

# The Neutral View

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**The Asian Kitchen in The Shade of the 'Banyan'**

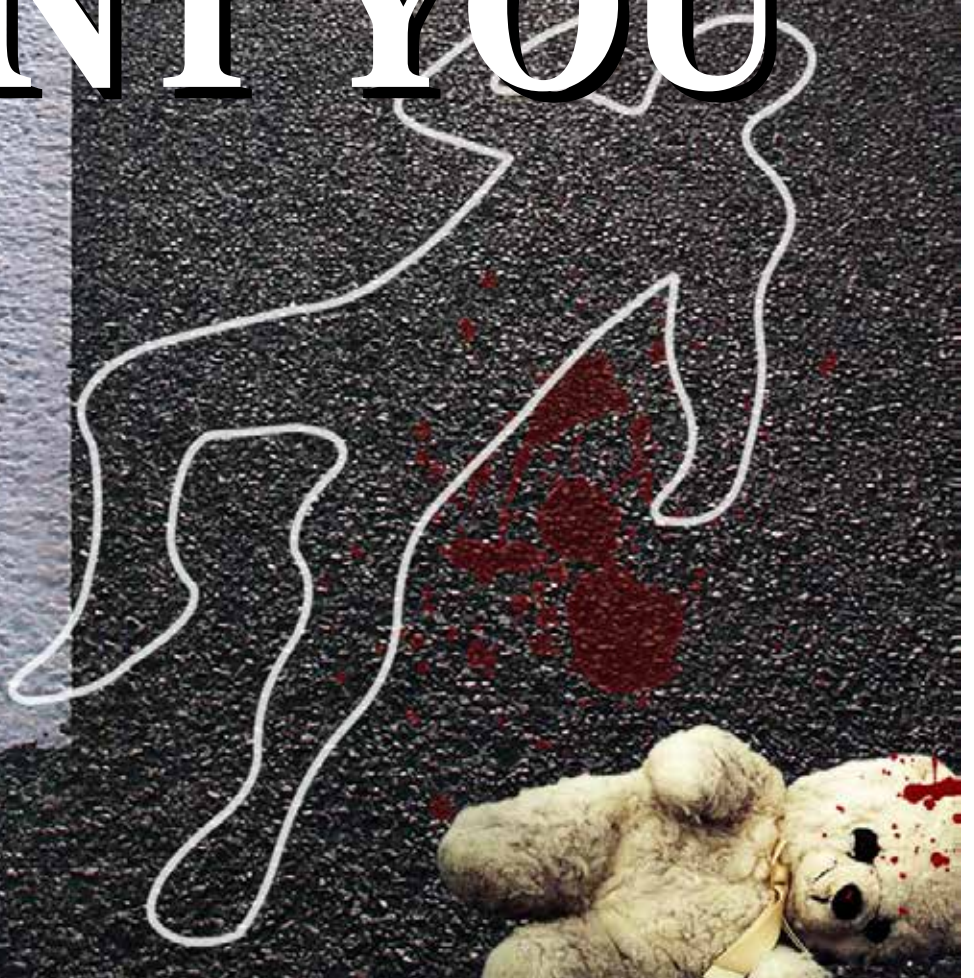
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**The Neutral View's website launch**

# DRIVE SAFE, WE WANT YOU

The year 2017 does not seem to have started on a very good note for Goans. The first four months of the year have yielded a deadly toll, with every single day reporting traffic collisions and subsequent deaths. Rash and negligent driving has been a major cause in all the accidents. The 17 April accident on the Corlim-Old Goa highway that killed five including a four-year-old and injured four others is one of the deadliest accidents the State has seen in recent times and is also a case of rash driving – where the driver lost control over the vehicle and rammed into pedestrians, killing them too.



# 4 APPS TO HELP MAXIMIZE YOUR PRODUCTIVITY!

PALASH VOLVOIKAR

In the age of the Internet, it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain your focus, especially when you're working. While mobile phones and computers are often perceived as a means of distraction, they can often help us make the best of our time as well. Here are my picks for the four apps that will help you swerve away from all distractions and maximize your productivity!



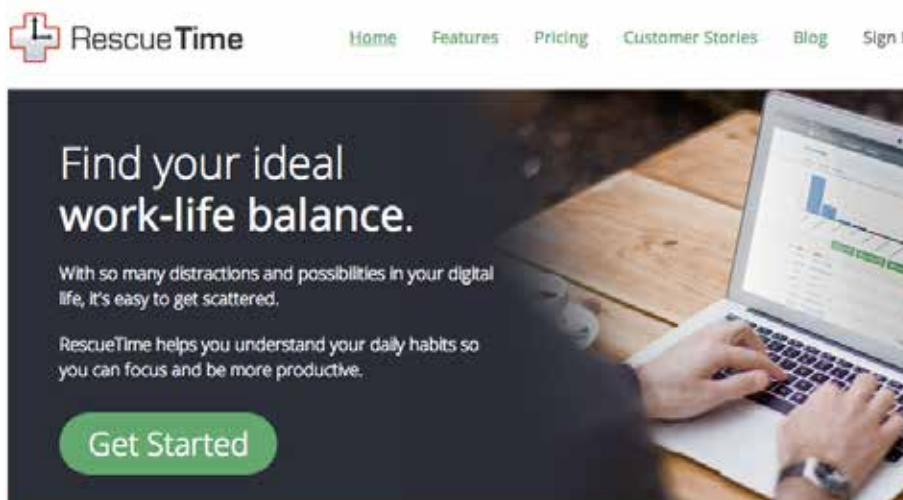
**EVERNOTE**

I'm sure many of you saw this one coming. One of the most famous productivity apps ever, Evernote is more than just a glorified notes app. You can take notes in a multitude of formats, ranging from plain text to audio, video, web clippings and PDFs. Evernote will also let you use your camera to scan hard copies, and add comments to them. However, the best part of this app is the sync, letting you access your notes across any of your devices, with an impressive level of continuity. Evernote also allows you to share your notes and collaborate with others. All in all, quite a nifty way to help you get your work done!



**fb**  
**focus booster** <sup>BETA</sup>

FocusBooster uses the Pomodoro Technique to help you maximize your concentration and increase your focus. The Pomodoro Technique involves taking regular breaks, aimed at timing your distractions in a way that they don't get in the way of your work, with timed sessions to help you get your work done. Right now, you can use the app on their website, [www.focusboosterapp.com](http://www.focusboosterapp.com), with mobile apps scheduled to be released soon. The app has three pricing plans, with the Starter plan coming free of cost, and you get a 30 day trial of the Professional plan, so you can try it out before you pay for it.



**RescueTime** Home Features Pricing Customer Stories Blog Sign In

Find your ideal work-life balance.

With so many distractions and possibilities in your digital life, it's easy to get scattered.

RescueTime helps you understand your daily habits so you can focus and be more productive.

**Get Started**

As the name says, this app is designed to rescue your time. RescueTime calculates how much time you spend on the internet, with detailed logs on how much time you are spending doing what. It aims at maximizing your productivity by monitoring your internet use, and telling you when you're being productive or are distracted. It has a free variant which should suffice for most, with the Premium version allowing you to block websites you think are distracting you, and more. You can take a free 14-day trial of RescueTime Premium before choosing to pay. RescueTime is available for Mac, PC, Linux and Android. This app is somewhat invasive, but helpful if you have a really bad time concentrating!



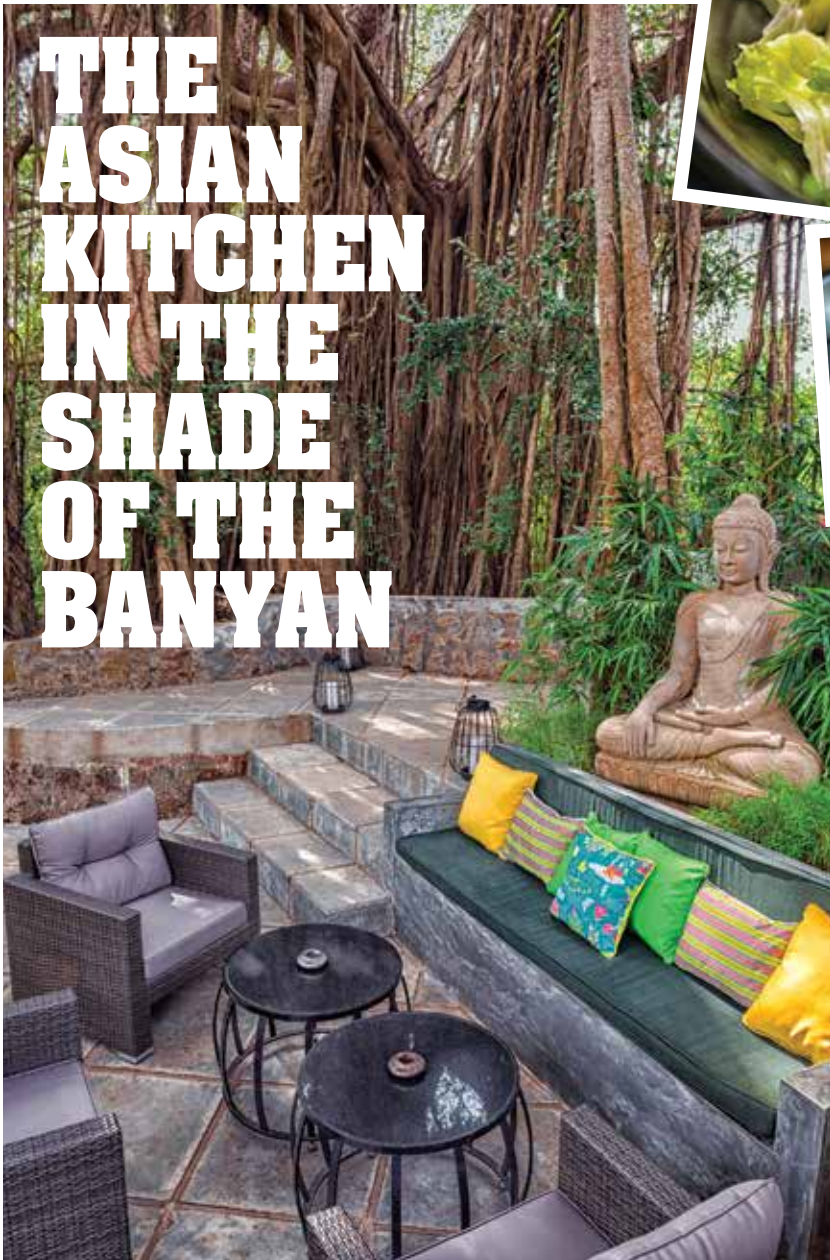
**InkFlow**

Collect Organize Synthesize

This app is only available on iOS for now, but it is easily one of the best. It is similar to Evernote in its functionality, but is for people who prefer to write and draw things, rather than type. InkFlow will transform your device into a drawing tablet, allowing you to use it like paper, and export your notes so that you can easily share them. This one is for the visual thinkers. It is available for free, with a premium variant called InkFlow Plus, which comes with extra bells and whistles. The only downside is that there isn't a word on an Android app yet, sadly.

lepash@gmail.com  
The writer is a freelancer and blogger

# THE ASIAN KITCHEN IN THE SHADE OF THE BANYAN



Kung Fu Panda). The bar area is perfect for those gathering with friends for drinks and snacks with its high tables, but the pièce de résistance must be the back wall with a collage of wooden carved chests with hidden writing on them, if you can find it. The owner Tejpal Singh Gandhi's hand-carried unique wrought iron lanterns and other knick-knacks from Bali help complete the look of this restaurant.

Tejpal, a third-generation restaurateur with more than forty years of experience, is the brainchild behind The Banyan. He is very well known in Pune for his authentic north Indian cuisine restaurant 'The

Great Punjab' which opened in Koregaon Park thirteen years ago, with the recent addition of their Baner branch eight years ago. Tejpal tells us, "I always wanted to have a restaurant in Goa as I have such fond memories of going to school and growing up in this amazing state, it is an integral part of who I am." Having eaten in all the best restaurants in the UK and travelled extensively in the east, the seed of The Banyan was planted, and just like the branches of the Banyan, the menu grew and covered all the flavours of Asia.

Like the venue itself, the menu at The Banyan covers an array of dishes from various parts of Asia and was thoughtfully compiled by consulting chefs Ajit and Victor. From their small plates comprising of items such as Stir Fried Lotus Stems, Tofu Tangsuyuk from Korea, Krispy Konjee Lamb, a favorite among the locals, to one of their signature dishes Son in Law Eggs. However, what is not to be missed is the vast array of Dim Sum on the menu, with different types of skins made in-house and with their own dipping sauces. All the sauces are made fresh using ingredients from The Banyan's kitchen garden all mounted on a wall. There is something for everyone here from Spring Vegetables with Garlic & Coriander, Zucchini, Leek & Shitake Mushroom to Prawn & Cilantro Har Gow or the other Prawn

and Chicken Sui Mai, from Chicken and Water Chestnut to Spicy Black Bean Beef Dumplings but to name a few.

One must try The 'Baos' – a type of steamed, filled bun, you can choose to have it stuffed or open and there are so many variations as to the fillings and the preparations. To name but a few, another signature of the restaurant is the Roast Duck Baos or Adobo (Pork Adobo topped with Lettuce) or Garlic Beef (Beef Tenderloin sautéed with burnt garlic & coriander topped with mint Mayo). In the stuffed variety of this, The Banyan has introduced some local flavours with the Goan Sausage or you can just go for the Pulled Pork if this is your meat of choice.

In the large plates there is a lot to choose from, such as the famous Tempura with a choice of vegetables, Prawn or Chicken, Cha Gio (Vietnamese Spring Rolls), Char Siu Spare Ribs – done in a Cantonese style to Beef Negimaki (Rolled Sliced Beef with Scallions in Teriyaki sauce). If this doesn't fill you up, one can move on to the Soups. The 'Slow Boat to Thailand' is the unique signature dish here – It is a steaming pot of aromatic spice laced broth served with exotic vegetables, meat or seafood and dumplings. The idea behind this is to be your own chef, you simply dip, cook and eat or sip it the way you want. The Banyan is the very first restaurant to introduce this to Goa.

Another new introduction to Goa is the bowls – a meal in one. One can order from Thai Firsher's Noodles, Chili Ramen with choice of veg or non-veg to The Banyan's own version of the Burmese Khowsuey served very differently. No Asian restaurant would be complete without a choice of curries; Jungle Curry, Sambal Seafood or Chicken, but the Beef Rendang is a must try signature dish here if you are looking for something different from the regular Massaman or Thai curries. Moving on to the main plates you are again greeted with a large choice from all around Asia. Pal Sam Tot (Steamed Fish topped with stir fried mushroom, zucchini, chili peppers in a tamarind sauce) or something as simple but flavourful as Stir Fried Chinese Green.

Last but not the least, there are the desserts, traditional desserts done with a twist such as Khao Tom Mad (sticky rice cooked in coconut milk wrapped in Banana leaf and steamed) or Thap Thim Krop (Water Chestnuts rubies served in chilled coconut milk) or their signature Sweet Dim Sums with an assortment of fillings. But the best thing to beat the heat in Goa is their uniquely flavoured Gelatos, which would be just the perfect thing to finish off your meal.

## TEAM TNV

Set in Assagao, Goa under the expansive shady branch of a three-hundred-year-old tree is this unique Asian kitchen, The Banyan and thus so aptly named. The original old Goan house that existed here has been given a facelift and the surrounding gardens brought back to life.

As you step in through the grand intricately carved wooden doors of The Banyan you notice a wonderful amalgamation of Indonesian and Thai design with a hint of Goan architecture. The eclectic yet uniquely harmonised collaboration of styles was the idea of local architect Christopher Gonsalves. The house itself is painted in hues of grey and white with wooden accents. The rattan furniture, true to its Balinese form has been lifted with colourful cushions, low tables and sofas to create a relaxed and casual dining atmosphere. But it is at night that this place truly comes to life with its subtle lighting and a Buddha right in the center of the restaurant. There is a small but quaint waterfall in a corner next to the private dining area for groups, and if you are willing, then do go and look for the resident terrapin named – Oogway (Like the

# TEARS IN EYES AND DUST IN LUNGS, FOR PEOPLE LIVING IN THE MINING BELT

The issue of pollution caused by the trucks that carry iron ore from the mining leases to the jetties is as old as the mining industry itself. The rising demand from China in the run up to the Olympics fuelled the state's iron ore demand. That is why the people living in the mining belt have borne the increasing pollution since 2005.

Certain villages in Sattari, Sanguem, Bicholim and Quepem talukas are so showered by this pollution that life with mining dust has become the order of the day. It was in 2012 that the people began to openly speak about their lives in the mining belt. It was the time when authorities began talking about illegal mining.

Pure air is the birth right of every citizen, but it is a privilege denied to the people residing in the mining areas. Villages like Pale, Velguem, Sonshi, Surla have virtually turned into mining dumps. There is no farming happening there, except for a few traditional 'kullaghars' which too are struggling to cope with the pollution.

Those people who were earlier slogging in their farms have now turned into mining dependents. The Gawda community people who made the hills and plains as their homes and cultivated paddy are no more getting their hands soiled in the fields. Their hands are now covered with mining dust.

Owning a truck or driving it is not a big deal for those who have lost their land to the mining firms. This is how they have made quick money. While some have scaled greater heights in the economical hierarchy, there are some still struggling.

All these bare facts about the mining industry were never discussed by the media until 2012 when the M B Shah Commission compelled Goa to discuss about illegal mining



and pollution.

It was only then that we realized there are two kind of people, one mining dependents and another mining affected. The mining leases were really turned into personal properties where no one could even peep into. Several journalists had to face the wrath of security guards when they tried to click pictures. Cases of trespassing were filed against them.

The mine owners remained out of bound of the locals. The big business houses had sub-leased their iron ore extraction to others. That is where the illegal mining bred. But that is not what we are going to discuss now. That has been spoken about post-2012 when people realized that it is their right to know how much extraction was being done by the mining firms.

Environment protection is never on the mind of the mining firms. You cannot have mining and environment go hand in hand. Dust has to fly where there is drilling into the Earth to tap iron ore. But how much pollution can be allowed?

There is no parameter. The locals in the mining belt tell of how officials of Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB) indulge in mere eye washing in the name of measuring the purity of air or water.

You actually don't require any machine to measure the pollution here. They can very well make one of their officers wear a white shirt and stand on any of the roads where iron ore is carried. His shirt will turn maroon in no time and he will gasp for breath. This is what pollution actually means.

No amount of data analysed in the laboratories of GSPCB will save the people from facing the actual pollution. Look at the roof tiles of the houses in these area, they have a tale to tell. Once upon a time, they had their original colour.

When we talk of scientific and environment friendly mining, there must be some method to control pollution. I am sure there are methods, but they must be expensive and hence cutting into the profits of the mining firms. They would naturally not spend on saving lives which are dying a slow death.

There are no studies conducted on how many people in this mining belt suffer from lung diseases. Even if there are studies, they are buried deep in the files of the Government.

There is no action taken on them.

Several villagers here are living a life of slavery. They have no voice. If they stop the transport machinery, they are sent behind bars. Asking for clean air is an offence in our democratic state.

The mining firm officials who are sitting in their air-conditioned head offices in Panaji don't miss a single meeting if called by the Chief Minister. But when it comes to directly interacting with villagers, only low level officials are sent. Then the press notes are issued to convince the world how they (mining firms) are environment friendly and people friendly.

Let's forget for the time being about the illegal mining and how crores of rupees were looted by the mining firms. We need to talk about the pollution in this belt.

The real Goenkarponn would be to give a patient hearing to these Goenkars. We know that they have been demanding employment in the mining firms. But don't mix their concerns of pollution with their demand of employment. Several times we see politicians and mining firms doing this.

Let's visit these villages where wells have dried up long back as the mining pits have gone much below the water level. The villagers are dependent on the water that is provided to them through water tanker-mounted trucks. These tanks are corroded. The water is then shifted to barrels which are lined up along the road, amidst the dust. The polluted water is then taken to every house and drunk.

Such is the pathetic situation. The main roads which are constructed by spending money from our taxes are being used to transport iron ore. Thousands of trucks ply on these roads, leaving no space for the tax payer to ride his two-wheeler. He has to constantly dodge the gigantic wheels of the trucks which can crush him any time. When the State government speaks of a mining corridor, the idea is always pushed into the files, with no follow up.

When we talk about our beautiful Goa with beaches, let's also talk about this part of Goa which is breathing dust every passing hour. While people are suffering, those few who make money are either in their air-conditioned homes or have already shifted their base out of Goa.

# PINKY TRIPATHI'S PRIVATE TUTORIALS OPENS A NEW VENTURE IN GOA

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# LESSONS NOT LEARNT FROM SONSHI EPISODE, WILL MAKE US PAY IN THE FUTURE

TEAM TNV

A decade-long protest against the iron ore mining dust pollution is once again making headlines at local as well as national levels. Sonshi village, tucked between Digne and Honda villages in Sattari taluka is currently in the news, with villagers there holding a strong protest against the pollution due to the non-stop movement of trucks loaded with ore in their area.

It's just been a year since mining recommenced in Sonshi, with as many as six ore leases being operational in and around the village. But the protests by villagers against the increasing dust pollution, water pollution and unemployment and their subsequent arrest is a talking point in every mining-rich village.

After a ban that lasted over three years, the iron ore mining industry has resumed in the State, but the struggle of people against the pollution never ends.

On April 11, the villagers from Sonshi, from an economically backward community, took to the road to protest against pollution due to transportation of ore by the trucks ferrying through their residential area. The villagers had formed a human chain and stopped the movement of trucks demanding an end to plying of mining trucks through their village road, cleaner air, water, and basic healthcare.

Villagers obstructed trucks and 45 of them – 23 women – were later arrested. Their struggle came to light when these



villagers refused to bail themselves out even as the mining firms like Sesa Goa and even later Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar assured surety bail bond of Rs 10,000 per person. After spending almost over 10 days in jail, the villagers were released with the intervention of Minister Vishwajit Rane, son of their local MLA Pratapsingh Rane.

"Mining companies can very well avoid taking the Sonshi road which passes through the village and go from the other side for ferrying iron ore. But they don't do it as it saves them a travel of six kilometers," explained Suraj Gawade, a local youth.

"All the pollution norms are thrown to the wind. No one is bothered. Only when there is inspection, you will see

the roads being cleaned up. We inhale dust here and our children fall sick but still the authorities are not bothered," he charged.

Mining in Goa has been associated with illegalities, environmental pollution and a threat to the health of local communities – something that the Supreme Court raised serious concerns about while hearing the illegal mining case – that resulted in the one and half year long ban on the activities.

In Sonshi, mining has destroyed local water bodies and dried up rivulets. The villagers struggle here for getting clean potable water.

"The mining companies were supposed to give us water every day. The tanks do come, but not every day. They pour the water in the tanks kept by the roads and leave. In half an hour, the mining dust settles on them. How can we consume such water? But having no option we go for it," says Sandesh Gawade, an unemployed youth who alleges the miners do not even give them jobs, taking outsiders on labour contracts.

The village that has quite a good population of small school going kids is worried about their health as the increasing pollution is taking a toll on them. "Every alternate day, you will find kids falling sick. There is no fresh air in the atmosphere that these small kids can inhale. Hence, they fall sick. This affects their school attendance



badly," a teacher from the local primary school explains.

While this village was traditionally into farming activity, there are some families who tried to eke out living by finding jobs in the mining firms that sprang up suddenly as the soil was found to be iron ore rich. The mining in the village has commenced six to eight months back, after the long ban period.

"Show me one person who has permanent employment in the mining firms. The youth from our village are either doing some odd jobs or have to travel to work. Even our trucks are lying idle," said Pratap Gawade, who owns a truck.

The village has a lone primary school, with three classrooms, with the student's strength being reduced from forty to six, with two students in each class. With the mining dust and noise, parents of children of adjoining villages have now put their children in other private schools.

This isn't the first protest by Sonshi's residents. In February 2016, they had appealed to the mining companies demanding the same things they are asking for now: continuous supply of drinking water, employment, diversion of trucks from the village area – but failed to get any result. A month later, in March, over 100 villagers were taken into preventive custody as they prepared to block trucks carrying iron ore for e-auctioning. This year again, on January 27, villagers tried to block the trucks again.

With mining industry expected to resume in full swing, with increase in the annual fresh production cap from 20 million tons to 30 million tons, the protest from various villagers is likely to prove a major hurdle for these companies.



# ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND JOBS

MALLAN KURIAN

A hundred thousand new jobs in Goa! Too hard to imagine? One more unfeasible bullet point on a public manifesto? Could be, but isn't; this story is actually in the making; in Chimbel.

Chimbel has a floating population of fifteen thousand residents; its poor civic infrastructure makes it economically nonviable, its industries nondescript; but there is a move underway to make Chimbel socially inclusive, slum free, water rich and economically competitive on a global scale. The fountainhead – Chimbel's Information Technology Park; Goa's foray to becoming the brand ambassador for Technology Innovation in India.

Goa invites healthy cynicism in boardrooms; unemployability, frivolous public statements, the lack of commitment to implement Supreme Court mandated police reforms which would guarantee an environment of safety, security and quality of life and so on. The vision of Goa as a gainfully and ethically competitive society is a hard climb, but demonstrably practicable.

To become economically competitive, Goa must undertake civic and police reform to an appreciable degree. Without civic reform, infrastructure and society come apart at the seams leading to civil unrest and unemployment, and without police reform to control the unemployed mobs, the cycle of damnation and recession continues. The connection is clear: the quality of jobs generated in a given municipality, is directly proportional to its civic and police reforms.

What we need is a Public M.O.U (Memorandum Of Understanding), that creates a healthy ecosystem for entrepreneurs and empowers employees with suitable jobs that are sound in financial literacy.

## AN M.O.U. TO CREATE A HUNDRED THOUSAND NEW JOBS

Imagine if you will, a socially inclusive Chimbel, one which shares civic infrastructure with its upcoming information technology park; an M.O.U that addresses disparities for employers and employees; a wide ranging partnership between say, Info Tech Corporation of Goa Limited, the Member of the Legislative Assembly of St. Cruz, the Secretary of the Chimbel Panchayat, Goa Information Technology Professionals Association, Manufacturers' Association for Information Technology, Goa Association of Realtors and, CREDAI Goa, - an M.O.U to create Infrastructure to create Jobs.

An M.O.U that collaborates with the Travel and Tourism Association of Goa to develop Business Tourism, The Indian Medical Association for Medical Tourism, Goa Chamber of Commerce & Industry for



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its IT Innovation Centre, and the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry for its expertise and interests in IT & ITES, Pharma & Biotech, light engineering, entertainment and education.

Such an M.O.U would set the terms and understanding between the partners, to unify the focus of Brand Goa, as a preferred tech innovation hub, sustainable business & manufacturing destination; an advanced public health, education and retirement settlement and destination; scoring high on quality of life benchmarks with noise and air pollution control, zero waste management and sanitation, continuous forestation, water wealth creation and real (suitable) jobs.

## "THE RIGHT PEOPLE WILL MOVE TO WHERE LIFE IS GOOD"

The individual manifestos of these organizations match the expectations from Brand Goa; they are a perfect fit for an MOU of this size and structure, in terms of public relations strategy & managing expectations: Brand Chimbel (or Brand St. Cruz) would be developed as the incubation point for Goa's IT brand strategy (on the lines of Silicon Valley, the San Francisco Bay Area), an ecosystem to attract 10,000 start ups, tech entrepreneurs, tech investors, technocrats, geeks, nerds, hacks, incubators and testers; plugging innovators from abroad to the creatives in Goa; inviting and curating Indian innovators to collaborate with their peers abroad (across industries).

To reduce public distress from Disparity Of Income, the new infrastructure would immediately create sixteen categories of new jobs and entrepreneurs in clean

energy systems, food and beverage service, educators, teachers and trainers, infrastructure management services and forestry, IT and cell phone infrastructure, primary health care and first aid, upgraded public and park transportation system, laundry service, couriers, construction and allied services, mall and movie theatre, property management services and, facilities for sports, recreation and the arts.

Chimbel Panchayat, in collaboration with expert channel partners, would facilitate comprehensive relocation, family resettlement, retirement, rest and relaxation facilities and advanced medical suites to expatriates, Non Resident Indians, Overseas Citizens of India and Indian Citizens - offering them the cream of Goa's wellness industry, clinics, hospitals, laboratories, alternative medicine practitioners and therapists to provide boutique membership services, including pickup, assist and drop transportation and At Home services; promoting Brand Chimbel as a Designated Silence and Green Zone par excellence.

The cherry on the cake - Multipurpose Panchayat Cells with Databanks, to host an academic ecosystem for Employability, Employment, Financial Literacy, Corporate Training, Digital Literacy & Access, Digital Conversion Services for Small & Medium Enterprise, Primary Health Care Centre with Specialist Visits and Telemedicine, Solar Farms and Swipe and Go Public Transportation with Hop On Hop Off Facility.

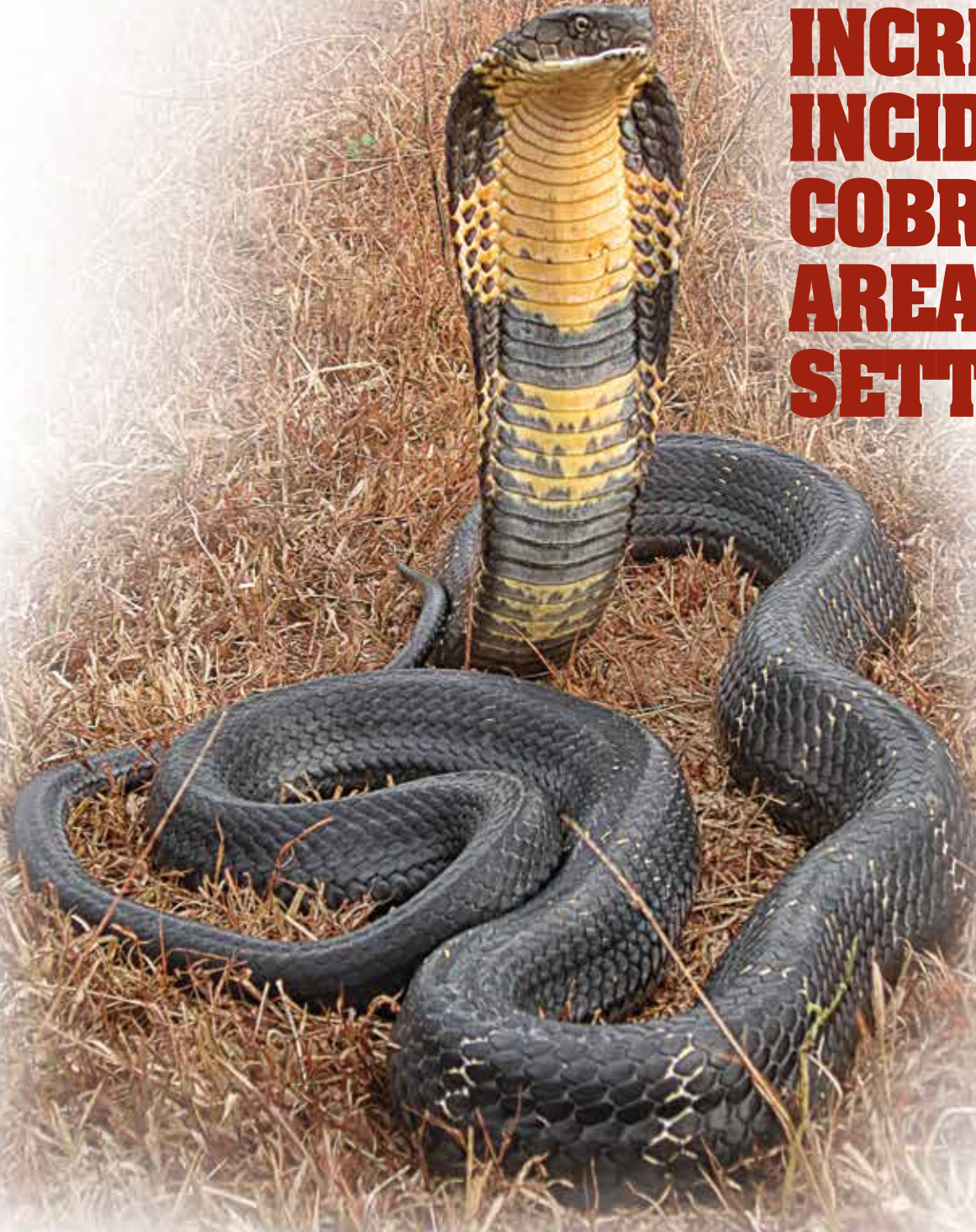
One Hundred Thousand New Jobs.

mallankurian@gmail.com

The writer is a social entrepreneur



# INCREASING INCIDENTS OF KING COBRA ENTRY INTO AREAS OF HUMAN SETTLEMENT



**RAJENDRA P. KERKAR**

Of late, incidents of King Cobras entering into areas of human settlement are continuously on the rise, mainly in the forested areas of Sattari, in the vicinity of the Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary. Over the last five years, these large snakes have been entering the cashew plantations and also into the adjacent hamlets.

The changing climate, depletion of water resources and degradation of evergreen patches of forests are forcing the king cobra, the largest venomous snake in the world, into human inhabited areas in Sattari. Large areas of the forest have been transformed into plantations of cashew and other horticultural crops.

Just within the period of 24 hours from April 4 and 5, the volunteers of

**As death from a bite by a king cobra can take place within 15 to 20 minutes and since no anti-venom is manufactured in India, there is a lot of fear about this deadly snake. Taking risks, Amrut Singh and his teammates of Animal Rescue Squad have successfully caught the king cobras and returned them to their natural habitat in several cases.**

Animal Rescue Squad caught two king cobras in Thane-Dongurli and one in Brahma-Karmali villages of Sattari. Both these villages lie close to the Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary. The three volunteers of ARS, Pradeep Gawandalkar, Vinod Sawant and Sunil Sawant rescued and released these snakes.

In Brahma-Karmali, a king cobra of 9.5 feet length had entered the house of Sunil Sawant. The snake caught inside the cashew plantation near Sateri temple of Pali-Thane was 12 feet in length. And a 11 ft-long king cobra was caught near the pump-house of Balasaheb Desai in Thane-Dongurli.

Amrut Singh, the president of ARS said, "On earlier occasions I had caught and rescued three king cobras in Hivre-Khurd of Sattari two years ago. However this time three king cobras have been

rescued in three different locations. The staple diet of the king cobra is all species of snakes, including other venomous snakes and occasionally monitors lizards. Earlier, it was occurring in the dense forests, but nowadays degradation of the natural habitat has forced these snakes to venture into villages in search of rat snakes that seek rats that come to eat dried and thrown out cashew apples and to drink water from nearby ponds."

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Ramesh Zarmekar, the member of Vivekanand Environment Awareness Brigade, Keri says, "The incidents of King Cobra coming near human settlements are on the rise as the snake feeds mainly on the rat-snakes and they are easily available near the human settlements, thriving on rodents."

The king cobra or Hamadryad is unique among Indian snakes for an unenviable reputation for aggressiveness and courage. Its staple diet is other smaller snakes and it occasionally eats monitor lizards too.

"It occurs mainly in the dense forests of the Western Ghats, but today increasing monoculture afforestation and encroachment on the evergreen patches of forests for the cashew plantation have threatened its natural habitat," says Chandrakant Shinde, a wildlifer.

rajendrakerkar15@gmail.com  
The writer is an environmentalist and social activist



## DOCTORS ARE NOT MAGICIANS, WE TOO ARE HUMAN BEINGS: DR MEDHA SALKAR

After the shocking incident of a private doctor being assaulted by a woman, the Indian Medical Association has taken up the issue before the authorities. TNV spoke to IMA Goa branch chief Dr. Medha Salkar.



**Q** The recent assault on a senior doctor in Carmona has sent shock waves through the medical fraternity in Goa. What impact will this have on the doctor-patient relation?

Assaults on doctors has given a sense of defensiveness to the doctors. If we have to treat a patient there are certain risks that we have to take for the well-being of the patient. I have to really do it the way I want, but under the present situation I have to think ten times before I take any step.

**Q** Will there be any law implemented?

The question is how the implementation of any law will help. After being assaulted, a doctor will have already lost his dignity, and short term punishment to the accused will not change anything. In my letter written to the CM I have clearly mentioned that the society is the sufferer in the long term if suitable action is not taken.

**Q** What action has IMA taken so far?

We have already met the CM and explained him about the situation.

**Q** Is provision of some kind of security system or police protection considered an option to avoid such incidents?

Permanent police protection is unfortunately neither possible nor feasible. There was also a discussion on installation of CCTV cameras, but the problem is it can be installed only outside, and not in a place where you are examining a patient and discussing certain personal things related to the patient's health. But with the installation of CCTVs outside the clinic, people will at least have a feeling that they are being watched before they think of acting violent.

**Q** What role does the communication factor play between a doctor and

his patient?

The situation is such that we will have to record whatever we have explained to the patient about the risks involved during the treatment, in order to take his consent before starting the treatment, so that if anything unfortunate happens to the patient during the course of treatment the relatives will have no right to blame the doctor as we already have a proof that we have explained the patient everything. Even communication is an important factor for a doctor, as sometimes miscommunication between a doctor and a patient can result into a conflict. Now IMA and also the MCI have taken these incidents seriously. In the future, we are planning to introduce teaching of communication skills because in a regular course a doctor is never taught how to sit and talk to a patient. Now these communication skills will be taught to the students in the regular course. Now we have started a student wing of the IMA in which the students will be sent to a camp where they will work among the people and learn to communicate with the people.

**Q** Doctor is considered next to God, but when he fails, it is he who faces the wrath of the people. Your comments?

One of the reasons could be films because of which people have created their own image of who a doctor is and what he can do. In films they have created the image of a doctor as a magician who gives an injection and the patient gets well, or in a movie scene where a doctor comes out of operation theatre claiming the operation is successful and the patient is out of danger, whereas in real life we do not get sleep until the patient is fully fit and ready to go home. People have to understand that doctors are not magicians and we too are human beings.

# interview



## UNDERSTAND PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS AND THEN ENTER POLITICS

In conversation with Anil Pednekar, Sarpanch of Succour Panchayat

**Q** What are the works carried out by you in your Panchayat ?

We have made sure that all the basic facilities are provided without any delay. Internal roads, drainage, pavers, even changing of street lights is made on priority basis.

**Q** Will you be standing for elections again? How was the support u gained from your fellow panch and people at large?

Yes I will be contesting the forthcoming Panchayat elections. The fellow panch members have been very co-operative and I have gained good support from the people as well, the people know that we have provided good service to them, therefore I am confident that the people will support me.

**Q** Do you feel Panchayats have enough powers in hand?

A Panchayat can carry out only certain minor works from the Panchayat fund, but if any major project has to be carried out then we have to send a proposal to the BDO (block development officer) who will further our request to the Directorate of Panchayats. If any file remains pending then we receive good support from our Porvorim MLA and Minister Rohan Khaunte as well.

**Q** Do you think elections at local self-government should be fought on party lines?

Elections at local self-government should not be fought on party lines as there is a great possibility of conflict arising between panch members which will affect us in the long run.

**Q** Do you think there is lack of woman leadership in politics?

I would not think so as we have active participation of women atleast in our ward.

**Q** Any word of advise to youngsters who want to enter politics?

My advise to the youngsters will be, if they want to enter politics and do something for the people then in order to do it they should first spend time with the people in their area, understand what problems they are facing and find the solutions to their problems by taking the issue to the higher authorities.

# VISHWAJIT TO HAVE A CAKE-WALK IN VALPOI BUT PARRIKAR....



Matters are not favourable for BJP in the State and it is clearly indicated in the body language of party leaders. Their delay to announce the constituency for Parrikar is one of the indicators that the party intends to think well before saying anything.

Neither can Parrikar bank on its ally Goa Forward party in this constituency as they have no presence here. There are traditional MGP voters here as the neighbouring Sanvordem constituency is currently represented by Dipak Pauskar. But still, Parrikar can't bank on MGP voters to vote for the Lotus this time.

It is a very tactful decision that Parrikar will have to take while deciding where to throw his hat through the by-polls. The BJP can't have a pre poll survey either, as the trends in the State have gone haywire right now, with the unlikely combination of political forces.

Curchorem is a mining belt and Parrikar might not be their favourite considering the fact that it was during his tenure that the iron ore extraction and export activity was banned. Mining can be a pro or anti factor for Parrikar. People will also remember that Parrikar was the one who offered them monthly financial packages during the mining ban. The voters here would certainly be confused if they go to think about Parrikar on the mining ban yardstick.

BJP has kept its cards close to its heart. The Party's Goa unit chief Vinay Tendulkar has recently mentioned that six MLAs are ready to sacrifice their seat for Parrikar. The figure is bloated, it won't be six, as many legislators will find it politically suicidal to resign as MLA at this point of time.

Matters are not favourable for BJP in the State and it is clearly indicated in the body language of party leaders. Their delay to announce the constituency for Parrikar is one of the indicators that the party intends to think well before saying anything.

It is certain that Parrikar will pull through the by-poll as the alliance partners and his own party will make all possible efforts to ensure that he remains in the assembly. But one thing is certain that for Parrikar the by-poll won't be an easy affair. The kind of support that he enjoyed in the year 2012 is a thing of past.

## TEAM TNV

Two by-polls are staring at Goa in the months ahead. One in Valpoi constituency, that appears to be already decided, while another one could be in Curchorem or Panaji. Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar has to be elected as a member of the Legislative Assembly within six months, and the clock is already ticking.

While Goa is no novice to by-polls, this time the political situation will be different. It will certainly be a cake walk for Vishwajit Rane in his traditional Valpoi constituency when he faces the by polls. The recent decision by Pratapsing Rane not to campaign against his son in this constituency has flattened Congress' prospects there.

There is no doubt that Vishwajit will breeze through the election. Though the contest will not be unopposed, it can certainly be less opposed. There is no candidate who can actually cut into the votes of Vishwajit.

Junior Rane seems to be brimming with confidence over his victory in the Valpoi constituency. The meetings

that he has been addressing in various corners are well attended. There is no open rebel against him except for a few but they too are without much support.

This is the situation in Valpoi in a nutshell. But what about the constituency where Manohar Parrikar would be contesting his by-poll?

It is ironical that the man who drove his party to a historic victory in the year 2012 by decisively defeating the Congress is now searching for a safer constituency to get elected. His wave was such in the year 2012 that many of the BJP MLAs got elected merely because people wanted Parrikar to be the chief minister.

And now we are in 2017, Parrikar is already the Chief Minister, but the BJP is yet to finalise the constituency for him. Ideally it was expected that the Panaji constituency which he has been traditionally representing would be vacated for him. But the BJP MLA Siddharth Kuncolienkar is learnt to be reluctant, though he does not admit it in public.

The decision by Atanasio Monserrate to contest against Parrikar in the Panaji

constituency by-poll has also made the BJP think twice. It would be a conflicting situation for the Goa Forward party and its leader Vijai Sardesai, if Monserrate contests against Parrikar, as the former is his friend and the latter is his chief minister.

Parrikar himself is finding Panaji as not too safe a constituency for him. The situation has changed since 2012 in Panaji. So the next option is Curchorem.

Loyal BJP leader Nilesh Cabral was amongst the first MLAs ready for sacrifice. He had also expressed his willingness to step down during the first few meetings of BJP. But here too, Parrikar will have to take decision wisely. Curchorem has never been his constituency. There are sizeable voters who might not vote for Parrikar there.

Another factor here is the way BJP has treated its former leader Ramrao Desai, whose political ambitions have been crushed. Similarly, the Goa Suraksha Manch is active here in the form of Sham Satardekar, former MLA. Congress too has its hold here. And many of the voters here vote for Nilesh Cabral as an individual.

# SMUGGLED CIGARETTES IN COASTAL BELT, LOSSES TO THE TUNE OF CRORES

TEAM TNV

A massive racket of sale of illegally imported and non tax paid contraband cigarettes has spread its roots across Goa, now threatening the coast and the towns.

Margao town is severely affected, as many college students have shifted to cheaper contraband cigarettes over the legal branded ones, increasing the vulnerability to the problem even more. The contraband cigarettes not only affect the users but also the Government revenue, as the State suffers tax loss because of these illegal imported cigarettes. People in this trade say that the increase in tax has had an inverse effect on the sale of cigarettes, wherein the cheaper option which is even more deadly is being preferred.

Over ten years back the display of cigarette brands and posters was discontinued in Goa to counter the ill effects of tobacco use. After this ban on advertising there have been constant efforts to keep the public use of cigarettes at bay. GoaCAN is one of the NGOs that have been assisting several of these programs and raids.

The influx of imported contraband cigarette brands in the market do not fulfil government norms, and are causing huge losses to the legal businesses as well as health damage to the users of these products. According to a market study, the youngsters - mostly college students - are falling prey to these cheap Chinese and Dubai imported cigarettes. TNV took a round of the cigarette sellers in Margao town where the cigarettes of these five to six contraband brands were seen being sold openly. These cigarettes are being sold at Rs.70 compared to Rs.246 for the legal cigarettes brand which has 80% of warning display.

"The cigarette packets do not have any

maximum retail price (MRP) or the packaged date (PKD. Dt) and do not have any signs of warnings. While the government mandate is to cover 80 percent of the packet with warnings these contraband cigarettes are being sold in total violation of this mandate," said the GoaCAN Convenor Roland Martins.

The Government is totally in the dark over this racket. The State Government has not been able to differentiate and ascertain the loss of the revenue due to the increase in taxation and meanwhile is losing out big time on the sale of contraband cigarettes. The marketing of these smuggled contraband cigarettes has killed the legal cigarettes market of South Goa and has resulted in 70 percent decline of the legal sale. "The entire VAT (value added tax) on the sale of these smuggled cigarettes is lost by the Government," said distributor of ITC, Vishant Pankar. The market of these contrabands has reached over 30 to 40 percent of South Goa. "The display and sale market has been captured by these brands," said Pankar. The Goa Government is getting 25 percent of VAT from the sale of the legal cigarettes. There needs to be awareness and education of the retailers who are the first buyers of these cigarettes," said Pankar.

In Margao the Gandhi Market has become the centre of the wholesale distribution and sale of these contraband cigarettes. They are being sold with stickers that say 'Duty paid', and no one seems to know where they come from. The situation is worse in North Goa. There are appointed men in Goa who go around the State selling these smuggled imported cigarettes. According to some of the cigarette sellers and distributors of Indian Trading Corporation (ITC) the imported cigarette sellers have developed a better network than them.

The section 5 and 7 of COTPA Act empowers the Police and the Mamlatdar to take action against the sellers of these imported illegal cigarettes and they can be fined up to 10,000 rupees. But the police and the authorities are seen imposing fines of 200 rupees for non display of boards at shops and not cracking down on the bigger violation of these contraband cigarettes sale.

It may be recalled that the Commissioner of Customs, Goa, on February 25 midnight, foiled an attempt to smuggle 350 cartons of foreign cigarettes in a container at Mormugao Port Trust (MPT) valued at 2.36 crore.

The officials during the course of the first check examination of the container, from Dubai, detected 350 cartons of Dunhill and Djarum Black brand cigarettes the same which are now sold openly in all the towns of Goa. In yet another haul at Kochi, the Directorate of Revenue had seized cigarettes of worth over 2 crores. The cigarettes, 6560 cartons in number, of the brand Gudang Garam were seized here. These are some of the many brands which have captured the Indian market and have become a headache for legal businesses.

According to available information other airports and ports of India are also hosts of these consignments and these cigarettes come to Goa through Hubli, Bangalore and other ports and airports. The Dabolim Airport is stringent and any such illegal influx is promptly stopped.

As there is no information or track of the entire network of these contraband sales, the Government and the law enforcement agencies have an uphill task on cracking down of these illegalities. Going by the details which are now surfacing, the entire business and discipline has gone for a toss and the businessmen in the trade are expecting it to get worse in the days ahead.



## AREA WISE ACCIDENTS

- Maximum accidents have registered in Margao followed by Ponda, Mapusa, Porvorim and Verna
- Margao is also on top in the number of fatalities followed by Pernem, Maina Curtorim, Bicholim and Ponda
- Margao also tops in two wheeler accidents followed with Mapusa, Ponda, Porvorim and Cuncolim.
- Maximum truck accidents have witnessed in Ponda followed Mapusa, Maina Curtorim, Pernem and Collem
- Verna tops in car accidents followed by Porvorim, Agasaim, Panjim and Margao

Fatal  
**283**  
Grievous  
**268**  
Death  
**304**

**2014**

Fatal  
**302**  
Grievous  
**259**  
Death  
**316**

**2015**

# BREAK THE SPEED

TEAM TNV

The year 2017 does not seem to have started on a very good note for Goans. The first four months of the year have yielded a deadly toll, with every single day reporting traffic collisions and subsequent deaths. Rash and negligent driving has been a major cause in all the accidents.

The 17 April accident on the Corlim-Old Goa highway that killed five including a four-year-old and injured four others is one of the deadliest accidents the State has seen in recent times and is also a case of rash driving – where the driver lost control over the vehicle and rammed into pedestrians, killing them too.

“I know there is need for stricter implementation of the road safety norms. Enforcement agencies need to be more vigilant and act seriously against all traffic offenders. But at the same time, we also need to be careful while driving. Rash and negligent driving is a reason for majority of the accidents; not only in Goa but across the country,” Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar said.

As per the statistics, till mid April, this year, as many as 105 people lost their lives with a total of 1227 accidents being reported across the State. The first 15 days of April reported 11 deaths, almost one death per day.

The official figures of Goa Traffic Police reveal a 10 percent rise in the number of road accidental deaths in

the first 110 days of the year. However, this figure is slightly on the lower side compared to 2016, which saw a 15 percent increase in deaths in the first three months compared to 2015.

Interestingly, despite there being a drop in the number of accidents, the number of fatal and grievous accidents and the total number of deaths are on the rise. This is revealed in comparative statistics up to mid-April of 2016 and this year.

This year, till April 17, 105 people have lost their lives, compared to 96 people who succumbed to injuries in 2016. The total number of fatal accidents reported this year so far are 95, whereas last year during the same period it was 92. The grievous accidents were 52, whereas now it is 64.

The figures of the last three years, reveal that on an average 24-28 lives are lost every month in the State, with an average of 350 accidents taking place. For the year, 2016 altogether 325 people lost their lives, whereas in 2015 the number was 316 and in 2014 it was 304.

A detailed study of the accidents has revealed that 92.23 percent of the accidents were due to rash and negligent driving. Of the total accidents reported, 42.30 percent of accidents involved motorcyclists. They also top the chart with maximum number of accidental deaths, which is almost 80 percent.



“Rash and negligent driving is a major cause of road accidents and deaths. A majority of fatal accidents involve youths between the age group of 18-35 years,” a senior transport department official said.

Also, non-wearing of helmet leads to death most of the time, the official said, stressing on the need to make helmet compulsory even for pillion riders.

An interesting statistic that the traffic cell data reveals is that the majority of accidents take place between 5pm to 6pm. And it seems to be true, as the Corlim-Old Goa deadly accident was reported during this time. Being a peak-hour, the possibility of accidents during this time is high.

Also, one fourth of the accidents occur during night time, which is basically due to drunk driving and negligent driving, presuming that the road is open and there isn't much vehicular movement. Of the total 1222 accidents reported, 242 accidents occurred at night time. The recent accident involving two youths, one from the media organization, was reported late at night. Both the youths died on the spot, with one of them alleged to have consumed alcohol.

Further, Sunday seems to be an accident prone day, with nearly 17.65 percent of accidents being reported on that day, followed by Tuesday, which witnessed 16.10 percent of accidents.

The State Traffic Cell has identified 55 accident prone zones – 33 in North and 22 in South Goa. It is now in the process of identifying more such zones. Data reveals that 33.33 percent of accidents have occurred on national highways. Straight roads accounted for 75.42 percent of accidents while curved roads witnessed 19.91 percent.

The Verna junction on the Panjim-Margao highway is one of the major

accident prone zones. Two people died on the spot on April 20 at this junction. The villagers subsequently blocked the highway in protest.

Area-wise statistics show that maximum accidents have been registered in Margao, followed by Ponda, Mapusa, Porvrim and Verna. Margao is also on top in the number of fatalities, followed by Pernem, Maina Curtorim, Bicholim and Ponda. Again Margao also tops in two wheeler accidents followed by Mapusa, Ponda, Porvorim and Cuncolim.

There is a steep rise in the number of accidents in the areas of Colva by 50 percent, followed by Anjuna-44.44 percent, Saligao-83.33 percent, Quepem-36 percent, and Calangute-18 percent.

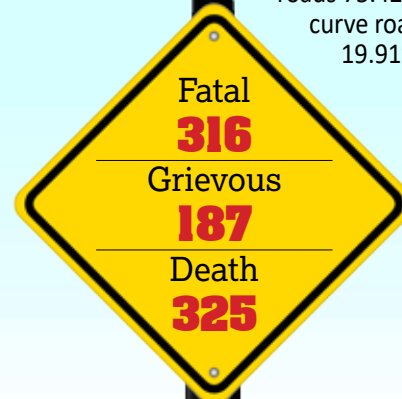
Most truck accidents were seen in Ponda, followed by Mapusa, Maina Curtorim, Pernem and Collem, while Verna tops in car accidents followed by Porvorim, Agasaim, Panjim and Margao. Interestingly, this year so far there have been no casualties due to trucks involved in transportation of iron ore.

DySP traffic North Goa, Dharmesh Angle says the density of traffic on the roads has reached saturation point. A number of educational programmes by the department have been held to bring down the accident rate. “People also need to be careful while driving. They need to follow all the rules. It is also the responsibility of the driver or rider to ensure his or her own safety,” he explains.

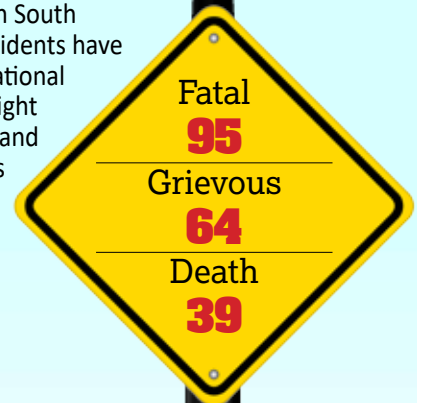
Following a spate of accidents, the Traffic Cell has commenced an extensive drive against traffic rule violations. Angle said that all the staff including staff from the offices have been posted on roads. Traffic Cell has strength of 600 staff members, of which over 450 are deployed only on roads to book violators of traffic rules, he said.

### SOME GLARING FACTS ABOUT ROAD ACCIDENTS

- 10% rise in total accidental deaths in the first 3 months compared to last year
- On an average 24-28 lives are lost every month
- 2.23% of the accidents are due to rash and negligent driving
- 42.30% accidents are involving motorcyclists
- 80% accidental deaths involves motorcyclists
- Majority of the accidents take place between 5pm to 6pm
- One fourth of the accidents occur during night time
- Maximum number of accidents takes place on Sunday- 17.65% followed by Tuesday- 16.10%.
- 55 accident prone zones- 33 in North and 22 in South
- 33.33% of accidents have occurred on national highways. Straight roads 75.42% and curve roads 19.91%



**2016**



**2017**



# The Cool Camps Of Hot Summer

## TEAM TNV

Summer holidays are here. Gone are those days when children ran to their ancestral houses in the villages or the maternal uncle's house. Times have changed and so have the concepts of holidays. It is time for summer camps.

Nowadays summer camps are much awaited programs for kids as well as parents. A joyous ride for the kids and a relief package for the parents who otherwise don't know how to engage their kids during holidays.

And it isn't only about dance and singing anymore. Several new areas have evolved over time, which cater to several different topics. One such camp is organised by young tenth standard pass out students who have formed a group called 'Learn via Experiments'. The summer camp is titled as 'The Learn Marathon'.

This is a ten-day summer camp full of art and science, where you get to

learn innovative ways to use paper and glue to make fascinating pieces of craft, as you learn the fundamental concepts of science from fun and exciting experiments. You can learn the laws of gravity by watching cartoon characters fall from cliffs in funny scientific cartoons! And if that's not enough, add in quizzing, maths, and a whole variety of lectures to the list. A whole two weeks of educational mayhem that's sure to enrich every kid's brain.

The activities also include Robotics. You can learn how to make robots draw. Photography is another course on offer where you can learn the basics of shooting quality pictures of sunsets, people and a lot more.

"Workshops act as a space for creativity where the child is provided with tools to tinker with," says Siddharaj Mopkar, one of the coordinators

of the learn Marathon. "Our past workshops have led students to build new content and will be conducting workshops for younger kids. It is time we look at students as active content creators instead of passive consumers of textbooks," he adds.

"Summer camps are important for small kids to explore their talents. It helps them in their extracurricular activities," says Vishlesha Kankonkar of Footworks Studio, an outfit that is organising summer camps for children in Margao. "We organise this summer camp to help kids to recognise their talents and to give them all motivation to innovate ideas," she says.

Footworks is offering an array of activities like dance, craft, gymnastics, drawing, taekwondo, etc.

The Goa Yachting Association (GYA) has also organised summer camps to teach windsurfing to students, for ages from 10 to 15 years. Each camp is of five days and will impart instruction on basic windsurfing, after which the student will have to follow up and practice to achieve proficiency. The camp will be conducted by former national champions Derrick Menezes and Remy Fernandes, at Dolphin Adventure Sports, Hawaii Beach, Dona Paula.

"In modern times when kids spend more time with gadgets, the opportunities for experiential learning are shrinking," says Dr Abhijit Nadkarni, whose child Shiv is all eager to attend a summer camp titled 'Majja - Children's Festival' which is being organised by Abhinav Creationz in Margao. "Well organised summer camps allow kids to get out of the virtual world and to experience the real world through joyful collective learning," he believes.

"Majja is a festival where we intend to engage the children in various activities like drawing, theatre, music and craft. Instead of making the festival a burden for children, we intend to make this a joyful ride for them," says Sayli Sawant Talaulikar, coordinator of Majja. Children are engaged through the media of stories and music in their mother tongue, taking them closer to the environment they are born in. We also immerse them in the otherwise seemingly boring subjects like science and astronomy in an enjoyable manner, so that children can develop a liking for them," she informs.

Nature camps too are attracting children in large numbers. One such camp was organised by Mrugaya Xpeditions for the third year running in association with Nature's Nest and India Untamed. This was a three-day residential camp, filled with learning, creativity and adventure. The camp included nature games, team building activities, nature trails, a night walk, a short trek near Tambdi Surla temple, adventure activities, a treasure hunt and screening of wildlife documentaries. One important feature of the camp was making handicrafts with the help of local artisans and an interaction with local naturalists.

Several educational institutes too organise several summer camps for their own students. These camps are usually organised during the time gap between the final exams and the results. Special faculty is engaged by the schools to make these camps innovative and enjoyable for the kids.

Government bodies such as Bal Bhavan and the Ravindra Bhavans have also organised several activities as part of the summer camps initiated by them.



# Heritage being ignored

TEAM TNV

All the heritage structures of Margao have been standing in the historic town holding a profound history of the changes Margao has seen till date. From Camara, to the class A civic body, the Camara and the Comunidade building has seen the town rise and these structures hold stories within which not many know about.

The Margao Municipal Council has been time and again requested to protect and get the old dilapidated Camara in Old Market Margao to life so that it is conserved for future generations. The President of the Shadow Council Margao Savio Coutinho with historian Prajal Sakhardande inspected the building of the Old Camara in Old Market, Margao and have expressed displeasure over the way the antique structure has been ignored for years. The MMC had in an earlier list of endangered buildings listed the Camara and may have gone for demolition. The historians and Madgaonkars have registered their protest against demolishing the building and have demanded steps to get it back to its original glory.

The Engineering Section of the MMC had surveyed and identified 17 buildings or structures in Margao which are in a bad state and need quick action. The Collector and Chairperson, South Goa District Disaster Management Authority had through a letter been informed that the council had conducted a survey to identify the dangerous and unsafe buildings by visual inspections. Among these buildings were the T. B. Cunha School Building, Popular Primary School building, Old Camara Municipal building at Old Market, Cruz Mansion Near Comunidade building Margao, Sukdo building Opposite Cine

Lata, Golden Photo Studio building, Sanskar Co-operative Housing building, Galaxy Apartment near Cine Vishant, Gracias Furtado Building at Khareband, Predio Cardozo Building at Khareband, Villa Coutinho Building at Khareband, Residential house of Mrs. Eugenia Colaco and others opposite Holy Spirit Church, House of Pedro Avelino Luis behind New Era School, Malbhat, Margao, New Era school building at Malbhat, Lotlikar building near railway gate, Parishram Raikar and Ladu Raikar building near Chinchal railway gate and Tilve building on Erasmo Carvalho Street, Margao.

The Camara making it to the list of these 17 buildings has captured attention of the history lovers and a team of five including Savio Coutinho and Prajal Sakhardande had met the Chief Officer against the backdrop of the report and study of the MMC.

Presently the Camara, the very old and half fallen structure in Old Market in Margao is a building which came to be in the early 17th century, and has borne witness to the ups and downs and the progress of Margao town. The entire administrative system of South Goa was controlled through this building and it is considered as a time capsule of several good and bad incidents.

"We were worried and concerned that the Camara is being slated for demolition and we object and protest this as the building is as old as 1778 and also has its own historic incidents. One of the incident was on 21st September 1890 where 23 Goans who protested against the rigging of elections in favour of a Portuguese candidate were shot dead. This memory is still alive amongst the older generations and we feel it needs to be preserved for posterity so that the future has stories of the past to tell the world," told Prajal Sakhardande.



"The Camara was functional till 1905 and later was shifted to where it is now. The building has a lot of history and has to be conserved," demanded Prajal. "It can be conserved with all the technology of the 21st Century and it is a beautiful building with beautiful architectural style. It is a beautiful façade and it has to be conserved," said Prajal.

"The land acquisition is taking time and to make it fast we have met the DMA Elvis Gomes and requested him to make the process faster," he added.

Savio Coutinho while speaking about the Camara said "In 2010 when I was a chairperson Prajal wrote to me highlighting the history of the Camara and I was impressed with the study and called over Prajal to have a word. We decided to conserve this building and in the same year took a resolution to conserve the building by restoring it," Savio told.

"After we wrote for the conservation the process has been very slow and we have been continuously following up the case. There is a need for the MMC and Government to take care of the structure and start conservation of the structure as every rain is wreaking havoc on the building," said Savio.

The Council in a meeting had decided to take up the revival and restoration of the Old Camara. But the ambitious plan never took off due to various reasons.

Lots of literature has been already published in the news dailies of Goa highlighting the plight of the old structures like the Camara and also the New Era School building which has now been listed as a dangerous building in the town. The New Era School has been in very bad condition amongst all the

schools in Margao. The school operates in the dated A.J Almeida building for more than 70 years. Four class rooms and more than 300 students sit for tuition in rooms with the roof of the school continuously dripping and large chunks of cement of the roof falling during school hours regularly. The condition of the school in the past four years has gone from bad to worse. The school has been asking for land and building for over five years now and after the MMC has now declared it dangerous it will be interesting to see where the school is shifted.

The school has made an application for land in the Housing Board but the land is blocked due to litigation. They then applied for yet another property in Aquem but the work has stopped due to lack of funds. The school management has been paying 3400 rupees rent for the premises which has now been declared as a dangerous structure.

The Comunidade building near Lohia Maidan is in dire straits now. There is no record of repair work being carried out in recent times. A leaking roof, broken rafters, furniture dumped all over the main areas and bad condition of working furniture has given it a bad name. This building has been declared unsafe and for a good reason.

Problems of occupants unwilling to vacate the building for repairs, and a documentation tangle has left the building in a bad state. The Margao Municipal Council building was renovated by the council but the Comunidade building which is just opposite the council and is equally old and important missed the bus.





## Living Dairy-Free

SZWENSKA CHRISS

In a country that loves dairy products, is veganism even possible here? The special importance of milk in India goes back to Hindu mythology. It includes the legend of the Samudra manthan. India is the world's largest producer of milk and also the largest buyer. And there is a good reason for this. In India milk is not just the morning glass you drink before you leave the house. Its uses go far beyond the dietary and nutritional purposes.

Animal milk has long been claimed as the go-to source of calcium by the dairy industry, but as it turns out, milk is bad for you. Calcium from animal milk is not absorbed as well as that from plant-based sources, and it can be accompanied by a number of dangerous health problems.

### HERE ARE A FEW REASONS WHY:

In a Swedish medical study, women who consumed large quantities of dairy milk daily were more likely to sustain fractures than those who drank little to no milk.

Cow's milk contains a sugar called lactose that can be difficult for people to digest, resulting in symptoms such as nausea, cramps, gas, bloating, and diarrhea. It can also develop later in life and result in months of worsening symptoms. The consumption of all types of cow's milk was linked to an increased prevalence and severity of acne in both boys and girls.

A single serving of milk can contain as much as 24 mg of cholesterol, whereas vegan food has no cholesterol.

Many cows are pumped full of antibiotics. This practice is leading to antibiotic-resistant bacteria, which may decrease the effectiveness of

antibiotics used on humans.

A single serving of whole milk can contain more than 20 percent of the recommended daily allowance (RDA) of saturated fat, but even 1 percent milk has 8 percent of the RDA. If you consume three servings of whole milk, you're already at 60 percent for the day, even before eating any food.

I know what you are all thinking. Is this vegan thing even healthy? Forget India for a minute. Can a person subsist without dairy products, or any animal products, anywhere? I assure you, you can.

The vegan lifestyle has long been criticized. There are a lot of benefits to going dairy-free, but there are some downsides too. You've probably been taught, since you were young, that you had to have milk with dinner and get your dairy in for the day according to the food pyramid. Dairy nourishes our bodies with protein, vitamin D, calcium, and potassium. Those nutrients are super important!

But if you decide to stop having dairy, keep in mind that you'll need to make up for the loss of dairy's nutrients in other ways. Taking a calcium supplement is an option. Whatever you do, you should always speak to your doctor first, before taking any vitamins or supplements or drastically changing your diet.

I can tell you that you feel less bloated and puffy. Living dairy-free is one of the most difficult commitments to make. You don't have to be perfect at it by any means, you learn through elimination, not moderation. Physically, you feel a hundred times better too. Your energy levels are up, and you no longer feel sluggish.

szwenska24@gmail.com

The writer is a Mass Communication student

## Off the Roads and into the Jungles

SUMUKH KAMAT

The cycling community has been growing at a very rapid pace in the last two years and we do notice more and more cyclists riding on Goan roads. But lately Off-road Cycling is getting very popular as many events are being organized all across Goa to promote this exciting sport. Cycling groups like 'Cycling Goa' from Panaji and 'Slope and Bends Group' from Ponda are some who have come together and are doing a great job of organizing some very unique formats to try and get some of the best offroad bikers in Goa to ride together. The cycling community now stands at over 200 riders in Goa, making this the new trending thing in Goa these days.

Goa is full of forests and many dirt paths around our villages, the most majestic and mesmerizing of which is definitely the Mhadei wildlife sanctuary trail running parallel to the Anmod Ghat. The service trail along the water canal at Sanquelim also offers a good off-road experience, which is very popular these days for a fun day ride. There are some beautiful trails at Nirankal where bison are commonly sighted. Many bird enthusiasts are also looking at off-road cycling to get to places where they can enjoy and capture all the mystic birds in Goa, otherwise hard to get to even on motor bikes.

"It engages you completely," says Anuradha Guglani, a cycling enthusiast. "It's full of surprises and unknown, sometimes unexplored scenes. It's not monotonous, like biking on a road. It's a form of meditation, like making a connect with the unknown," she says. And Bryan Soares, another rider, feels that "It's an adrenaline rush through the forest bush while being one with nature on greener pastures."

Some of the 'on road riders', we call them Roadies, now are also looking forward to riding more off-road as they feel safer than on roads with the rising risks of speeding accidents. They are also happy as they tend to burn more calories and enjoy being amidst nature, by doing small off-road trails in and around their neighbourhoods, as compared to the long road rides.

"I love off-road, it's a great way to find yourself in the lost routes off the roads," says Vinayak Talaulikar, another cycling enthusiast, while Jamshed Madon believes that, "It's a freedom thing where myself, my bike and Mother Earth are a seamless poetry in motion."

### What 'Off-roads on a Mountain Bike' is all about

A mountain bike that is characterized by wider tires, shock absorbers and straight handle bars, lets you explore all of those small off-road trails that you have never dared to venture down on your road bike. Spending some time with a map, plot some routes with some likely looking tracks and you might unearth some rarely travelled trails. Most times an off-road ride will always be fun, adventurous and some will remain as the most memorable trips of your life.

sumukh.kamat@gmail.com  
The writer is a cycling enthusiast





# I AM GOING TO CONTINUE MY JOURNEY IN POLITICS: DR. KETAN BHATIKAR

He is one of the best physiotherapists in Goa today. A 32 year-old medical practitioner who also tried his hand at the recent assembly elections through the Panaji constituency, and someone who has received accolades at the national and international level for his work in the field of physiotherapy. Dr. Ketan Bhatikar shares some insights about his journey with Tanvi Bambolkar.

**Q Was becoming a physiotherapist your childhood dream?**

Not a childhood dream as such but after the 10th standard I had decided that I would take up this career. But somehow after 12th I was inclined towards Law. I even took admissions for Law after passing my HSSC, but my father insisted that I take up physiotherapy and that's how I ended up here.

**Q How did your journey towards this field begin?**

My dad was in charge of inspection of various companies across the country. On one such trip he happened to know about two significant institutions offering the course of Physiotherapy. I took admission in SDM College, Dharwad and that's how my journey began. Initially I did not like the field, especially because I was away from home. I missed my mother's food. I was so much fed up with the hostel food that it badly affected my health. I suffered from gastro diseases and was also down with Chicken Guinea during this period. But after one and half year as I started knowing the subject I started liking it.

**Q Which is the best moment in your professional life up to now?**

There have been many, but the best one I would say is the Bangladesh Government inviting me to train their students. This feels good.

**Q Did you experience any setbacks during this journey?**

Yes a lot of them, I would say. Initially when I started my career many people did not really care about what I was doing. Nobody really took this profession seriously. But then I was fortunate enough to receive the help and guidance of Dayanand Narvekar who guided me. I realized that to change the system you need to get into the system and that's why I began the work in the mainstream. I began taking media briefings, started writing articles on newspapers, organized camps and participated actively in medical politics. I wanted people to know the reality of this profession which was so much ignored and underestimated. And fortunately things changed with time. It's really heartening to see state governments like Maharashtra and Gujarat offering registered degree certificates for physiotherapy courses. Although our field has not received much support

from the fields like pharmaceuticals we have still managed to attract people towards the profession.

**Q Do you think there are many misunderstandings related to your profession?**

There were. But at least in Goa I can see that things are changing for good. Currently around seven ministers come to me for treatment. Almost everyone in the assembly has realized the significance of physiotherapy. Even common people come to us without references. They have realized that this treatment removes the pain slowly and gradually without any side effects and I think that's the best part of our profession.

**Q Other than your profession which other passions do you pursue?**

Politics has been my passion always and I think it will remain so!

**Q So that's the reason why you entered into mainstream politics this year?**

Yes, of course. And I think it doesn't stop but I am going to continue my journey in politics till I achieve certain goals. Politics need not be only being MLA or Minister but being at some level where I can make things work. Health and sports would always remain my priorities when it comes to a political career. I wish we could provide physio therapies to people who are taking assistance under Deen Dayal scheme. Also, there is a need for mobile physio units to be set up in the state. This treatment should reach to the remotest areas of Goa. Sectors like fisheries and other departments of Goa Government too need to have physio sections for their employees.

**Q So this means you are going to contest elections in the near future?**

Yes, and I shall decide about the constituency very soon. For me party is not important but being on the field to serve people is important.

**Q So who is your role model and who are your advisors in this field?**

Ketan: My parents always guide me. But politically Sudin Dhavlikar and Vijay Sardesai have been true inspirations and guides.

**Q Finally, what would you tell to the youngsters who want to take up lesser known professions like yours?**

I would say get a profession that's not in the limelight and get the profession in limelight with your hard work.





## Understanding and appreciating Goenkaar viewers

VINAYA WALAVALKAR MANTRI

**D**rama occupies special importance in the field of entertainment. Why so? Because in movies and serials, everything is pre-planned. A scene is shot and retakes are done again and again till the desired impact is achieved. But drama is different. The viewers are sitting right there as the artists present their skills live. There is no scope for re-shooting or retake. Any mistake on the part of the artistes cannot remain concealed from the audience.

The relationship between the viewers and the drama is a special one. The more skillful the actors, the stronger the effect of the drama being enacted on stage. Equally crucial is a gracious and understanding audience for any drama. If not so, the drama will not achieve its desired effect. It is just because of such an understanding and mature audience that theatre is still alive.

The play being staged was 'Shante Che Kart Chaalu Aahe' at Kala Academy, Goa on 9th March 2017 at noon. The theatre was almost houseful. This itself was a sign of love for art and drama. The drama started on time after the third bell. Right from the beginning, the viewers were enjoying the drama and the laughter it was creating.

The drama was at its peak when suddenly a strange thing happened. The scene on stage had three characters – Kakasaheb (Sunil Tawade), Vyankatesh (Bhau Kadam) and Shyam (Priyadarshan Jadhav). In this scene, Kakasaheb, while reading a newspaper, sits on a wooden cot placed on the right side of the stage. As scheduled in the scene, Kakasaheb went and sat on the cot, but as he sat, the cot just broke. Fortunately by God's grace, Kakasaheb (Sunil Tawade) was unhurt, but the audience noticed that something had gone wrong and the laughter was replaced by an uneasy silence in the auditorium.

Everybody had a question – what will happen now? An artiste's skill and patience are always at stake in such situations. Such incidents are sort of provocative and challenging for an artist, but a skilled artist navigates smoothly even through such tricky situations. Here too, just the same thing occurred. The moment Sunil Tawade and his co-artistes realised what had gone wrong, they became more alert and adjusted marvelously among themselves. They deserve a special applause for this. Sunil Tawade ensured that the ongoing vein of the drama was not spoiled and promptly uttered a few impromptu 'additions' in such a style that the backstage workers also realised that something had gone wrong.

They were so alert that they entered the stage, and for a moment I thought that now they would drop the curtain or there would be a sort of sudden halt, and the rhythm or the mood of the drama would be spoiled or something like that. But thankfully nothing of that sort happened. The setting boys, without dropping the curtain, tried their best to repair the cot, but when they

realised that it would not be possible to repair it, they simply lifted it and took it backstage.

Since the important prop on the stage was removed the question followed – 'now what'? How would they continue the show? Moreover, I was equally watchful about the impact of this negative incident on the viewers, but to my pleasant surprise, the next moment, I got answers to all my questions. Near the broken cot, there was a 'moda' (sort of a settee). The Kakasaheb character just pushed that moda in the place of the cot, started reading the newspaper by sitting on it and maintained the continuity of the scene. In a split minute, he continued the scene in the same mood and with the same vigour, as if nothing had happened in between.

The audience, even though stunned for a moment, started viewing with the same enthusiasm. I was really impressed by the viewers' understanding, but the story doesn't end here.

After the interval, the cot was repaired and replaced in the same position as it was before. As it was removed from the stage with great presence of mind and by maintaining the continuity of the scene, in the same way it was brought back to the stage while the drama was going on. In a scene – as Sunil Tawade entered the stage – the backstage crew brought the cot back and placed it where it was before. At that time, Shyam says to Kakasaheb "Oh! Have you brought it back?" And Kakasaheb replied "Why should I leave it? It's with me since my childhood, I won't leave it like that, so I got it repaired."

Everybody in the audience knew that this dialogue was not from the original script, yet the artists handled the whole episode so skillfully that viewers enjoyed it as a part of the drama.

The presence of mind of all the artistes was no doubt important in this peculiar episode, but more important was the patience shown by the viewers. Perhaps, this episode could have broken the link and the viewers might have taken more time to get involved in the drama again, but fortunately nothing like that happened.

Drama will continue to be alive as long as it is embraced by such vibrant and matured audiences.

vinayavivek03@gmail.com  
The writer is a drama producer



## Admissions open at V.M. Salgaocar Institute of International Hospitality Education for the academic year 2017 -18



It is that time of the year again when students all across the country are on a hunt to explore various institutes that will lead them to their desired career. V. M. Salgaocar Institute of International Hospitality Education (VMSIHE), one of the leading institutes of hospitality education in India, announces opening of admissions for the coming academic year 2017-18 for students who want to enhance their career in the field of hospitality.

Affiliated to the Goa University and supported by the Marriott Group, VMSIHE offers a B.Sc. in International

Hospitality Management and has recently tied up with Turismo de Portugal. 10 outstanding students keen to embark on an international education related adventure will get a chance to visit Portugal as a part of the exchange program. The institute also offers its students an opportunity to pursue a post-graduate degree at HTMi Switzerland.

Students who have appeared/ passed the Class XII board exam in Arts/ Commerce/ Science/ Vocational stream can walk-in for the entrance test at the Institute on any working day from

Monday to Friday between 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Candidates admitted on or before 31st May, 2017 can avail of the Early Bird offer which is a 10% concession on tuition fee for all three years at the institute.

With the strategic partnership with HTMi institute in Switzerland, students who have successfully completed the 3-year International Hospitality degree at VMSIHE in Goa will be eligible to be enrolled at the Master's program at HTMi Switzerland. The duration of this program comprises of one academic semester of taught modules, followed by the completion of a master's dissertation within six

months of the completion of the taught modules. Upon completion students will receive 3 post graduate degrees. A Post-graduation diploma in Hospitality Management, M.Sc. in hospitality and tourism management and an MBA in hospitality Management from HTMi.

The three year full-time program at VMSIHE is designed to equip the students with practical training and necessary skills, with special attention to personality development, professional attitude and leadership qualities, which are essential to be a global manager of repute.

One can visit [www.vmsihe.edu.in](http://www.vmsihe.edu.in) for more details.

## 271 students of GIM receive the coveted MBA diploma at the B-School's 17th Convocation Day



Goa Institute of Management (GIM) one of the premier B-Schools in India, hosted its annual Convocation Ceremony for the PGDM batch of 2015 -17 at its sprawling campus in Sanquelim, Goa. Students turned professional managers received the coveted diploma after having completed over 22 months of academically packed, rigorous training with exposure to live industrial projects as well as community oriented assignments.

A total of 271 students were awarded their diplomas at the convocation ceremony. While 216 are full-time PGDM students, 30 are from the part-time MBA program and 25 students are from the Post Graduate Diploma in Healthcare Management program (PGDM - HCM).

The event ceremony was presided over by Prof. Dr. Ralf Speth, CEO, Jaguar

Land Rover PLC; UK and additional director, the Tata Sons Board who delivered the convocation address. Dr. K Balakrishnan, Director, GIM and Mr. Nasser Munjee, Chairman, GIM along with other members of the Board of Governors, students and faculty members of the institute were present.

Over the years Goa Institute of Management has earned the enviable reputation of being one of the finest management schools in the country. B-school ranking surveys have shown a rising trend in ranking for GIM with the prestigious B-school consistently ranked among the top 25 B-Schools in the country and among the top ten private B-Schools in India. GIM's strength is its diversity, be it in its academic, ethnic or social diversity. The institute presently boasts of outstanding students, excellent infrastructure and the best talent that make up its core faculty.

## Admissions now open at American College of Culinary & Language Arts (ACCLA)

India accounts for 30% of the global recruitment for the international cruise sector, while 40% of the Indian crew hail from the coastal state of Goa. Recruitments from Goa contribute to the largest chunk of the workforce on board cruise liners.

Working on-board a luxury cruise liner is a dream that many harbour. Helping Goans make this dream a reality is Margao based American College of Culinary & Language Arts (ACCLA), a culinary academy, which specializes in professional culinary education and training, specialising in the field of cruise line culinary programmes. The course content is aimed at training students in acquiring specific skill sets which are necessary for the cruise line industry and get them job ready.

ACCLA is presently offering the Integrated Cruise Culinary Program (ICCP), a 3-months intensive course followed by 6 months of Industrial Training. The program trains and prepares the student to take on the role of an Assistant Cook position on a luxury cruise liner or a position in a luxury five-star hotel. Eligibility for admission to the programs is 10th standard and above, Basic English skills and a positive attitude.

Unlike other institutes, ACCLA trains students for a specific job profile, as opposed to an all-round course offering the basics. This ensures that the student walks out of the institute ready to be employed in the position he/she has been trained for.

One can visit: <http://www.acclaindia.com/> for more details.

# The Neutral View's website launch



"I will always be there with TNV in its journey" said Revenue Minister Rohan Khaunte after inaugurating the The Neutral View's Website in its office. Expressing his happiness over the neutral approach of the fortnightly, Khaunte urged TNV to contribute positively to Goan journalism. Also present on the occasion were Shri. Anil Pednekar, Sarpanch of Succor Panchayat, Shri. Uttam Kumar,

Director of The Neutral View, Shri. Paresh Naik, Director of The Neutral View and Shri. Alvin Araujo – Partner, Leigia Solutions, Web designer.

The function was attended by writers and well wishers of TNV. The website is an effort by TNV to reach out to a bigger audience through the web medium.

## "TILL HUMAN BEINGS ARE IN EXISTENCE THEY WILL ALWAYS NEED CLOTHES" WILLIAM XAVIER

FROM PAGE 24

**Q Who are the designers to watch out for?**

Nick Roshan, Mohan Gowda both are from South Indian film industry, designer duo Naveen and Pradeep, Ruby Sayyed from Mumbai, Kapil Bhandia, Satish Gupta, all of them are celebrity designers, they have worked for the Bollywood stars and for the movies as well. All these designers are trend setters.

**Q Who are the well-known models participating?**

At this moment we are having around 45 models from all over India and some known names are - Priyanka Khurana who is Miss Earth 2016, then we have Samita V who is a well-known actress from Kannada film industry, then there is Rekha Rana who is also a known actress, we have also confirmed Papiya Biswas from Kolkata. We are also in touch with Sonakshi Sinha and a few other names from Bollywood but they are not yet confirmed.

**Q A show like this cannot go without a little spice from the B-town, are we expecting to see any Bollywood stars?**

We have invited Hritesh Deshmukh, Tusshar Kapoor, Milind Soman and Neha Dhupia. We expect them to attend the show so that they can give us the inspiration and there is some suggestion or

guidance from them. But we are still waiting for their confirmation.

**Q Are there any international models participating in the show?**

Yes we are trying to get some international models, there are models who will be coming from Qatar, London and Bangkok, but because of their passport and visa issues we haven't confirmed them yet.

**Q Why Goa? And what kind of impact can a show like this make on the Goan fashion industry?**

Goa has not seen a big fashion culture, though there is a fashion trend in Goa where people look for different kind of collections, but business activities are not happening over here the way it should happen. There are shows being hosted, but they are not able to have a professional touch and business activities are not happening where discussions can take place between two people. But the International Fashion Week will bring all the serious people from Goa.

**Q What are your future plans?**

The future plan is that after this show, we are taking a world fashion tour, where the same team will go to London and then Dubai. The designers will get an opportunity to showcase their brand in an International market.

**Q Is there any possibility that this show will move also to the other parts of the country?**

Yes, we have been approached to host an event in Mumbai, one in Pune and another in Hyderabad. As some of our designers come from these cities they too want an event like this to take place in their city.

**Q Are you planning to have any programme during this show that will have a social message?**

Yes, we are supporting the "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" initiative of the Government of India, under which we have around ten under-privileged girls whose dress/clothes will be sponsored by one of the designers. Our aim is to try in whatever possible way to provide a platform to support these under-privileged girls so that they too can have a dream either to be a model, actress or a fashion designer. Our target is not just to make money and go home but also give back something to the society.

**Q What is your message for the youngsters who want to make a career in the fashion industry?**

Till human beings are in existence they will always need clothes, everybody wants to have good clothes and this is a never ending process. So my message to the youngsters will be to come and explore this huge world of fashion.

**APRIL 28****Sunset Sessions**

Antares Restaurant & Beach Club, Located at Ozran beach cliff, Vagator 5.30p.m. to 11p.m.

Head over to Antares Restaurant & Beach Club to witness perfect Sundowner at our Sunset Sessions with Transalento - Andrea Presa on the didgeridoo and Kavita soni on vocals!

Reservations: 07350011528

**Jam sessions At Divo**

Divo Global Bar & Dining, La Gull's Court, 74/1 Devul vadda, Chappora, Vagator 5p.m. to 9p.m.

We've got your Friday sorted! Head over to Divo Global Bar and Dining for mouth-watering pizza's that will definitely tantalize your taste buds along with some amazing offers on cocktails, and jam with Karry while you're at it!

Reservations: 7776009777

**Friday Night at A Reverie**

A Reverie, Holiday Street, Gauravaddo, Calangute 8p.m. to 11p.m.

The perfect beginning to your weekend! Come by A Reverie to experience our Culinary Symphonies, beautifully

accompanied by the melodious voice of Anika Noronha, every Friday  
Reservations: 098231 74927

**Lobsters & Sangria at Martin's Restaurant, Goa**

Martin's Restaurant, Garden View Apartments, Near Margao Post Office, Padre Miranda Road, Margao 8p.m. till 11p.m.

Indulge yourself in our range our lobsters cook to perfect and we'll throw in a whole sangria pitcher just for you! Only at Martins Restaurant!

Reservations: 0832 648 0377

**F- Day**

Chapra River, Safira Jetty, Morjim Beach Road

5pm to 12a.m.

Watch the scenic beauty of the Chapora river with the best floating experience at Watermark along with popular DJ's playing an eccentric mix of pulsing beats and Vijay Arora as your host!

Reservations: 8447438383

**APRIL 29**

Porvorim Pop Up Bazaar The Summer Flea Alto Porvorim Sports & Cultural Club 10:00 am

This summer be a part of the hottest

shopping bazaar in Porvorim. Presenting The Summer Flea, your summer shopping stop. For more details contact/watsapp : 9552994870

**Acoustic Saturdays at Martin's Restaurant Goa**

08:00 pm

Martin's Restaurant Goa, Near Margao Post Office, Padre Miranda Road, Margao. Watch Adrian & Dillon as they mesmerize you with their amazing tunes and avail special discounts for the night at Martins Restaurant! Reservations: 0832 648 0377

**Off the Grill at Peppers Goa**

Peppers – Gourmet Cuisine, 15/604, near Childcare School, Gold road, Margao 8p.m. to 11p.m.

Straight out from the Arabian Sea and Goan turf and into the barbeque, is night all set to delight you at Peppers – Gourmet Cuisine! Reservations: 08322711125

**Sunset Sessions**

Antares Restaurant & Beach Club, Located at Ozran beach cliff, Vagator 5:30p.m. To 11p.m.

Head over to Antares Restaurant & Beach Club to witness perfect Sundowner at our Sunset Sessions with Transalento - Andrea Presa on the didgeridoo and Kavita soni on vocals! Reservations: 07350011528

**Loop- a - Live At A Reverie**

A Reverie, Holiday Street, Gauravaddo, Calangute 8p.m. to 11p.m.

It's that time of the week again! Join us for some Saturday night fun as Krishna Vamsee takes to the stage!

Reservations: 098231 74927

**Acoustic Saturdays**

Martin's Restaurant, Garden View Apartments, Near Margao Post Office, Padre Miranda Road, Margao 8p.m. till 11p.m.

Watch Adrien & Dillon as they mesmerize you with their amazing tunes and avail special discounts for the night at Martins Restaurant! Reservations: 0832 648 0377

**APRIL 30****All Goa Cycling Championship**

Dr. S. P. Mukherjee Stadium, Bambolim 06:00 am

Categories include 11years-14years (Youth) - 5 Kms (1 Loop), 15years-17years (Juniors) - 20 Kms (4 Loops), 18 years+ (Women) - 30 Kms (6 Loops) and 18 years+ (Men) - 40 Kms (8 Loops).

Registration Fees: Rs. 200/- For

more details contact Jaganath Hede:

9850472697, Ajay Jadhav: 9689893453,

Rajesh Malhotra: 9049249949 or Kunaal

Malhotra: 9742824039

**Sun kissed Sunday**

Antares Restaurant & Beach Club, Located at Ozran beach cliff, Vagator 12p.m. to 7p.m.

Party in style at Antares Restaurant & Beach Club's Sun Kissed Party, with live music by DJs and international performers. Reservations: 07350011528

**Sunday Illusions**

Peppers – Gourmet Cuisine, 15/604, near Childcare school, Gold road, Margao The thought of Monday blues are dreadful, but maybe some delectable meals and some illusions by Clifford can take that away? Find out at Peppers – Gourmet Cuisine!! Reservations: 08322711125

**MAY 1****Nostalgic Mondays with Pierre at Peppers, Goa**

Peppers – Gourmet Cuisine, 15/604, near Childcare school, Gold road, Margao (Madgaon), India 403601 8p.m. till 11p.m.

Nostalgic Mondays with Pierre Karaoke.

Enjoy the best of Goan and Portuguese Cuisine every Mondays at Peppers – Gourmet Cuisine!!

Reservations: 08322711125

**Steak it up at Martin's Restaurant, Goa!**

Martin's Restaurant, Garden View Apartments, Near Margao Post Office, Padre Miranda Road, Margao 8p.m. till 11p.m.

Not only are we offering you the best steak in town but also a complimentary steak when you place an order of two! So get your hungry hats on and head on over to Martins Restaurant!

Reservations: 0832 648 0377

**MAY 2****Tuesday Thrills at Peppers, Goa**

Peppers – Gourmet Cuisine, 15/604, near Childcare school, Gold road, Margao 8p.m. till 11p.m.

Tuesday Thrills with Emmanuel Antao.

Enjoy your unique seafood special every Tuesday at Peppers – Gourmet Cuisine!! Reservations: 08322711125

**MAY 3****10 Days lynger yoga workshop**

Mahi Yoga centre, Pernem at 03:30 am An intensive 10 day workshop to develop and deepen yourself practice, if you are a teacher looking for a refresher or a new take on yoga therapy to heal and rehabilitate to heal yourself and others or simply learn and practice something new make an investment in your future of only \$250

**APRIL 28- MAY 3****IPL Live at Martins Restaurant, Goa**

Martin's Restaurant, Garden View Apartments, Near Margao Post Office, Padre Miranda Road, Margao 8p.m. till 11p.m.

Watch your favourite IPL team live at M lounge while having a delicious meal. So get your hungry hats on and head on over to Martins Restaurant and cheer for your favourite team!

Reservations: 0832 648 0377

**IPL Live at Casino Strike, Goa**

Casino Strike located at Grand Hyatt, Block No. 4, P.O. Goa University, Bambolim 8p.m. till 11p.m.

Throw in some luck to your favourite IPL Team, by watching them screened live at Casino Strike.

Reservations: 07030946871

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The Neutral View

## Housewife and the Elf



There once lived a penny-pinching housewife. One day an elf came knocking at her door. "Can you lend us a saucepan?" said she. "There is a wedding on the hill and all the pots are in use."

The housewife went to get one, but she thought to herself, "I will give him the old one. It leaks and the elves are such nimble workers, they are sure to mend it. So I will help the elves and at the same time, I will save the sixpence that the tinker would have charged me to repair it." She gave the old saucepan to the dwarf who thanked her and went away.

In due time the saucepan was returned and as the housewife had foreseen, it was neatly mended. At

supper time she filled the pan with milk and set it on fire to warm for the children's supper. But in only few minutes the milk was so burnt and smoked that no one could touch it.

"Oh how infuriating!" shouted the housewife almost crying at the waste. "There's a whole quart of good milk wasted!"

"And that's sixpence!" cried a voice from the chimney. "You didn't save the money after all!" And with that the elf himself came tumbling down the chimney and went off laughing through the door.

But from that day onwards, the saucepan was as good as any other.

**GARREN RODRIGUES,**  
Std IV, Child Care School, Margao.



**ABHAY VELIP**  
Lokvishwas Pratihthan's Special School Canacona



**VAISHNAVI ARSEKAR,**  
Std VII,  
Manovikas English School, Margao



**ADITI HEGDE,**  
Std II,  
Fatima Convent High School, Margao

# rainbow

## Light

What a night!  
It seemed like a year  
without Light!  
But now it's day,  
there's lots of light.

The Light's too strong  
the night has to fight  
When light becomes heat  
it causes a drought  
But when it's all good  
no one's going to pout.

And now it's true  
No one's going to fight  
The best substance in the world  
is made of light.

**ARYAN ISAAC BHOBE,**  
Std VI,  
Sharada Mandir School, Panjim



**PRATHAMESH SUKTHANKAR,**  
Std I,  
People's Primary School



**BHUMI VELINGKAR,**  
Std III,  
Manovikas English School, Margao

# GOA SHOULD BECOME A HUB FOR FILM RELATED SERVICES

## RAJEEV SHINDE



In 1997, his Konkani film 'Dekhni Durai' won the Best Film and Best Director Award at the Goa State Film Festival. In 2016, Rajeev Shinde was back with 'K Sera Sera' which was selected amongst 230 films from all over India at Indian Panorama, 47th International Film Festival of India and which went on to win the National award this year. TNV brings to you his journey.

director for the Hindi film industry for some time to learn about film process and to get hands on experience of this art. I have also designed sets for TV serials. Films did not happen today. I did 'Dekhni Durai' written by Shri. Pundalik Naik way back in nineties. This film won Goa state awards for Best film, Best Director, Best Actor and Actress, and Best Female Singer. Many will not know but in Goa College of Art, where I teach, we do more than 30 films a year, short films, social films, animations. From concepts, story boards to the final film. So one can say films happen almost 'every day' for me.

**Q** You are from the theatre background. How did you get into films?

I am basically a theatre person and passionate about theatre. But films were an extension of my studies from Art College. Art Direction, Visual Communication, Communication Design, all these subjects had a very strong connect with films. This made me study film making in depth. I have tried to learn almost about every department of film making. Besides, film is also an extension of theatre. My script writing has immensely helped me in writing stories and screenplays for films. After my graduation I have worked as an art

**Q** Tell us about K Sera Sera, your movie. How did the idea develop?

I am a story teller. I keep on writing stories on the subjects which inspire me or at times disturb me as a human being. Some subjects make me think; make me emotional, I put them on paper as a story, which can be later converted into a play or a film. K Sera Sera was a part of this process. It all happened on a crowded railway station, where thousands of people are around you, living in their own world, happy, sad, depressed. As a visual communication designer, playwright and a director, I always had a fascination to observe and decipher the things happening around.

**Q** Any other projects you have been working on now?

At the moment I am working on three projects. A play which I had promised my friend Harshad Tondwalkar, 'Kala Vaibhav'. Then there is a Gujarati film, based on my play "Thodassa Logic Thodassa Magic". Renowned actor Tikku Talsania who also acted in the Gujarati version of my play will be in the lead role. The third project is a film which is very close to my heart as it will be an experiment and a challenge to shoot.

**Q** Do you think Konkani movies have a good future?

The last few years have been very productive for Konkani movies.

There have been some good movies produced. There is tremendous improvement on the technical aspects of the film making. A film like 'Nachomia Kumpasar' has proved that a good subject, good performances and the technical finesse can bring audiences to the theatre. If film makers maintain the quality of films and the Goan audience lends its support, Konkani movies have a good future.

**Q** Do you see Goa developing as a film industry? What more can be done? What has Goa derived from IFFI?

IFFI did bring a kind of awareness amongst people and generated interest in film culture. It was the beginning of IFFI which was responsible to bring a thought in our minds that Goa can be a shooting destination and can develop itself into a provider for film related services. Goa has natural beauty and locations required for film shoots but along with that, services like studios, colour labs, VFX Studios, sound labs, with world

class facilities can be created in Goa. I remember a meeting held during the first IFFI. Everyone in that meeting had liked the idea of making Goa a hub for film related services. A film producer from any part of the world should be able to come to Goa with his project, and get his film ready from script to screen. This would bring lots of jobs for Goan artists and technicians. It will also boost tourism, hotel industry and many other allied services.

**Q** What are your views on the State government's scheme for film financing?

The film makers need financial support. Goa being a small state, the audience base is smaller and it becomes very difficult to recover the cost of the film just by theatre releases. The film finance scheme is really good for the Goan film makers. It will help a film maker to sustain his interest and keep on making films. What is really needed and expected is the consistency in the scheme.

**“TILL HUMAN BEINGS ARE IN EXISTENCE THEY WILL ALWAYS NEED CLOTHES”**  
**WILLIAM XAVIER**

Mr William Xavier is a film maker and is into making commercials and documentaries for the last ten years. Film and fashion go hand in hand, which has drawn him into the fashion world where he is now organising ‘The International Fashion Week Goa 2017’. He has also been organising the Global Indian Film Festival, a global platform for Indian films with strong content. This is the second edition of the International Fashion Week Goa, and it will be held for three days at Taj Vivanta, Panjim. Last year the event was held from December 9 to 11 for which there was an overwhelming response. And there will be another edition in December 2017 as well.

**Q** What is the theme for this edition?

The show will be held twice a year, one during the summer and another during the winter. The theme for this edition is the summer and monsoon collection and the show which will be held in December this year will feature winter as well as bridal collection

**Q** How would you describe this event and what is the objective?

The objective of organising this fashion week is that it is not for fun and entertainment but for some serious business. This event will be purely business of fashion, where we will provide a stage for many talented fashion designers.

**Q** What makes this event so special?

The speciality about this event is that it is economically viable for every stakeholder and will benefit the designers, retailers, models and even the organisers. Even our audience will get to witness different types of trends, designs and collection.

**Q** Why is this show held only for three days?

This is actually a 4-day programme as we are having a curtain raiser event at Mall de Goa in Porvorim on May 7 that is on Sunday, which will be performed by two or three designers, then the main event will be held from May 12 to 14, that is Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

**Q** How many fashion designers will be participating in this event?

We will be having 24 fashion designers who will be coming to participate in this event. From Goa there will be around three to four designers along with designers from Mumbai, Bangalore, Kochi, Kolkata and Delhi. There are a few designers from Nagpur and there are around three designers who will be coming from Hyderabad also. There are international fashion designers from Mexico, Dubai, Bangladesh and Myanmar as well.

**Q** What are the events that will be conducted during this 3-day fashion extravaganza?

During these three days, we are having a Masterclass of fashion designers, there will be a workshop on fashion, we will be organising seminars and there will be a talk show on how to establish a successful business in fashion industry.

**Q** What are your thoughts about Goan fashion designers?

Goan fashion designers are very talented but the only thing is that they are not coming very openly to

market or promote their product. Designers from other parts of the country are willing to go to any extent to promote their brand. So I feel the Goan fashion designers should come openly and explore, as there are loads of opportunities in the market, they can promote their brand on a grand scale within Goa itself.

**Q** What are the benefits stakeholders will have from the business point of view?

This Fashion Week is more than just a show because we will be organising business to business meeting so that the designers can meet the retailers, they can interact with the prospective clients and the manufacturers. So we are trying to start a trend which is beneficial to all the stakeholders in this business. We have specially invited all the boutique owners. We have invited around 200 boutique owners who are really looking forward to the designer's clothes to sell in their retail outlets. We have invited some big showroom owners in Goa and we have also partnered with Mall de Goa. The purpose is that these boutique or showroom owners can take a look at their collections and can have a business to business meeting with the designers. We have also invited film makers in order to provide exposure to the models so that they can have an opportunity to get a role in the films and make a career. This is a show for everybody and a win-win situation for every stakeholder.

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