment within the GSB community. The minorities too are exploring options. While Parrikar is banking on GSB population, Congress has laid focus on the Bhandari samaj and the Catholic votes, who together comprise of around 13,000-14,000 voters.

"We know that GSB will never vote for Congress. We are not focusing on that community at all. Our complete focus is on the Bhandari population and Catholic voters," a senior Congress leader said. The constituency consist of 22,203 voters which include 11,555 female voters and 10,648 male voters. "The cadres from RSS which had moved out and went back are still supporting BBSM and GSM. 95 percent of the RSS cadre in Goa is against BJP. The situation is similar in Panaji," GSM founder Subhash Velingkar said.

However, a split in opposition votes among the Congress, gives an upper hand to BJP to win the seat. While Parrikar, who still holds the key in Panaji, had to work little overtime to



retain his prestigious seat, which may not turn out to be a big deal for him, the opposition Congress is completely banking on people centric issues that BJP MLAs failed to resolve in last 22 years. "Parrikar failed to resolve the crucial issues like garbage, St Inez creek, parking, offshore casinos, etc. during his entire political career as MLA and Chief Minister. We will expose this before the Panaji voters. Parrikar's admission of the failure is clear from the fact that he has now asked for additional 365 days to sort out these issues," Chodankar said. And Yes! It is a fact. Parrikar will have to deal with the same old issues that have been haunting the capital city for the past many years. Not just him, but whoever gets elected as the new MLA will have his hands full with what may appear to be minor issues, but dealing with them would improve the quotidian life of the resident of Panaji and the voter.

"There is no point in going for smart city if we cannot resolve people centric issues first. Definitely we need smart facilities, but before that we need to resolve our basic issues. Parking, garbage, roads are issues affecting common man. The local MLA has ignored all this. BJP ruled Panaji for more than two decades now, but the problems continue to grow having no solutions," former Mayor Ashok Naik said.

On the other hand, Valpoi, the Assembly seat ruled by Congress during last three tenures, for the first time may witness saffron colour, as the then Congress MLA Vishwajit Rane will be contesting on BJP ticket. It has always been a smooth sailing for Rane in Valpoi, whose dominance is quite evident. Having 28,800 voters, junior Rane won the last Assembly election on Congress ticket by over a margin of 8000 votes where he had defeated BJP candidate. Whichever party he may represent, the name Rane is enough to attract the voters.

"People in Valpoi vote for Vishwajit Rane irrespective of which party he represents. His vote share is of his individual and not of any party," a senior Congressman said.

Vishwajit would be battling against Congress' Roy Naik, son of sitting MLA and former Home Minister Ravi Naik. Roy, linked with narcotic trade, has very little to prove in Valpoi. The votes that he may manage to get will be only because of the party symbol; individually he has no recognition there.

TNV LOOKS AT PANAJI'S PERENNIAL PROBLEMS

GARBAGE: There seems to be no solution for this issue. Or you can say, no efforts are being made to resolve

KNOW YOUR CANDIDATES

PANAJI



MANOHAR PARRIKAR (BJP)

He is the 10th Chief Minister of Goa. Previously he was CM from 2000 to 2005 and from 2012 to 2014. He has been Panaji MLA since 1994. From November 2014 to March 13, 2017 he was the Defence Minister of India.



GIRISH CHODANKAR (CONGRESS)

Currently the secretary of All India Congress Committee (AICC) and member of core team of Rahul Gandhi. He was a former president of Goa Youth Congress. Contesting Assembly election for the first time.

VALPOI



VISHWAJIT RANE (BJP)

Incumbent Health Minister of the state, he first got elected as independent MLA from Valpoi in 2007 and later joined Congress on whose party ticket he contested 2012 and 2017 elections. He resigned as MLA and Congress member on March 16, 2017. He was a Health Minister and Agriculture Minister in Congress-led government in 2007.



ROY NAIK (CONGRESS)

Was active in local politics from Ponda constituency, from where he hails. He was declined ticket by Congress in 2012 election. He was embroiled in major controversy surrounding narcotic trade.

this long pending issue- even as BJP government plans to take Panaji forward through smart developments. Though the municipal corporation collects garbage from doorsteps daily, there are still mounds of it visible at random street corners, making the

capital city unsightly to its residents and its visitors. The decade long Bainguinim waste treatment plant project is heading nowhere. What is interesting to note is the city, which generates almost 30-40 tons of waste daily, has no garbage dumping site of its own nor

there is any treatment facility available.

ST INEZ CREEK: The historical St Inez creek, running right from Caranzalem to behind Old GMC complex, is been crying for attention for decades. While on one side the government talks about Panaji to be developed as smart city, the irony is that the creek remains to be highly contaminated, having no oxygen, no aquatic life and stinks leading to severe environmental pollution in the vicinity. Political pressures have forced local authorities not to act upon the huts and shanties located along the bank of the water body, that releases sewerage into the creek. It is a known fact that occupants of these huts are vote bank of politicians.

OFFSHORE CASINOS: Shifting of offshore casino vessels out of River Mandovi was one of the major poll promises of BJP in 2012. But, interestingly, BJP did not make any mention of it in the 2017 election. The city has around five operational offshore casinos. The Panjimites are strongly opposing the casino culture in their city, irrespective of the fact that their own MLA is a part and parcel of the government that granted extensions after extensions to these casino vessels to operate.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT/PARKING: Finding an empty parking slot in Panaji on a weekday is a major exercise, and at peak hours it is near impossible. One would expect it to be easier at night and on Sundays but that too is changing. The pay parking concept introduced on few roads turned out to be a major scam- involving a BJP leader from Margao- it did not help in any manner to handle the haphazard parking woes. Moreover, a proper traffic management plan for the city is also yet to be worked out, even as over 90,000 vehicles enter the city on daily basis.



WHEN LUXURY BECOMES NECESSITY

AMEY JOSHI

Can we survive a day without our cell phone? well, we do feel being shipwrecked on an isolated island without it. The technology has advanced so fast and rapidly that our mobile phone which was launched just to receive calls on the move, now has features which makes it as good as a computer. With the evolution of internet and different social networking apps such as WhatsApp, Twitter, Instagram and Facebook, people don't just communicate but also stay connected regardless of the distance.

We are leaving in an era where the internet is no longer a luxury but a necessity. We have many telecom companies coming up with free Internet schemes. Well, not just free internet, some telecom companies have even announced unlimited calling also.

The evolution of technology as well the upgradation of technology which innovates the existing technology have picked up speed in the last two decades.

This ever evolving and unstoppable process can be related to the ideas which one gets through imagination. Leonardo da Vinci sketched a design of the first ever working model of a helicopter in the 15th century, something really unimaginable at the time, but today, when we see an airplane or a helicopter flying, we don't really get fascinated. Hundreds of years ago something that was just a mere imagination or an idea, is a reality today.

Can you imagine talking face to face with a person on the other side of the globe, just using your cell phone?, it would have sounded like a gadget from the James Bond movies, if I had to say this in the 1980s. Even science fiction films have played a unique role in the process of technological evolution. Well let's hope that genetic engineering to create dinosaurs as shown in Jurassic Park is not turned into reality. Science fiction films have even taught us that, if used for wrong purposes, science can be an unforgiving destructive force.

When it comes to the innovation of military technology, we often have mixed thoughts. When we talk about military technology the first thought that comes to our minds is laser-guided missiles, drones, high-tech sniper guns etc. but military technologies to prevent any danger and to avoid loss of lives have also been developed. Gadgets such as x-ray vision cameras help our soldiers to detect hidden weapons and also movements of terrorists




hidden in a room. The need to be safe and the urge to be powerful are the two factors that determine the innovation of military technology. However, one cannot deny that it is the entire humanity which pays the price whenever such technology has fallen in the hands of wrong people.

There are many arguments whether this ever evolving innovation of machines and gadgets is making us very dependable on them, to an extent that we cannot survive a day without them. Well, we do feel paralysed when our cell phone gets damaged or lost. Parents complaining about their child spending hours on TV, cell phone or internet is a common scene. Many of us may even not remember the phone numbers due to quick dial facility on the phone. But, some may even argue that, why do things in a hard way when you have a smarter option. It is also true that because of technology there is also a fear of growing unemployment, as works which used to be done manually are now being done by robots.

However, this debate will be never ending due to unlimited pros and cons of the technological evolution and its pace. But, it is us who have to realise how to use it wisely. When a person uses a lift, just to reach first or second floor of a building, it means either one is totally dependent on machines or has no faith in his body.

So, the best way to conclude will be to say that, technology is a gift "HANDLE WITH CAUTION".

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PRAISING LORD DADESHWAR THE MUSICAL WAY

PRAVIN AJGAONKAR

The young boys of Dhadeshwar Aarti Mandal from Bhandarvada in Brittona have recently launched their album 'Aarti Dhadeshwara'. The master of the group Durgakumar Navti talks to team TNV about their journey.

HOW DID YOUR JOURNEY BEGIN?

The batch of students who I used to train earlier, participated in Ghumat aarti competitions throughout the state and had made their mark by winning most of the competitions. But after that, there was a huge gap and our students were drawn away from Ghumat aarti. During this time, one of our friends and well-wisher Krishna Naik alias Dai took the initiative and started gathering boys from our village belonging to the age group of 15 to 20 years to start a new group.

HOW DID THE GROUP GET ITS NAME?

The group is named Dhadeshwar Aarti Mandal, and Dhadeshwar is also the name of the deity of our village temple. We believe that the blessings of lord Dhadeshwar will always be with us and will enable us to continue to serve him through our aartis.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE CURRENT SCENARIO OF GHUMAT AARTIS IN GOA?

Presently the scenario is very favourable in Goa. There are around 100 Ghumat aarti competitions being organised by various associations in a year, due to which many Ghumat aarti groups have been formed, who participate in these competitions. However, there are various forms or ways of singing aartis or playing Ghumat like Chandraval, Bhag etc. which have been lost as the time went by, due to lack of interest.



ALBUM AARTI DHADESHWAR PRODUCTION TEAM:

Durgakumar Navti (Lyricist, Music Composer), Krishna Naik (Production Manager), Gajendra Rataboli (Concept Assistance), Samesh Pednekar (Management Assistant), Raghuvveer Parsekar (Prime Vocal), Krishnanath Chari (Accordian Player), Virendra Tari (Prime Orchestra).

LEAD SINGERS: Sainath Naik, Omkar Shirodkar, Venkatesh Polle.

CHORUS: Aditya Rataboli, Rohit Halarnkar, Pankaj Pednekar, Manjunath Kavlekar, Adarsh Polle, Akshay Salgaonkar.

GHUMAT: Kuldeepak Naik, Sunny Phayde, Harsh Rataboli, Kunal Chodankar, Gauresh Naik, Shubham Tamoskar.

KASALE: Utkarsh Naik, Aditya Achrekar. **SAMEL:** Sitam Phadte

TELL US MORE ABOUT YOUR RECENTLY LAUNCHED ALBUM 'AARTI DHADESHWAR'

There are eight aartis in this album, which I have written and composed as well. Our group has worked hard for 3 to 4 months to launch this album. There were various hardships and difficulties which came in our way when we planned to launch the album. The financial problem was a major hurdle that stood in the way. If one wants to launch a CD then it costs a minimum amount of Rs 2 lakh. During these difficult times, our friend Krishna Naik and Gajendra Rataboli who is a parent of one of our students, came forward and helped us with getting sponsorships and also advised us to make contributions as well.

WHAT KIND OF RESPONSE ARE YOU EXPECTING FOR YOUR ALBUM?

The album and the quality of the content inside it is of very good standard. Many senior artists and experts in this field whom we had approached have given good

review about it. People who have already listened to this album have complimented us for being creative as all the songs are new and originally written and composed by us. The quality of sound in the CD is also very good, for which I have to give credit to the efforts of Daulat Palyekar and Bhavesh Fulari who have helped us with technical aspects.

IS THERE ANY PERSON YOU WOULD LIKE TO THANK OR APPRECIATE?

There are many people who have helped us in our endeavours. First of all I would like to thank Krishna Naik alias Dai, who has been tremendously helping our group to participate in various aarti competitions throughout Goa, and he has also taken initiatives to organise various cultural events in our locality as well. Secondly, I would like to thank the president of Dhadweshwar Devasthan, Pandurang Pednekar who allowed us to use the temple premises for practices. And lastly, I would like to thank all my boys who have been working hard.

MODERN AGRICULTURE AND THE CHEMICALS WE EAT

SUUHAS TENDULKAR

The adoption of agriculture by early humans is seen as a major turning point in the establishment of civil society. For the hunter gatherers of the early days, farming was an easier way to produce and store food over longer times.

After the advent of the industrial age, modern agricultural science felt that nature was quite unorganized and wasteful and agriculture needed human intervention to evolve into a high efficiency system in line with the efficiency focus of the industrial age. So with a single focus on productivity, the scientists went about perfecting the system. Early research focused on plant nutrition, soil chemistry and crop damage. Fertilizers replaced traditional mixed cropping methods that fixed nutrients in the soil naturally. Insects, pests had no place in the new lean-mean scientific ethic. Abandoning traditional insect and pest management strategies, scientists went about concocting more potent formulations that were found to be extremely effective simply because they were toxic and were meant to kill. Petroleum based chemical industry

further increased the reach, potency and efficacy of this research and the chemical dish emerging from this was hailed as a vindication of the scientific method and of the chemicals and fertilizers industries.

All was well. The new methods brought in record productivity. However, there was also a grave danger resulting from this victory. As early as mid 40s, concerns were raised about the use of synthetic pesticides. In a path breaking book 'Silent Spring', published in 1963, Rachel Carson suggested that the effects of the insecticides/pesticides (mainly DDT) went beyond just killing insects and that the chemicals could travel up the food chain and eventually affect humans. This was the first book to question the claims of the modern agrochemical industry and it helped in spawning a revolution by making the regulators and general public take note of the harmful effects of

synthetic chemicals. One result of the new awareness was that many chemicals were put on the banned list over time. However, the industry was always swift on its feet and well-connected to introduce replacements before phase out of the 'phased-out'. Unfortunately, even today, there is hardly any change; we are still fighting the chemical overkill.

Federal approvals for use of new chemistries are scientifically vetted by representatives of industries that produce these chemistries. Even at the ground level, farmers are encouraged to use more than the permissible doses for years on end. The effects are clearly visible in the horrific stories we hear about the toxicity of the food we eat. Credible studies found that the level of pesticides/harmful chemicals in most of the common vegetables and fruits in the country is more than 50-100 times the permissible limit. Chemical control of agriculture is resulting in unmitigated and unregulated use of poison in our diet. And our children's diet!!

Not that there is no answer to the problems we are facing. There is a natural way of farming available to those who want to seek alternatives. A postmodern critique of modern agricultural science is pointing out that nature already had effective solutions to many of the problems that we solved through scientific rigour and chemical experimentation. While science was micromanaging chemistries and physics, nature was super-managing ecology and biological life. All the problems that we magnified and tried to control had a

role to play at a much larger interlinked level and the overall system was extremely efficient at an ecological scale that was unfathomable to the scientific understanding or human comprehension.

A similar view was echoed by Masanobu Fukuoka in the seminal book, 'The one straw revolution'. The book engendered a revolution in agriculture and the 'do nothing farming' endorsed by Fukuoka in his farm not only questioned the use of chemicals for agriculture but went on to question the millennial old agricultural practice of tilling the soil. On his farm in the Ehime prefecture in Japan, Fukuoka did the impossible by matching the yield from best managed conventional farms without using synthetic chemical and without tilling the land. The simple method adopted by him on his farm involves spreading winter crop seeds on the ground, while the rice is standing. A few weeks later rice is harvested and the rice straw is spread over the fields. The same exercise is repeated for the rice crop. There are other techniques, unique to his farming, including the broadcast of clover seeds and the passive weed management through crop rotation. The book which documents his views and philosophy in addition to his experience with farming is considered the foundation of the natural farming movement.

Today, in nearly every country, an alternative natural farming movement is underway. In India, states like Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Sikkim already have formulated organic farming policy. In mid-January this year, Sikkim became the first organic state in India.

For Goa, natural farming offers a huge opportunity with the potential to create base level employment and parallel tourist culture and also supporting the government's health objectives. It is only a matter of bridging the intention gap at the policy and individual level.

This is what I will plan to do next week. The second part of this article will closely look at what the state can do to support Natural Farming through policy, regulatory changes and individual engagement.



A Rainy Day In Ujjain

VINAYA WALAWALKAR MANTRI

While gazing at the rain, I feel like sharing a memorable experience of my life. Two years back, on July 19, we had a show of our drama 'Pai Paishachi Gosht' at Ujjain. After arranging all the things, our team was ready to leave for Ujjain. I decided to travel with Ila Tayi (Ila Bhate) in Avantika Express train while the rest of the team travelled to Ujjain by road as they wanted to enjoy the rains. Everything was happening as per the schedule.

Our train was supposed to reach Ujjain the next day at 7 am. We had our dinner and went to sleep. When we got up at 6 am in the morning and were ready to alight, it was still raining outside. We could see vast green fields and villages tucked in them. We were expecting to reach Ujjain in 15 minutes. Our team had already arrived in Ujjain and was constantly in touch with us as they were supposed to arrive at the station to receive us.

Approximately around 13 kilometers ahead of Ujjain, there is a small village called Naikhede. We noticed that there was no proper platform at the Naikhede railway station when our train halted there. For first few minutes things looked normal, but as the time passed we realised that the train was still not moving and the passengers started becoming restless. It was more than 30 minutes and we could see no sign of train moving ahead from there. We soon got news that the train will not move ahead as the heavy rainfall had flooded the Ujjain railway station.

This brought in a volley of questions. How do we go to Ujjain now? What should passengers do now? How long can we remain stranded here? It was

now three hours that the train had literally grounded at this small station.

The irritation was palpable in the air. The passengers were hungry and exhausted. To multiply our worries, someone told us that the train will not go to Ujjain but instead will go in reverse direction to Ratlam and Indore. Those who were destined to Ujjain will have to get down here. The news was unpleasant. The passengers surrendered to the situation and those who wanted to go to Ujjain started alighting at the station. What made things worst was that the station was without a roof. There was little shelter over head around the office of the station master and people started gathering themselves below it to save themselves from getting drenched. Few could accommodate and the rest were in the rain. We two were amongst those who were not lucky enough to steal a place below the station master's roof.

Avantika Express left the station in reverse direction. Then came a news that railway will provide special bus for the passengers to reach Ujjain. Before we could even rejoice over that piece of information, there came another news that we would be accommodated in the train which is arriving from Pune. The time flew by, but neither the bus nor train arrived. We were once again fed with the information that the miscommunication between station master and railway police resulted in bus being cancelled because train would be arriving.

The uneasiness could be sensed in the atmosphere as passengers were hungry and irritated with this unexpected turn of events. Before the anger could turn



into a protest, the sighting of train at approaching station pacified everyone. When the train arrived everyone tried to squeeze themselves in it adjusting at all the possible vacant spaces. Some who were less lucky had to stand. I was prompt enough to inform my team about the latest development which gave them some relief. But things were yet to get into happy ending mode. The new train was also grounded at the station with no sign of it moving.

It was afternoon and we began hearing more news about this new train which was supposed to be our savior. Some said the engine of this train has been sent ahead. Some said another train is stuck ahead. We kept on munching on newer information till we realised that this train will not move an inch. I decided to update my team about this latest turn of events but by that time they had started coming towards us by road. We were about to feel happy of being getting rescued by our vehicle but someone suddenly punctured our happiness with the information that roads are also blocked. The bridge that linked the station to Ujjain is also flooded. Oh Gosh! Means another spell of torture. But even before we could feel the sadness, my phone rang. My team informed me that they are just around the station. We got

down from the stationed train, waiting for them.

And what happened after that replicated a perfect film scene. As we got down from the train, the bogies moved. In no time, I received a call that my team could not reach to the station because the villagers had dug up the road to flush out the water. With this we had lost our

patience. The two of us were left on that station along with another family. Rest all the passengers had travelled to their destination.

It was 3.45 in the evening. We had no idea what to do. Then again, I got a call that my team had managed to find another way to the station and they were accompanied by another vehicle which was coming to pick up the family which was stranded along with us at the station.

Me and Ila tayi who were supposed to meet our team at Ujjain station at 7 in the morning finally could see them at 5.15 in the evening after going through a hell lot of torture and irritation.

The organisers who were with our team told Ila Tayi that there is flood at Ujjain and since she must be tired with the unexpected events, they are ready to cancel the show. But Ila tayi was prompt enough to respond "I have taken such trouble to reach here. Me and my team is all set to perform tonight. But you all take the call if you want to cancel the show because of the floods."

The organisers were stunned and speechless with the professional attitude of Ila Tayi. We reached our hotel at 6 in the evening. After a quick tea break, we reached Kalidas Kala Mandir. Our team was ready and all set. The show was delayed by half an hour. The organisers apologised to the audience by informing them about the situation that resulted in the delay... and the show began.

The show was successful. There was no lack of enthusiasm due to the exhausting travel schedule. The organisers later held interactive programme with the audience. During the chat with audience, the team got a pat on their back for meeting their commitment for hosting the show despite city floods.

But the real appreciation goes to the audience albeit the fact that their houses were flooded they kept a date with the show. Something that was incredible that gave a sense of fulfillment for our team as performers.



When people sit, and discuss others, whose lives have nothing to do with them, all they are doing is igniting a negativity that need not be there. This ignition leads the fire to spread, sometimes so rapidly and recklessly, that before you know it, an entire new story is formed.



RUMOUR HAS IT...

CHARLENE FARRELL

Life takes its turns and we move forward to various new beginnings. As we move, we leave behind those parts of us that are no longer productive. We walk towards change and yes, change is the only constant. There is not a being on the face of this planet that remains stagnant. In this process of evolution, there is much to be thankful for. There is, however, this little part of us that looks outside on a constant basis to find flaws and faults so that the environment within is held in high esteem. There are some people who are constantly seeking gratification in the blemishes of others, irrespective of how successful they themselves are.

This piece is something that occurred to me off the bat at a recent get-together. At said function, there were individuals of different backgrounds. Most of their success stories were things out of which movies are made of. Still, a lot of their chatter revolved around other persons. Even if the other person's life had absolutely no bearing on them, tongues still continued to wag.

This is not something new in any way. This is a scene we all come across too often. Be it at a social gathering, a family function, at work or even sometimes when we are just lounging about the house speaking to our family members. The mentality of speaking about others seems to be so strongly engrained in our DNA that breaking away seems like an impossible task. More accurately, denying that we are indulging in this behaviour at all is second nature. There are plenty of stereotypes that have made us define this behaviour. For some reason, as a society, we have convinced ourselves that this behaviour is purely feminine in its execution. This notion is a fallacy. In fact, it is this very stereotype that propagates this behaviour on two levels. Firstly, women continue to do so because society expects this behaviour from them, and as we all know, the more you say something, the more it happens. Secondly, men are oblivious to the fact that they are indulging in this behaviour simply because they think they don't. The fact is, man, woman and in some instances even children, are happily indulging in a vortex of indulgence.

The mentality of speaking about others seems to be so strongly engrained in our DNA that breaking away seems like an impossible task.

There was a time when sayings like 'do not throw stones if you live in a glass house' etc. made sense to us. We often made it a point to live by the advice passed down through generations. Today, to get ahead, we tend to rely on nasty trickery and unnecessary gossip to make ourselves seem superior. This habit which we find in ourselves is one of the main reasons why we have failed to move forward faster as a country. Even our political debates are riddled with passing the buck and playing the blame game. It is sad that we have been unable after all these years to live and let live. Another aspect to this very same problem is the fake attitude with which we face the people whom we try to bring down from their backs.

When people sit, and discuss others, whose lives have nothing to do with them, all they are doing is igniting a negativity that need not be there. This ignition leads the fire to spread, sometimes so rapidly and recklessly, that before you know it, an entire new story is formed. Pulling people down for a reason is bad enough, but doing it for no apparent reason is worse. Just because we are blessed with the gifts of language and speech, does not give us the right to be so careless, insensitive and vile. As adults, we need to understand what and where our responsibilities and loyalties lie. Pointing our fingers at others and magnifying their pitfalls, eventually does come back. Karma is that thing which always tends to boomerang back at some point or the other. We need to start being a bit stingier with our words. It is high time we learn that, a moment on our lips will lead only to personal slips.

SOUTH AFRICAN TOURISM TRAINS TRAVEL AGENTS TO TAILOR PACKAGES FOR LOCAL GOANS

The South African Tourism concluded the 7th edition of its annual travel trade training sessions in Goa recently. Aimed at equipping travel agents with the best tips to sell the destination, 'Learn South Africa' (Learn SA) is a 17-city training programme which covered urban metros and tier II & III markets.

The sessions were structured to ensure that travellers enjoy many new, exciting, tailor-made itinerary options as a direct result. "Learn SA helps ensure that Indian travel agents know



SOUTH AFRICAN TOURISM

how to choose the best quality hotels for their customer's budget and needs. It also teaches them how to choose the best in-destination partners to escort the travellers while on holiday. It also gives them updates about new things to

see and do in South Africa and basics like visa and logistical know-how to ensure that travellers are catered to efficiently," said Hanneli Slabber, Country Manager India, South African Tourism.

Goa has been identified as one of the emerging source markets driving tourist traffic to South Africa. It has been listed as one of the 10 next high potential cities outside the traditional Indian metros. Goa also features among those Indian cities which witnessed the highest GDP growth since 2015 and is also home to a large number of wealthy

retirees according to the 2017 New World Wealth Report. South Africa is keen to keep attracting Goa's travel enthusiasts and potential is brimming.

One of Learn SA 2017's focus areas was to train travel agents about new destinations such Oudtshoorn, Knysna, Plettenberg Bay, Port Elizabeth and the Drakensberg region. These are picturesque areas where travellers can pack in a lot of action into shorter time spans. Goans being beachside residents, possibly look for travel experiences beyond beaches.

LE MÉRIDIEN UNVEILS ITS LATEST HOTEL IN GOA



Mrs Natalie Vaz - Co-Owner Models Leisure Ventures, Mr Peter Vaz - Chairman, Models Group of Companies, Mr Norton Pereira - General Manager, Le Meridien Goa, Calangute, Mr Neeraj Govil - Area Vice President, South Asia, Marriott International

The opening of le méridien goa, promises authentic experiences and discovery upon every visit

Le Méridien Hotels & Resorts, a part of Marriott International Inc, announced the opening of Le Méridien in Goa at Calangute, further strengthening the Paris-born brand's presence in India with its 10th property. Situated on the bustling Calangute-Candolim road, Le Méridien Goa is set to expose the curious and creative minded traveller to the best-kept secrets of North Goa. With experiences and programmes centered on the brand's filters of discovery – culture, coordinates and cuisine, the hotel promises accessible and stimulating experiences in the form of Illy Coffee & Eclairs & Unlock Art partnerships.

"Le Méridien Goa is our 10th Le Méridien property in India. We are extremely elated to invite and host curious travellers to unlock India's favourite beach destination with our carefully curated local experiences and engaging brand programmes. Goa being an ideal expansion to our brand

offering, we are pleased to unveil Le Méridien Goa to drive an unparalleled experience for every guest," said Neeraj Govil, Area Vice President –

Le Méridien Goa, promises an inspiring line-up of culinary offerings. Distinct flavours and carefully crafted menus at their five eclectic restaurants and bars are certain to take you on a culinary sojourn. Latest Recipe, the signature all day dining restaurant, offers an indoor as well as al fresco seating overlooking the pool. Indulge in international flavors, hearty salads, gourmet burgers and the famed Goan curries by the talented chefs. Le Méridien Goa, offers interactive multi-compatible meeting spaces spread over 10,000 sq. ft featuring a premium outdoor terrace venue, ballroom and a 16-seater boardroom. It promises a perfect venue for meetings, conferences and weddings.

For more information or to book, please visit Le Meridien Goa Calangute.



ELITE MODEL LOOK INDIA 2017 ANNOUNCES GOA REGIONAL CASTING

Max, the country's largest fashion forward brand and Elite, global talent management company, are back with 'Max presents Elite Model Look India 2017'.

The India Elite Model Look team along with esteemed panel of jury including supermodel and fashion director Marc Robinson will be present at Mall De Goa on Saturday, 19th August, to discover these future top models. Registration time for Audition is 11am to 2pm.

The Elite Model Look team is touring India (Hyderabad, Bangalore, Delhi, Kolkata, Pune, Mumbai and Goa) for 7 castings.

At the end of this India tour, selected contestants will participate in the National Casting which is to be held on 30th August in Mumbai. The winners are selected based on their photogenic qualities, their personalities and their natural beauty, but also for their

potential to correspond to current fashion trends. At the end of the National Casting, the Elite Model Look jury will choose contestants to participate in the India Final. The ultimate goal is to win a place in the prestigious Elite Model Look World and to secure a 2-year contract with the Elite agency.

To take part applicants must be:

- ◆ Female between the ages of 16 and 22 - At least 5'7in or 172cm tall
- ◆ Male between the ages of 16 and 22 - At least 6' or 183cm tall

If the candidates are under eighteen, they must bring a parental authorisation letter with them to the casting. The girls should have as little make-up as possible and wear something close fitting such as skinny jeans or leggings and a t-shirt. Male applicants should wear something close fitting such as skinny jeans, a t-shirt and no cap or hat.

For more details visit – www.elitemodellook.in

A Piece of Ancient History

GUNWANTI PARASTE

If you are an art and history lover, then Pataleshwar Cave temple of Pune is an ideal place for you to indulge yourself in observing ancient architecture. The ancient temple is situated in the centre of the city on Jangali Maharaj Road in Pune.

Jangali Maharaj Road is very famous and crowded place in Pune. This historic place has become a major attraction for the people who visit Pune. The Pataleshwar Cave temple is very calm and ancient place where you can spend peaceful time and observe the beautiful ancient architecture. The temple architecture, structure and design attracts people to spend a quality time here. This temple is famous for its 8th century structure built during the Rashtrakuta period. The temple is carved out beautifully using a single rock. The entire structure is carved out of black rock or basalt. The massive pillars inside add to the grandeur of the temple. This temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva and Nandi. The name Pataleshwar is one of the names of Lord Shiva, and means God of the underworld.

The temple which is now in the heart of the city was originally situated on the outskirts of the town. With the increasing urbanisation, the frontiers of the city expanded and thus today we have the Pataleshwar temple right in the centre of the city. It is hard to believe that a place like this is located on the Jangali Maharaj Road (JM Road) in Pune.

Tourists and pilgrims visit this religious and historic site throughout the year to witness its beautiful sculptures carved out of rock. Pataleshwar temple can easily be reached as it is located in the heart of the city.

It is said that, the black basalt rock was specially brought for the construction of this temple. The huge basalt rock was carved into enormous pillars, a giant circular stone, a statue of Nandi Bull and a Shivling.

Once you enter the temple premises, the first thing you will notice is a spectacular rotunda roof with massive pillars supporting it. Step beneath this structure and you will be inside the Nandi Mandapa looking at the famous Nandi Bull, the mythological bull believed to be the mount for Lord Shiva.

The visitors can see a huge statue of Nandi at the entrance of the temple. The massive square pillars of the Nandi Mandapa serves as a treat for ancient art lovers. This Mandapa is one of the peculiar structures of Pataleshwar temple.

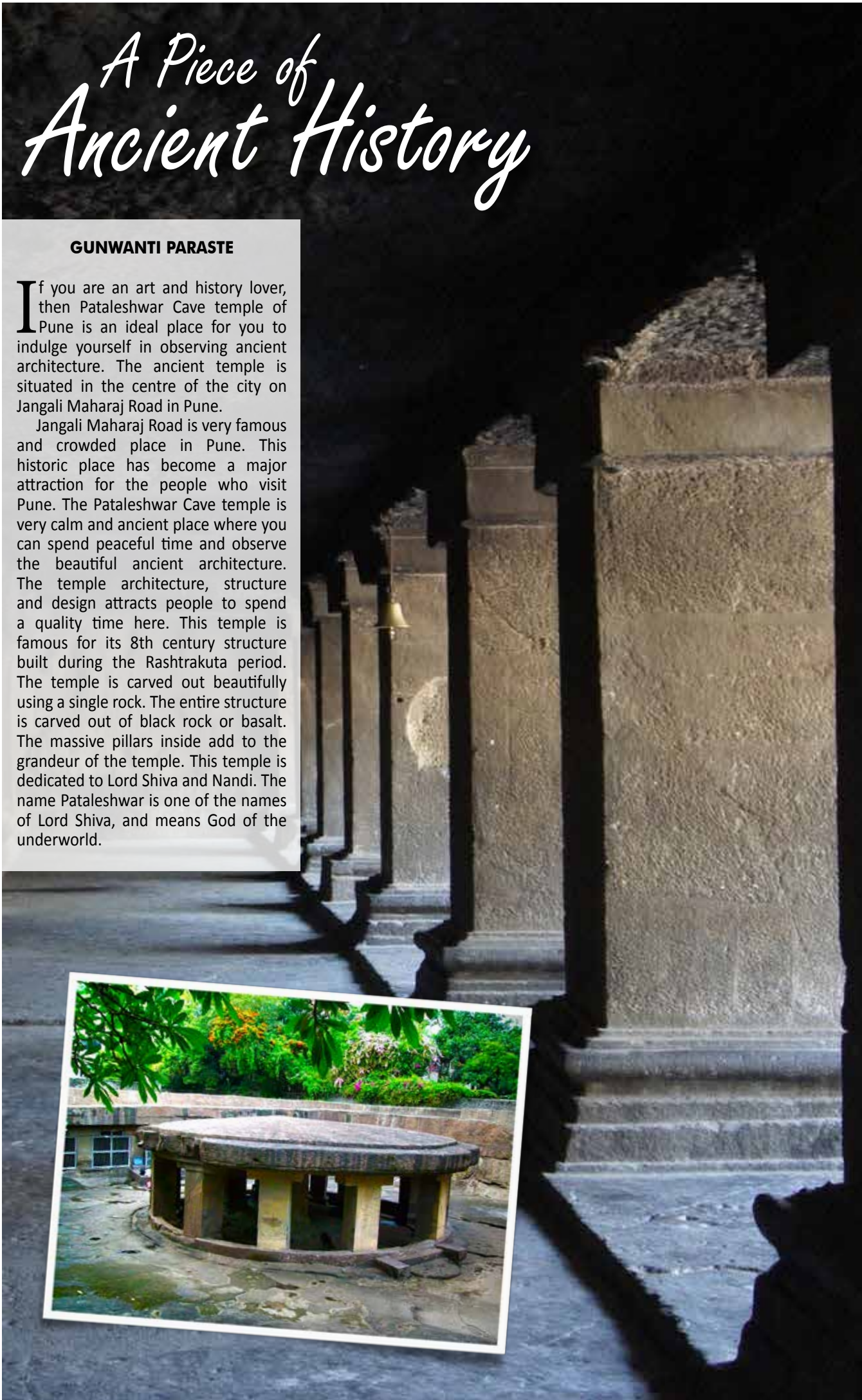
The temple is also known as Panchaleshwara or Bamburde Temple. Interestingly, the cave temple bears striking resemblance to the massive rock-cut temples of Ellora near Aurangabad. Entirely carved out of the hard rock, Pataleshwar really looks like a different world altogether.

The temple was left incomplete, possibly because of a fault line found at the back of the sanctum sanctorum, which made the further sculpting unsafe or politically upheaval, resulting in the loss of patronage.

In front of this dome is the small cave where the Shivling is situated. Accompanying it are statues of Hindu deities including Lord Ram, Lakshman and Sita in two smaller cells on each side.

Still in use, the Shivling is anointed with ghee and yogurt every day. A brass temple bell hangs outside the basalt entryway. The temple is crowded during the celebration of Mahashivratri. People also visit the temple during the Hindu calendar months of Shravan and Chaitra.

Besides the cave and the Nandi Mandapa, there is a lot of open space where tourists can sit, roam around, click pictures or simply relax beneath one of the old trees.



RTO ENFORCEMENT OFFICE IN NEED OF URGENT ENFORCEMENT & MONITORING

TEAM TNV

There is so much fear among people visiting these offices that no one wishes to speak against the way they function. These are the Road Transport Offices of Margao division.

The offices of RTO Margao have thousands of people visiting every day. The Enforcement Office though has a comparatively less number of people coming, but is the most important as well as the one plagued with maximum issues. Situated behind the Bagaytdar Bazaar in Arlem Fatorda this office is not less than a graveyard. Rusting grills, never repaired fans, lights and other fixtures and an equally unwelcoming service welcomes you at the office.

The cash counters at the RTO Office near Arlem are the most important parts of the office. There is a specific time for cash counters to accept cash in the form of fees from the public for various works, paying fine challans issued by RTO and others. It has been alleged that, after closure of cash counter timing, the cashier accepts the cash illegally by charging extra 10 to 20 rupees per cash slip.

There are counters for sale of prescribed government RTO forms for different types of work. These counters have timings to sell the forms, but outside the RTO Office, these forms are easily available and they charge

The situation is such that, the people now rely on agents more than the staff at the office, as the chances of work getting done personally are minuscule compared to the pressure of the agents.



double the rate for the forms. The office, as known to all, is under attack by the agents. The condition is so bad that the people now are not interested in going at the office personally and doing their work but they rely on the agents as the work happens much faster than the personal effort.

We travelled all over Goa in all the sub-divisions of the Transport Department and contacted some citizens regarding their experience in the office. Antonio D'costa said, "there are problems of electricity and the consequential delayed work is a common scene here at the RTO. We only pay taxes but we don't get any service."

There are no fans, lights or sitting arrangements for the people coming here. "There is a huge palatial Matanhy Saldanha Complex but still they are in these rental premises. Shifting would have changed the

condition of the RTO here," said Jack Fernandes.

Among all the works, renewal of Fitness Certificates is the most important and constant duty, the RTO Enforcement section does. There are sprawling lines of vehicles on the shoulders of eastern bypass which is one of the busiest roads in Margao and Fatorda

area, practically leaving only one lane for the traffic. Here, the transport vehicles are required to renew the Fitness Certificates every year.

"The officers of various sub-divisions of the Road Transport do not check the transport vehicles at the time of renewal of Fitness Certificates as per the inspection report. The fitness certificates are renewed without checking important items such as hand brake or ball horn. Such incautious renewal of fitness certificates are the main cause of accidents," alleged Jai Damodar Association. "If the brakes fail then there is no hand brake to control the vehicle and thus accident takes place due to the negligence of the RTO Officers," Mahesh Nayak alleged. "All the Fitness Certificates which are to be renewed should be renewed by following strict inspection report," added Mahesh Nayak.

Tired of these practices, Mahesh

Every sub-office of Road Transport Department all over Goa has appointed/engaged/kept some illegal staff to provide services without permission of the government. Such people act as if they are the staff of the department and collect all money obtained though corrupt practices on behalf of the officers. They even handle all the official work, files, books and other works.

T. Nayak has written to the Chief Minister, Transport Minister, Chief Secretary, Transport Secretary, and the Director of Transport Government of Goa, highlighting these issues.

Every sub-office of Road Transport Department all over Goa has appointed/engaged/kept some illegal staff to provide services without permission of the government. Such people act as if they are the staff of the department and collect all money obtained though corrupt practices on behalf of the officers. They even handle all the official work, files, books and other works. The only difference is that they are not paid by the government nor they have the right to sign the muster roll.

The situation is such that, the people now rely on agents more than the staff at the office, as the chances of work getting done personally are minuscule compared to the pressure of the agents. Jai Damodar Association has demanded that the movable and immovable assets of the staff of entire Directorate of Transport has to be checked on priority basis and if it is more than the known source of income, such staff should be booked under Corruption Act.

When contacted the Private Bus Owners association president Shailendra Dessai, he said, "the staff at the RTO at enforcement act as if they are doing a favour on us. There is inadequate information given by the staff on official formalities. It is high time that the government takes this matter seriously and solves the issues related to the RTO," said Shailendra.



ANGELIQUE PINTO
XI Humanities, Sunshine Worldwide School, Bainguinim



ANNA D SOUZA
XI Humanities, Sunshine Worldwide School, Bainguinim



ASHWINI RATHOD
XI Humanities, Sunshine Worldwide School, Bainguinim



ANJALI PANDEY
Sunshine Worldwide School, Bainguinim



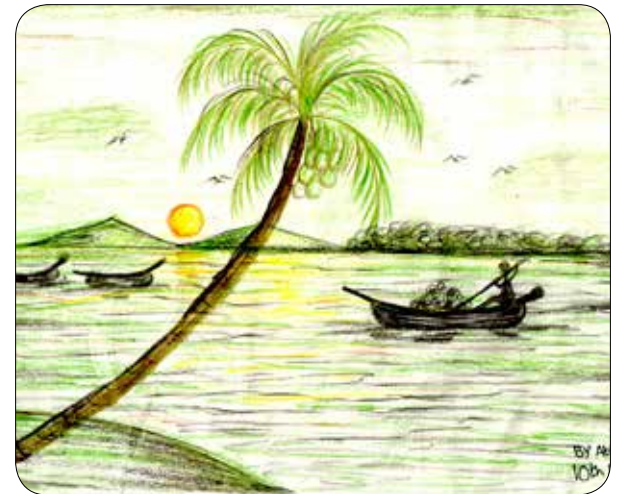
VIKRAM
VI, Sunshine Worldwide School, Bainguinim



KASHVI VERMA
XI Humanities, Sunshine Worldwide School, Bainguinim



SAMUDRA TAMBE
X, Sunshine Worldwide School, Bainguinim



ABHISHEK
X, Sunshine Worldwide School, Bainguinim



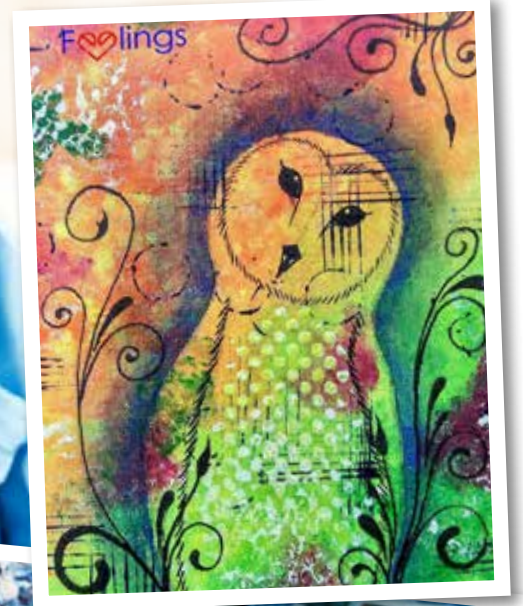
SILVIO
VI, Sunshine Worldwide School, Bainguinim



SAMUDRA TAMBE
X, Sunshine Worldwide School, Bainguinim

VINAYA WALAVALKAR MANTRI

I was attracted towards a stall at an exhibition at Mall de Goa, and had the opportunity to talk to the owner of the stall. The owner of the stall 'Feelings' Mrs. Alpana Kale spoke about her journey from Nashik to Mumbai and then to Goa. She came to Goa with a dream, and now her dreams are slowly turning into reality. There is a saying, behind every successful man there is a woman, but in the case of Alpana it is the opposite, behind her success is her husband Pradeep Kale.



Craft Speaks

SINCE WHEN ARE YOU STAYING IN GOA AND WHAT MADE YOU SHIFT FROM MUMBAI?

I landed in Goa last year in April from Mumbai. As Goa is a land of art and culture and also people here appreciate art, so I thought I should shift here. Goa has a peaceful atmosphere and I can chase my dreams as well as promote my art.

WERE THERE ANY PROBLEMS YOU FACED INITIALLY AFTER SHIFTING TO GOA?

Initially there was an acceptance problem as I am a non-Goenkar, but people here are very warm hearted. They appreciated my art at exhibitions

and placed their orders and showered me their trust and love. The initial hiccups are gone and now the journey is relatively smooth.

HOW WAS YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH GOANS?

Goa welcomed me with open arms and gave me the platform to showcase my art in exhibitions. After coming here I got featured as a Crafter of the week on 'Itsy Bitsy' blog and got the opportunity to be the member of design team for international craft blogs.

HOW ARE YOUR DREAMS UNFURLING?

It is difficult to judge myself as to how far I have come. It is a learning process which never ends. When I make something, I thrive to make it better and much better. It's a long journey of new dreams, but so far it's been very satisfying.

TELL US MORE ABOUT YOUR JOURNEY.

In a span of one year I did seven exhibitions.

I am very thankful to all the people who have given me an opportunity and entrusted me for their special occasion gifts, and I have tried and given my best to deliver.

WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS?

I want to set

up my studio in Goa where I can experiment with new things. I also have a dream to train people who actually want to learn different forms of art and craft.

WHAT MAKES ALPANA KALE SPECIAL?

I am a normal person, there is nothing special in me but I have a specialty to do normal things in a special way. I am a happy go lucky person with full of positivity.

HOW WAS YOUR INTERACTION WITH THE LOCALS, HOW DID YOU FIND THEIR NATURE?

I got so many crafty friends in Goa. Unlike other cities, people here are very helpful and they are always ready to help. Initially I was unaware of craft material shops from where I can buy raw material but they helped me in every possible manner to find out local shops.

YOU MENTIONED ABOUT RAW MATERIAL, IS IT AVAILABLE EASILY?

There are some shops in Goa which sell craft material, but sometimes for a crafter like me it is very difficult to find raw materials.



Fashion Tips to Look Slimmer

SZWENSKA CHRISS

Don't have time to run through a 4-week diet to cut off some carbs? Looking slim can be easily achieved with fashion. The constant lament of the vast majority of women is: "If I could only lose a few more kgs!" It doesn't have to be logical or something anyone else sees, but we all seem to feel a more ideal version of ourselves would be a few kgs less. Since there's no diet that makes us thinner by the time we wake up tomorrow, luckily, we can fake it. The great thing about fashion is that it can do wonders for your body shape – may it be with a certain cut or pattern – a piece of garment can truly change the way you look. Having a slim physique has always been considered an asset. In this article, we are going to help you out with your next wardrobe shopping choices to make you look slimmer.

There are tried and true rules for dressing in a way that makes you look slimmer. You may be sabotaging your shape-up efforts by wearing clothes that visually add weight to your frame. Here is a lesson on how to use colour, proportion, and a few styling tricks to look thinner. They're not complicated and they are helpful.

- ▶ Vertical lines, floral prints, abstract and geometric prints are some of the best prints to go for if you want to dress your way to a slimmer body. These patterns create an optical illusion that shaves off some of your weight. Although patterns can be your friend, try not to pick up patterns that are too big. Smaller, detailed patterns reduce the 3D effect of shadows, resulting to a much slimmer body.
- ▶ Belts are used to give your waist a better definition. If you have a bigger body, huge and bulky belts will only make you look bigger. This is why skinny belts are much better because they are more flattering for your waist – making it look slimmer. You can wear a skinny belt in any color of your choice as long as it perfectly complements the colour of your outfit.
- ▶ High-waist or high-rise bottoms effectively elongate your body by giving the illusion of having extended leg length. A pair of high-waist trousers is a very flattering fashion piece which complements many kinds of tops – cropped tops, knits, T-shirts and tailored blouses.
- ▶ High heels have never failed us when it comes to tricking everybody with a taller figure. Shoes with skinny heels give the illusion of having longer legs; making the body's silhouette slimmer and a lot vertical.

- ▶ In addition, choosing pointed shoe designs balances out the height you are sporting, without being out of style.
- ▶ Wearing the same colour, head to toe, creates a longer vertical line that can be very slimming. Contrast draws your eye. With one colour, there is no contrast, so your eye keeps moving and settles on your face, not the other things you're self-conscious about.
- ▶ Whenever you emphasise your shoulders, you automatically make your waist look slimmer. (It's all about these optical illusions!) Broader shoulders make the contrast between the shoulders and the waist more noticeable, so the waist seems smaller.
- ▶ Anything light, bright, or shiny makes things look bigger. Anything dark or matte can make things look smaller. Therefore, wearing light, shiny, or bright on top, draws attention up to your face. Wearing dark and matte on the bottom minimizes that area and keeps your eye from resting there. It's amazing what a difference we can make in our appearance with our clothes. We know this instinctively, which is one of the reasons we love clothes so much. But focusing and harnessing this can give us the ability to "cheat" on days we feel like we need a little help.

