

The Neutral View

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After 2012 when the Carnival was affected by the code in place due to assembly elections, this year's Carnival in Goa will once again be sans the ministers and elected representatives of the various municipal councils owing to the Code of Conduct in place due to the 2017 assembly elections. It will be a bureaucratic affair this time with the council Chief Officers (CO) heading the Carnival organising committees in all the cities where the Carnival celebrations will unfold. Unlike in 2012 where a few COs had rejected the responsibility citing various reasons, this time all the Chief Officers have readily agreed to head the committees and have begun preparations.

LET THE KING RULE FOR NOW



FIVE TV SERIES TO WATCH, AND WATCH OUT FOR IN 2017

PALASH VOLVOIKAR

It is said that we live in the golden age of Television, and given the way the television format has evolved in the recent years, it is hard to disagree. Television is hardly about sitting in front of a big fat box, and “wasting” your time. It has become much more than that. With the advent of the internet, and especially, streaming services like Netflix, and now, even typical Indian television content going online, TV is now portable. It’s not only about the ease of access, either. The quality is better than ever. With more money and resources being put into production, TV content has now become as premium as something you see on the big screen. 2017 has a lot of great TV series coming our way, and here are my picks for the five shows you need to watch out for, this year.



LEMONY SNICKET'S SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS

Look away! This is another classic getting its TV adaptation, this time from Netflix. Lemony Snicket's Series of Unfortunate Events is produced by, and stars Neil Patrick Harris, who is famous for his role as Barney Stinson on the famous sitcom, How I Met Your Mother. The show stars him as the infamous Count Olaf, with Patrick Warburton narrating as Lemony Snicket. The show also has other familiar faces, and is available to stream on Netflix right now.



RIVERDALE

Riverdale is the much anticipated TV adaptation of Archie's Comics. Set in the current time, the show has a very dark tone, and is definitely a very interesting take on the characters we all loved as kids. The show stars K.J. Apa as Archie, and Cole Sprouse as Jughead. You might remember Cole from the Disney Series 'The Suite Life of Zack and Cody', in which he starred with his twin brother, Dylan. Riverdale is three episodes in already, with a new episode coming out every Thursday.

AMERICAN GODS

American Gods, as some of you might have guessed again, is the TV version of Neil Gaiman's novel, which is a cult classic. The show has been generating a lot of excitement among fans, right from the moment the news first broke. The series will star Ian McShane, Ricky Whittle, and Emily Browning among others. The official premiere date hasn't been set, but the series will definitely be coming out this year, making it one of the most anticipated ones for 2017.



SANTA CLARITA DIET

Starring veteran actors Drew Barrymore, and Timothy Olyphant, this one is hard to miss. Santa Clarita diet follows the perils of a family as Drew's character, Sheila, is infected by a virus, that makes her crave human flesh, and in more ways than not, makes her a zombie. The cast is wonderful, and the comedic touch to a zombie scenario makes this series a must watch. You can catch it on Netflix, now!



THE CUCKOO'S CALLING

The author of the Harry Potter saga, J. K. Rowling, wrote a series of crime fiction novels under the pseudonym Robert Galbraith, which have now been picked by BBC for a TV adaptation. The series will show the protagonist, Detective Cormoran Strike investigate a supermodel's suicide. Starring Tom Burke as the lead, the show will premiere in the latter part of 2017.



Food n Fun Of Carnival



PRASAD RAICAR

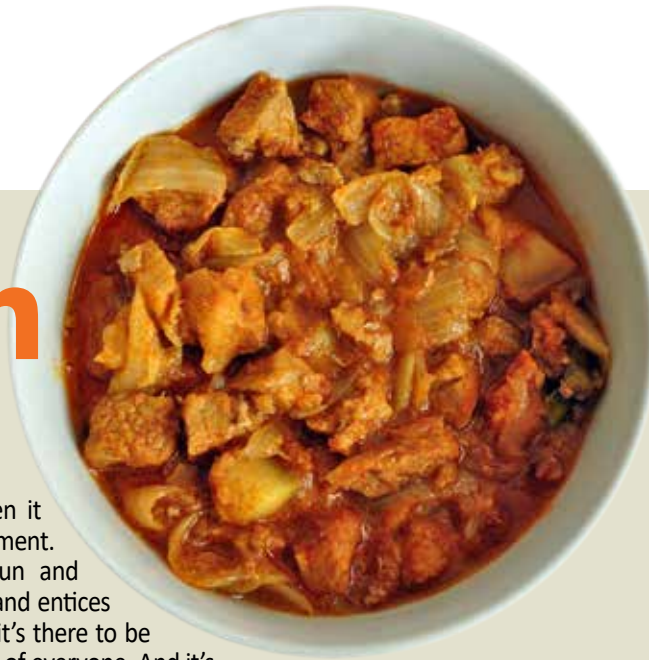
Goa, the land of festivals and festivities. The land of faith and merriment. The land of joy and happiness. If the government had to decide to declare holidays for each and every festival in Goa, there would have been celebrations of carnival proportions every day. Thank God, we have just one Carnival in the year!

Carnival is one of the legacies that the Portuguese left behind in this small state. And since liberation, it has turned from a Christian festival (of pagan origin) linked to Lent into one that is held largely to attract tourists from all over; perhaps the ones that cannot make it to the mega celebrations of Brazil. While the voyeuristic hedonism of the Latin American region is missing here, there

is no let up when it comes to merriment. The food, the fun and the frolic invites and entices one and all, and it's there to be seen on the faces of everyone. And it's not just the towns that light up, every Catholic house and hearth warms up to those four days of joy.

The festival starts with a generally tall, rotund and jovial person being crowned as King Momo, the ruler of the Carnival fiesta. He declares the festival open, and orders his subjects to eat, drink, dance, and have fun. He moves around with his congregation – consisting of his court of dancers, jesters, etc – from town to town, leading a parade of floats. There are prizes to be won and friends to be made.

Carnival is not just about dances and parades. It is the time when 'spirits' flow freely and the food is as rich as it can get. While the xacutis and cafreals have become must-have dishes, the sorpotels and roasts are not far behind to whet the appetite of one and all. Pork Bafad becomes the staple



supplemented by the ever welcome Vindaloo. Fish fried with Rehead masala is savoured by every member of the house. And a steaming Pulao of pork sausage holds all these delicacies together.

The merrymaking with friends between meals, also needs constant nourishment. While everyone rushes to grab their Chouris Pao (Goan sausage bread) before it vanishes, beef cutlets and croquettes are gulped by the dozen. And who can forget the ubiquitous prawn

rissois? And of course, Chamochas or Goan samosas filled with delectable beef, chicken or pork stuffings. And all this is best washed down the gut with the venerable cashew or coconut feni!

Breakfasts usually include Sannas or Alle belles. While the former are small steamed rice cakes flavoured with toddy, the latter are coconut and jaggery pancakes done to perfection. One would think that the morning food ingestions would be light to keep space for the culinary feast to be unveiled as

the day progresses, but then doesn't everyone need energy to prepare it in the first place?

The Carnival tempo strikes a high note on the last day. Formal dances, like the famous Red and Black Dance at Clube Nacional in Panjim hold centre court along with delicious dinner served at all the prime restaurants. The commercial aspect of the festival is encashed upon by all who know how to.

Carnival may have become synonymous with self-indulgence and the pursuit of pleasure, which the devout and the orthodox usually look down upon and frown at. But the revelry associated with Carnival is here to stay. With more and more tourists flying down to Goa to join the festivities, the government is leaving no stone unturned to make it a premier event. And with food so rich and authentic, no wonder the spirits of King Momo and his court are at their best during the four days of his rule. Now let's all raise our glasses and cheer the little hedonist in all of us!

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The writer is a traveller, foodie who is now resting in Goa after spending 15 years in IT Wilderness



VIVA CARNIVAL! BUT ARE WE REALLY IN A POSITION TO MAKE MERRY?

After much politicking in the last few months, the month of February will go down in the history of Goa as a period of irony. Traditionally this is the time when celebrations in the State are in full gear, with the Carnival festival, but the current dicey situation on two major fronts have kept the Goan populace on tenterhooks.

Before raising a toast to King Momo, the annually anointed 'king' of Carnival revelry, the State is heading towards uncertainty on one of its most important tourism related elements – the sale of liquor.

While liquor is an integral part of social celebrations in Goa, around 3,000 odd families that are dependent on this trade are now waiting with bated breath and fingers crossed. The recent Supreme Court judgment has cast a long shadow of doubt on their livelihood. The ban on the selling of liquor within 500 metres of the National and State Highways now threatens to shut down their businesses.

King Momo will 'rule' the State for four days of Carnival, but at the same time people are waiting with heightened anxiety for March 11 to know who will actually rule the State for the next five years.

The elections are over and the fates of the hopeful candidates are sealed and waiting in the Electronic Voting Machines. King Momo will pronounce his dictat of 'Eat, Drink and be Merry' for the entire State, but the real kings-in-waiting are still nervous. The election trends are being analysed and re-analysed to

come to a conclusion that favours them.

Colonial rule has generally been traumatic for the colonised countries, but there are certainly a few good things that have been inherited from those times. Carnival is one such jolly good thing. After being introduced on Goan soil over the centuries of Portuguese rule, Carnival has stayed on and assimilated into the culture of the coastal state.

Right from the lavish Carnival food (which becomes austere in the following period of Lent), to the local dances and the spectacular float parades, Goa has added its own uniqueness to this festival, making it much more noisy and extravagant than in the colonial times. The Carnival festival blends well with the thinking of Goans, who have their own distinct way of enjoying life, certainly different from the rest of India. The spirit of Carnival lingers amongst the Goans during the entire year. The month of February is just a trigger to go all out and make merry with the whole world.

In our own world everyone is King Momo, living a 'king-sized' life, even with minimal wealth, but with broad smiles on our faces. This is the characteristic that has propelled Goa in the field of tourism. A genial hospitality is the trademark of Goans, who have managed to showcase Goa's beaches, forests and festivals to the world. The hardworking and yet easy going Goans will always be King Momos of their own world.

The spectacular float parades hosted by State tourism department are added attractions to this festival, drawing large numbers of tourists. This time around the Code of Conduct has hampered the preparations for this festival. The State Tourism Department officials admit privately that files are moving lethargically at the secretariat. Even the selection of King Momo has been delayed.

But let's keep aside all the negative aspects, we are getting into the spirit of the Carnival after all! While Goa's yardstick of development is judged by the infrastructure development in the State, it is also imperative that a state like Goa should also work on its Happiness Index.

Even though we have been progressing on infrastructure and amenities, we are also getting strained with the tension to make resources meet expectations. Everyone is

busy in a mad rat race to earn and burn, and in the meantime we lose sleep and happiness.

The people of the small state of Goa have always been content with what we had. Our happiness quotient was always high. The mad rush that consumed urban India had not affected our coastal state. But slowly it is catching up.

In the bargain we are losing our happiness. The state government has not set any parameters to judge our happiness. But at the time of Carnival we cannot avoid speaking about happiness.

The current series of crises hovering over the State has certainly made us less happy. First after the 2012 election, the mining ban ruined several thousand families, followed by the increased taxation by the State government and now a ban on the liquor outlets in the proximity of highways.

BJP leader and Union Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar during a pre-election meeting in Bicholim had spoken about including Happiness Index as part of the manifesto. But the party avoided mentioning it in the election document.

The rest of the parties like Congress, AAP and Goa Forward have almost forgotten about this important aspect of life that could have been included in their election manifesto.

The state government has failed to reach out to the heart of the people. Providing infrastructural projects and schemes will help people live their life with ease, but does that raise the happiness quotient of our people?

Amenities should be created considering the aspirations of the people. There is no heart-to-heart connect between the State government and the people. The government that touches the hearts of the people will stay here forever.

The state government should also work on restoring and supporting the traditions of Goa. The traditional carnival festivities need the same kind of attention and finance that is received by the float parades. Let people express their happiness freely.

The State government that eventually takes over the reins of Goa should sit and ponder on what Goans exactly need. What makes us Happy. What can give us peaceful sleep in the night. What can bring a smile on our faces. It is only then that we will be able to heartily say — 'Viva Carnival!'



PANCHAYATS SHOULD BE GIVEN MORE POWERS: PARAB

The Panchayat elections saw many young faces making it to the top position of Sarpanch in many Panchayats. Sitaram Parab is one amongst them who served three years as Sarpanch of Village Panchayat of Virnoda, Pernem. TNV caught up with Parab for a brief chat as Goa's Panchayats gear up for a change of guard in May.

Q You were one of the youngest panchas to rise to the position of Sarpanch in your Panchayat. How tough was it being a first timer and of younger age?

As a young Sarpanch there were various difficulties I came across at earlier stages, for example at the time of Gramsabha the opposition used to raise various unwanted questions. They alleged that we were trying to mislead the Gramsabha, but later on I have realised how to handle them and also how to manage the work efficiently.

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

The complete projects include road and footpath work to the houses of people who were neglected for years. I completed it on priority. Similarly we have also constructed a road to the crematorium, built a community hall and other infrastructural works. One most important work is pending and that is the construction of a water tank for the village so that the village can become self sufficient as far as their water needs are concerned.

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

I may or may not stand for the elections depending on the Assembly results. I haven't really finalised that. With respect to the support, my colleagues were very cooperative in every decision I took.

Q Do you feel Panchayats have enough powers in hand?

No. Panchayats should be given more powers in order to decide illegal houses and illegal hill cutting in their jurisdiction because it takes long time to decide the above matter as the file moves to B.D.O thereafter to Director of Panchayats and so on where it takes longer time and people get angry and frustrated by then. Therefore the panchayat should be the deciding body in these cases. Secondly, when it comes to distribution of funds, the government should give equal funds to all panchayats and let the panchayat decide how to spend in their respective wards. It so happens that sometimes the government gives lakhs of rupees in one particular ward and shells out nothing for another. This has to change. Thirdly, when it comes to sanitation, panchayats should be the final authority to decide, because in most of areas of villages the properties are common and undivided. People are constructing toilets but other co-owners object for the same and it remains pending. In order to fulfil the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, this has to be a priority decision.

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

Yes, Because if election is conducted on party lines, only then it can ensure proper development of the village as the state government can provide necessary help to its representatives and also it can solve the issues of people to the fullest.

Q Any words of advice to youngsters who want to enter politics?

If any youngster wants to enter politics he should work wisely and also do social service because if you want to get in touch with people then you have to start with ground level work and only then enter politics. Once you are in the field, you need to be committed and loyal to your duty.





GOA'S VANISHING FORESTS

SERIOUS CONCERNS OF INCREASING DEFORESTATION IN GOA

RAJENDRA P. KERKAR

Goa, being a part of the Western Ghats of India, has a rich tradition of conservation and protection of forested areas in the name of religious and cultural practices. However, after the liberation of Goa in 1961, the population increase fuelled a demand for housing and other basic amenities alongside infrastructural development. This led to the felling of trees in large numbers, resulting in a decreased forest cover. In the first two decades after Liberation, Sanguem along with Dharbandora, the taluka having the largest forested area in the state, lost 9933 hectares. Sattari, the second largest forested taluka, lost 8814 ha of its woods. As about 900 sq.km. of forest stand denuded, the once lush green hills are now turning barren and rocky.

In order to extract mineral ores like iron, manganese, bauxite, industrial

Goa is the first state in India that started identifying the areas of private forest. Though this exercise has not been completed, the government of Goa must design and implement a policy for the effective protection and management of these areas of private forests by providing necessary benefits to the owners.

clay and silica sand, the mining industry was made operational by granting almost 825 mining concessions during Portuguese rule. Out of the 500 sq.km. of land that were covered by mining leases, about 70 percent encompassed forests. The open-cast method of mining not only felled trees but the indiscriminate dumping of millions of tonnes of rejects after extracting ores has destroyed and degraded large tracts of the rich forest.

Goa has also been experiencing rapid urbanisation and industrialisation and this too has led to increased deforestation. Multi-storeyed buildings and housing complexes are sprouting all over, harshly degrading the architectural harmony and unique identity of Goan settlements. Deforestation has caused severe soil erosion, thereby silting the river beds in many parts of the state.

In 2011, it was revealed that 58,943 trees were felled in Goa from 2007, by allowing tree felling for mining

operations. It was then assured, on the floor of Goa's Assembly, that no more forest land would be diverted for mining until a state forest policy was in place. However, deforestation is still going on in various parts of Goa, thereby shrinking the natural habitat of wild animals, forcing them to venture from the forests into the nearest villages.

A recent study by IIT Mumbai has indicated that deforestation and conversion of forest to crop land has weakened the monsoon in India. In comparison with the neighbouring states of Maharashtra and Karnataka, Goa has forest cover that meets the requirement of the national forest policy. Our politicians repeatedly argue that the state has too much forest cover, which curtails development. But this argument of our political leaders is neither sound nor realistic. Our state is ecologically fragile. The forest cover protects our land against natural calamities. For example, the mangrove vegetation acts as a natural protective wall to arrest floods, to break cyclones, to trap silt, etc. The roots of mangroves are just like protective steel reinforcement, that shield the areas of human settlement against the threat of tsunami waves. Many times Goa was shaken by cyclones, but the mangrove forest cover has saved the populated areas and their assets. The coastal area from Keri of Pernem to Galgibag of Canacona has also been blessed by sand dune vegetation which not only prevents beach erosion but also offers a natural habitat for numerous insects.

Goa is the first state in India that started identifying the areas of private forest. Though this exercise has not been completed, the government of Goa must design and implement a policy for the effective protection and management of these areas of private forests by providing necessary benefits to the owners. Lack of well equipped and well trained forest personnel, necessary equipment and other infrastructure, and the destruction and degradation of forests is rampant. Slums, concrete buildings and roads are being built inside the areas provisionally identified as private forests. Felling of trees and burning of forests is going on unabated inside these forests.

The total forest area of Goa is 1424.46 sq.km., out of which approximately 200 sq.km. comes under privately owned forests. There is an urgent need not only to maintain these forested areas but to plan a strategy to increase the forest cover of indigenous trees, for the safety and security of Goa.

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DETAILED ACCOUNT OF DEADLY NIGHT AT CRUMBLING SADA SUB JAIL

RUPESH SAMANT

All the 53 inmates of Sada Sub jail on January 24, 2017 made an attempt at a mass jail breakout, which left one of them killed and 12 others, including Jailer Vithal Gawas, badly injured.

The ordeal that last almost a night long saw prisoners almost escaping from the jail. It ended only after Central Reserve Police Force pushed the prisoners back into their cells forcibly. In the public domain there is no clarity on what exactly happened on the fateful night. But 'The Neutral View' has a detailed account of what happened within the four walls of a crumbling prison.

Sada Sub Jail has been traditionally infamous for the dramas that unfold within it. The age-old Jail, that badly requires renovation, has been witness to several unruly scenes which are probed by magistrates and reports are kept in cold storage.

The arrival of Vinayak Karbotkar in this jail, sometime at the end of last year, was in typical Hindi filmi style. After murdering Ashfaq Bengre in Colvale Jail with a sharp edged weapon, Karbotkar had attained notoriety amongst the prisoners. It was perceived as an end to gang wars in the Jail.

The Crime Branch that was inquiring into the murder of Bengre had recommended that Karbotkar be shifted to Sada Sub Jail to prevent him from destroying the evidence or threatening the witnesses in the Bengre murder case.

The prison authorities who were well versed with Karbotkar's ways had isolated him from the other prisoners by lodging him in Cell number 14. Sada Sub Jail had enough space as most of its prisoners had been shifted to Colvale.

While Karbotkar was kept in cell number 14, others were in cell number 13 and 15, just adjacent to him on the same floor of the dilapidated prison.

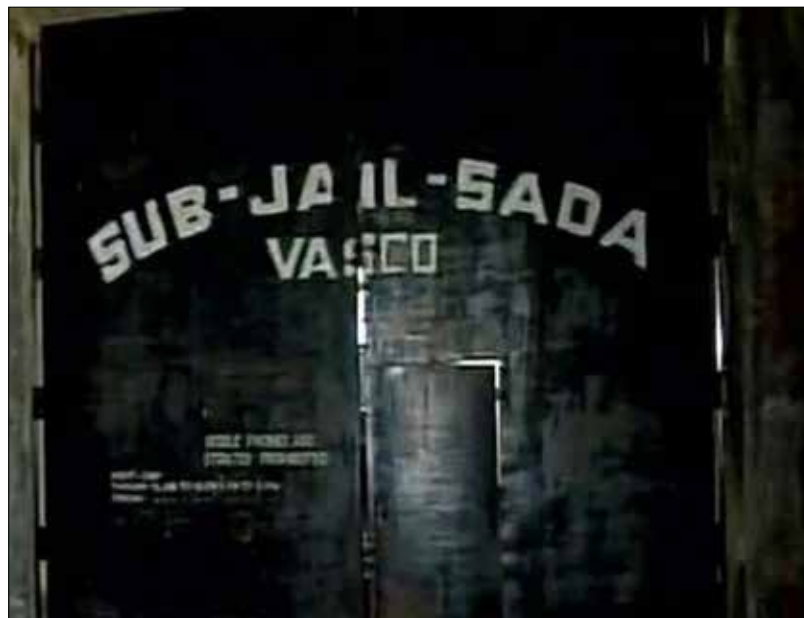
The prison authorities were witness to the increasing might of Karbotkar in the Jail. Other prisoners had literally turned into slaves of Karbotkar after he eliminated Bengre. His word was final even as he continued extorting protection money

from the families of fellow inmates.

Not a single day went without Karbotkar creating some or other trouble for the jail authorities who finally decided to shift him outside Goa. Karbotkar who is facing trial in Maharashtra and Goa was shifted here from Central Jail, Nasik.

After much discussion, the Goa Jail authorities decided to shift him out of Goa, preferably to Oras Jail in Maharashtra, which would be closer to ferry him when his presence was required in the court.

A detailed plan was prepared to carry out a seamless shifting of the most dreaded inmate. The entire plan was chalked out to shift Karbotkar to the Oras jail without any hassles. January 24th was fixed as the day when the entire Sada Sub Jail was to be



- Probe why there was delay in bringing Karbotkar from Oras to Sada
- Probe the Escort Staff who were with him
- Probe whether Karbotkar was drunk on the way
- Probe why cell gates were so weak that prisoners could break it
- Probe into the CCTV footage of the Jail when the incident happened
- Probe why there was such lax security at the Sada Sub jail
- Probe why there was delay in the arrival of police to control the situation

emptied by shifting the prisoners to Colvale.

Karbotkar who is always taken in an exclusive escort van and quarantined from other prisoners was supposed to be taken to the court in Mapusa and then to Oras Jail so that he would have less time to protest.

However, the visit of Governor Mridula Sinha to Colvale Central Jail scuttled the entire plan of shifting all the prisoners. But Karbotkar was taken to the court where he was given transit remand to be shifted to Oras Jail.

Karbotkar who was upset with the move protested in the court and even hurled abuses at the prison staff that had escorted him to the court. He was taken to Oras jail but was sent back as the prison does not have a facility to lodge such a high-security prisoner.

The police escort staff which took him to Oras brought him back to Sada. But there is one thing to ponder about. The escort vehicle that left Oras at 6.45 pm reached Sada around 10.30 pm, after almost three and half hours. The distance is usually covered within one and half hour. Where was Karbotkar during this time?

After his arrival at Sada he began creating a ruckus. He chased off a jail guard who went to lodge him in his cell. The

guard escaped by running to the room of Jailer Gawas. While Karbotkar was abusing the jail staff and creating scenes, the prisoners in cell number 13 and 15 were mute spectators to his drama. Karbotkar provoked them to protest and they broke open the rusted gates of their cells.

It was a sea of prisoners that was out in the jail premises, gone berserk. What prevailed after that was sheer rioting. All the furniture, medical dispensary, kitchen and offices of senior officials were ransacked.

While the assistant jailor on duty fled from the scene, Jailer Vithal Gawas continued in the jail along with only two guards. He frantically called all the police control rooms in the district and requested for help as the situation continued moving out of control.

Like some of the officers, Gawas could have run away from the jail to save his own life but he did not do that as his guards were surrounded by the prisoners, who had gone wild and mad. The prisoners had scattered almost everywhere. They switched off all the lights, plunging the jail into pitch darkness.

A mob of ten prisoners led by Karbotkar marched towards Gawas. Karbotkar stabbed Gawas thrice with a pair of scissors. While the situation was out of control, the police teams were yet to arrive. Gawas collapsed near the main gate in a pool of blood.

As the situation went out of hand, the prisoners were scattered everywhere trying their luck to escape. Some were sitting in the gutter in the outer ring of the jail, some were hiding in a pipe, while one prisoner Chima Paul even went up to the watch tower of the jail.

The Central paramilitary forces brought the situation under control when they charged the prisoners, pushing them back into the prison. Chima who was perched in the watch tower was not ready to come down, but was brought back into the cell at gunpoint by the paramilitary forces.

There is no trace of what happened after the forces barged into Sada Sub Jail. The inquiry will patch together what happened between CRPF's arrival in the prison premises and finding of Karbotkar's dead body.

There is no clarity on who killed Karbotkar but the medical records say that he died due to blood clotting in the brain. It may have been the handiwork of prisoners who were upset with his behaviour in the jail or he might have died after he was hit with a cane by the paramilitary forces.

The Crime Branch has already initiated an inquiry into the incident.

A probe is conducted by the Judicial Magistrate First Class, Vasco and the magisterial inquiry by the Sub Divisional Magistrate is expected to reveal the truth behind the deadly attack in the jail.

IT IS NOT THE RATIONALISTS WHO ARE FAILING, IT IS WE WHO ARE FAILING THEM: PATWARDHAN

Anand Patwardhan is an Indian documentary filmmaker known for his socio-political, human rights-oriented films some of which explore the rise of religious fundamentalism, sectarianism and casteism in India, while others investigate nuclear nationalism and unsustainable development. The notable films include *Bombay: Our City (Hamara Shahar)* (1985), *In Memory of Friends* (1990), *In the Name of God (Ram ke Nam)* (1992), *Father, Son, and Holy War* (1995), *A Narmada Diary* (1995), *War and Peace* (2002) and *Jai Bhim Comrade* (2011), which have won national and international awards. TNV did a special interview with Patwardhan to know his views on the current debate on intolerance and in the background of the Union government rejecting a plea to ban right wing organisation Sanatan Sanstha (whose headquarter lies in Goa), due to lack of incriminating evidence for it to be tagged as a terror outfit.

Q Many of your films explore the rise of religious fundamentalism in India. Do you think films are a good medium to reach out to people on issues like these? What is your personal experience on how your films have been able to make an impact in the society?

A documentary film is actually an excellent medium to talk about the rise of fundamentalism, but the real problem is that the opportunities to screen such films are very limited. We do activist screenings regularly, as well as school and college screenings, but that still reaches only a tiny percentage of India's population. Occasionally I win a court case and force Doordarshan to broadcast my films, but it is a hugely time-consuming process. So I would say the real political impact remains minimal and yet I keep meeting individuals whose worldview was positively affected by watching the films, and that keeps me from despair.

Q Most of your documentary films have faced censorship from the Indian government. You chose to fight this out legally. From where does this strength come? Do you feel that the freedom of expression is at stake owing to such censorship?

I spend a few years making each film, sometimes much more. My last film took 14 years to make! So obviously I have a great interest in ensuring that

my films get properly used. I don't take censorship lying down. Thankfully so far I have won each of my court battles and no frame of my film could be suppressed forever. Eventually we always have won, though much time and effort went into it. Specially with the present regime, freedom of expression has to be fought for, tooth and nail.

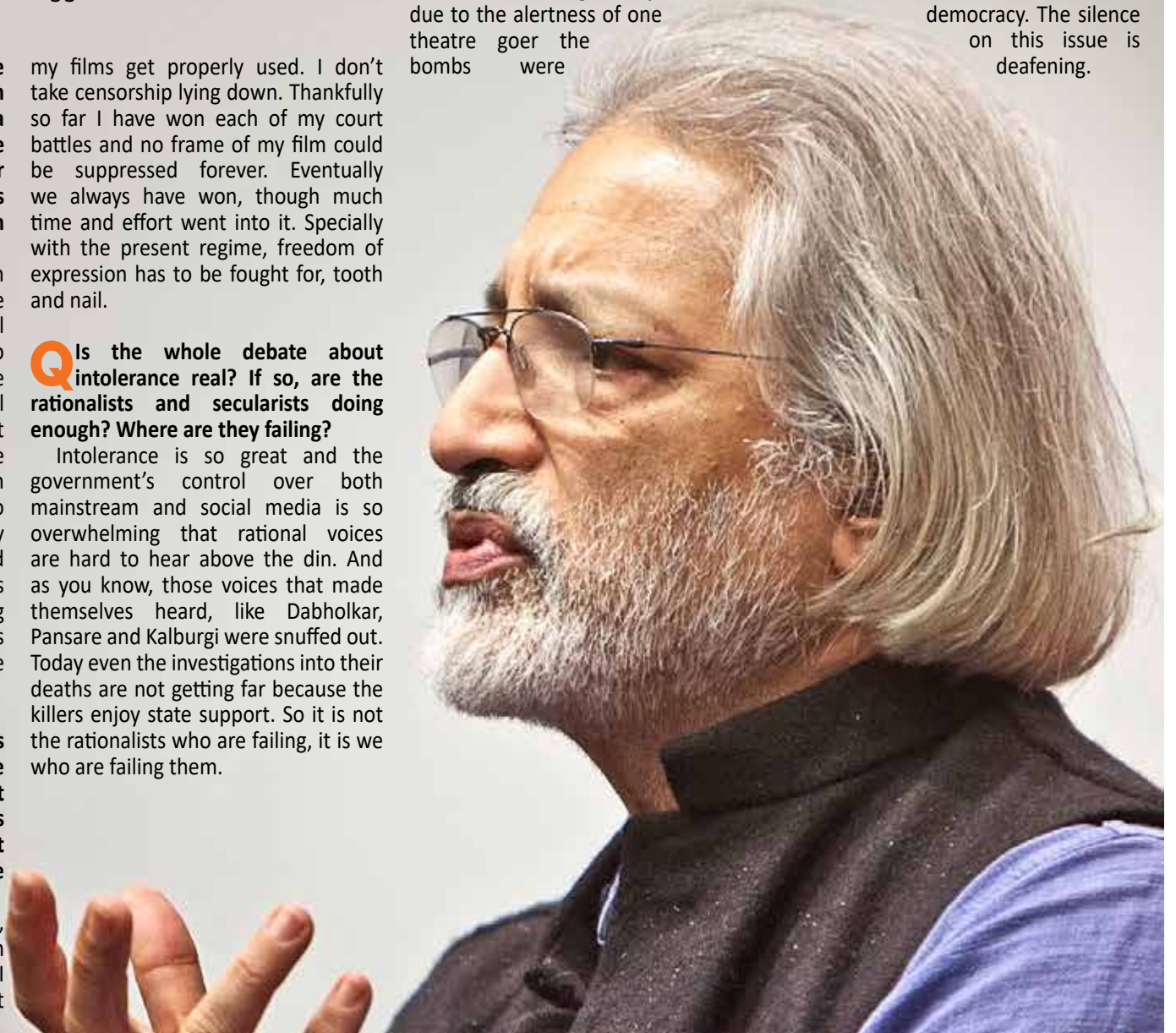
Q Is the whole debate about intolerance real? If so, are the rationalists and secularists doing enough? Where are they failing?

Intolerance is so great and the government's control over both mainstream and social media is so overwhelming that rational voices are hard to hear above the din. And as you know, those voices that made themselves heard, like Dabholkar, Pansare and Kalburgi were snuffed out. Today even the investigations into their deaths are not getting far because the killers enjoy state support. So it is not the rationalists who are failing, it is we who are failing them.

Q The Union government has rejected a plea to ban the right wing organisation Sanatan Sanstha (whose headquarters lie in Goa), due to lack of incriminating evidence for it to be tagged as a terror outfit. How do you view these responses at the government level?

There is no dearth of evidence against Sanatan Sanstha and its fraternal bodies in the murderous ultra right. Two Sanatani bomb planters were killed while trying to explode their bomb in a crowded festival in Margao. And yet all the accused were let off because in Goa they enjoyed strong political patronage. Convicted bombers in Thane got bail just because of the alertness of one theatre goer the bombs were

discovered in time and no one died in the theatre where the bombs were planted. This was surely not because the bomb planters were angels. Today, even after at least two key members of Sanatan Sanstha and its allies are in jail being investigated for the murder of rationalists, not only is the investigation being soft pedalled, the government of India still refuses to ban the organization despite ever growing evidence of their criminality. This is in stark contrast this with the government's approach to suspected Muslim terrorists anywhere in the country. Such a contradictory approach that discriminates between citizens of India is a terrible blow to our democracy. The silence on this issue is deafening.



THE BUREAUCRATIC CARNIVAL!

ANWESHA SINGBAL

After 2012 when the Carnival was affected by the code in place due to assembly elections, this year's Carnival in Goa will once again be sans the ministers and elected representatives of the various municipal councils owing to the Code of Conduct in place due to the 2017 assembly elections.

It will be a bureaucratic affair this time with the council Chief Officers (CO) heading the Carnival organising committees in all the cities where the Carnival celebrations will unfold. Unlike in 2012 where a few COs had rejected the responsibility citing various reasons, this time all the Chief Officers have readily agreed to head the committees and have begun preparations.

With the Code of Conduct still enforced in Goa, this time the Carnival stage will miss its usual political faces. As King Momo announces the revelries open, Goa will still be anticipating its real king until 11th March. However the Carnival celebrations will be carried on with same pomp and gaiety and the preparations are on in full swing to ensure a joyous Carnival.

"A special band will precede King Momo this time," informed

Dipak Desai, Chief Officer of the City Corporation of Panjim (CCP) who is heading the Panjim Carnival organising committee which will be celebrating the golden jubilee of Panjim Carnival this year. "The committee this time consists of government officials, however we have also included non-political experts and citizens who are guiding us with their suggestions," he informed.

The Chairperson of the CCP however hasn't been informed at all. "They have not contacted me in any manner whatsoever and I am not even informed of the meetings which are held in our CCP building." He was however quick to add, "I wish the committee all success and hope to have a memorable Carnival."

The sentiments of the chairpersons are shared elsewhere too as the council members of the various councils are concerned about the absolute absence of any experts or artists on the committee. "Since the elections are now over, I feel government could have relaxed the code owing to the cultural aspects of the Carnival festival," feels Dr Babita Angle Prabhudesai, Chairperson of Margao Municipal Council.

"Carnival is one of the unique festivals celebrated only in Goa and

SCHEDULE OF CARNIVAL

25TH FEB. 2017

- Grand Parade at Panjim
- Parade will commence at the Santa Monica jetty at 3.30 pm, move along the river front on Dayanand Bhandarkar Marg and end at Kala Academy circle.

26TH FEB. 2017

- Margao at 3.30pm

27TH FEB. 2017

- Vasco at 3.30 pm
- Curchorem at 3.30 pm

28TH FEB. 2017

- Mapusa at 3.30 pm
- Ponda-Shiroda at 3.30 pm

people from all religions and faiths participate in it with equal fervour. Because of the code the festivities will certainly be dampened and people participation will be reduced, since the government authorities do not have enough experience of organising such events,"

she felt.

However some of the important decisions of last year's committees have been continued by the present ones. This year's Margao Carnival parade is likely to follow the same route as last year's - i.e. from Ravindra Bhavan circle to Colva circle. Though the said route is under repairs, the CO is confident that the work will be complete before the Carnival celebrations. The committee has decided that the theme of the Carnival 2017 will be Swachh Bharat.

A similar attempt of change in route had been made by the Panjim Carnival committee by accepting Goa's first King Momo Timoteo Fernandes' suggestions to change the route and hold it along the Miramar to Dona Paula road. However the incomplete Miramar-Dona Paula road and non-illumination of the stretch has forced the Carnival Organising Committee to go back on this decision and hold the float parade beginning from the traditional Divja Circle and ending at Kala Academy.

Screening committees have been set up by all the organising committees to select the floats and they will finalize the floats that will enthrall the audience during the parades. Whether the much anticipated event in Goa manages to retain its grandeur amidst the hustle-bustle of elections, time itself will tell.

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KHELL: THE TRADITIONAL CARNIVAL OF GOA

TEAM TNV

Carnival for many may mean just the float parades in Panjim and Margao. But wait a minute, not many Goans know that suburban and rural Goa and especially South Goa celebrates Carnival by hosting Khell tiatrs in their villages. The tradition has been kept alive by a few Khell tiatrists of the South. Khell, a form of Konkani street play, is held in every ward of every village and in towns like Margao and Quepem too.

In the olden days when there were no theatres or TV sets, entertainment to the Goan masses was provided by folk dramatic forms like Zagor and Khell. Khell, which is also called Fell, was and is very popular in the south of Goa.

Zagor and Khell entertained the Goan masses for a long time. Whenever Goans migrated to other parts of the country for employment they took with them these forms of entertainment. There is often debate over the deteriorating quality of Khell in Goa due to the appearance of some elements of vulgarity simply to create fun and entertainment for the audience. However this Khell has survived despite all odds and has become a part of the Carnival celebrations of South Goa.

Today Carnival festivities in Margao are not complete without Khell tiatrs. Khells are held in almost all the wards of Fatorda, where most of the niz goenkars live. Hotspots for these khells are in Borda, Murida, Davondem, Gogol, Ambaji and other places.

Khells were regularly performed during Christmas and Easter, but are at a high during Carnival celebrations. The Khell tiatrists have a jam-packed schedule during the three days of Carnival. A small band of musicians playing the drum, trumpet and clarinet team up to provide the music for these plays.

The Khell is normally a story told through vocals, accompanied by music played by the band. These are stories which may or may not have resemblance to real life events but are made entertaining with the injection of delightful humour and jokes. What used to be a simple street play-like



entertainment till the 90's has now grown to the extent of a full-fledged tiatr where male actors perform dressed as women, and women also take part. They come with many props and also flaunt their elaborate make-up. The troop of khell artistes which in the past came on foot to the village today goes around with their own cars, carrying their equipment along.

Of late the Carnival Khells have become quite competitive, wherein troupes aim to have the best performers and the best musical equipment for the enjoyment of the audience. The commercialisation has reached to such an extent that the performers now advertise in the local dailies to the tune of thousands of rupees just to attract more and more people to the khell.

The factor of competition and prizes has also increased the motivation of the troupes.

Even though the stage tiatrs at Kala Academy and Ravindra Bhavan attract thousands of people to buy tickets and watch them, the Khell which was first documented as having been staged in 1659 still remains the favourite of people during Carnival.

The khell starts with a musical introduction called Tocad, which is followed by an opening chorus - which is a song with a social message. The khell progresses to the main khell Parti, then followed by a solo comedy song. In the next part there is a sad song Canto and then comes the most exciting part - the comedy khell performed by two or more artists. This is the standard flow of the performance of a khell in almost all the villages of South Goa.

Menino De Bandar, a veteran khell tiatrists, expressed displeasure over commercialisation of the age-old tradition of khell. "I used to direct Khell tiatrs and frankly speaking it was more for the fun of it rather than the monetary benefits. In the olden days the Khell Tiatrs consisted of one chorus and two verses and was called the 'Zomnivolea khell'. Khell tiatrs in the villages of Salcete and beyond were the most awaited and was witnessed by thousands of people in the villages unlike today - which is commercialised and there is a rat race on who does how many stagings," Menino said.

Godwin Sequeira from Davorlim recalled that "Carnival in my childhood meant the sounds of traditional instruments with a twist of western drums, coupled with the exciting delicacies of Goan folk and food fiesta. It was the time when the flavours of the season were in the air. It was the original Carnival of traditional Goa."

Mickky D'costa from Quepem said "The 'khell tiatrs' in my area were the media triggering emotions of the people of the village. Laugh, cry, whistle, it was all there. However lately I have not seen something of that sort," said Mickky. He further added that comparing the efforts of today's artists



would be unfair as the competition in all the sectors has increased and one can't expect too much from the upcoming artists. "In a way I am happy that the tradition is at least being followed and passed on to the future generations," he asserted.

The 'khell tiatrs' or the 'folk plays' would make people cry and laugh too. Some of Goa's most talented people would showcase their skills in the span of three days, always leaving the audiences wanting more. No clutter, no wires, simple natural music and all fun.

Constatina Fernandes from Fatorda said people in funny clothes, with colour smeared on their faces is today also a common scene in the neighbourhood.

Natividade Barretto, a niz goenkar, just couldn't stop telling Team TNV how she enjoyed her childhood days of carnival which had people's participation to the maximum. She remembers that the Khell tiatrs had to be compulsorily staged for the first time at the front yard or courtyard of the Regedor, a local administrator, who belonged to the clans of Brahmin or Chardo caste. It was to ensure censorship of the script of the khell tiatr, as the Portuguese rulers feared the popularity of this media. It also worked as a prestigious status symbol for the Regedor, as the families of these clans watched the khell from their palatial balcaos. And the common villagers stood by watching.

Newly married couples from the ward lined up too, talcum powder was sprayed on them and they were given a fresh water dip, mostly of the water from the traditional wells. For most of them it was a pleasant experience,

though some newly married girls found it embarrassing at times.

The traditional carnival continued in its full fervour till the late 80's. The Church in Goa then began to disapprove of the carnival as a Christian festival. The local enthusiasm lessened, but did not go away.

Francis Barretto for Talsanzor felt that Carnival time for the suburban residents was the time to enjoy and let fun touch new heights. "We saved money for many months to buy the much needed balloons, powder and some liquor too. Unlike today's Carnival, it was not just about floats, but was of the Khell, the feeling of oneness and enjoyment with amigos," said Francis.

However today the stage is set for a grand Carnival float parade in all the main towns of Goa. Not just the float parade but the allied festivities of Carnival are also kicked off in the areas around the towns.

As a part of tradition there will be Khell Tiatrs organised in the wards of the councils and Panchayats of South Goa. Areas like the interiors of Curchorem, Quepem, Fatorda, Margao and other South Goa areas will have a dose of Khell Tiatr extravaganza.

Carnival is also becoming a platform for the special children, men and women of Goa. The Chetna Charitable Trust a NGO started in Goa with a mission to empower, protect and educate special people has earlier participated in the Annual Carnival Parade in Curchorem and won the first prize in the clubs category of the Carnival.

Rajoo Naik Karma who is a trustee says they have succeeded to change the outlook of the society towards



the special children to quite an extent. "We will keep working to tell people and especially parents of the special children to consider their differently abled kids as the same. We also wish to change the minds of the parents and convince them not to feel burdened by their kid's disabilities," he said.

In Quepem the traditional Carnival of Goa can be seen at its best. Carnival celebrations may have faded now all around Goa but the rural hinterland of South Goa especially villages of Copelabhat and Ambaulim in Quepem taluka sees high enthusiasm in the traditional carnival activities, just as it was twenty years back.

"This year, preparations started days in advance. Residents of interior villages of Quepem have been gathering at the public places to plan on the celebrations," said John Fernandes, an office bearer of the Adiwasi Sanghatana of Quepem. The Sanghatana has been

playing a pivotal role in the reviving of these traditions.

For over a decade now, tiatr veterans and experts have been fearful of losing Khell to commercial tiatrs. Those apprehensions seem justified today, as the impression of Carnival of Goa today remains only that of the float parades and of drenching each other in water. Some say that the days of performing for free and for the spirit of it are gone, and some say only Carnival will keep the Khell tiatr tradition alive.

The number of khells this time due to the election code of conduct are expected to be less, and most of the khells are sponsored and self-funded by leaders of the local areas. However the Government organisation of khells, though to a limited extent, will still be staged this time.

Team TNV wishes all the Goans Viva Carnival in advance!

CARNIVAL WOULD HAVE BEEN BIGGER WITH GOVT ON THRONE: KING MOMO

Roque Tome Fernandes is synonymous with King Momo across the State. Though after much delay the Goa Tourism Department finalized him as the 'King Momo' for Carnival 2017, he is already playing this mock Carnival 'King' in various shows. TNN spoke to him, minutes after his name was announced.



Q How do you feel about being crowned as King Momo for Carnival 2017?

I have always been King Momo. This is the fifth time that I will be King Momo for the State parade. The first time I was selected was in the year 2000.

Q What are the preparations that you will make to get into the mental state of being King Momo?

I don't have to do anything. I have been acting as King Momo in various shows. Even yesterday when my name was announced, I was in South Goa performing for an event where South African delegates had come. They said

they never knew that there were such great Kings in Goa. Someone told them that I was selected for the State parade. They all congratulated me.

Q So what is your decree for the State going to be now?

Everyone should be happy. I want everyone to enjoy this Carnival. The Carnival is the festival of fun and frolic. Everyone should enjoy it fully. Everyone should be united in helping each other.

Q What would have been your priority if you were actually ruling Goa?

I would have worked for peace and harmony in the State. Now even for these four days of Carnival, everyone should enjoy with peace and harmony.

Q You are also a musician which means you are a fun loving person yourself.

I play the Ghumot. I have also been playing for the Mando festival. Out of 15 groups that participated for the Mando festival, I played for ten groups. I have also played for Indiana Band with Remo Fernandes and Bondo at Raj Bhavan in

Mumbai. I like playing music. It is an integral part of my life.

Q Do you think that Carnival is losing its zeal?

We can't say that. But during the olden days there were several practices which stand banned now. Earlier they used to sprinkle powder on the ladies and guys used to be shot with bullets made of power wrapped in tissue paper. It was fun. Friends used to hit these packets or bullets on each other. After Portuguese rule ended, this practice has been banned. Now you cannot throw such things.

Q Do you think Carnival celebrations this time would be affected as counting of votes is pending and the Code of Conduct is in session?

The Carnival this year would have been bigger and better if the counting had to happen earlier and the new government was in power. They would have given the best for the celebrations. The new government would have supported and encouraged the festivities.



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Q Your beginning as a Music Composer/ Producer Duo. Did you both always want to make music?

Fortunately, we both have always been sure that music is the only choice that will forever keep us happy. We performed together at the National Human Rights Convention 2010 and we both felt that we need to make music together, fusing our individual perspectives and influences.

Q How tough was it to take up an unconventional field like this? How was the response from family and friends?

Just like every other artiste on this planet, we were considered to be foolish, until the Goan society showered so much of love and support over our music. We both believe that working hard in any field with dedication and right decisions will definitely earn you recognition. We never really thought if it was tough or easy, because we simply wanted to pursue it, irrespective of circumstances and that kept us going. And as far as family is concerned, they have been an eternal support.

Q Was leaving Goa a tough decision? Where does Goa lack as far as this field is concerned?

It was not a tough decision for us because, it has always been a short-term move to seek experience from the film and music industry in Mumbai. I think leaving Goa has made us both more open-minded and aware of the brilliant talent that exists in our country. And that inspires us to set a higher benchmark every time. I think more Goan people should consider music as a vocation and not just as a hobby. Talent must not be underutilized; you are lucky to be an artiste.

Q You have always chosen to connect back to Goa through music. Be it Hello Patrao, Take a Taxi go, Soro and now, Ponne Dis. Any reasons?

We believe that Goa is a very unique place on this planet, with such a happy, loving and relaxed society. We just want to remind the people of Goa about the beauty that lies in our lifestyle. We need to represent it on an international platform and share it with the rest of the world. Our music is a small effort in this direction.

Q The response to these singles has been brilliant. Did you anticipate this?

We have always followed our heart and released every song with the belief that we must share with the society, the emotion that we personally carry in our songs. It never really mattered to us how many views we got. We always paid attention to the feedback from a few genuine listeners, about the impact that our music has had on them. That is the reason we have always chosen a completely organic reach on social media, without opting for paid and sponsored reach.

Q Any particular incidents in your journey that have boosted your morale and helped you realize you are on the right track?

We often meet senior artistes while working on various projects, and they share their journey with us. Every time we compare ourselves with these people, we realize how easy our life has been. We have always been lucky to seek support from other artistes and their belief in our work acts as a huge boost to our morale.

Q Any message you want to give to young budding artistes?

We feel the only way to be happy in life is to follow your own heart. If you think you have what it takes to make it big, get up and start working towards it. Develop your art, share it with people, consider their appreciation as a support and their criticism as an advice. Understand the intricacies of life and make a decision, if you must convert your art into a profession. Remember, with art, you can not only make a living, but can make a life.

Tell us of your work and collaborative ventures.

Apart from our Konkani music, we have collaborated with some of the most respected artistes in the music world, including Rahul Ram, Ash King, Suraj Jagan, V. Selvaganesh, Dilshad Khan, Sanjeev Thomas and a few others. We have a few Hindi songs in the pipeline produced in collaboration with these artistes.

Tushar Kamat and Jairaj Joshi are two young music artistes from Goa who left the state in search of their soul. Today they are working with some of the most reputed names in music like Rahul Ram, Ash King, Suraj Jagan, V. Selvaganesh, Dilshad Khan, Sanjeev Thomas, etc. TNV brings you their musical journey.

TALENT MUST NOT BE UNDERUTILIZED



THE ANN INSTITUTE - HIGH ON SKILLS

The ANN Institute was established in 1999 by Mr. A N Nagvenkar, in order to satisfy the pressing needs of an expanding local travel and hotel industry. It now provides a unique learning environment producing graduates with the right skills, knowledge and experience to take up careers in the hospitality industry worldwide. One of the striking features of modern times has been the growth of national and international tourism. The participation of Goa in this development has been unprecedented and the growth in tourist arrivals has by far exceeded that of any other state of India. The hotel industry has contributed much to this success. Tourism has become one of the main pillars of Goa's economy, a real engine for the economic growth of the country, offering employment directly and indirectly to around 25% of the gainfully employed population.

The Institute is situated in Porvorim, at Nova Cidade Commercial Complex, S1 Building, Alto-Porvorim, Bardez, Goa. ANN Institute of Hotel Management & Catering Technology is Goa's 1st ISO 9001:2000 Certified Educational Institute.

The Institute is looked upon by the hotel industry as a nursery for dedicated, skilled and highly qualified young people who can adapt very quickly to the business environment and eventually assume positions of responsibility.

The ANN Institute is committed to the primary mission of meeting the educational and professional needs of its students in the field of Tourism, Transport and Hospitality industries. Further, the Institute strives to help students to be ethical, fair in their relation with other people, honest and sincere. Special emphasis is also given to continuing education with a view to upgrading the knowledge and skills.

An additional objective of the Institute is to develop in the students a sense of belonging to an educational institute of quality, which is concerned for their welfare and meets their academic, professional, social and other needs.



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P N GADGIL JEWELLERS COMPLETES TWO YEARS IN GOA

The story of P N Gadgil Jewellers is no fairy tale but an epic scripted meticulously by six generations of the Gadgil clan. It all started way back in the 18th century. The group gets its name from the late Purshottam Narayan Gadgil, doyen of the family and the chief architect who captured the hearts and imagination of the people with his ethics and his jewellery.

With unbeatable trust gained at the chain of stores in Pune, PN Gadgil took Mumbai and other major cities of Maharashtra to enrich its market-hold. Today, the brand has exclusive stores in Mumbai, Aurangabad, Nagpur, Ahmednagar, Panvel, Nanded and Goa. In India till late 2014 we were operating only in the parts of Maharashtra. So on 1st February 2015 we started our journey in Goa. It was a very bold decision taken by the management of the company to open a store in Goa, where the culture and tradition is quite different from our place of origin. But with the love and support of our esteemed customers and by making available the latest designs to the customers we overcame all the obstacles. Today it gives us immense pleasure to inform that we have successfully completed two years in Goa.



The PNG brand also opened an e-commerce store in 2013 with its exclusive collection, to cater to a nationwide audience with a majestic online jewellery shopping experience. The E-store takes the online jewellery shopping experience to the next level with an excellent user interface, access to extensive designs from elegant daily wear to royal Indian traditional

designs, and a wide price range. PN Gadgil customers and users visiting the E-store can also enjoy the privilege of virtually trying on jewellery on their images and can even share it via social media platforms to get opinions from friends and family.

P. N. Gadgil Jewellers have different schemes to offer their valuable customers like 'Aabhushan', 'Dhanavarsha', etc.



NOT FILING 'IT' RETURNS TIMELY COULD BE EXPENSIVE

GANPAT KAPDI, CA

After April we keep reminding some of our clients "Please get your documents for filing the income tax return," and we get an answer "Sir, I am busy this week, will definitely come in next week." They ultimately turn up only on the due date. We still try our best to do justice to our work, but due to the last minute rush, including problems like income tax website issues, we are left with no option but to file these returns after the due date. This was possible because there was no penalty for late filing. However in this Budget, the Finance Minister has made it difficult for late comers.

This year's Budget has proposed imposing a fine for not filing income tax returns within the due date.

PENALTY FOR LATE FILING

"For small income earners below Rs. 5 lakh, late filing of returns will attract a fee of Rs. 1000. In case of income above Rs. 5 lakh, fee will be Rs. 5000, if it is filed late but on or before December 31st of the assessment year and Rs.10,000 when such return is filed after 31st December." Since it is a

fee, it has to be paid before filing the tax returns. One cannot file his return unless this fee is paid

However this amendment has brought hardship on people who are below the taxable limit and are not required to file the Income Tax Return. Let's take a case where a person having income below taxable limit approaches a Bank for a loan and the Bank Manager asks him to submit an Income Tax Return. Since his income is below taxable limit he has not filed the return before due date and now he has to file a belated return (return filed after due date) by paying a penalty of Rs. 1000.

Further once you have filed the return and for any reason if you want to revise the same, you can do so only if it is filed within due date. Existing provisions allowed you to revise your income tax return any time before the expiry of one year from the end of the relevant assessment year. For eg. Return for the financial year 2017-18 can be revised up till 31st March 2020. In the new Budget it is proposed that the return once filed can be revised only up to end of the relevant assessment year or before completion of assessment. This is effective from 1st April 2018. Hence return filed of financial year 2018-19 can be revised only up till 31st March 2020. Thus time limit for revising return has been reduced by one year.

To conclude, we would urge all the readers, don't miss the return filing deadline. Else you may end up paying a fine even if you have paid all your taxes and also you will lose the opportunity of revising the return.

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The writer is a Chartered Accountant
from Mapusa



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THE NEUTRAL VIEW
FORTNIGHTLY

NO MORE 'HIGH-WAY' FOR LIQUOR OUTLETS ALONG GOA'S ROADS

TEAM TNV

While Goa was busy with its State Legislative Assembly elections, there was an imminent threat that was approaching towards the thousands of liquor outlets dotting the State and National Highways.

The threat was initially pushed under the carpet as political parties were busy chasing their set agenda, but as the election hangover was done with, a section of businessmen woke up to the grim reality of what was staring at their face. Closure of their business!

The Supreme Court in its verdict set a deadline of April 1, 2017 for the State governments to close down all the liquor outlets which are within 500 metres of the National and State Highways.

The court order was the fallout of the petition that claimed that large numbers of liquor shops located along the highways were "a great temptation and a distraction for road users."

For many States this order might not impact much. The states of Gujarat, Bihar, Manipur and Nagaland have already banned sale and drinking of liquor. But Goa is an exception. Whether we agree or not, tourism rides on the liquor business.

The intensity of the situation was grasped by the liquor vendors when State Excise Commissioner Menino D'Souza chaired the meeting asking the revenue officials to survey and submit report on the outlets around the National and State highways.

The department was fully aware that around 3,000 out of total 11,000 outlets would face closure, permanently. It was announced that the department would not renew the licences post-March 31, 2017 of these outlets. This means they will have to pull down their bar shutters and opt for some other business. If they want to shift their outlets away from 500 metres, then they will have to apply afresh.

The discussions on the good and bad effects of the ban continued echoing across all the bars of the State. After every peg, the discussion got more serious. The political parties who were exhausted with election campaigning and thought of taking a break could not miss this crucial issue to put down the outgoing State government.

Congress and Goa Forward were the first political parties to react to the situation, while Chief Minister Laxmikant Parsekar was seen trying to gauge the situation. After much delay, the State government finally agreed to file a review petition in the Supreme Court.

But what is important is that the State has already lost so many days and hardly one and half month is left for the implementation of



The State government has sought the opinion of the Advocate General on this issue. It was only after consulting him that it has been decided to file review petition in the Supreme Court. Those states which are likely to be affected with the order were not taken into confidence by the Apex Court while delivering such an important judgment. If this order is implemented more than 50 per cent of Bars and Restaurants will have to be shut.

Laxmikant Parsekar,
Chief Minister

the order. Goa is virtually racing against the time.

It was All Goa Liquor Traders Association and its active president Dattaprasad Naik who propelled the entire movement. He was instrumental in making Chief Minister realize the consequence of the order on the trade. Threats like blocking of roads were given, only after which Parsekar stood up in the support of the trade. As we are writing this article, the State government is yet to move to the Supreme Court.

Every day is important under these circumstances. The liquor traders' body has also decided to plead before the Apex Court.

The entire issue has brought to light one important aspect about Goa – the dual national highways. The residents of Ribandar are testimony to the fact of how the authorities have failed to denotify the old road as NH though the new one is constructed. The spacious Old Goa-Panaji by-pass is ready but the old road snaking alongside River Mandovi still remains a National Highway.

Similarly, in Margao though the by-pass is completed, the road entering the city continues to be notified as the National Highway. There are some places where parallel roads are notified as National Highways.

Union Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari during his frequent Goa trips was boasting of increasing the National Highways in the State. But we were then unmindful that it is not that the

new roads are constructed but old ones are notified as National Highways.

Though it might sound classy for anyone to claim that the National highway runs through their village, the recent SC judgment has changed the scenario. Now having a National highway running through the village means all the liquor outlets will be closed down.

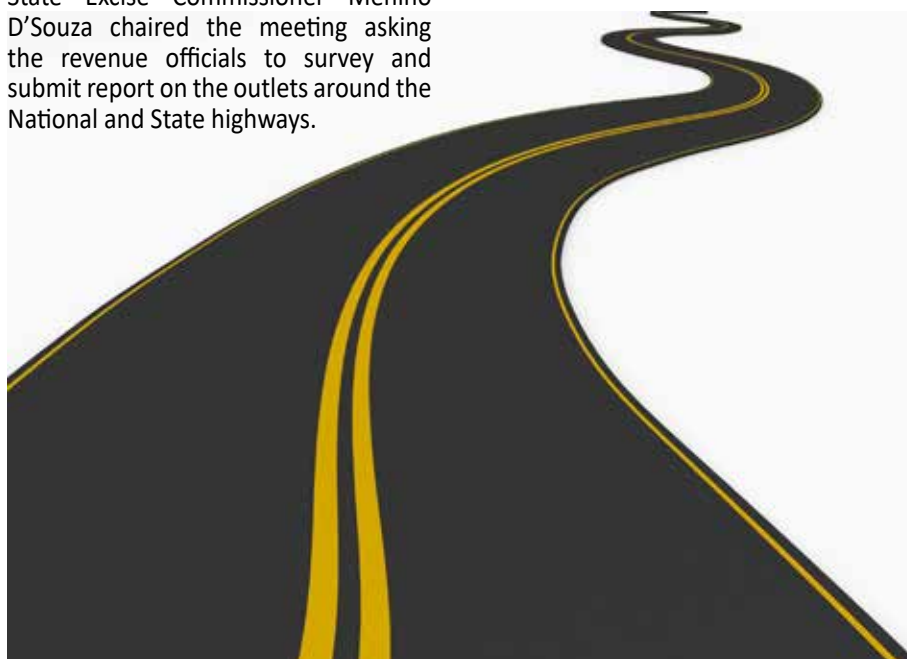
It is well known that there are very few stand-alone restaurants, while the majority are 'Bars and Restaurants'. We would evoke strong reaction if we say drinking is a part of Goa's culture but we can safely say that Goans know to handle their drink.

The ban is likely to have a cascading effect on the State's economy. Not just the tourism industry but the domestic trade in the rural area will also face a bleak future. The situation would be similar to that during the mining ban.

The Supreme Court has exercised its own wisdom in pronouncing the ban on the liquor outlets. The amount of road accidents need to be curbed. Drunken driving is dangerous.

But is this the only way to curb it? Can't a person carry drinks in his car and drink on the highways? If the State authorities are really serious about curbing drunken driving, they need to purchase more alcometers and increase the police patrolling on the highways.

Legislation should also be moved to make drunken driving a major offence, which might lead to cancellation of licence or/and jail. While we don't intend to condemn the SC verdict, the judges should analyse the Goa situation and geography with different parameters.



WE WILL WAIT TILL THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS FORMED: NAIK

The recent judgement by the Supreme Court clearly says that the liquor outlets within 500 metres of all National and State highways should be closed down by 1st April 2017. This has created a huge panic in the state. As many as 5000 Bars will have to be closed down! Hrishikesh Kadam of TNV spoke to the President of the Goa Liquor Traders Association, Dattaprasad Naik.

Q Do you support any all party meeting with the CM that is suggested by the Congress and also the support extended by the Goa Forward Party?

I will not politicise this issue. It is genuine and of most concern to many poor people who earn their daily bread on this business.

Q The Supreme Court gave its verdict on 16th December. Why did you wait for so long to take such an action?

See, the Supreme Court gave the verdict on 16th December. But the copy of the judgement was not available. The copy came after 10 days. How do you expect us to react so fast? And the state was about to go for elections. The Code of Conduct was in force and Government could do nothing in such a

small period of time. In fact, The Defence Minister mentioned this issue in his public speaking. Politicising this issue is not good.

If it has to be politicised, the major fault is of the PWD Minister Sudin Dhavlikar, he has to be blamed for not de-notifying the old state highways as district roads even after so many years. The Old Patto Bridge from the Portuguese era which is a one-way now is still the State highway. The Roads in Ponda Market are no more Highways. The By-Pass should have been the new highway. But the minister has slept all this while and not de-notified the roads. If there is anyone who can bail us out of the situation, it is Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar.

Q What is the impact of this judgement according to you?

The impact is huge. 5000 outlets closing is a big blow to the economy. More than 70% of the roads in the State are covered under National or State highways. This is a three-way impact on Goa. The manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers all are affected by the judgement. Not only that, most of the starred hotels in Goa will also be affected by this verdict due to their proximity to the highways. First the mining ban already had its impact on the liquor business in Goa indirectly. But now this is a direct blow for us.

Q What is the percentage of the liquor traders to be affected in Goa?

As of now the number is not known. It is just an estimation. But till the new Government is formed we will ensure that the entire data of the affected will be ready with us after we finish our survey. We will be ready by 11th March. We will also be obliged if the Excise Department is willing to share the data of their report to the government which has to be submitted by the 28th of February.

Q What have you all decided to do?

The affected parties, that is the Goa Liquor Traders Association, Goa Hotel and Restaurant Association and Bars and Restaurant Association have come under one banner of 'Goa Highway Affected Liquor Vendors Association'. We have decided to wait till the new government is formed. And we'll understand its stand on the verdict, only then we can decide on our course of action.

Q Do you want the State to initiate the Review Petition?

Yes, we want the state to do it. We will be a party to the review petition. This will show the grievous nature and the intensity of the effect of verdict on the state of Goa, to the Supreme Court. That is why we have decided to wait and watch till the new government is formed.

Q How do you look at the idea of declaring all the highways in Goa as District roads?

We completely agree to this in fact we have given this idea as one of the recommendations to the state government. As this will be best solution. We spoke to our legal advisor Amit Palyekar. In fact even the Advocate General gave a similar suggestion.



Only the liquor outlets from Candolim to Harmal and Velsao to Mobor are not close to any National and State highway and are not affected by the verdict of the Supreme Court and face no threat from it.



Old is Gold

Late one evening, a shepherd was driving his flock home, when he noticed that a wild sheep had joined his flock. The shepherd said, "It's good to have some wild sheeps", as he shut them together with his own sheeps for the night. It snowed heavily the following day and the shepherd could not take his flock as usual to the pasture to graze. He fed his sheep with sufficient food to keep them alive but fed the wild sheep with plenty of food to tempt it to stay back. When it stopped snowing two days later, he took his sheep out to graze. As they were nearing the pasture, he saw the wild sheep scamper away. "Ungrateful Sheep!" shouted the shepherd. "I served you more food than my own sheep yet you ran away the minute you got a chance?" "If you could forget your own sheep in order to lure me, it won't be long before you did the same thing to me too!", said the wild sheep. Moral: Never sacrifice old friends for new!

ZIYA FATMA JANI,
Std VII,
Crescent School. Fatorda, Margao



A Mother

A mother is a special gift
Of love that's deep and true
A mother is always there to dry our tears
And chase away our fears
She's someone you trust
Respecting her is a must
A mother's unfailing strength
Can keep you safe from harm
A mother as you will realize is
Always selfless and at peace
A mother is above all things
A companion, a friend and accomplice
She is always there when you need her the most
Someone to bank on when you are lost
Something unforgettable is a mother's lap
To find peace go there and nap.

NOMAA SANCOALKAR,
Std IX,
Progress High School, Sankhali



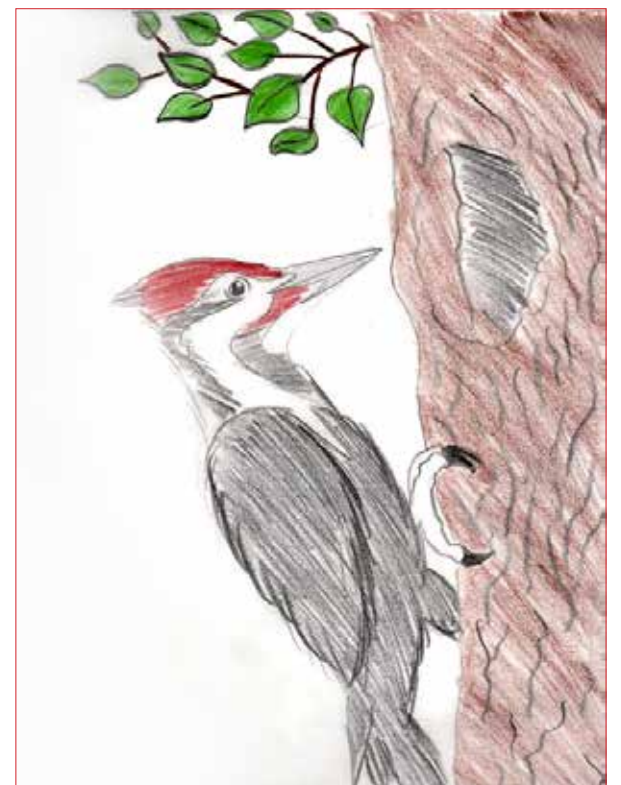
NITESH
Std VII
Crescent School, Fatorda, Margao



SOHAM BHENDE
Std VIII,
Sarvodaya Education Society's High School, Curchorem



AVADHESH KUMAR
Std X
Bhatikar Model High School, Margao



ELKAN DIAS
Std VII,
Ravindra Kelekar Dnyanmandir, Margao



ADITI HEGDE
Std II
Fatima Convent High School, Margao

GOAN ELECTIONS AND POLITICS HAVE CHANGED AFTER 'HOME SWEET HOME': SWAPNIL SHETKAR

Home Sweet Home can undoubtedly be considered as a milestone in Konkani Cinema. After the success of the first film, the makers even went to produce the sequel which was equally successful. TNV spoke to the director of the movie, Swapnil Shetkar, about the film and his future plans.

Q What next after the success of Home Sweet Home and its sequel? What project have you been working on?

We are right now working on three scripts in three different languages, out of which one is a remake of a Konkani film in Hindi. All these films are based on Goan social, political and crime based true stories.

Q Do you think Home Sweet Home was a milestone in Konkani cinema?

That is for the people to decide, but I am very sure that our team's efforts will definitely be written somewhere in the history of the Goan film industry.

Q Through Home Sweet Home you made a statement on Goa's politics. Do you see people voting wisely this time in elections?



Definitely. In fact I have heard from many people whose thinking on Goan politics and elections has changed after watching our films. I remember an incident, flashed on a news daily, which mentioned about a local group who raised their voice against the slow and delayed public work of the municipality and used "Kaamasarki karat... Na jalyar (ek sushegaad Goynkaar utta tenna fudyachi kasha futta te dakhayta)" the famous dialogue from Home sweet Home 1&2 to express their frustration. We tried to be neutral and showcase

some of the dirty facts about politics. People have taken this positively and would definitely show a fair result.

Q Why have you shifted the projects to Hindi and Marathi?

Our production house is managed by me and my partner Mr.Madhav Gad. Even after the successful response for Home Sweet Home and its sequel, our production house is still struggling to manage its finances and as such we do not intend to produce by ourselves any Konkani film at the moment. I see a bigger market for Hindi, Marathi, Tamil



or most of the south film industries. Goa based real stories will definitely appeal to more number of audience if made in any other language. This will also give a wider scope for Goan artists on screen and off screen, to showcase their talent.

Q Are you happy with the State government's scheme for film financing?

I am happy that the long stalled film finance scheme has finally been notified this year, but I will be happier if these financial grants are delivered to the filmmakers without any further delay.

Q Has hosting of IFFI helped Goa?

Yes, of course.

Q Do you see Konkani cinema marching forward? Do you feel that Konkani cinema requires more screens?

Konkani film industry is growing day by day, but we still need to try hard on tapping more commercial aspects of it. Till now we have been very much successful in catering to a good number of Goan audiences in Goa, the rest of India and overseas. Now we need more number of screens and shows to showcase our films at appropriate timings suitable for audiences. Cinema halls dedicated to Konkani or regional languages are the necessity of the hour.



VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY AT CAFE MAMBO

SIMPLICITY THE ULTIMATE SOPHISTICATION: NEHA

After Executing export orders for established export houses like Banaras Beads of India Ltd, Fashion Temptations, Karen Fashions etc, Neha Palan Kamat's own label Naari is going places. TNV caught up with Neha to explore more about her work.

MY FAVOURITE

Colour : Off white
Food : Paani-puri and Rossa Omlet
Place : Maxem (Goa)
Actor : Amitabh Bachchan
Actress : Kajol/Madhubala
Movie : 3 Idiots
Clothes : Jeans/top
Singer : Kishore Kumar

Q For how long have you been in this field? Tell us a little about your beginnings.

I have contributed more than 18 years in the fashion industry. I started my career working for an export house as a designer. Then I worked as a freelancer for Reena Dhaka. I then designed and executed export orders for some established export houses like Banaras Beads of India Ltd, Fashion Temptations, Karen Fashions etc. After gaining experience I started my own label – NAARI.

Q Tell us about Naari and your journey.

Starting my own label was my aspiration, but also a very tough decision. Initially I started taking bridal orders and started outsourcing to tailors and embroiderers. Gradually I started my own small unit comprising of 8 people and then expanding to more embroiderers and tailors. Designing and executing bulk orders for export houses was very encouraging. Somewhere in 2002 I got an opportunity to supply in Goa for one of the stores. That's how I started a connect in Goa. In 2004, I got married and settled in Goa.

Four years after marriage I restarted my Delhi store and workshop as the prospects in Goa in terms of quality labour were not good. In 2011, I started a store in Margao. Recently I have been promoting my brand pan-India through high-end exhibitions in Delhi, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Mysore, Coimbatore etc. which are visited by Bollywood stars and South Indian Stars. Some of my hot selling designs are hand painted tunics, Kalamkaris and Pochampalli.

Q Did you find a difference in working conditions as far as Goa is concerned?

Goa is a very lucrative market for designer stuff and it provides a very conducive environment for creativity to flourish. However getting masters, karigars and dyers is a very difficult task in Goa. Till date there is not even

a single dyer in Goa. I have to get these things executed from Delhi. And this is one big reason to continue my workshop in Delhi so that I can cater to my Goan clients with complete design freedom.

Q Is Goa different from other states as far as fashion trends are concerned?

Yes, cultural and climatic differences between Delhi and Goa are quite evident in their choice of fabric, colour and surface ornamentation. People in Goa are very fond of bright and vibrant colors. Due to hot and moist climate – cottons and georgettes are the most preferred fabrics here. Whereas linens and silk are the most loved fabrics in the states like Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

Q What are the current fashion trends?

Summer is just around the corner and I am sure most of you would be just waiting to unleash your wardrobe to flaunt this summer of 2017. Ladies, let's get geared up to welcome summer in full bloom with floral prints, Shibori tie-and-dyes and of course batiks. Summer whites with gold are always a winning combination, striking the right balance between austere and ornate. "SIMPLICITY" has always been my style of designing and I feel it is the ultimate sophistication. Earthy hues, blues and whites are the palette for the male species this season. Jackets can be added to enhance the style.

Q Could you give a few fashion tips for the season?

Linens, lots of white and peach are in this season to welcome this summer.

Q Any fashion icons you follow?

I really admire Sabyasachi for their elegant executions.

Q Any filmstars or celebrities that you particularly admire for their sense of fashion?

Deepika Padukone, the way in which she carries every fashion statement with confidence and style.