

# THE NEUTRAL VIEW

FORTNIGHTLY Wednesday, February 8, 2017 | Vol. No. 1 | Issue 4 | Price Rs. 10 | RNI: GOAENG00427

## REGIONAL PLAYERS TO BE SPOILERS FOR BIG DADDIES

Rupesh Samant, Panaji

The intense power play seen in Goa for the last few months has taken a short break for now. The elections for the 40 assembly seats are over, with voters showing tremendous enthusiasm in the polling turnout. The polling percentage has sparked hopes for the national parties who have claimed that they will be garnering a majority of the votes.





# GOAN YOUTUBE SENSATIONS

## Our Very Own Local Heroes

SZWENSKA CHRISS

You may have heard of popular Indian YouTubers like the guys from AIB, Kanan Gill, Kenneth Sebastian or international YouTubers like Superwomen, but did you know our state has a bunch of YouTubers too? Don't sweat it, we've got this covered for you. Well then, let's get straight to knowing what their channels are all about.

Antonio C. Pacheco is the CEO and Founder of studio7global. Antonio is a professional photographer and vlogger (video blogger) from Goa, and his channel showcases lifestyle, travel and food vlogs through everyday living. There's no fixed content from any specific location. Almost every week he showcases new places in his vlogs. Apart from the regular business that he runs, this channel is purely a hobby and something he loves to do for himself. Since he is a professional photographer



it does give him a certain advantage. Antonio tries to show a different perspective with the various kinds of equipments he uses to shoot vlogs, like drones, for example.

"Vlogs have been around for 4 to 5 years. Locally it's a trend that's currently picking up. It's not as big as it is internationally, but it's definitely growing," says Antonio. He isn't rooting for subscribers or views; he seems very content with the views since he gets positive feedback from his existing subscribers. His personal goal is to have 365 vlogs in a year's time.

Manguirish Salelkar is another vlogger from Goa. His YouTube channel goes by the name '8 minutes Guru'. This YouTube channel has a 8 minute video session that gets an unconventional professional to highlight something that his or her fellow professionals would like to know. A 'guru' gets chosen and showcased on account of an innovative approach.

"The first season has focussed on Goans. In the next season I will probably showcase people from outside Goa or even international professionals," says Manguirish. "I give 30 second time slots to sponsors, and the same money is used to pay the people I outsource to shoot my videos." Manguirish only wants to highlight lesser known unconventional entrepreneurs so that they get some limelight. He focuses more on the



views he gets per video rather than the subscribers. "I get positive and negative feedback from people but what's more important to me is that the stories sell."

Vardhan Kamat's channel, focuses on a character called Guru – a Goan villager who has his own ideas and thinking, as per his own convenience. It's about how he perceives things. The videos are shot on a mobile camera in a single take, there are no edits and cuts in between.

"I have subscribers from Goa, Dubai, England and America, wherever there are Goans, because Konkani language is used. YouTubers like me aren't professionals in shooting videos and have a fairly low budget; hence the content is more important." Making



money from this channel was never his intention, as one needs a lot of views per video to earn money. Google pays out only when the earnings reach 100 dollars. "This started during the elections. I also happened to buy my new camera and I wanted to test it, so I just placed it in front of me and started talking."

Two friends Deep Sawant and Omkar Vernekar started their YouTube channel called 'page 37' as a hobby. Their current show is called 'The Dusty Room'. This show gives a platform to musical talent, with no language barriers.

"The applicants which include singers, musicians or lyricists have to send us a clip of their work," explains Deep. "The singer has to first sing a cover song in their own style followed by 2 to 3 original songs. If the singers do not have original songs we have composers and writers to help them out. The singers get a music video done for free on a platform and they can always remarket them. We also have a host, Shrey, and a sound engineer, Lan de Noronha, who help us with the show."

Musicians have to go to prominent platforms to get recognised, which is a very difficult process, whereas on the Dusty Room YouTube channel auditions happen 24 -7. "Getting noticed on YouTube is a slower process, but we have had a good response," adds Omkar, who contributes as a writer and does marketing for Page 37. Deep is keen on visuals as he feels that YouTube is not just about the content or video. This is a professional set up. Page 37 is planning to start a web series too, very soon. "We don't get good exposure to show what we create in Goa, but the culture is slowly picking up now," asserts Omkar.

So there you have it, a fine bouquet of Goa-based vloggers, YouTubers and local talent platforms that have stars in their eyes, but with their feet firmly planted on the ground. May their numbers and view counts grow. Respect!



# CLASSY FOOD AT AN ART CAFÉ-THE CHIKOO TREE PROJECT

PRASAD RAICAR

The Chikoo Tree Project – what an unusual name for a restaurant! – sounds more like a government sponsored nursery for fruit trees, doesn't it? This is a new food joint in Margao, and it is the best new thing to happen for your taste buds in this part of Goa.

Tucked in a quiet corner of Margao, and just a month old now, this restaurant cannot be tagged as a typical eatery. It will remind you of one of those art cafés that abound in metros, but the stress is more on food. Budding artistes can use the space here to display their creations free of cost. And the afternoons are fruitfully spent, with dancing classes for kids, etc.

So why the peculiar name? Trupti Wesley, who runs the place along with her husband, hails from Mysore, where a huge chikoo tree in her grandmother's house was symbolic of the versatility, the deliciousness and the assurance that her food would provide. The project part of the name relates to the extra-culinary activities that are planned for usage of the place in lean hours.

The neighbourhood is quite peaceful, with parking along the side lanes. Once you enter, pleasant smiles welcome you. The paintings and drawings displayed here quickly catch your attention. The walls are adorned with newspaper kites and cycle wheels. Stairs lead up to more tables where board games, books and a game of carrom beckon you to pass your time. The seating is comfortable and the tables are not packed too close, giving you a nice zone of privacy.

The menu is a no-frills two page list where each dish is described meticulously. Desserts are missing (except ice cream) but they plan to add these very soon. We decided to venture with our orders as per the suggestions from Trupti,



## SERVES

Comfort food for the soul

## HOW TO GET THERE

Heart of Margao town, on the road parallel to Nanutel, near Baskin Robbins outlet

## CONTACT

9920064597

## TIMINGS

10 AM to 10 PM, Monday closed

## PRICES

800 rupees for two, approx

## PARKING

This is subject to availability on the lanes around the outlet, usually available

## PEOPLE INVOLVED

Trupti Wesley runs this cozy place, along with her husband Anand



These were served with a bowl of vegetable stew and some coconut chutney. The superb combination of the spicy meat in the dosa with the sweet stew was just perfect, and was the highlight of our meal. Lip smacking would be an understatement!!

giving them a chance to impress us with their food. The drinks were served pretty fast, and the glasses were quite big. The Watermelon and Fennel juice was neat. The Lemongrass Lemonade concoction was missing any hint of lemongrass, maybe because the lemon part was very strong in taste. But what really stood out in both drinks was the sweetening. The sugar held itself back allowing the fruits to hold centre stage.

Next on our plates was the Tibetan Thukpa. This is a soup filled to the brim with veggies, meat and rice noodles. The portions were quite big and filling. All my previous interactions with this dish had corn flour playing a major role in the thickening of this soup, which also added its own into the taste. So now it was a discomfoting but pleasant surprise. Discomfoting because it didn't look like what I was expecting; but that changed to pleasant once I jumped into it.

The dish that followed was a combination I had never thought of before. Ragi dosas stuffed with either eggs, kheema or sausages with cheese.

Next we had the Hasselback potatoes, again stuffed with meats and cheeses of your choice. As is the norm here, again a big portion, and quite good. I loved the salad that accompanied it – fresh, crunchy and superbly tossed with condiments. The Katti Rolls are also highly recommended.

The service is prompt and friendly. No alcohol is served. A blackboard highlights the day's special, and is highly anticipated by patrons. What stands out though is the personal attention that Trupti gives to every aspect of the running of the restaurant, be it the kitchen or the front end service. She is there to take your order, she rushes into the kitchen to supervise the food, she serves the dishes with aplomb, and the best part is she will make you feel at ease, which shows her passion for what she believes in – serving the best food while staying true to what she has learned from her grandmother, and imbued within her by the strength of the chikoo tree.

The Chikoo Tree Project is here to stay. And boy, are we glad!



# FEBRUARY 4 IS OVER, NOW WE WAIT FOR MARCH 11

It was a celebration of democracy on the 4th of February when the entire State came out to vote for the candidates of their choice, who would decide the fate of this coastal state that is grappling with several problems. The two-month-long hectic election campaign that culminated in this huge turnout signifies the faith of the voters in democracy. Interestingly, this is the same faith that is demolished by the politicians every passing day over the next five years. But the indomitable spirit of the voter continues.

As we look back at the voting day, we should also salute the meticulous planning by the election officials including Chief Electoral Officer Kunal and Joint Chief Electoral Officer Narayan Navti who were at the helm of affairs to get things right by joining hands with their team of professionals.

The response from the first time voters in the election was significant. This clearly shows that we have moved on from the days when the youth stayed aloof from elections. In fact this time many young people have contested for the State legislative assembly seats, making the poll more 'youthful' and 'close to the hearts of generation Y'.

The enthusiasm amongst the youth can also be credited to the strategically planned campaign through social media and other awareness initiatives. We also need to salute the election icons who were busy spreading the message of the importance of voting. Thanks to them the youth felt that 'it is cool to vote.'

The innovative concept of Pink Booths for the first time female voters also played its role in attracting more votes. After all who does not like to carry home a teddy bear?

The apprehension that people in the mining belt had lost their trust in elections after the 2012 polls, which threw them into doldrums,

was also proved wrong. Voting trends in the iron ore rich constituencies of Sankhalim, Bicholim, Curchorem and Sanguem were at an all-time high. The numbers were much above the State average of the polling, proving that the voters there still have faith that a good government can work out solutions for the miserably affected mining industry.

The tourism belt too showed keen interest in the voting. Perhaps the impressive turnout was because of the large number of candidates in the fray this time. The Calangute constituency witnessed the much awaited fight between two political archrivals – Michael Lobo and Joseph Sequeira. Both the politicians who have strong bases left no stones unturned to garner support. The election in Calangute constituency is a prelude to the crucial Panchayat polls that are expected in May this year.

What was disheartening was to see that the Catholic-dominated constituencies did not display the same fervour. It was strange to see Salcete, which is always active during elections, showing less enthusiasm this time. The Curtorim constituency marked the lowest voting amongst all the 40 constituencies. Parties like the Aam Admi Party (AAP) were busy lobbying to get more voters turn out for voting. Yet one cannot easily read reasons into this lack of enthusiasm.

The Church which has always been playing a pro-active role in the elections also played its share of creating awareness this time, by advising people on ethical voting. If one concludes that the voters in Salcete found no good option for voting, they may have very well pressed the button in front of 'None of The Above' (NOTA) to display their protest.

The elections are over. It is now time for a long, suspenseful wait. Everyone is gazing at the calendar waiting for the morning of March 11, when the fate of 251 candidates will be decided. Right now we can just ponder on the voting pattern, but the actual results seem to be beyond any predictions. We can only say "May the best candidate win!"

One of the best features of this Goa Election has been the ban on exit polls imposed by the Election Commission of India. Many of the media houses seem unhappy with this decision. One media house even challenged this ban at the Goa Bench of Bombay High Court.

What is interesting is that all the poll surveys that were done have to be now kept under

wraps. Some surveys were done even before the poll dates were announced. Many so-called political experts had predicted several things. There were surveys done at the time of the announcement of the election too, and some news channels displayed their over enthusiasm by predicting who would form the next government. Even before voters could decide whom to vote for, the media houses had already predicted what the voter would think.

The electorate should compare these surveys and also the final result on March 11. These fake survey agencies must be questioned as to why and on whose behalf the 'surveys' were conducted. I hope the ECI comes up with some mechanisms to work out some action against the fake surveys, so that at the least they do not continue confusing people over the next elections. Confused minds can yield false and biased results.

The Election Commission of India should also reveal to the people what action was taken regarding the complaints of Code of Conduct violations reported during the election process.

Several complaints were lodged against the candidates and the political parties in the run up to the polls. Except for one case against Arvind Kejriwal and similarly against Manohar Parrikar we have not heard of any action or notice. It is now the duty of the ECI to tell the common people what action was initiated.

The simple excuse that the cases are being investigated will not work in the state of Goa, where people are well educated. Proper action against the candidates violating code of conduct will cement our faith in the process of election. The Code of Conduct should not look like a plastic law without any teeth. We have faith in the election commission and it should respect our trust.

The media monitoring committee should also publicly come out with its report on the violations by various journalists, newspapers and news channels. If not such action, the readers should at least know what the complaints were. If these systems are explained and the information is revealed, we will know whether they work. Or else there will be yet another election in the future, where one more time the committees will be formed, a code of conduct will be enforced and the farce will continue. The Election Commission should convince us beyond doubt that corrective and punitive action was clearly taken.





# AN ELITE GAME VERSUS A PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO THEIR LAND

**GANAPAT SATOSKAR**

**T**iracol is a serene and verdant Goan village, where finding basic amenities may not be easy, but the scenic beauty and nature's bounty have always satisfied the hearts of the people.

Placed at the northernmost tip of Goa, the village of Tiracol is connected to the rest of the state by a ferry dependent on the whims of the sea tides. The iconic Tiracol Fort overlooking the vast expanse of the Arabian Sea was the only distinct identity that the village had till date. But lately things have been changing fast. The winds of 'Development' have been blowing across the village and are now threatening its very existence.

A multicore project by MS Leading Hotels Limited for a Golf course and accompanying starred hotel is giving sleepless nights to the villagers. Successive governments have been covertly supporting the project and hence have left the villagers to fight a tedious legal battle against the project owners.

Not much has changed in the village since Goa's Liberation in 1961. The only bus from the village leaves at 6.45 am to Panjim via Shiroda, Maharashtra, only to return at 8.30 pm. The rest of the time the villagers have to walk up and down the steep plateau across the length of the village and cross over to Keri by ferry to catch a bus. Water pipelines are still nonexistent and the village depends entirely on natural

springs, wells and water tankers from the neighbouring state. Electricity is also routed through Maharashtra and hence subject to frequent power cuts and load shedding during the summer season for up to 8 hours a day.

The once peaceful village of Tiracol today has an air of uneasiness with an army of bouncers patrolling across the village. Once open fields now have tall fencing erected, trees have been cut and hoardings of the project confront you on either sides of the road. The construction and tree cutting activities have been on hold for now due to judicial intervention, but the slightest of alarms is enough to gather all the villagers, who take turns to keep a night vigil.

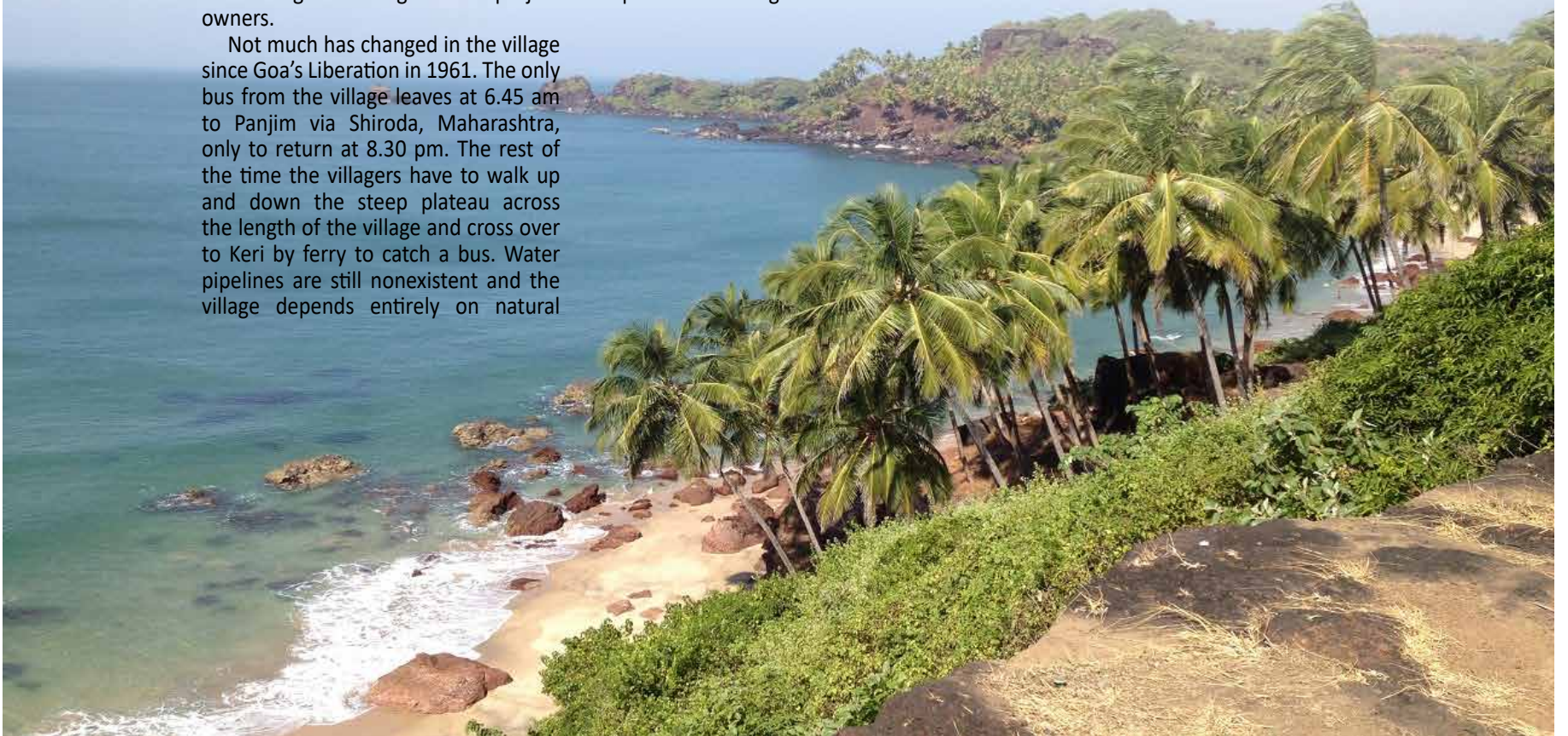
With no hope whatsoever from the political leadership, the villagers of Tiracol have gathered together under the St. Anthony's Tenant & Mundkar Association to fight the legal battle. The whole village contributes to pay for the legal expenses. Money is difficult to come by as most of the people are dependent on agriculture and the

seasonal cashew crop.

Changes are inevitable with time, and development is also necessary. In the name of development are we going to replace the poor with the rich? The greenery of forests to artificial green lawns? Should not development include the sons of the soil? How important is a golf course for the overall development of Pernem Taluka is a million dollar question. Whereas in mainland Goa people have been selling away their ancestral properties, this small village is fighting against all odds and financial temptations, so that they can pass on their piece of their motherland to the coming generation.

Whether the proposed project will actually get underway is now for the courts to decide. But what we have come to is the question of whether a game of golf is more important than the existence of a centuries-old village? The game of golf — "where the elite old men will play and the poor children will watch from the fences".

982211709





# SOME DAY THE BEACHES WILL BE GONE

JOSÉ LOURENÇO

Temperatures have been soaring in Goa for the last many years. But the last three years have been particularly searing. I recall going to school wearing sweaters in the December and January months. But recent January afternoons are hot enough to give you a bad case of sunburn and heatstroke.

Earth sizzled to its third straight record warm year in 2016. Now pay attention to this recent finding by experts. The last time the world was as warm as today was some 125,000 years ago. But what is most alarming is that sea levels in those ancient times were 6 to 9 metres above today's sea level!

The average temperature across the Earth's land and ocean surfaces in 2016 was 58.69 degrees, nearly 2 degrees above average, according to climate experts. This is a sudden jump compared to past increases that have been in fractions of degrees. Most of the warming has happened in the past 35 years. Almost every continent showed record high temperatures in 2016.

Sea levels respond directly to global temperatures, both through the melting of ice shelves in Greenland and Antarctica and through the expansion of water as it warms. But this sea rise happens slowly, over many thousands of years. But the current warming trend appears to be occurring faster. We may not have the luxury of time that our ancestors had.

Professor Andrew Watson, a climate scientist at the University of Exeter, said: "The good news is that with luck it will continue to rise slowly, so that we have time to adapt, but the bad news is that eventually all our present coastal city locations will be inundated."

The UN estimates that global sea levels will rise between 13cm and 68cm by 2050 and another group has predicted a two metre rise by the end of the century.

Now back to our Bhangarachem Goem. Goa has a coastline of 105 kilometres. A 2 metre rise of the sea by 2100 will see the seawater surging right up to the doorsteps of the luxury resorts and villas that dot the beaches of Goa. Over the next centuries large parts of Goan coastal villages could be covered with water and its populations would have to gradually relocate to higher land. The effect of the rising sea would also be felt upstream through the network of rivers. The legend of Parashurama's arrow falling to land that gets reclaimed from the sea is well known. Large areas of the vast khazan lands that were reclaimed by our ancestors thousands of years ago will be inundated by saline water, rendering them useless.

Goa's coastal talukas, particularly Bardez, Salcete and Mormugao are very densely populated. Tourism, a major source of income for these areas, along with real estate and other allied activities, will also be affected as the sea level rises.

An eventual rise of 6 to 9 metres (matching the sea level of 125,000 years ago) would be disastrous for the entire Goa coastline with thousands of square kilometres being submerged. Our capital city of Panjim is just 7 metres above sea level. The capital of Goa that moved here from Old Goa in 1843 will eventually have to move to a higher location!

But all this will take place over thousands of years, so there is plenty of time to adapt and relocate. Though scientists have been warning of global warming and sea level rise in Goa at many conferences and studies, this seems to be the last matter on the mind of any of our politicians and policy makers. It is time to look far into the distance, and get ready for a Goa that will have even as much as one-fifth of its current land, including its famed golden beaches, under water!

9822184740

The writer is a Civil Engineer based in Margao

# BEING A PARENT BEFORE AND AFTER

ASHWIN KAMAT

They say, when you are in love, the world knows! The desi version of this, quite aptly, is – Pyar aur Pimple chupta nahi. Honestly, it should have been Pyar, Pimple aur tumhare andarka Parent kabhi chupta nahi. The world just knows when you have recently become a parent. But there is a fundamental difference – when you are in love, there is a peculiar twinkle in your eyes and a vivid sparkle in your smile – and hence the world knows! Whereas when you have recently become a parent, the world knows primarily because the new ‘over-enthusiastic’ parent in you keeps mentioning about it – over and over and over again. Apparently it is a universal fact and a cardinal rule that after one becomes a parent, all the conversations of such a person should start with either the words “Before the baby’s birth...” or the words “After the baby’s birth...”. Check this out:

Before my daughter, Mau was born, I used to sleep like a dead body – I swear! It used to take a jolt (preferably of 255 volts of electric shock or 255 decibels of my wife’s screeching voice) to wake me up. Even the alarm tone on my mobile was set to the squealing rock song ‘Sweet Child O’ Mine’ by Gun-n-Roses.

After the baby’s birth, i.e. once the actual Sweet Child of Mine has come into my life, I wake up even if a bloody rat sneezes in the 5 km radius of my bedroom. Believe me, I get so conscious and petrified when she sleeps, I have actually kept a bowl full of pebbles in my balcony to shoo away any dog who tries to even cough near our gate.

Before Mau was born, there used

to be a gap of at least, AT LEAST, 20 minutes between the act of ‘opening my eyes’ in the morning and actually ‘waking up my brain’. Let’s just say my brain, just like the rest of my mortal organs, is ‘Made in Goa’ and is proud to be susegad.

But now, after Mau is born, my vigilant brain wakes up even before my lousy eyes can open up. It is like my brain is working at full productivity – when I am awake, when I am asleep and when I am sleepily awake.

After the birth of the child, even the definitions of routine phrases change dramatically. Before the baby was born, ‘Night out’ basically meant hanging out with friends, getting drunk and singing lewd double-meaning songs. But after the birth of my daughter, the definition of a ‘night out’ has effectively changed to staying awake for the whole night with the baby, trying to get her to drink milk while singing stereotype lullabies to her. But honestly – hand to my heart – these ‘night outs’ are far more fulfilling and beautiful than ‘those’!

Oh, jokes apart, everything that I mentioned above is absolutely true – just that it is true in case of my beloved wife! Well, as for me – I still sleep like an over-exhausted hibernating pig (I know pigs don’t hibernate – but for God’s sake it’s tough to be in Goa and relate to a hibernating bear).

Seriously, I never thought – even in my wildest dreams – that I would use the phrase “Sleeping like a log” in the past tense ... always thought it would be present tense forever for that phrase. I always thought I was the master of my time and could sleep like a log whenever, wherever and howsoever I wished.

But after the birth of my Mau – I once again surrendered to the upgraded version of the legal form of slavery – ‘parenthood’. Yes, the previous version of the legal form of slavery that I got myself into was ‘marriage’! Needless to say I enjoy every moment of it and am

super-duper excited about the journey ahead.

9923145005  
The writer is a Chartered Accountant by profession based in Ponda

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THE NEUTRAL VIEW  
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# SHUTTLING HER WAY TO SUCCESS

SINI FERNANDES

Opportunities not only knock on the door, they can also be found on a badminton court. Anura Prabhudesai, an international badminton player found her passion at the tender age of 6. She used to go for training along with her sister. Her sister eventually went on to focus on further studies but Anura's coach, Mr. Govind Navelkar had already recognized the potential in little Anura. He also knew that it was the right age to start with professional training. His vision for Anura and his encouragement proved to be a turning point in her life. Badminton today is the most important part of her life. So far in her career she has participated in 17 international and 81 national tournaments. She has achieved 36 medals at the national level including 5 gold medals.

This young dynamic player, who ranks 8th in the senior women's single in national badminton ranking, has the tremendous support of her family. She says, "My parents and my sister are my power bank". In our society, most parents impose their dreams on their children. They don't consider or don't even bother to ask what their child wants to pursue. But Anura's parents always stood by her. Although she is pursuing her higher education, her main focus is badminton. Her unflinching determination and her parents' continuous support are the two strongest factors in her career. She has done very well in academics too. Anura was a distinction holder at the SSC level and is currently studying at the higher secondary level at NIOS.

Hailing from Cancona, Anura presently resides in Ponda. This energetic player has secured the 23rd rank in junior women's singles (U-19) and 231st rank in women's single in International Badminton ranking.

"Saina Nehwal from India and Lin Dan from China are my role models," says Anura, who is playing for the Airport Authority of India. She recently participated in the Syed Modi International Badminton Championship.

"Playing along with P.V.Sindhu was a nice experience, she says, while quickly adding, "But I was not under any kind of pressure. I played my natural game."

What is special about Anura is her positive attitude towards life. "I don't want to dwell upon the bad experiences of the past," Anura replies very optimistically when asked about the difficulties she has faced.

"My goal is to improve upon my international ranking," says Anura. She has secured several achievements including the GENO award (upcoming player) in 2013 followed by the GENO award (Best sportswomen) in 2014. Currently she is the brand ambassador for Geno Pharmaceuticals. Anura loves playing singles and just the way she attacks and overcomes all the difficulties in her life, she is also a natural attacker on the court.

"Net skills are difficult to achieve," she admits, along with a determination to achieve those skills. For all that she has achieved, along with her parents, she expresses her gratitude towards her fitness coach Mr. Krishnanath Naik, her coaches in Goa Mr. Roy Athaide and Mr. Vinayak Kamat. She also thanks her coaches in Bengaluru - Mr. Vimal Kumar and Mr. Prakash Padukone where she is receiving her training at the Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy, Bengaluru.

"Every person should play sports, sports makes a person disciplined," opines Anura, on the importance of sports in one's life. "Education is important but give at least one chance to your children. Provide them with facilities and let them prove themselves." Says Anura. "What are the things that you had to sacrifice?" I ask and she says, "The only thing that I had to sacrifice was spending time with my family."

Anura was selected and given the honour of being a torch bearer for the Lusofonia games held in Goa. Her life itself acts like a guiding light for many sportswomen out there who are truly gifted but need some boost.

6

Education is important but give at least one chance at sports to your children.





# GOA ELECTIONS 2017 ONE HUGE FESTIVAL OF DEMOCRACY

The Neutral View met up with Chief Electoral Officer IAS Kunal to talk about his efforts to ensure fair and fervent elections in Goa.

**TNV: Sir, Kindly apprise us about the various initiatives taken up by your esteemed office to ensure free and fair assembly elections?**

**KUNAL:** We concentrated more on the voter education. Hence we carried out a bouquet of activities. These included street plays, various competitions like painting, rangoli etc. The second important measure was the use of social media. We had a dedicated Facebook page that has over 35 thousand likes as of today. Lakhs of people were engaged through this page. We had 27 icons from different fields such as music, theater, literature etc. who developed messages, songs and worked with us as messengers. Songs and videos were played on

all leading news channels, FM channels etc. The momentum was built since December through infographics, quotes, competitions etc. We were able to convey to the voters that non participation in the election process is not a good idea in a progressive state like Goa. We could also convey to the female voters that their individuality is important and I am happy that females have outnumbered the males in voting

as the voting trends convey.

As far as the model code of conduct is concerned, we had a series of meetings at the government level to instruct them on what they cannot do during the code of conduct and they have abided by the same. We removed the various banners placed at different places in Goa within 36 hours with the help of various administrative agencies. We were able to crack down on 'matka' gambling across the state since it is one of the ways to distribute money during elections. Extensive checking was done across Goa. Our flying squads were on their toes. Bar and restaurants were closed before 11pm and strict vigil was kept on sale of liquor after the stipulated timings. Our help lines were active all the time. We had several complaints from individual levels and we have acted upon all the complaints. Lot of people sent me complaints with photos and proofs and we have taken cognizance of the same.

**What were the initiatives taken by your office to encourage first time voters? Have the results been satisfactory?**

Election Commission set up special pink polling booths which had all women election workers and officers. Election process amounts to almost 12 to 14 long working hours but we were happy that the women stationed on these booths efficiently carried out their duties. The first time voters were also gifted with teddy bears and pens to boost their participation in the democratic exercise.

The major highlight of this year's elections was 'Divyang booth'. This was polling station number one in Ribandar in Panjim constituency which was entirely run by people with disability. We were constantly supervising this booth since we were not sure how the idea would work but it turned out to be successful. There was almost 85% voting in this booth and all the staff carried out their duties with perfection. Special efforts were also taken in all booths to ensure that the persons with disabilities come and vote. The Vanarmare tribals also voted for the first time. We were earlier thinking of setting up a special booth for them

however later we realized we need to work towards inclusive voting and they voted at their designated voting booth.

**How many complaints have been filed for violation of code of conduct?**

A total of 255 Model Code of Conduct violations have been registered and we are acting upon them.

**Complaints have been filed even against top level politicians like Defense minister Manohar Parrikar and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal? What is the latest status on these complaints?**

The CEO office is one of the most transparent, independent and credible offices and we don't work on any pressures. For us, all complaints are the same. We have provided the Election Commission of India whatever details that were sought from us. They will take the necessary action.

**There were apprehensions about CEO office going overboard. Your comments?**

Whatever steps that were taken have been to ensure equal opportunities are given to all. We haven't favoured anyone, whether it is the ruling or opposition. Decisions like removing the banners were with a view to ensure free and fair elections and that has been our final goal.

**Are you satisfied by the efforts taken by you?**

Yes. Like I said before, I am happy that our efforts led to more females coming out to vote. Our target was to achieve 90% overall voting which we achieved in a few constituencies. We will work harder next time to ensure that we reach this figure in every constituency. I thank citizens, media and all my polling staff who worked towards making this one huge festival of democracy.

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# REGIONAL PLAYERS TO BE SPOILERS FOR BIG DADDIES

RUPESH SAMANT

The intense power play seen in Goa for the last few months has taken a short break for now. The elections for the 40 assembly seats are over, with voters showing tremendous enthusiasm in the polling turnout. The polling percentage has sparked hopes for the national parties who have claimed that they will be garnering a majority of the votes.

The Congress party has tagged itself as a Phoenix bird that has risen from the ashes. The Goa Pradesh Congress Committee President Luizinho Faleiro asserted that his party has managed to tackle all the odds posed by the opposition BJP. Faleiro has gone on record to blame the BJP for dirty tricks.

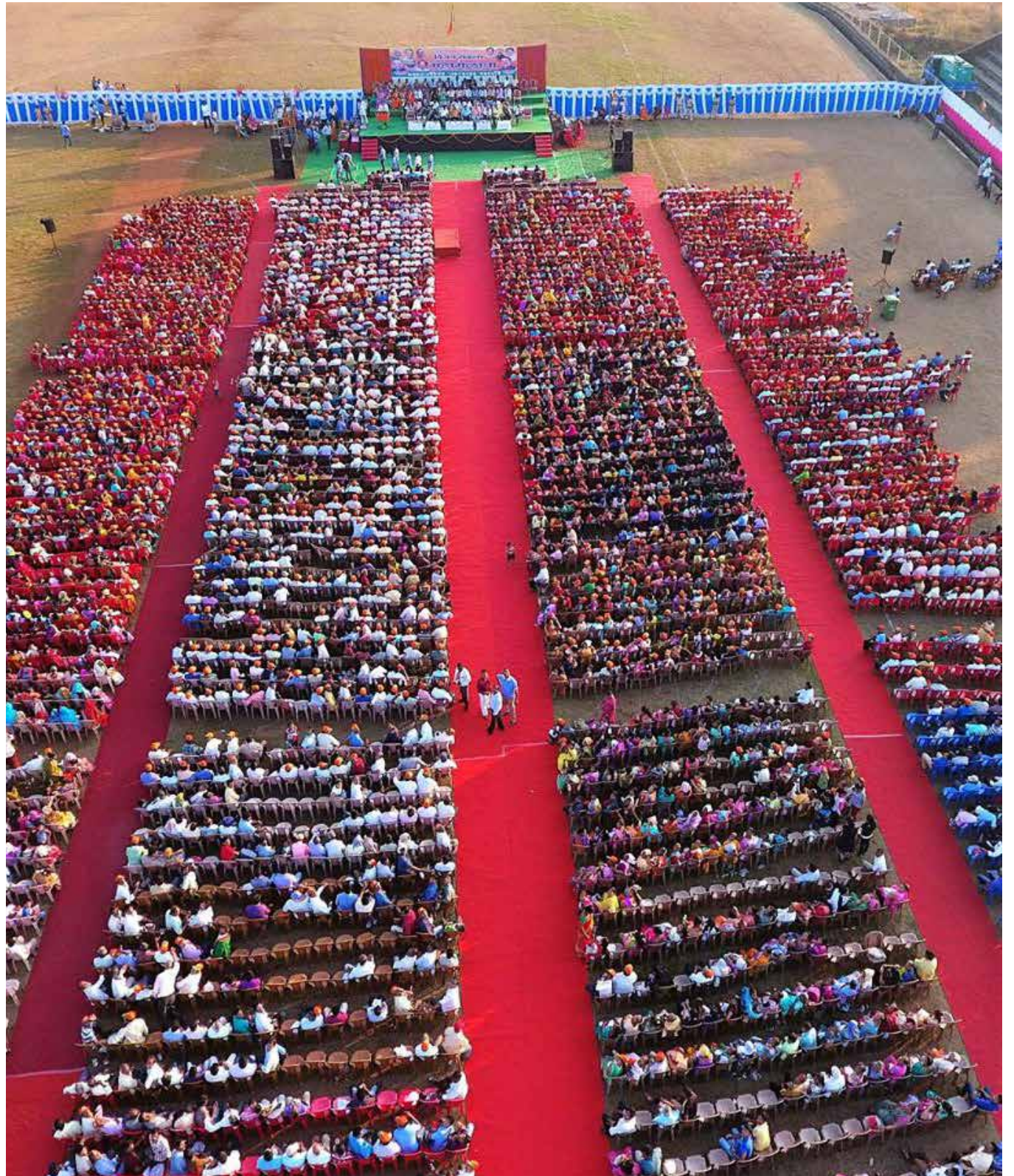
After their initial flip-flops and love-hate relationship with regional parties and like-minded leaders, the Congress has fielded its candidates for 37 seats. Of these, Faleiro claims his party will win at least 23-25 seats.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has not stayed away from the prediction game. BJP Goa President Vinay Tendulkar has said his party will win two-thirds of the seats, gaining majority in the 40-seat legislative assembly.

A senior BJP leader, in a private conversation, claimed that the voting pattern indicates that the party will win not less than 22 seats. This means, the BJP must have already started celebrating their victory and planning for Manohar Parrikar's return.

The Election Commission of India has barred the media from conducting any kind of exit polls. So we have kept our predictions under lock and key. We have sealed our mouth and controlled our pen. But no one can stop political parties from having their own in-house exit polls. We can term it as 'wishful thinking of the political parties.'

While our analytical mind has barred itself from putting up any figures, it is certain that the regional parties and small-time players will hold the key to





the results that are awaited on March 11.

The role of regional parties in the elections has been crucial. Considering the political equations that were being spread across the chess board of Goa, the role of regional parties in deciding the next government can certainly change the game either way.

If we have a closer look at the 2012 election, the difference of voting polled between Congress and BJP was not much, though the former was reduced to a single digit in the House, while the latter managed to gain an unprecedented victory.

The total share of BJP in 2012 was 34.68 percent of the total votes as against 30.78 per cent of Congress, which means the difference between both was less than four per cent. The Maharashtra Gomantak Party became the third largest party to gain the vote share with 6.72 per cent of the votes.

The BJP could get victory in 2012 due to the pre-poll alliance with MGP and anti-incumbency wave against the Congress-led government in the State. The Regional Parties did not play much of a role, except for the MGP and Goa Vikas Party (GVP). The elections had independents like Rohan Khaunte, Vijai Sardesai, Benjamin Silva, Naresh Sawal and Avertano Furtado making their mark.

Back to 2017, the regional parties like Goa Forward, MGP, Goa Suraksha Manch have emerged as a factor to reckon with.

The anti-BJP movement led by Subhash Velingkar has led to GSM riding the wave of sympathy in many places. Their pre-poll tie with MGP and Shiv Sena will undoubtedly eat into the BJP's vote bank. The 36 percent vote pie that they have been owning will have to be shared with this pre-poll alliance team.

This alliance will be a spoiler for the BJP in many constituencies. Speculations are rife that GSM candidate like Sham Satardekar in Sanvordem will render a setback to the BJP while MGP candidates including Sudin Dhavalikar, Naresh Sawal, Babu Asgaonkar and Lavoo Mamlatdar will give the BJP a tough time in their constituencies.

The fate of MGP President Dipak Dhavalikar in his constituency is uncertain, considering the huge popularity of BJP backed Independent candidate Govind Gaude.

While these hurdles for BJP might be a thing to smile about for the Congress, they themselves are facing significant challenges in the form of NCP, Goa Forward and AAP.

Candidates like Jose Philip D'Souza, Churchill Alemao and Pratap Gawas will



give Congress sleepless nights in their respective constituencies.

Although Goa Forward has restricted its role to a few constituencies, it has also become a major political force in Siolim, Saligao, Fatorda, Velim and Navelim. Vijai Sardesai has certainly tried all possible means to damage the Congress in these constituencies to establish the importance of his party.

Amongst all, the fate of AAP has been uncertain. This new party on the political scene has tried all political and social ways to reach to the voters. Theirs has surpassed the BJP's campaign. Right from social media to roadside banners and corner meetings, AAP has done everything to reach out to the voters.

But how many votes it will poll is a big question mark. None of the analysts have been able to actually dissect the voting share of AAP except for a couple of news items originating from Delhi claiming that AAP is all set to form the next government in Goa.

The Goa Vikas Party which divorced its supremo Francisco Miccky Pacheco will also make a considerable difference in constituencies like Cortalim, Benaullim and Navelim. These party candidates have a sizeable chunk of followers who will be major spoilers for the 'big daddies'. The party's new boss Lyndon Monteiro will decide the future of the party, which might or might not make its presence in the upcoming State Legislative Assembly.

Considering all these aspects it is certain that the regional parties are

# cover story

certainly going to make their presence felt in the political activities that would follow the March 11 counting day. In case of a hung assembly, the regional parties will play a vital role. Horse-trading is certainly going to be the order of the day and the state of Goa might plunge into the kind of political instability it has been witnessing a decade ago.

A few things that are worth watching out for include: Will the MGP-GSM-Sena alliance continue even after the results? Will the MGP split from its alliance partners in the garb of 'chanakya niti' and join hands with the Congress or BJP to form the government? Will BJP big wigs be able to retain their seats? Will Congress be able to get back on the track? Will Goa Forward go forward or remain stuck in Fatorda? Will AAP open its account in the Goa Assembly?

Whatever may happen, we just hope that Goa won't be plunged into political instability by a few opportunistic people. The State should march on, the way it has done in the last five years.

rupeshsamant@gmail.com  
The writer is a Senior Journalist

## THE SEA HORSE RESORT GOA



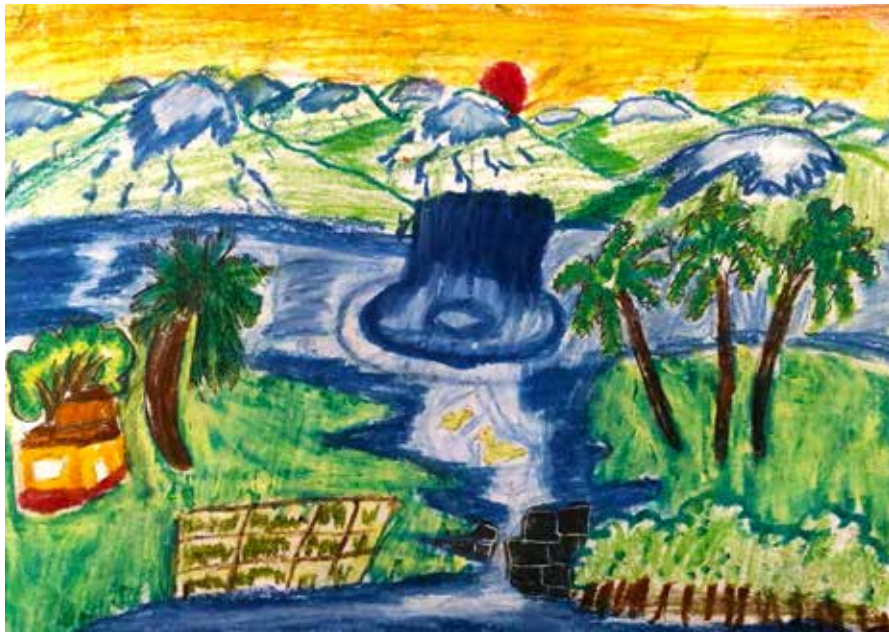




We make money  
 By selling the bee's honey  
 They make their house on tree  
 Humming all day carefree  
 They are very busy  
 To make honey is not easy  
 Though very tiny  
 Their wings are very shiny  
 They visit every flower  
 And work many hours  
 To the park they go  
 Not frightened by dog's bow wow  
 The bees look very dangerous  
 But their work is so marvelous  
 Honey is tasty and sweet  
 That no one can refuse such a treat

**RENUKA PANCHAL**  
 Progress High School, Sankhali

**Bees**



**NAVIN PHADATE**  
 Std V  
 RPRS High School, Bandora



**MELCIA FERNANDES**  
 Std VI,  
 Holy Cross Institute, Quepem



**PRESTON DIAS**  
 Std IV  
 SFX Scool, Siolim



**DISHA KAKODKAR**  
 Std VI  
 Sarvodaya Education Society's High School, Curchorem



**GIRISH NAIK**  
 Std I  
 Manovikas Pre-Primary School, Margao



**NELSON MANDELA**  
 Std VI  
 Holy Cross Institute, Quepem



**SAURABH REDKAR**  
 Std III  
 Government Primary School, Varcotto Sanguem



**VEDA AKSHAY SHIRWAIKAR**  
 Std II  
 SSS's Vidhya Bharati, Margao



## My Village– The glory to eyes

“The future of India lies in its villages”. As rightly said by Mahatma Gandhi, I too feel privileged of being a part of a village situated in Canacona taluka named by Loliem which is just 60 kilometers away from the Margao city.

The delightful village is surrounded by plenty of nature’s beauty. It possesses the testimony to rich heritage of the glorious past. The stunning views and the overwhelming environment feed the eyes of the viewers with endearment.

I am very proud of my village where I have spent my childhood and have created an attachment which will last forever.

Now a days I feel the internet is becoming the town square for the global

village of tomorrow. In spite of this there are many drawbacks from the point of view of its social and educational development. A village is an ideal place of amusement and merriment.

Few months back I heard people discussing about the IIT Project which is proposed to be set up in my village Loliem at Bhagwati plateau. I feel such projects are a boon for the villages. By giving a deep thought to this subject, I feel that the opportunities stepping at our door should not be ignored as they can brighten the future of our nation.

**KHUSHI PRABHUDESAI,**

IX, Ravindra Kelekar Dnyanmandir, Margao



### Paper Fun

## PAPER HELICOPTER

By Arvind Gupta

### Beauty I See

I looked outside the window  
And saw the trees and birds  
It looked so beautiful  
That I can't explain in words

I saw the sun shining  
Up in the blue sky  
I saw the birds flying  
And I wished, I could fly

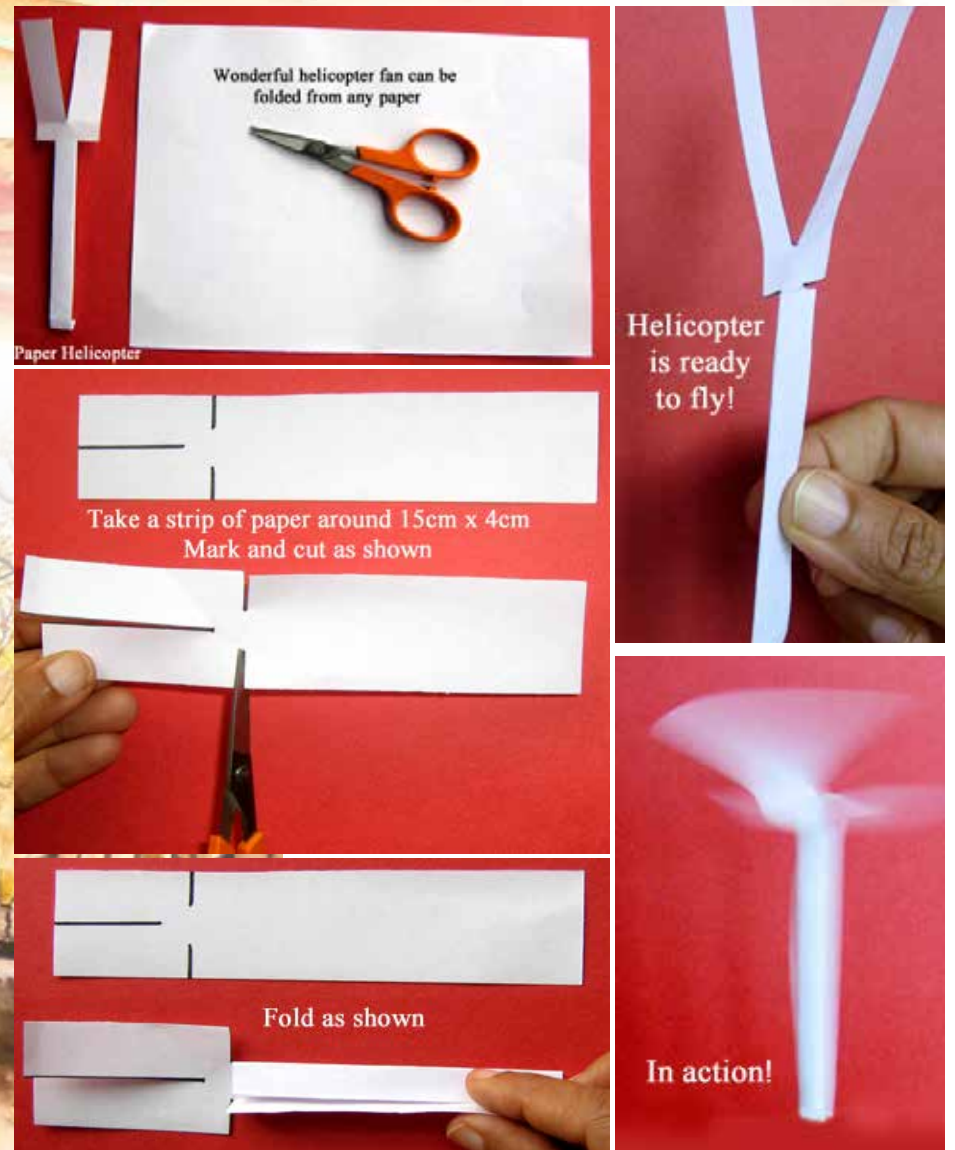
I walked in my garden  
And saw the flowers around me  
I saw the butterflies flying  
So happy and free

All these flowers and trees  
And the bees that buzz  
All the rivers and mountains  
God has made it for us

**GRACINA COLACO**

VI

Regina Mundi High School,  
Chicalim





**FEB 8**

Release of "Ponne Dis"  
@ 8.00pm, Showbar Candolim  
"Ponne Dis" is an honest song portraying the bonding between two brothers, of which one lives in Goa, and the other works away in sea. "Ponne Dis" is composed and produced by Hello Patrao fame Tushar Kamat and Jairaj Joshi. The song has been sung by none other than Suraj Jagan, the singer of Give Me Some Sunshine (Three Idiots) and the video features real characters from Goa, who have themselves worked on a ship or been away from home.

**FEB 08-FEB 19**

SHANTII  
10am - 7pm  
Carpe Diem Art and Learning Centre, Majorda, Goa  
A group exhibition by Majunaath Naik, Osborne Carvalho, Gail Gelburd & Aditi Pande.

**FEB 9**

Ital Digital Part.10 - Naaman alongside Fatbabs / Shabrak Sound  
@ 08:00 pm  
Rock Water, Morjim Beach, Goa  
Run by Rudy Roots, "Ital Digital" is a special event featuring the big bad artist from France called NAAMAN, featuring his beatmaker FATBABS and the SHABRAK SOUND!!

**FEB 10**

5th World Mouth Harp Festival of India  
@03:00 pm  
Jungle Dance Theatre, Bat Wadi Road / Temple Road, Arambol, Goa.  
The World Mouth Harp Festival of India is a grassroots project conceived with a mission of establishing a platform for Mouth Harp players and musicians of all kinds from countries worldwide to connect, share, teach, and perform. The continuing vision of the World Mouth Harp Festival of India is to establish popular recognition for the Mouth Harp as a contemporary musical instrument in our society today.

What Happened, Miss Simone?  
@ 06:00 pm  
Gallery Gitanjali, Goa, Opp.Panjim Inn, Near People's High School, Panaji.  
The fortnightly film club hosted by Apurva Kulkarni at Gallery Gitanjali in Fontainhas, Panjim invites you to the screening of What Happened, Miss Simone? Using never-before-heard recordings, rare archival footage and her best-known songs, this is the story of legendary singer and activist Nina Simone.  
Directed By: Liz Garbus  
Runtime: 1 hour, 42 minutes

**FEB 10-FEB 19**

Ketevan World Sacred Music Festival  
Fri Feb 10 2017 at 06:45 pm to Sun Feb 19 2017 at 08:00 pm  
Old Goa, Goa.

The 10 days festival counts with artists from different countries and traditions from round the world: Indostani - Carnatic - Christian - Classical Western - Sufi - Jewish - Sephardic - Celtic - Native - Etno and many other; artists from Uk, Argentina., Australia, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Irak and India.  
Regular Donation Passes - DAY PASS: 350 Rs and VIP DONOR PASS: 1000 Rs.

ON3 Gathering Goa  
@ 10:00 pm  
Vagator, Goa, North Goa.  
Love for music brought the labels Minimal Force Records [London], elektrotribe [Berlin] and Rural Sounds Records [Goa / Buenos Aires] together with Stay Free Kollektiv [Berlin] to Vagator Goa. Here we join our forces to take over a massive location and turn it into a magical place, where music goes on and on for three days and artists from all over the world get together as one family to play music representing underground quality.

**FEB 10-FEB 12**

Difficult Dialogues 2017  
Fri Feb 10 2017 at 05:00 pm to Sun Feb 12 2017 at 08:00 pm  
The International Centre Goa, Dr. E Borges Road, Dona Paula, Goa  
In 2017, Difficult Dialogues is partnering with University College London (UCL) to explore the challenges India faces in creating conditions for good health and healthcare access for all citizens. It will include discussions under four broad themes: Inequalities in Health and Healthcare; Perceptions of Gender and Consequences for Health; Universal Health (Care) Coverage; and The Changing Burden of Disease.

**FEB 10-FEB 11**

Sanskrit Lecture Series  
February 10 @ 4:30 pm - February 11 @ 4:30 pm  
Institute Menezes Braganza, Panaji  
Sanskrit Bharati, Porvorim is the Collaborating Institution for the above lecture series.  
Dr. Manjusha Kulkarni, Director, Language Department, Mumbai will be the speaker for this two-days lecture series. The topics for the lecture series are Sanskritena Sevopalabdhii and Edkalinstritanani.

**FEB 11-FEB 12**

Landscape Of Your Life - Personal Journey Through Expressive Art  
February 11th @ 10.00am to 6.00pm and Feb 12th 10.00am to 1.00pm  
Saraya, House Number 64 Chogm Road, Sangolda, Bardez, Goa.  
This workshop will take a very exciting journey of your "personal landscape" through the modality of the expressive arts. The workshop will be a hands approach of working in the visual arts using flat art materials such as paint,

inks, oil pastels, and markers. All art materials will be supplied by the facilitator. Facilitator is Jackie Chandani who is an art educator, and a registered, board certified and licensed creative arts therapist from New York. Morning/ Evening Tea and Lunch will be provided on Saturday. Lunch on Sunday will be optional but not included in the workshop fee. The cost of the workshop for one and half days will be Rupees 1800.

**FEB 12**

Saaz- e - eshq  
@ 05:00 pm  
Menezes Braganza Hall, PANJIM GOA.  
Sanjeev Salvi presents a musical love story with live musical band.

The Bizarre Bazaar  
@ 11:00am to 09:00pm  
Panjim Community Centre, Mala, Panjim  
A bazaar to let the shopper in you go wild! Shop till you drop! The Bazaar will showcase different stalls of clothes, accessories, jewellery, food, handicrafts, books etc. Entertainment, shopping and food, all under one roof!

Annual Bookworm Jumble Sale  
@ 9:30 am - 6:00 pm  
Bookworm, Taleigao, Panaji, Goa  
The annual Bookworm jumble sale will be held on February 12. Call 09823222665 for details or drop-off your jumble at Bookworm, near St Michael's Church in Taleigao.

**FEB 12-FEB 18**

Tantra intensive: Masculine, Feminine & Mystery - 7 Days  
Sun Feb 12 2017 at 09:30 am to Sat Feb 18 2017 at 06:00 pm  
Yoga Village (beside Magic Park), Arambol, Goa  
Explore 7 aspects of living based on 7 chakras consciously. Facilitators include ANANDA - a meditator living, teaching and healing with inner essence through body, mind, emotions and energy using transforming tools of Tantra, Yoga and Inner Science ! and PATRA & SATJAN- Tantric Couple and therapists of shadow work, Bodywork and emotional release therapists.

**FEB 15TH - 17TH**

FULL ON FESTIVAL 2017  
@ 5.00pm Nyex Beach Club, Goa  
The line up includes Juno Reactor (Hommege Records) UK, Dickster (Nano Records) UK, Pogo (Nano Records) UK, 1200 Micrograms (Chicago) (Live), Guiseppe (Parvati Records) Italy, Confo (Parvati Records) Greece, Aztec Dosage (Atman Tribe), Spore (Goan Mantra Records), Nirmal (Vertigo Records) Scotland, Demonic Insomniac (Active Meditation Music), Dust (Looney Moon Records), Wicked Ninja (Dragon Fire Records) India, Tali Baba (Visionary Shamanics Records) KSA.

**FEB 17-FEB 18**

SIAM Styling & Design Conclave 2017  
@ 12.00pm  
Radisson Blue Resort, Cavelossim Beach, Goa  
The theme for this 11th edition of the conclave is 'Design for tech-enabled tomorrow'. Theme embraces the current trends in Indian automotive sector. The conclave have senior designers and experts, from across the globe, sharing their experiences through trends reports, technology developments, case studies on iconic products, evolving design processes and on role of design in building and sustaining a brand's value.

**FEB 19**

Riva Pool Party in Goa : Heartical Sound & Rudy Roots  
@ 01:00 pm  
Riva Beach Resort, Arambol, Goa  
Heartical Sound from Paris will come and spin a 100% dub plates selection for the first time in Goa! Come and enjoy your sunday at one of the most beautiful place around Arambol, with swimming pool, sunset view point and good music!! Hosted by Reggae Rules The Beach.

**FEB 19-FEB 28**

Sangit Natyamahotsav – Festival of Musical Dramas  
February 19 @ 7:00 pm - February 28 @ 5:00 pm  
Kala Academy, Campal  
Dramas such as Gomantsant Sohriobanath, Swargsundari, Yayaati ani Devyani, Karveer Saudamini, Dhanurbang will be showcased.

**FEB 22-FEB 24**

Vantara Vichitra Gathering 2017 : Goa  
Wed Feb 22 2017 at 07:00 pm to Fri Feb 24 2017 at 11:00 am  
Dream Beach, Vagator, Goa  
Vantara Vichitra is happy to announce its next gathering in Goa. LIVE ACTS will include Hallucinogenic Horses (Sanaton Rec /Lost Theory) (Sweden), Procs (Sanaton Rec / Lost Theory Rec) (Sweden), Meerkut (Funky Freaks Rec) (France), Makadam (Sanaton Rec / Lost Theory Rec ) (Sweden), Whrikk (Sanaton Rec / Moon Koradji / Treetrolla / Real Vision Music) (Holland), Traskel (Sanaton Records) (Sweden).



# ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS HAVE GONE, PANCHAYAT POLLS ARE ON

TEAM TNV, PANAJI

The five year term of 189 village panchayats ends in May this year. The Laxmikant Parsekar-led cabinet decision last year lead to the creation of the 190th panchayat called Quelossim. The Cabinet undertook bifurcation of the village panchayat of Cortalim-Quelossim into two separate village bodies.

After March 11 – the day that will decide the fate of 251 candidates in the election fray and the subsequent formation of the new State government – the political parties in Goa will begin eyeing the 190 panchayats that will be going for polls in the third week of May. The results of the State Assembly elections will have a greater impact on the panchayat polls, considering the fact that people would prefer to vote for a candidate backed by the party in power.

As the buzz of the State assembly election ends next month with the new Government taking over, political parties will be seen busy trying to get a hold on the local governing bodies. Also, for the political party in power, gaining an upper hand in the VP election is a matter of prestige.

The five year term of 189 village panchayats ends in May this year. The Laxmikant Parsekar-led cabinet

decision last year lead to the creation of the 190th panchayat called Quelossim. The Cabinet undertook bifurcation of the village panchayat of Cortalim-Quelossim into two separate village bodies.

The panchayat elections held under the Panchayat Raj Act in the State should be conducted strictly on apolitical lines, but Political parties are known to support candidates, obviously without party symbol, with the larger aim of gaining strength in the grassroots bodies. After holding zilla panchayat elections on party lines, it would be interesting to see whether the new government favours panchayat elections to be fought on party symbols by bringing in the necessary amendment to the Act.

The Goa State Election Commission (GSEC), the nodal agency to conduct local body elections, has proposed May 21 as the date for holding the panchayat elections. The proposal has been placed before the government, the decision on which is expected only after the new government takes over.

“The five year term of the village panchayats ends in the last week of May and as per the constitution we have to conduct the elections before the term ends. We have proposed May 21 as the day to hold the elections,” election commissioner RK Srivastava said, adding that the model code of conduct for the election will come into force in April, a month before the elections are to be held.

The last panchayat elections were held on May 16, 2012, soon after the State elections and its impact was seen on the VP election, with BJP backed candidates winning with huge margins. However, as the years passed, several panchayats went for by-polls due to non-confidence motions passed against the ruling panchayat members. Several also saw a change in guard under strong political influence.

“The State assembly elections by and large have an impact on the panchayat

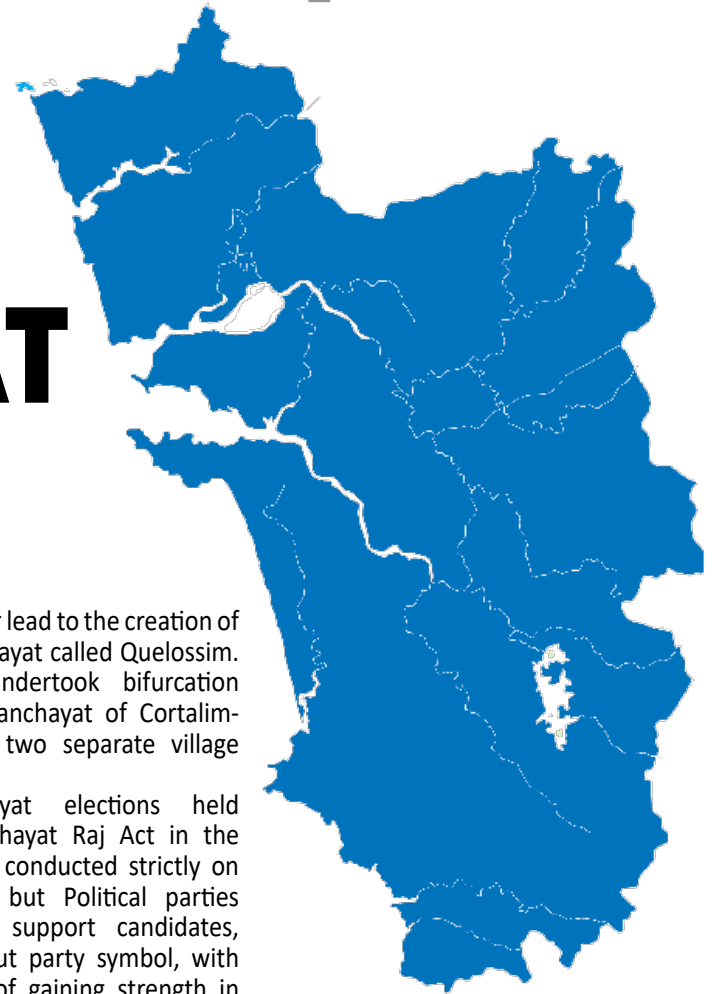
or zilla panchayat elections. People prefer to vote for those candidates who are fielded by the party in power as this helps in a bigger way on the developmental front. It has often been seen that any local body election soon after state assembly elections, goes in favour of ruling dispensation,” a political analyst said.

Currently, the Zilla Panchayat is ruled by BJP both in North and South Goa. However the win was not on par with their performance in 2015. While it won ZP polls, several stalwarts of the saffron party lost their grip in their respective constituencies, despite the fact that the polls were held on party lines.

That political parties extend support to candidates in the panchayat elections is no longer a secret. The fact is that the panchayats constitute the most basic rung in the political network and the elected members play an important role not merely in the elections to the taluka and the zilla panchayats but also to the legislature as well.

“There is no provision in the Panchayat Raj Act to hold elections on party lines. The elections have to be apolitical. But it also a known fact that political parties openly field candidates and canvass for them,” Srivastava said.

The panchayat elections too will witness political bigwigs including Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar campaigning for the candidates backed by the party.





# FROM MONTE HILL, AZAD NAGRI TO KHAREBANDH

## Development in Margao remains a mirage despite political loyalties

TEAM TNV, MARGAO

One of the several hotspots of Goa Elections 2017 is the Margao constituency and people have now donned their thinking caps, wondering who will reign over whom in this commercial town. However, voting indications this time have further confirmed a clear divide between the educated class and the slums in Margao, who have been voting exactly opposite every single time.

The biggest and most significant area is the Monte Hill which has always been a bastion of Digambar Kamat and the Congress for the last four terms now. Plagued by garbage, bad sanitation, zero disposal of sewerage, open defecation, deficiency of public toilets and bad facilities for primary schooling, the Monte hill area has reinstated their hopes on Digambar Kamat for years, over and over again. This support is not just broadly assumed, but based on facts and figures.

The recent MMC elections and the bye-election have also been a boost for the sitting MLA. But will he be able to make inroads into the voting base which has not been voting for him? This is the question he faces now.

The present MLA of Margao Digambar Kamat has been elected by the town a whopping five times in a row after the 1994 elections. He has also become the Chief Minister after quitting BJP and joining Congress. The MLA of Margao is revered for his social connect and good-to-all image all over Goa. There may be a dispute about his development and upliftment activities but there are no two ways about his style of handling people in the town. Having said that, urban Margaoites expected more development from him, as several landmark areas and hubs which give the town its prominence have remained the same till date.

Areas like Gandhi Market, New Market, KTC Bus stand, Station Road, Old Market, Pick Up Stand, Old Fish Market, Municipal Garden, Monte Hill, Azad Nagri, Kharebandh, Shrivodem, both sides of the Railway station, Power House Junction, Garbage treatment plant and Sonsodo, as well as the issues of narrow roads, the Aquem Ground



issue and incomplete ring road are some of the major talking points of Margao and they have remained the same for nearly three decades now.

The bastions of Digambar – the Moti Dongor (Monte Hill), Cine Lata area, Kharebandh, Colmorod and Shrivodem areas have consistently given leads to Digambar of over 1600 votes every election. However during the campaign visits it could be seen that the areas have become filthier than ever now. Garbage scattered all over the place, sewage flowing along the front of the houses of people, the school and anganwadi in dilapidated state, water pipelines leaking, no road access to several houses and a host of issues were seen here. A common problem of open defecation on the slope of the hillock was also very obvious.

The Monte Hill of Margao wore a different mood this election season. As campaigns throughout Goa have ended, the picture gets increasingly difficult to predict. Traditional bastions like the Monte Hill appear to be desiring change.

Team TNV met up with some people at Monte Hill to gauge the mood of the booth. Maula Balbatti, a resident of Monte Hill, said “For the last 23 years Monte gave the Margao MLA enough time to get our situation improved. But nothing great has happened till date.” He mentioned that the BJP members have helped them to stay the process of the demolition of their houses and that they would always be indebted to them.

On the other hand the dwellers at Azad Nagri, an old settlement which

was a temporary arrangement for the land losers of the KRC rail project, have become permanent in these areas. The gutters here choke every two months, there is no garbage collection or disposal system for this settlement. Every year rain water logging is a common phenomenon. The houses and their commercial establishments have stretched to the road, the cars and vehicles of these people are parked on the road and footpaths. There are so many other such problems, which have not been resolved by the MMC nor the MLA.

Jaffar Budhani, the Councillor of MMC from Azad Nagri Area said that no development has happened under this MLA of Margao till date. “We have been cheated,” claimed Jaffar.

The polling booths close to these areas have brought the MLA over 3 to 4 thousand votes. However these very areas are the ones that have been suffering the problems of sanitation, sewage disposal, open defecation and garbage, with the biggest being the problem of illegal settlements. Digambar Kamat has been the most active in visiting and keeping a personal rapport with the people in these small areas and this has paid off every single time.

The Margao MLA Digambar Kamat has been the MLA of Margao for 5 terms now. He has also been a Chief Minister of the state for a full term. Do the age old problems of the town matter to the polity or will the ‘personal touch’ rule over the development agenda? This is

a puzzle that none of the politicians of Margao have been able to solve till date.

The Neutral View posed this question to the various candidates of Margao. AAP candidate Adv. Santosh Raiturkar said “People of Monte Hill, Fakirbandh, Cine Lata, Azad Nagri and numerous areas have stood with Digambar-baba for decades now. It was expected that he would improve the condition of Margao with this kind of support but he has failed to do so,” said Santosh.

BJP Candidate Sharmad Raiturkar said “People have got tired of the 22 years of no development and change in Margao at all. Margao needs to have planned development and the 21st century demands the development in sync with the time,” said Sharmad. “Time has changed now and now we have reached to the people. We have earned the people and not votes and not just the 1600 votes, we will win with stronger majority in Margao now.” Sharmad added.

Meanwhile during his campaign here at Monte hill Digambar has claimed that this constituency has always backed him and reassured that they will re-elect him this time again. Digambar speaking on the connect he has with the people said “I have as an MLA always helped the people in whatever time or whatever condition I have been in.”

The people of Margao have spoken and the voting results of this commercial town will finally assert how much development is development for the town and who will reign over the town now.



# TAX DEDUCTIONS MADE SIMPLE

CA GANPAT KAPDI

31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 is fast approaching. This is when each of us starts thinking of tax planning. Many of us are very confused about the different investment options available and the maximum limits for claiming exemptions or deductions for the same. Due to lack of clear information we often end up over or under investing. As a chartered accountant, many of my clients, friends and relatives approach me with lots of questions in their head. So I have laid out some of this information in a tabular form for the benefit of readers.

Exemptions under section 10 & 17	Maximum Limit
HRA Exemption (sec 10 (13A))	As per calculation below
Transport Exemption (sec 10(14))	19,200
Medical Bills Exemption (sec 17(2))	15,000
<b>Other exemption</b>	
Interest on housing loan (for tax exemption) section 24 (b)	2,00,000
<b>Deductions under Chapter VI-A</b>	
Medical Insurance Premium / health check for self, spouse and children (sec 80D)	25000
Medical Insurance Premium for parents (sec 80D)	25000 for others 30000 for Senior Citizen Parents
Medical for handicapped dependents (sec 80DD)	75000
Medical for specified diseases (sec 80DDDB)	40000 for others 60000 for senior citizen 80000 for very senior citizen (above 80 years)
Higher Education Loan Interest Repayment (sec 80E)	Actual amount paid
Donation to approved fund and charities (sec 80G)	Full amount in only few organisation otherwise 50% of donation further subject to maximum limit
Rent deduction (sec 80GG) only if HRA not received	As per calculation below
Savings Bank interest exemption (sec 80TTA)	10,000
Deduction for permanent disability (sec 80U)	75,000

Deductions under Chapter VI (sec 80C)	Limited
PPF, Pension scheme, Sukanya Samriddhi scheme, etc.	Actual subject to max 150000
NSC (sec 80C)	Actual subject to max 150000
Employees Provident Fund & Voluntary PF (sec 80C)	Actual subject to max 150000
Children's Education Tuition Fees (sec 80C)	Actual subject to max 150000



Housing loan principal repayment, regn/stamp duty (sec 80C)	Actual subject to max 150000
Insurance premium & others (MF, ULIP, FD, SS, etc.) (sec 80C)	Actual subject to max 150000
Stamp duty & registration charges on purchase of house property	Actual subject to max 150000
Rajiv Gandhi Equity Savings Scheme (sec 80CCG)	Actual subject to max 150000
<b>Total Investment 80 C</b>	<b>Maximum 1,50,000</b>

National Pension scheme (sec 80CCD)	Actual maximum 2,00,000
<b>Total Investments 80C + 80 CCD</b>	<b>Maximum 2,00,000</b>

Computation of HRA exemption section 10(13A) and Rent deduction (sec 80GG) only if HRA not received. Higher of following three

HRA exemption Section 10 (13A)	Rent deduction (sec 80GG)
a. Actual HRA received	a. Rs 5,000 per month
b. Rent paid less 10% of Salary	b. Rent paid less 10% of total Income*
c. 50% of salary in case house is in Metro 40% of salary in case house is in non Metro	c. 25% of total Income * * (Here total income means total income of the tax payer before claiming deduction under section 80GG)

Further I would also like to highlight some of the specific provisions for people whose marriage is registered in Goa:-

- Except for the Salary income all other income gets taxed half in the hands of each spouse.
  - Interest on housing loan also gets shared half with spouse.
- I hope this short article clears some of the questions from your head.

"The above article should not be construed as a professional advice and readers are requested to consult their tax consultant before making any investment decisions"



'Srujanotsav' event by Vidya Prabodhini College, Porvorim was a grand success. Held at Swami Vivekanand hall, Porvorim, the event saw several competitions like Solo Singing, Mehendi, Nail Art, Tattoo Making, Mute-beat, Group Dance, etc. "Such events provide an opportunity for students to explore their talents", said Mr. M R Patil, principal of the college while expressing satisfaction over the organisation of the event. The overall winners for this year were second year B.Com class. All the students put in great efforts to make this event a grand success.



Investment session was conducted for teaching and non teaching staff of Hedgewar Higher Secondary School, Panjim. The resource persons for the said session were Dilip Sahakari and his son Amey Sahakari who run Sahakari investments in Panjim. The session focused on different investment avenues and also do's and don'ts of investments. Tax calculations and benefits of investments from tax perspective were also highlighted.



Father Agnel College of Arts and Commerce, Pilar's mega two day inter collegiate festival 'Impetus – The Awakening', was held amidst fanfare and frolic. Seven colleges from all over the State participated in 13 events that challenged and energized the participants to go beyond and provide their creativity wings. GVM's GGPR College of Economics, Ponda emerged the overall winners. The event which drew in diverse talents sought to energize business acumen, technological flair and not forgetting Goan history and tradition.

G. R. Kare College of Law organised 'Juris Open 2017', a National level inter-law collegiate event with an aim to provide a platform for institutions across the country to participate and showcase their talent. Various competitions were organised as part of this event which comprised of Moot Court, Legal Quiz, Legal Drafting and Troubleshoot: Conflict Management in Law. Amity Law School, Noida were the overall winners of the competition.





# THE EIGHTIES STYLE IS IN FOR WOMEN, AND A SEASON OF CONTRASTS FOR MEN - mapxencaRS

**T**he Goa-born sister duo of Riddhi and Siddhi Mapxencar have made their mark in India's fashion industry. The Neutral View explored the latest fashion trends in an informative chat with them.

**Q** Who is the most stylish Bollywood celebrity (male and female) according to you?

MapxencaRS: Female – Kangana Ranaut. She can carry off any look from western to Indian wear with elan. Everything looks so effortless on her. She is undoubtedly the most stylish Bollywood celebrity.

Male – Ranveer Singh. We like his sense of style because he has a knack of experimenting with edgy looks. Nobody can carry off unconventional looks with the confidence that he has. He has been responsible to create a revolution by influencing men to wear experimental and not-so-run-of-the-mill styles in men's fashion.

**Q** Is fashion percolating to the middle class society or it is only up to rich people?

Of course it is percolating to the middle classes. With a boom of online brands and tempting offers fashion is now available at affordable prices to whoever wants to indulge in it. Social media has been a major influence in communicating latest fashion trends to the middle class buyers.

**Q** Tell us about your brand and online portal.

We have started our online store last month ( [www.mapxencaRS.com](http://www.mapxencaRS.com) ). The website is made keeping in mind the customers across the globe. Clients across the world can now shop at 'mapxencaRS' at the click of button. The website has received overwhelming response and we hope to spread our designs at 'mapxencaRS' all over the globe.

**Q** Where do you rate India in the fashion world?

India is at a level now where a lot of changes are happening in fashion. The Western and Indian wear fashion runs parallel and does influence each other. We cannot ignore the demand and supply of Indian ethnic wear. However we are yet to see people across the world, irrespective of their ethnicity, accepting Indian wear as a generic ensemble. We do see sarees every now and then worn by a non-Indian but this demand can go much more higher if designers and brands market Indian wear rightly across the globe.

**Q** Tell us about the latest trend in fashion.

For women the 80s style is back. Lots of volume in silhouette. We will be seeing a lot of floral prints in ensembles, with detailing of ruffles. If you are not comfortable wearing floral prints or ruffles then a statement graphic stripe print can be your best option. Exaggerated shoulders and sleeves will be the answer for cocktail wear for women. Bright blue, grass green, pink and yellow will dominate as the colours of the season.

For men it's a season of contrasts. Colours like light toned emeralds and bright pinks for men are finally here. White and powder blue ensembles are a must for this season too. Statement bomber jackets of light weight fabrics will be prevalent in the season. Crop pants or folded hems will be seen in bottoms. They are a great idea for smart casual outfits. Shorts will be teamed up with jackets to give an edgy casual look. Patchwork design will be seen a lot in jackets, pants and shirts too.

**Q** Which city would you consider as the hub of fashion in India?

Undoubtedly Mumbai! Due to influence of Bollywood and a plethora of fashion events which happen in this city. Delhi comes next.

**Q** Do you think that we are aping the West in our fashion statements and thus losing our ethnicity?

Yes, sometimes most of the designers get influenced. That's because the trends and forecasts have been compiled in the West. However designers should have their own sense of style and concepts instead of aping the West blindly. We should not forget that our culture is so rich and must make sure to utilise it in the most creative way .



## Gambling – An artist's revolt!

Harshada's Art gallery saw a unique exhibition that aimed at spreading awareness about the ills of gambling through paintings. Having closely seen the destruction of his elder brother's life due to gambling, Naveen Kumar B used his artistic skills to reach out to the people. His paintings may have fetched him awards but his biggest reward is that he has been able to pass the right message across to people through the medium of art. The exhibition is open till 11th of February at Harshada's Art Gallery, Campal, Panjim.



## Sentinels – the Goa connection



The Cube gallery is witnessing a unique exhibition of ceramic collections titled 'Sentinels' by Auroville based ceramic artist Adil Writer. Most of the exhibits showcased in this exhibition have been inspired by the gateposts of Goan houses.

"I was in Goa in January 2016 for a ceramic group show at the Cube and on my morning walks with Sonny (Director of Cube gallery), I spotted lots of old gateposts along the country roads of Moira village. It looked like every set of gateposts indicated the character of the person or family living there," says Writer, who then went back to his studio and resumed working. The gateposts subconsciously started reflecting in his works, leading to this exhibition titled 'Sentinels'.

Writer's ceramics and large scale paintings have been earlier showcased at several solo and group exhibitions in Japan, China, India, Indonesia, Australia, Estonia, France and USA. Writer's architectural background keeps him interested in large scale ceramic and unfired clay-on-canvas installations and murals.

Sentinels is open till 22nd February from 11 am to 6 pm (Wednesday to Sunday) at Cube Gallery, Moira.

## MOVIE REVIEW

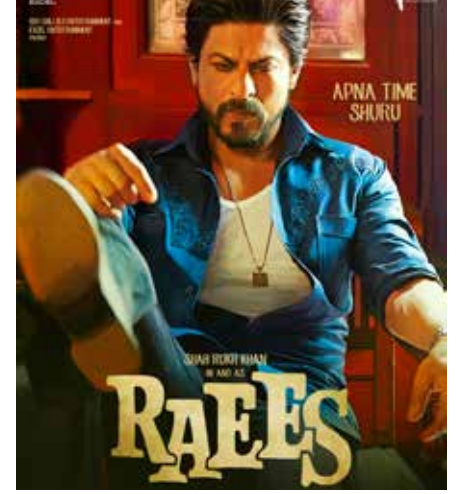
BY KAPIL SINGBAL

Bollywood movies with an Anti-Hero protagonist have always made waves during their release, as they humanize the protagonist by inducing flaws in his persona, thus making him more relatable to the audience as opposed to a Hero protagonist who can do absolutely nothing wrong. Rahul Dholakia, who directed the acclaimed Gujarat Riots Drama 'Parzania' is back to the 'Dry State' with his new venture 'Raees' starring Shah Rukh Khan as the titular Anti-Hero protagonist. Raees traces the humble beginnings of a bootlegger, whose motto is that no business is beneath anyone and that there is no bigger religion than business

itself, his meteoric rise as the top criminal mastermind in the state, and his eventual fall from grace, just like the protagonist of a Shakespearean tragedy.

Raees works as a liquor-runner for Jairaj (Atul Kulkarni in a beautifully restrained performance) along with his friend Sadiq (Mohd. Zeeshan Ayub) in the fictional town of Fatehpura for many years and yearns to start his own business but lacks the necessary financial backing. When Raees and Sadiq visit Mumbai in a bid to acquire the necessary capital, they have a fateful encounter with Musabhai (played confidently by Narendra Jha) and his second-in-command Nawab (Jaideep Ahlawat in a sly role), leading to events that would make Raees the undisputed liquor king of Gujarat. But the arrival of Honest IPS Officer Jaideep Majumdar (Nawazuddin Siddiqui) in Fatehpura makes life unbearable for the liquor business owners including Raees and the game of one-upmanship between Raees and Majumdar gets more fierce and turbulent with the passage of time.

Shah Rukh Khan's character displays formidable strength and sharp thinking as Raees conquers all obstacles in his path in expertly crafted fight and chase scenes. Nawazuddin as Majumdar stands up to Raees in every scene that they share.



Mahira Khan with her porcelain features looks alluring and emotes well in both light hearted scenes and scenes demanding histrionics. Mohd. Zeeshan Ayub as Sadiq is first-rate and is slowly building a repertoire of good work after his wonderful acting turns in Ranjhanaa, Shahid and Tanu Weds Manu Returns.

Dholakia and his team of writers construct a commendable narrative structure for this rise and fall story that also doubles up as a parable about individuals that live and die by the sword. Though the movie falls short of greatness due to some sketchy characterisation, hackneyed and contrived plot points and lacklustre music, Gujarat of the 80's and 90's has been immaculately captured and SRK tops it with his tour de force performance.

### GLIMPSES OF "SEXY SATURDAY" AT SINQ, CANDOLIM

