

The Neutral View

FORTNIGHTLY Wednesday, March 22, 2017 | Vol. No. 1 | Issue 8 | Price Rs. 10 | RNI: GOAENG00427

BHAI RETURNS!

This is the fourth time that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has formed the government in Goa and it's no surprise that all the stints were under Manohar Parrikar – who has proved himself to be the saffron party's best bet in this small state. Except in 2012, when it got a clear mandate of 21 assembly seats excluding the alliance seats in the House of 40, on all the other three occasions it was Manohar 'bhai' who did the party proud with his astute skills of machination. And the recent election is one such example of this leader's mastery, with the Congress outwitted in a nail-biting finish.



FROM MONTE HILL & AZAD NAGRI TO KHAREBANDH DEVELOPMENT IN MARGAO REMAINS A MIRAGE DESPITE POLITICAL LOYALTIES

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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.

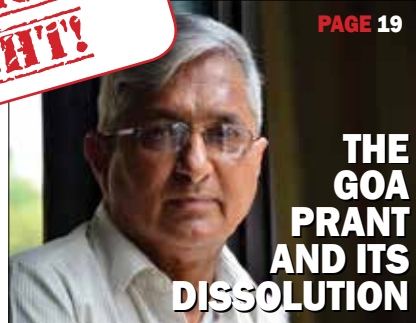


PAGE 18 BANNER WAR FOR THE LOVE OF HISTORIC FIGURES

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WE PREDICTED IT RIGHT!



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THE GOA PRANT AND ITS DISSOLUTION



A BOOK IN EVERY CHILD'S HAND

PAGE 10

AB KI BAAR...



The D-Day that will decide the fate of 251 candidates in the election fray and the subsequent formation of the new Goa Government. Will BJP continue to govern the State for the second term? Or will it be a new government by Congress, or by new entrant AAP or a MGP-GSM led coalition government? These are questions currently spinning in the minds of nearly 10 lakh voters who exercised their fundamental right to elect the candidate or party of their choice. Whether it is going to be one single largest party that will rule Goa or whether an alliance will take power – the picture will be clear on March 11.



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FIVE 80'S MOVIES YOU NEED TO WATCH THIS SUMMER!

1 THE BREAKFAST CLUB

Directed by John Hughes, this movie shows how a detention brings together five kids with different mindsets. This is a classic coming-of-age film. The contrast between the characters, and the fact that all of them still find something to relate to despite being so different, is what makes this movie absolutely beautiful. The film wraps up really nicely as well, leaving you with hope. This movie is likely to end up among your all-time favorites.



2 FERRIS BUELLER'S DAY OUT

Another coming of age film by John Hughes, this movie shows the antics of the notorious highschooler, Ferris Bueller. Based around Bueller's day out with his girlfriend, and his best friend, Cameron by skipping school, the movie shows the trio contemplate their life, and ultimately help Cameron deal with issues with his father. Hughes was the master of coming-of-age flicks, and if you like the genre, you should definitely watch this one.



PALASH VOLVOIKAR

It's that time of the year! Summer is quickly making its way to us, and who doesn't like summer? While ideally it is the season you should spend out by the sea, chilling, I prefer taking some days out to just relax at home, and watch a movie or two, mostly something from the good old Eighties. The 1980's were some of the best years for cinema. Most of the movies from my personal list of top ten films of all time are from that decade; the decade of feel good cinema, as I like to call it. While I have way too many favourite movies from the 80's, here are my picks for the 80's movies you absolutely have to watch this summer.

3 DEAD POETS SOCIETY

O Captain! My Captain! Anybody who has ever faced a crisis in their teenage years over what they want to do with their lives will relate to the theme of this movie. Robin Williams delivers the performance of a lifetime as the loveable professor John Keating, and Robert Sean Leonard plays the conflicted teenager dealing with the fact that his life choices don't match the ones his father enforces on him. This is a must watch!



4 STAND BY ME

Based on a short story by Stephen King, Stand by Me follows the journey of four kids who are inseparable friends, as they try to find the dead body of a missing boy they hear about. The movie highlights that awkward transition between early youth and adolescence, and shows the protagonists go through it while reminding us how pure friendships can be. This one is bound to make you nostalgic!



5 BACK TO THE FUTURE (TRILOGY)

Yes, a trilogy. Back to the Future is a cult classic, having basically invented the concepts of hoverboards, and self-lacing shoes. This list is supposed to have five films, but this is an exception, because the trilogy is basically a long series of events split into three movies. It shows the adventures of the teenage Marty McFly and Doctor Emmett Brown. The pair go back in time in the time machine Doc Brown built, and deal with the butterfly effect of time travel, as events unfold. One of the most enjoyable trilogies you'll ever watch!

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PINKY TRIPATHI'S PRIVATE TUTORIALS ALL SET TO EMBARK ON NEW MISSIONS IN GOA!



From running 3 centers in Mumbai to conducting workshops in Goan schools to being a topper in TEFL in Bangkok and training corporates in Spain in conversational English, this International quality award winner and her recently coveted "The Rising star Of India" in the most prestigious ASEAN SUMMIT THAILAND is going to be back in Goa with her most talked about "summer camps" in the month of May 2017 for kids of all age groups.

It's not just for the Goa kids, she is also coming up with certificate course for those who aspire to travel abroad and teach. Her recent collaboration with the pioneers of this field "Asian college of teachers" brings a platform for all the youths and aspiring candidates who wish to pursue their career abroad. Never ever Goa had an institute which can guide and train the candidates to teach abroad.

She has recently completed her Train the Trainer Course from British council which enables her to train all those who wish to enroll for IELTS with a good band score.

We recently interviewed her to get a clear idea of her venture in GOA

enhancing the child's General Knowledge about topics which they would be able to understand better when taught to them in school.

➤ **Any plans to set up an institute to train kids for their board exams in Goa like you do in Mumbai?**

Yes. We are coming up with vacation batches for the students from standard 6th to 12th which is going to start from 1st may in Goa. We have already selected experts of respective subjects to give their best to the students here. As far as English is concerned I would be personally taking classes for Goa students. Regular tests and parents follow up is going to be the essence of coaching kids.

➤ **In one of your recent interviews you spoke about "Walk and Talk" program. Can u let us know the details?**

We have our English club; PTEC (Pinky Tripathi's English Club) wherein we introduce innovative ways to imbibe love for English language and gaining a command over it as this is



the need of the hour.

We have successfully conducted one such program in Goa. It is called as walk and talk because there are no regular classrooms but rather we would have trainers and trainees walking down the beach, forts, markets and conversing only in English. I was selected for a similar kind of workshop in Spain named as 'vaughtown' wherein we trained corporates of Spain in 'conversational English'. Believe me it does wonders. We will be announcing the enrollment for our new batch soon.

➤ **What is TEFL? Where in Goa?**

TEFL is Teaching English as a foreign language which is a gateway for all those, who aspire to travel and teach abroad. The qualification required is 12 grade pass and One should be 18 years and above. It's a 3 week course including practice teaching, where teachers get a practical experience of how to teach after completing the course. It will be conducted in Vagator Goa, from 15th May to 3rd June. The candidates will be certified to teach abroad with 100% placement assistance. The institute also offers a certificate from Burmingham University (UK). For future details one can personally call at 09967576138

➤ **Tell us something about your summer Camps!**

Our summer camps concentrate on, practical and innovative approach towards holistic development of a child. We shall be focusing on molding a child's personality through activities based on fun combined with learning. It includes Speech, Drama, music, art, dance catering to various age groups. We have few topics taught on projectors or using E Technology



To know more about Pinky Tripathi and her upcoming workshops in Goa and Mumbai log on to.

Facebook page-Pinky Tripathi's Private Tutorials

Subscribe to their YouTube channel- Pinky Tripathi's Private Tutorials

KEEP CALM AND LET PARRIKAR WORK

We can fairly divide Goa's politics into two – one before the counting and another after it. And both are in stark contradiction to each other. Political uncertainties are not new for Goa, but the kind of equations that were worked out after the counting took place on March 11 were unexpected and historic.

No one in their wildest imagination would have conceived that Manohar Parrikar and Vijai Sardesai would come together to form the government. The presence of the Maharashtra Gomantak Party in the government is understandable. They have been the usual players, who are always with the people in power, their excuse of being with them differs.

It was hard to digest for many, including hardcore Fatordekars and Madgaonkars, that Vijai would go with Parrikar. The memories of Parrikar calling Vijai a dalal and the BJP raising very personal issues about Vijai, like cutting of coconut trees to make way for his bungalow at Fatorda were fresh in the mind.

In some areas, the banners of Vijai's yatra against the then Laxmikant Parsekar-led government's decision to amend the

Tree Act are still hanging around. Many people were mesmerized by Vijai's slogan of 'Goenkarponn.'

Then this happened. On the night of March 12, at a starred resort, I too was personally witness to something unexpected. Vijai walked out with Parrikar, flanked by Rohan Khaunte and Sudin Dhavalikar, from the hotel to head for Raj Bhavan, where he staked a claim to form the government.

It has now been disclosed that the entire process of cobbling together the alliance of differently minded individuals had begun on the earlier night, led by Union Minister Nitin Gadkari. But for most people it appeared as though the alliance had been formed within a couple of hours.

Until 5 pm that day, Goa Forward Party President Prabhakar Timble was telling the media that the party was yet to decide and that nothing would happen that day. But the events that unfolded were swift and unimaginable. The rest is now history, with Parrikar being sworn in as the Chief Minister.

In the discussion that followed after formation of the government, Vijai had to do a lot of explanation to his supporters over his move. He held a meeting at his residence in Fatorda where he apologized to the people for not informing them, but stood by his decision claiming that "Congress has ditched me twice and I can't trust them anymore."

Then the stories of how Vijai spoke to Rahul Gandhi and how he had put a condition that Digambar Kamat should be made Chief Minister also started popping out from the Congress camp. And we all know of how Vishwajit Rane quit the party and Digvijaya Singh had to face a lot of flak.

Back to Vijai. His decision was highly criticized by many who were with him in his fight against the BJP. Social media became an easy medium for them to vent their anger against their leader. And people wrote all kind of things. Open letters became the order of the day. Criticism for Vijai's decision came from across Goa. The people were upset. They felt he cheated them. There were a few who said "this was not expected from Vijai."

It is true that Vijai through his speeches and conduct on the floor of the House had become a pan-Goan figure. People had high expectations of him. But the simple question that people need to answer is – Why do they expect Vijai to only sit in the opposition or go with the Congress to form the government?

It is undoubtedly a good sign that people

consider him as a leader. But if that is the case then those same people should have asked Vijai before the election to field candidates in all the 40 constituencies and got them elected so that he could form the government with a majority.

But that did not happen. People had their own choices when it came to the election. Their party affiliations were different during polls, but when it comes to being anti-BJP they expect Vijai to play that role.

This editorial does not intend to support what Vijai did, nor does it want to condemn his move, as the Goa Forward Party is not a government subsidiary that should do what we want. The party and its workers will decide what is best for them.

But what is best for Goa right now is a stable government. We don't want toppling games to be enacted any time during this tenure. Let Manohar Parrikar lead the flock and let Vijai, Rohan, Sudin and other independents be part of his team, which will give some direction to Goa.

Interestingly, those people who are upset about Vijai and Parrikar coming together have not uttered any word about their inability to govern the State. There is no doubt that Parrikar, as an able administrator, stands as a hope for the State in such circumstances.

It is also but natural that the BJP-led central government will be inclined to fund the State better if they have their own party government here, although it is certainly bad practice to only support the state where their party government is in power.

If we look at the projects that were introduced during the BJP government, it requires a state government with a proper vision to complete them. Any kind of hindrance will not go down well for the State, which is getting ready for a major infrastructure makeover that includes the Mandovi-Zuari bridges and highways.

So for the time being it would be ideal for a true Goan to keep aside the politicking and be very practical for the sake of Goa. I do agree that many Vijai fans have reason to be upset, but if we look at the bigger picture, we can't be oblivious to the fact that the State needs to go forward.

What is best for the state is to be less political and more practical. Let us examine every decision that the Parrikar-led government takes. If they take a wrong decision don't spare them, but we can't presume things and start accusing them merely because our political egos are hurt.



SEWAGE PROBLEMS IN MARGAO AND FATORDA



TEAM TNV

The promises made for the sewage management of Margao and the deadlines for the completion of the Sewage Treatment Plants have not been matching each other for the last five years. The JICA Sewage Treatment Plant of 7.5 MLD has been completed and the Sewerage Corporation Plant of 20 MLD is ready for inauguration. But sadly, unwarranted delays on the part of the execution agencies and the allied departments to even get the power connections on time have caused huge inconvenience to the people of Margao and Fatorda.

Margao is one of the most ancient towns of the state with a functional Camara or City Corporation from the early 19th century. The town has received bullets as well as flowers for its part in the freedom struggle and the right for a better living. The town may be shining now but it has been suffering due to the unending woes of garbage and releasing of sewage in the rainwater drains, water bodies, nallahs and the Sal river. Crores of rupees were spent on the dredging of the River Sal and its rejuvenation, but sadly nothing was done to curb the release of sewage into the river. River Sal which looked clean after dredging has now again turned murky.

The project of dredging and cleaning of the River Sal was actually planned in line with the sewage treatment plants of Margao, so that the dredging and the release of sewage into the river were stopped simultaneously. The two large sewerage treatment plants are ready and final touches to the buildings and machinery are underway. The lines for the sewage to travel to the plants have also been laid. The deadline for the JICA STP plant was set for March 2016 and for the Sewerage Corporation by June, by the former PWD Minister Sudin Dhavalikar. He had also promised to take action against those responsible for release of sewage into the river. Sadly, with the plants not ready and the election being held, there is no heed paid to the recurring sewage problem of the town and its suburbs.

Meanwhile the newly elected MLA of Fatorda and sworn-in Minister of Goa Vijai Sardessai has promised to put things in order as far as the sewage and garbage problems are concerned. Vijai, while speaking to media, said "Now that I have supported a Goenkarwadi Government, I will strive to do all good for the people on my part. My priority among all is the North Main Pipeline of sewage which is old and needs to be replaced. 90 crore rupees have been sanctioned for this work and an additional 30 crores is required by the

Sewerage Corporation for the work. We will work towards the speedy completion of the work and ensure that the town and Fatorda do not suffer the sewage problem anymore."

As a result of the delay in the infrastructure, the sewage of the town is now flowing into nallahs and rainwater drains. A major residential complex in Margao has been taken to task by the MMC for releasing sewage in the open. In addition to this, cases of sewage flowing out of the septic tanks and being released in rainwater drains and spreading in the open by the roadside have become common, causing a bad stink and nuisance to pedestrians.

In one case reported to the Municipality, sewage has been released into a drain leading towards the Borda main road. The people residing on this road have been helplessly complaining about the problem and the nuisance it has been creating for them. But a look around the area reveals that nearly 6 to 8 residential projects are coming up in the area, which may also face the issue of sewage disposal if the treatment plants don't start functioning on time.

Not just on the outskirts, violations of sewage disposal have been happening right in the centre of the commercial town where sewage from a city hotel behind Raymonds Showroom in Margao has been flowing onto the footpath and parking areas here. The sewage has accumulated in front of the shops, raising filthy smell and attracting flies. The Sanitation Department of MMC has received the complaint but has failed to curb the problem. The Sanitation section said that the MMC engineers and officials give the licences to the commercial establishments on the basis of provision of sewage storage and disposal. If there is flow out that means that there is no proper system in place and then the Sanitation section is blamed.

The Chief Officer of the MMC, Y. B. Tawde said, "We have taken necessary action against the accused in the release of sewage and have also held a review meeting with all the stake holders. The Plant officials have confirmed that the treatment plants will start soon. However we have issued notices to the violators and have ensured that they make a immediate provision for the same and solve the problem."



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GOA THE NEW MUMBAI?

MALLAN KURIAN

Mumbai, a contested territory between fiefdoms, desperately clings to the bygone glory of Bombay, The World City. This richest Indian municipality can no longer support the public good, and voters have largely surrendered their citizenship to corruption and malfeasance. Brand Mumbai ranges from open defecation, burning landfills and untreated sewerage, to bubbles of urban privilege where a few share exclusivity and relief from its beggary.

Goa, on the other hand, is a land of opportunity. It holds the possibility to prevent the degradation of land and society; the chance to build a global community of thinkers, dreamers, scientists, botanists, birders, mothers, fathers, children, inventors and teachers. A community of farmers, artistes, community organizers, designers, observers, activists, artists, natural builders, stewards, ecologists, herbalists, economists, architects, aquaculturalists, apiarists, homeowners, homesteaders, renters, carpenters, landscapers, naturalists, city planners, gardeners, visionaries, block club members and permaculturists.

This promise of salvation has attracted migrants of privileged society to treat Goa as their new home, a place to build relations with peace loving and progressive locals and build a cosmopolitan society that is sensitive

to nature, earth, freedom and silence. A society with an informed citizenry, conscious of its responsibility to quality of life and disparity of income, steadily building Brand Goa into a globally recognized zero-waste, water-rich, wellness State.

So how will Goa become the flag bearer of ethical governance, the leader of the pack on the corporate human rights benchmark?

BRAND GOA

The crux of all great governance is the Quality, Access and Resolution of public assets and services.

The government of Goa, like all other services, is a Brand, a singular brand for a plurality of services, emotions and ideas, summed up in a single question – “How does one feel being in Goa?”

When relocating to Goa a year ago, my older emotions of Goa as a tourist stayed with me, as I scouted for a place to call Home. It never crossed my mind, that behind the trees, fields, dreams and the sea – was a functioning government and citizenry! The Goa Urban Development Agency, a Pollution Control Board, regional and state tourism bodies and lobbies, industry associations, chambers of commerce, festival and event organizers, hotel and restaurant associations, public private partnerships, local self governance, local theatre groups, art collectives, educationists, lawyers, musicians, a media and civil society, among others.

I later discovered to my relief,

delight and pleasure GWAVE, a fast and reliable internet facility, served by United Telecoms Limited, supported by a team practicing the highest principles of ethical business - Quality, Access and Resolution. And that became for me, my first experience of Brand Goa.

The other gems of Brand Goa revealed themselves as the Goan Sun rose and set from behind the coconut trees – MOG, the Museum Of Goa, Gunpowder restaurant, the festivals and conferences of art, culture, ideas, architecture, dance, music, design, humanity and, the character and oneness of the Global Goa.

Goa is one of the few places on Planet Earth, where a shop employee will refer the customer to the competitor! This happens to me regularly, whether its shopping for electrical hardware supplies, grocery or bikinis (for the wife, not me, please note). And that right there, is the true Goan Principle – early to rise, work hard, eat well, rest, gossip, swim, potter, argue with friends and family, commune, share, sing, cook and play; whatever will be will be, but stand up for what’s right when it counts.

But Brand Goa faces massive disruption from global forces – digitization, seamless infrastructure, micro economic competitiveness, a global eye on quality talent, and artificial intelligence. Goa must resolve these and yet remain equitable, social and balanced; the State must become a digital village, without compromising its

values of rest, recreation and wellness.

UNPRECEDENTED JOB CREATION

One could see Goa emerging as a Super Brand – distinct from the rest of the country, and competing in its own might with Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, South Korea and other east Asian fantasy travel, even as far as Australasia.

In terms of governance, Goa would twin the City Of Miami in Florida and transform into the number one Asian destination for nature, quality of life, sanctuaries for wildlife and wellness, quality real estate, medical and recuperative care, sports, yachting, luxury vacations, business, art, music, films, seminars, retreats, festivals, luxury retirement, heritage and adventure. And an opportunity for responsible, socially accountable, and cultural entrepreneurship across all human activity.

This would call for unifying Brand Goa, deriving a financial and economic model around [1] Brand Planning, Strategy & Communications, [2] Public Facilities, Waste and Water Management and Pedestrian Safety, [3] Business, Tourism, Forestry, Sports, Medical Care, Brand Events and [4] Digital Literacy & Access – Education, Training, Standards and Certification.

And thus the Problem of Disruption becomes a Solution of Equanimity – the Bombay of yore, The World de Goa.

SPECTRUM ENDS WITH HAPPY FACES



TEAM TNV

Spectrum 2017, Goa College of Engineering's annual technical event was held on 16th and 17th March 2017. The inaugural ceremony was graced by Chief Guest - Mr. Antonio Rego (VP and MD, Operations, India, Commscope) and the Guests of Honour – Mr. Niraj Prasad (AGM (RBO), Region-II, SBI, Panjim) and Mr. Plaban Mohanta (DGM (B&O), SBI, Panjim).

Day 1 of Spectrum saw a top class display of technical skill from the young minds of the nation. Events such as Robotrax, Robosoccer, Robosumo and Catapult saw huge participation from colleges from within and from outside Goa. Events such as line follower, project presentation, hackathon, model making, truss building saw the techies fight it out in the initial rounds. The sporty Engigos also involved themselves



actively in competitions such as Control Cricket, Futsal and Sports Quiz. The gaming minds heartily participated in games such as Mini Militia, Clash Royale, etc. Major attractions such as Kuka Bot demonstration, Precision Parking, Stunt Show and the Super Bikes expo thrilled



robots from around India fighting it out for the ultimate glory. Events such as Project Presentation also saw the cream of the tech minds display their genuine talent on a national platform. Events such as Management Psyche saw great participation from management aspirants and budding entrepreneurs. Events such as Web Designing, Counter Strike and FIFA allowed computer savvy brains to show off their prowess. Day 2 also included a General Knowledge Quiz for the Quizzards around.

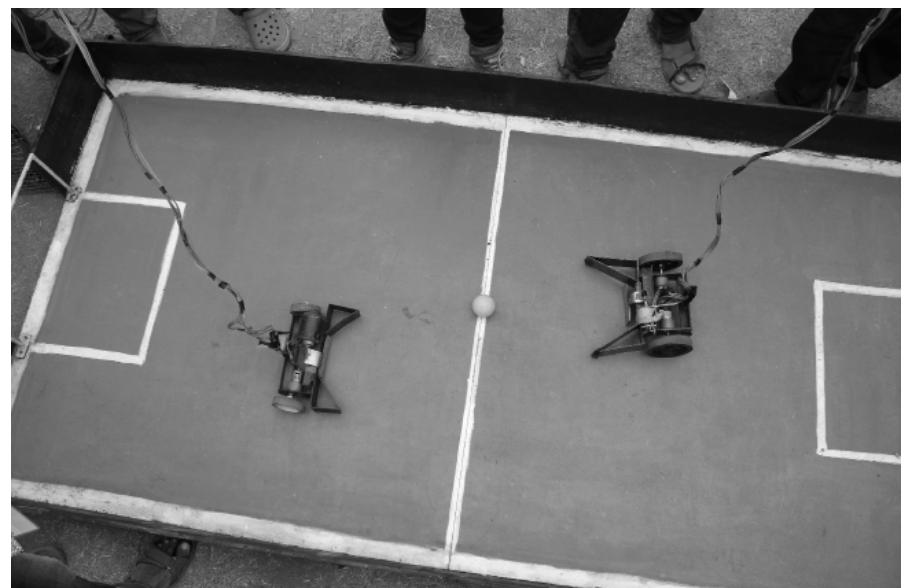
The two day technical event had people from all around Goa visiting the event for its major attractions in the form of Industrial Expo, Weapon Expo, and Vintage Car Expo. The Go-Kart made by Team Engico Racing was a huge attraction for the crowd as the crowd could experience a once in a lifetime experience to ride the beast that ranks in the top 10 Go-Karts designed by college students in India. Spectrum 2017 concluded with a bang as Stand-Up Comedian Sorabh Pant and SapanVerma performed live at Goa College of Engineering for the first time and got the crowd laughing their hearts out.

Team Spectrum also conducted its social responsibility drive, "Happy Faces" on the occasion of International Day of Happiness on 20th March 2017. Goodies, food and beverages were distributed to the poor kids and their families.

Goa College of Engineering and Team Spectrum can proudly claim that the event was successful owing to it living up to its tagline of 'Innovate – Create – Succeed'.

the people.

Day 2 of Spectrum saw events such as Robotrax, Robosumo, Robosoccer, Catapult, Model Making and Hackathon at its business end. The huge attraction in the Robotics events, i.e: Robowars also began, with ferocious combat



VIJAI SARDESAI HAS DITCHED THE PEOPLE OF GOA BY GOING AGAINST THEIR MANDATE: GIRISH CHODANKAR

TNV Spoke to Girish Chodankar, the General Secretary of the GPCC, to know his view on the series of political events in the state post poll results.

Q What went wrong between Congress and Goa Forward?

Everyone in the Congress wanted this alliance to happen. This is because the ideologies of both the parties were identical. Though we were 17 and including Rohan we were 18, we waited for the Goa Forward MLAs. This is just because, there was a strong view within the party to make an alliance with them. The whole 11th night we were with the Goa Forward members. We should have gone that night itself to the Governor without waiting for Goa Forward. Extra love for Goa Forward made us wait!

On 11th night, Digambar Kamat along with AICC leaders Digvijaya Singh and Venugopal Rao met Vijai Sardesai at his residence where they agreed to Vijai's terms for supporting the Congress party (so long as Luizinho Faleiro is not the CM). Digvijai also made Rahul Gandhi speak with Vijai Sardesai so that the later is satisfied that his demands will be met. On 12th March, the CLP met at Congress House where they selected a CLP leader which would be acceptable to Vijai Sardesai. At 2.30, Goa Forward mentors, Dr Francisco Colaco, Datta Naik, Cleofat Coutinho and Shridhar Kamat met the Congress delegation to finalise the agreement. However information was received that Vijai had already finalized alliance with the BJP and that they are on their way to Raj Bhavan.

BJP released Letter of support from Goa Forward Party which stated that they would support BJP provided Manohar Parrikar will be the Chief Minister. Goa Forward which claimed they wanted to support the Congress never gave any such letter to the Congress. This shows that they never had any intention of aligning with the Congress.

Q Did Vijai Sardesai ditch you? Or Congress was complacent?

We cannot say Vijai ditched us. Because we never had a pre-poll alliance with the GF. He has ditched the people of Goa by going against the mandate. And the congress was not complacent at all. As the single largest party we should have got the first opportunity to form the government. We were denied the opportunity by the Raj Bhavan. BJP with the help of Central government and the Governor manipulated the verdict. When the election results of Goa and other states like UP were held at the same time, what was the hurry to form the government in Goa? When they have taken their time in other states, why a different yardstick is applied to Goa?

Q Do you think a pre-poll alliance with Goa Forward would have been a better decision?

In politics 1 plus 1 cannot be 2, it can be 3 or even zero at times. A pre-poll alliance with Goa Forward could have been a wrong step too. We would have lost a seat like Velim. It would have just reduced the number of MLAs that we have now. And talking of pre-poll alliance we had it with Rohan Khaunte and had backed him. Where is he now? The same thing would have happened.

Q What is your say on the Supreme Court's verdict?

The Supreme Court has not cleared the alliance. It has just ordered a Floor test. SC might have overlooked the recommendations of Sarkaria Commission. It was the fault of the Raj Bhavan. What was the hurry? Was there any constitutional crises? The Governor was under pressure. When I met her she was avoiding eye contact and I could see the guilt in her eyes. She may resign too. I feel she is fighting with her own conscience.

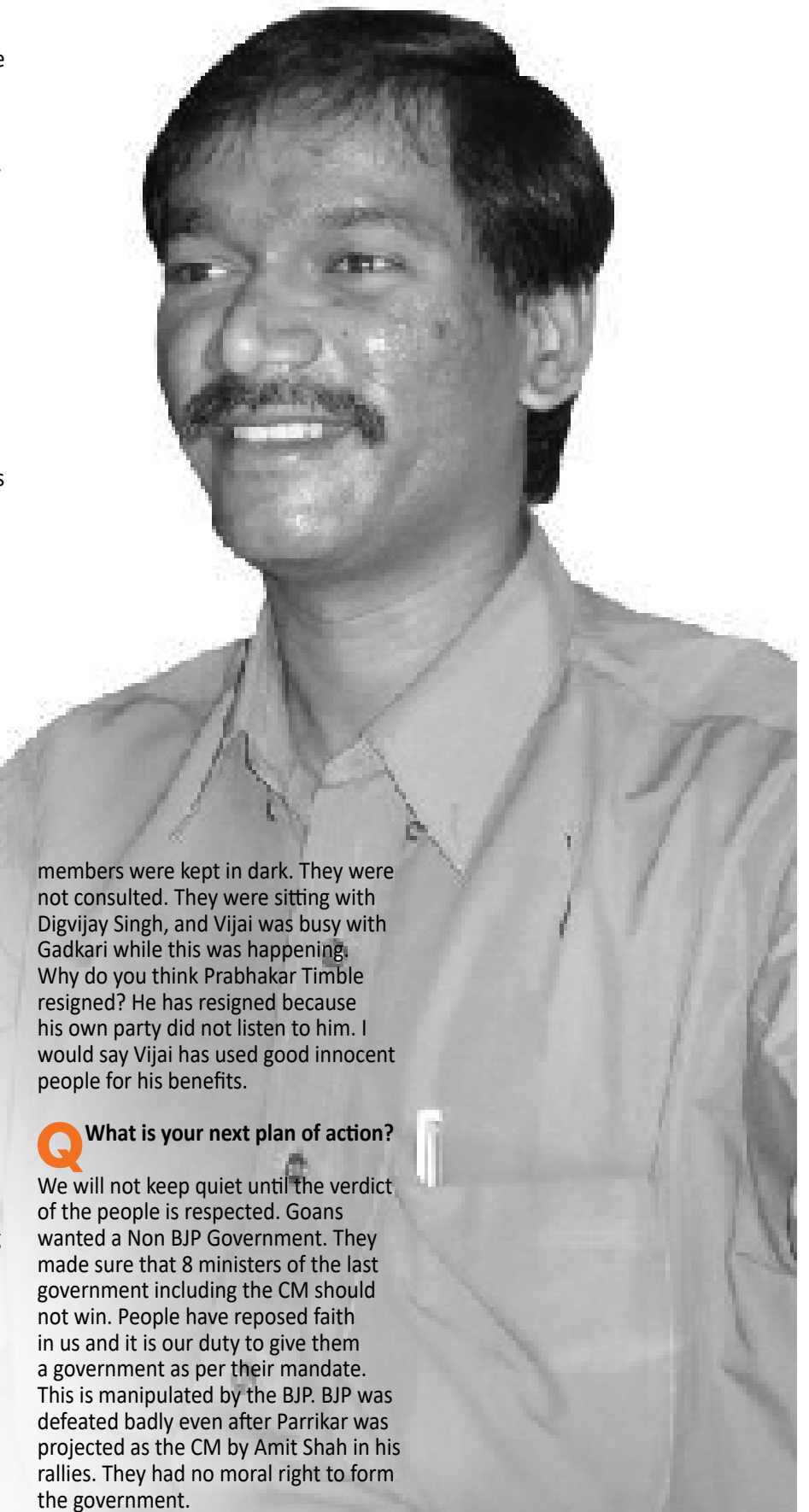
Q Do you feel that this decision of Vijai Sardesai is an outcome of some political events that happened before elections between Congress and Goa Forward?

Looks like Vijai was in touch with Manohar Parrikar before elections. And the other poor Goa Forward party

members were kept in dark. They were not consulted. They were sitting with Digvijay Singh, and Vijai was busy with Gadkari while this was happening. Why do you think Prabhakar Timble resigned? He has resigned because his own party did not listen to him. I would say Vijai has used good innocent people for his benefits.

Q What is your next plan of action?

We will not keep quiet until the verdict of the people is respected. Goans wanted a Non BJP Government. They made sure that 8 ministers of the last government including the CM should not win. People have reposed faith in us and it is our duty to give them a government as per their mandate. This is manipulated by the BJP. BJP was defeated badly even after Parrikar was projected as the CM by Amit Shah in his rallies. They had no moral right to form the government.



I AM OPEN FOR ALL OPTIONS INCLUDING FIGHTING ON BJP TICKET : VISHWAJIT RANE

TEAM TNV

Q What is the reason behind you suddenly quitting the party?

➤ I was not interested in continuing with such a party which is full of people who had made mockery of the mandate given by people to us. It took so much time for the party to decide just the Congress Legislature party leader. Digvijaya Singh who had come from Delhi was just passing time. We lost an opportunity to form the government. I didn't want my constituency to suffer by sitting in the Opposition.

Q You have been openly blaming Digvijaya Singh.

➤ True. He is responsible for all the mess. He was not interested in forming the government. I doubt whether he really wanted to form the government or he was working at the behest of someone. We were given the mandate by the people. The mandate was anti-BJP, but still despite having numbers we could not form the government. I did not want to continue in the party.

Q But why did you remained absent on the floor of the House during voting?

➤ I did not want to support Congress. The Congress does not deserve my vote.

Q But that means you supported the trust motion by remaining absent.

➤ I have not supported anyone. I came to the House to take the oath and then resigned as MLA. I also resigned from the party. I want to go back to my voters. I will get re-elected from my constituency.

Q Which party do you want to contest from?

➤ I have not decided anything. I will be going back to the voters. I will be holding meetings with them. I am open for all options including fighting on BJP ticket. Once I am elected I will support the Parrikar-led alliance.

Q What about your differences with Parrikar?

➤ Parrikar is the Chief Minister of the state now. We see a good future under



his leadership. The state will progress. I don't want my constituency and Sattari in general to remain behind in the process of development. In the last five years we have suffered, being in the opposition.

Q It seems you were having coffee with Parrikar when CLP was electing its leader.

➤ I had read tweets by Digvijaya Singh. Does he have any proof of what he has written? Let him say anything. Let him continue tweeting against me. The truth is that I have not met Parrikar even now. I did not even had time to call and wish him for becoming the Chief Minister.

Q It seems your father, Pratapsingh Rane, will also quit the party to become Governor.

➤ These are just rumours. I have put up a post on Facebook and clarified. Senior Rane is not going anywhere. He is a loyal Congressman and he will remain in the

party. Whatever decision I have taken is through my personal capability.

Q What was your father's reaction when you resigned from Congress?

➤ I did not inform him. He didn't. He was upset. But I took the decision in favour of my voters. People of Sattari have faith in my family for their welfare. I can't let them down.

Q Do you feel that you would be comfortable with Vijai Sardesai and Rohan Khaunte if you are inducted in the Parrikar-led government?

➤ Development of the State is most important for me. Moreover, I am more concerned about my constituency. I want my constituency to be developed. I feel this government can perform.

Q How sure are you to get elected from Valpoi again?

➤ I polled 70 per cent of votes during

the recent election. Do you have any doubt about me getting re-elected from Valpoi? People are with me. They know that I will never let them down.

Q You were always against Congress. Even before the election you had said I will concentrate only in Valpoi and Poriem.

➤ I have my physical limitations. I wanted to concentrate only in Sattari taluka.

Q But generally there is an impression that you have a hold over five constituencies.

➤ I have a hold. But I am also a human being. I can't concentrate everywhere. In Mayem, I tried to get Pravin Zantye a ticket. He contested on BJP and won. I am happy for him as he is my close friend. We thought Santosh Sawant would give a tough fight. If Congress had to give Pravin a ticket in Mayem, their tally would have gone up to 18.

WE HAVE TAKEN A TOUGH DECISION, WE WILL STAND BY IT: ROHAN KHAUNTE

TEAM TNV

Q You were a Congress backed candidate, how did you come to be in a BJP government?

I was not a Congress backed candidate. There was no Congress leader who came for my campaign in the constituency. They had extended support and we had welcomed it. But priorities then were different. When your house is not in order you can't stay in it. This is the case with the Congress. You have to take a wise decision keeping in mind the wishes of people from your constituency. In the last five years I was in the opposition and have been vociferously speaking

about issues with the interest of Goans at heart. Now there is a chance for us where we can look at stability. After talking to my core committee and a few community heads we had to take the right decision at the right time. From my side I have tried to the maximum to ensure that the formation led by Congress should happen. It was the inability of the Congress, about who their leader was, that resulted in this situation.

Q Was it your tactical decision to remain independent, to keep all options open?

I have always gone by the will of my people. In 2012 I won when there was a BJP wave. In the last five years I have taken the constituency to the next level. When I went back to the people it was their wish that I should contest as an independent.

Q Why independent, why not any particular party?

They have faith in Rohan Khaunte. They have always supported me. For me to take a call whether to contest on national party or Goa Forward, it was a decision that I wanted to take along with my people. My voters told me you should go as an independent.

Q Why not Goa Forward? You have been mentoring that party.

I have not cut off my affiliation with Goa Forward. It was my clear understanding with Goa Forward that we will stand together. I supported Jayesh Salgaoncar in Saligao. It was very clear. Our strategies were clear.

Q Do you think if you had to contest on Goa Forward you would not have got elected?

The question is not about whether I would have got elected or not. People had already decided to elect me. The entire state knows how my voters were under pressure.

Q Parrikar has worked extremely against you in Porvorim constituency. So how do you support Parrikar to form the government?

As the leader of the people I have to set the priorities right. If I have to sit and think of what happened with me the best choice would be to keep my ego and self pride high and sit in opposition. That could be one way. The second way is to find solutions for the problems of my constituency.

Q Have you forgiven Parrikar?

Politics does not run around individual persons. People have withstood all the pressure. The formation of the government today is due to the failure of Congress people to come together, elect one leader and form a government.

Q You appear to have a love-hate relationship with the government.

Parrikar has proved to be an able administrator. Today the kind of borrowings we have, we will not be able to pay. We need to think of how revenue would be generated. Who can be the head of the State for stability? Who can ensure that the funds are received? Coalition government speaks more about development.

Q Will this government complete its full tenure?

Lots of things have been discussed. Today we are at a stage where we have to find solutions for the problems.

Q We still cannot digest the fact that Khaunte who was opposed to the BJP has joined hands with them.

Every decision taken by the government then in power were scrutinized by the people and therefore they did not vote for BJP. That is why the number of seats came down from 21 to 13. Many tall leaders were defeated. That is the lesson for BJP and they must have understood it. The decision taken by us to support the government was a tough decision. But as a leader, this is a forum for us to prove that we can perform.

Q What would be your stand on casinos now?

The shifting of casinos from River Mandovi has been my priority since 2012. Finding a solution for the boats to move away from River Mandovi will always be on my agenda.

Q When you were in opposition you were setting benchmarks for ministers, do you think you will be able to touch those benchmarks now?

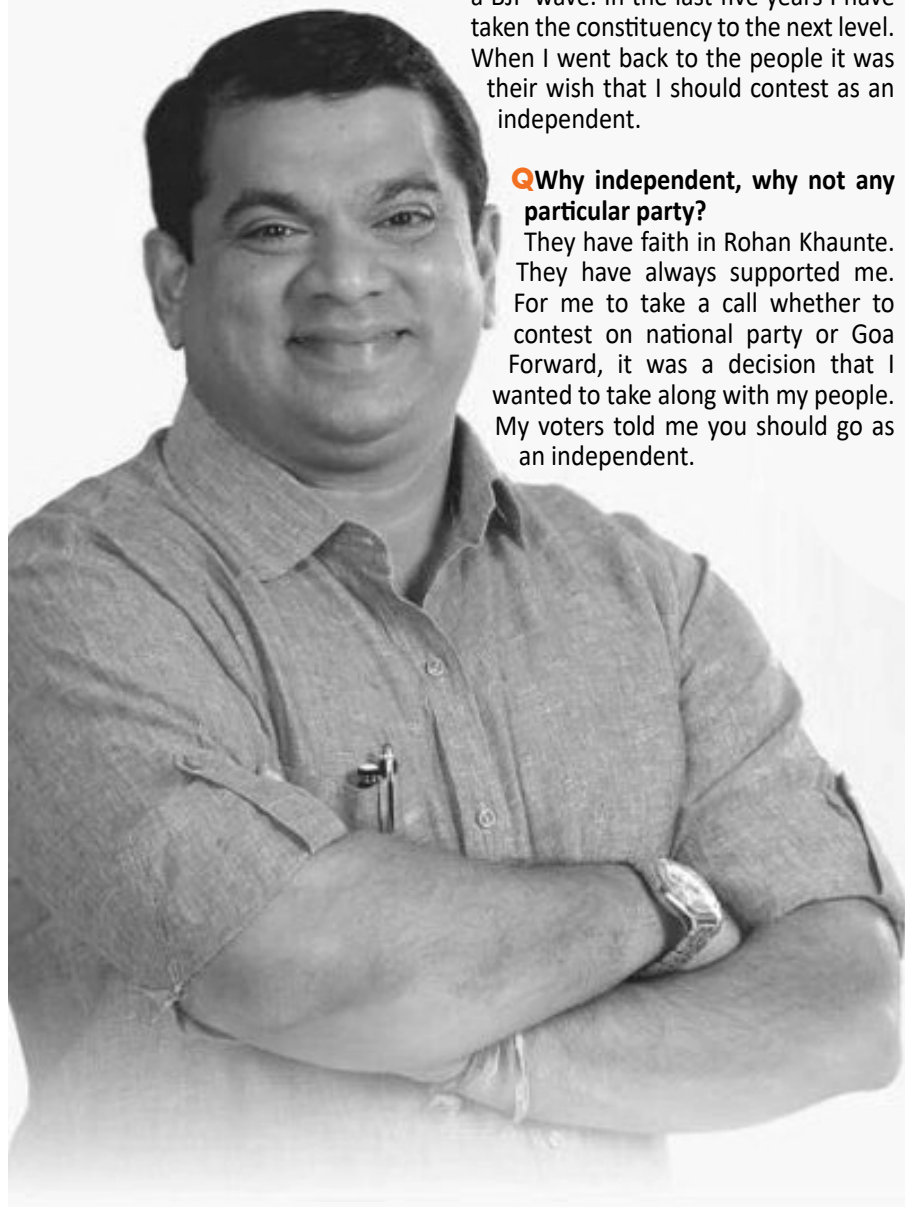
I will try my best to perform to my capability. The main issue is that there are administrative collapses of the department. Wherever effectiveness of governance needs to be shown, we will do it.

Q Did you support the government for Parrikar or did you support because Congress could not form the government?

The party with the maximum number of seats should decide their leader and form the government. When directions are not set, then you have to decide whether to continue with such a party and sit in the opposition or join the coalition which wants to perform. The letter of support is very clear that we are supporting the government led by Manohar Parrikar.

Q This means if there is no Manohar Parrikar, Rohan Khaunte is not there in the government?

I don't think there is leadership left after that. A leader is supposed to take the team together. It is premature to conclude everything today. I have taken a tough decision and we will stand by it.



WE WANT TO SEE COMMITMENT OF BJP TOWARDS GOA: VIJAI SARDESAI

TEAM TNV

Q How do you justify your decision to go against your earlier stand which was anti-BJP?

➤Goa Forward got the mandate because of its slogan which was about Goenkarponn. We did not want to waste this mandate. And we wanted to take forward our agenda with this mandate. We needed to support a stable government. Congress is overloaded with grandfathers who are overambitious and who are former chief ministers and wanted to become the next Chief Minister. Congress could not give stability to Goa. If we want to take this agenda of Goenkarponn forward we need a stable government and also need support from the Centre. Congress has backstabbed me twice, so why should I support them?

Q You supported Parrikar because Congress backstabbed you or you supported Parrikar because you wanted him to be the Chief Minister?

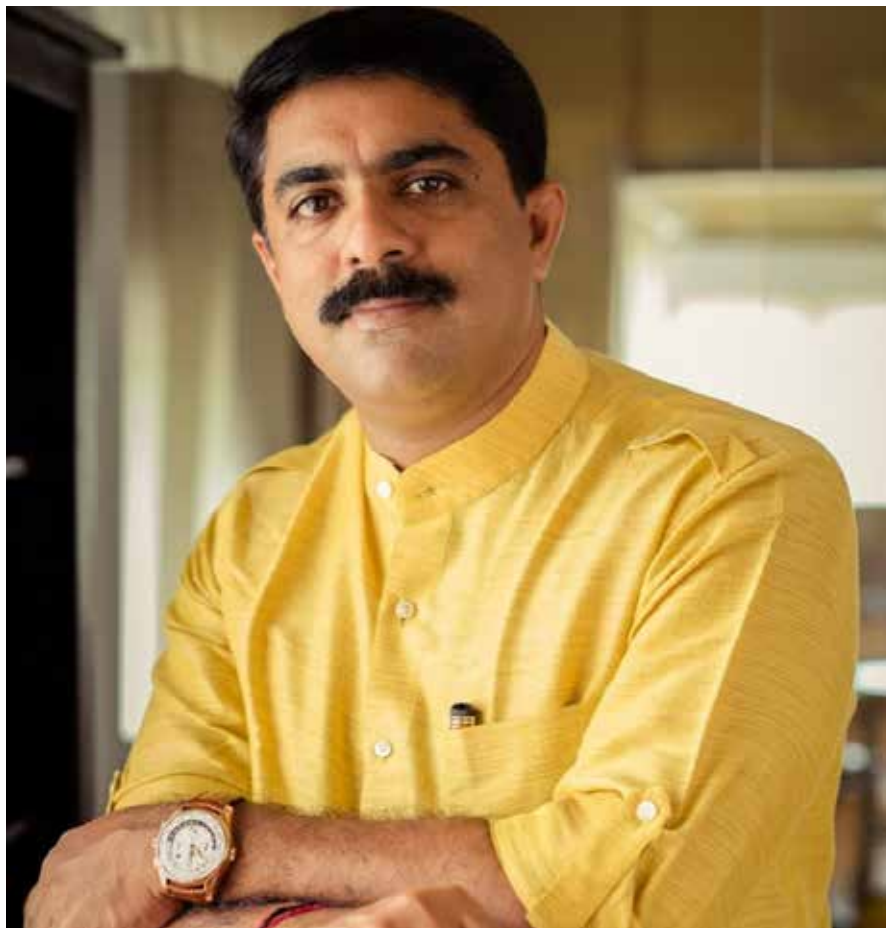
➤I have supported Parrikar because I feel he with his experience as Defence Minister and with his connections in Delhi can leverage those relations for the betterment of Goa. Also, he knows to run a coalition government, he has run it in the past and he has effectively run it. So I felt that it was the best stand. We had to take the stand, we could not be oblivious to our position. We took a stand which was thoughtful and would be of benefit to Goa and Goans.

Q Vijai Sardesai was always thought of as a man of ethics. How did you suddenly forget that Parrikar had labelled you as a dalal?

➤I started my career in the year 2012 which was laced with the backstabbing by the Congress party. Why should I forgive them? Why should Congress take me for granted? Was I their pre-poll ally? Did they help me to win the three seats? They again backstabbed me in 2017. Congress wanted us to be finished. Luizinho Faleiro makes a statement that he would form the government with GSM and MGP. He never thought about us.

Q Were you sure that you would not form government with Congress when you contested the election?

➤We contested elections not just to form the government. We wanted to



form a Goenkarwadi government. This government would take forward our slogan. Prioritization of interest of Sons of Soil is our agenda.

Q There are some issues which can create a rift between you and your partners.

➤Precisely, that is why we are forming a Common Minimum Program. This program will be a guiding force for us. It will take one month to formulate this program. We will solve the issue sitting across the table. There are others like Rohan Khaunte, who will sit and work out the Common Minimum Program.

Q Do you feel Parrikar as like-minded to you?

➤Before counting I had said that Parrikar can be a good Chief Minister. Now we are with them. We feel that he is capable. We also want to see the commitment of BJP towards Goa, as the state is an important place which is strategically placed. BJP relieved its efficient Defence Minister just for the sake of Goa.

Q You have become a BJP fan.

➤I have not become a BJP fan.

I admire their commitment towards politics and towards the cause of Goa. They relieved their Defence Minister just on our word that we will support them. Congress took three days only to elect their leader.

Q Would you have supported Congress if they had to announce Digambar Kamat as CM?

➤Ifs and buts. If wishes were horses, beggars would ride. There is no question talking about ifs. Digvijaya Singh said I spoke to Rahul Gandhi. He made me speak to Rahul Gandhi. I don't deny that I spoke to him. I have considered all aspects. After considering all aspects we reached to the conclusion that this would be in the best interest of the State. Many people find that this is too long a jump, too drastic step and too quick a step to be taken. We want to reassure these people that we have not forgotten our roots. We have taken this decision after proper thinking. We had no time to convince the people about our decision. Sometimes in life you need to take quick steps.

Q Aren't you looking like an opportunistic politician who

grabbed power?

➤The person who is against the formation of this government will label me as opportunistic. Person who understands what I am saying will feel that this step is taken in the right direction. But I will let my actions speak louder than words. I am Goan. I had assured a Goenkarwadi government, that does not mean we had a commitment towards Congress. Our aim is to take Goaness forward. We contested four seats and won on three seats. This is a good strike rate.

Q What is your reaction to GF President Prabhakar Timble quitting the party protesting against your stand?

➤Timble is not as much in the dark as he claims to be. We had held a core meeting of the candidates before the results and what was spoken there, the crux of that decision he knows that. Today he is trying to join the bandwagon and show that he was shocked. I agree with him on one point that we could have taken two more days to take this decision. We could have taken people into confidence, but if we had to delay, the coalition which was cobbled up would have lost the chance to form the government. Subsequently, whatever he is speaking is also perhaps because he is being managed by somebody, by the person with whom he is having dinner nowadays. He is speaking more than the Congress is speaking.

Q Do you feel you have fulfilled aspirations of Fatordekars?

➤The people from Fatorda constituency are having their MLA being inducted in the cabinet after 18 years. People of Fatorda had expectations in the form of development and jobs. I could satisfy it only by being in the cabinet. After the budget session, you go around and see what the people of Fatorda are talking.

Q When you were in opposition you were setting benchmarks for the ministers. Will be able to touch that benchmark yourself now?

➤I don't have experience in the ruling bench. I have commitment towards Goa. I will try to the best of my ability to perform. While doing this I will not compromise on my principles. I have to be responsible enough to perform. Give us some time, we will deliver.

DIAGNOSING PHENOMENON CALLED MANOHAR PARRIKAR

TEAM TNV

This is the fourth time that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has formed the government in Goa and it's no surprise that all the stints were under Manohar Parrikar – who has proved himself to be the saffron party's best bet in this small state. Except in 2012, when it got a clear mandate of 21 assembly seats excluding the alliance seats in the House of 40, on all the other three occasions it was Manohar 'bhai' who did the party proud with his astute skills of machination. And the recent election is one such example of this leader's mastery, with the Congress outwitted in a nail-biting finish.

The February 2017 election is a homecoming and another stint as Chief Minister for Parrikar. Though elevated as Union Defence Minister in November 2014, Parrikar was always inclined towards State politics. His return to State politics after a gap of nearly two and half years was with a 'bang' – as it saw the formation of a BJP-led coalition government in Goa, despite failing to secure a simple majority in the polls.

The 61-year old politician sewed up a coalition within just 24 hours after the Assembly results were declared on March 11; an election that gave

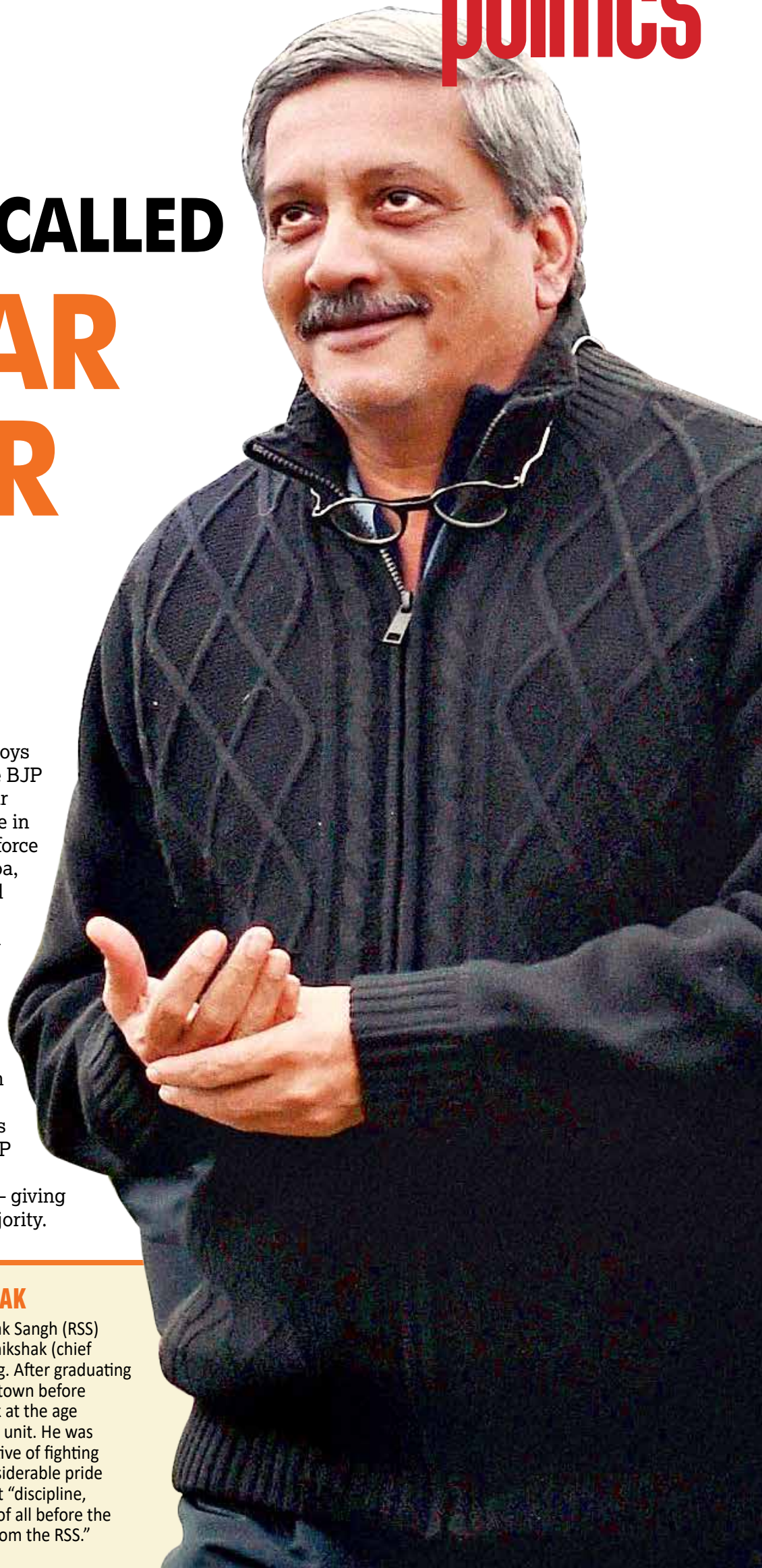


⇒ A leader who enjoys acceptance from the BJP and beyond, Parrikar has played a key role in making the party a force to reckon with in Goa, which had remained a Congress bastion for a long time, with regional outfits having pockets of influence. The 2012 March election was one such example, when the electorate came out in large numbers in support of the BJP only because it was headed by Parrikar – giving him an absolute majority.



PARRIKAR, A RSS SWAYAMSEVAK

Parrikar joined the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) at a young age and became a mukhya shikshak (chief instructor) in the final years of his schooling. After graduating from IIT, he resumed RSS work in his hometown before entering politics. He became a sanghchalak at the age of 26. He was active in the RSS's North Goa unit. He was seconded by RSS to the BJP with the objective of fighting the MGP. Parrikar has often expressed considerable pride in his RSS background, saying that he learnt "discipline, progressiveness, gender equality, equality of all before the law, nationalism and social responsibility from the RSS."





PARRIKAR'S POLITICAL CAREER SO FAR

1988

Joined BJP

1994

Entered State politics and got elected to the Second Legislative Assembly of the State from Panaji seat

1994 -2000

General Secretary & Spokesman of BJP

2000

Elected for the second term

OCT 24, 2000-FEB 27, 2002

Nominated as Chief Minister.

JUN 5, 2002 TO JAN 29, 2005

Chief Minister for the second term and held portfolios like Home, Education, Finance, General Administration

JUNE 2007

Elected to the fifth legislative assembly. He was the Leader of Opposition. He was also the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee that exposed illegal mining scam worth Rs 3,500 crores

MARCH 2012

Elected and became Chief Minister of the 6th legislative assembly - the stint that saw the major decision of suspension of mining activities

NOVEMBER 8, 2014

Resigned as Chief Minister

MID- NOVEMBER 2014

Sworn in as Defence Minister

DECEMBER 2014

Elected as Rajya Sabha MP from Lucknow

MARCH 13, 2017

Resigned as Defence Minister

MARCH 14, 2017

Sworn in as Chief Minister of Goa

the BJP 13 and the Congress 17 seats. Parrikar literally snatched power from the hands of the Congress party that actually emerged as the single largest party during the polls. While the oldest national political outfit was busy 'presuming' things in their favour, Parrikar turned the cards around, proving his majority before the Governor and then on the Floor of the House.

Right from the start of campaigning, the BJP had sent across a subtle message that if it won the government would be headed by Parrikar, who led the party's campaign from the front. It was the State legislative wing of the saffron party that brought about Parrikar's homecoming by making him the Chief Minister for the fourth time.

Despite having just 13 MLAs in hand, the BJP managed to win the support of two regional parties – Goa Forward and MGP besides the backing of three Independents – thus outsmarting the Congress, with a total of 22 MLAs in hand.

Often known as a 'master' of politics, Parrikar proved the political analysts true, when he displayed splendid political acumen and skill in forging a coalition with its former allies and the recent 'opponent', the Maharashtra Gomantak Party (MGP) and the hardcore anti-BJP Goa Forward party led by MLA and Minister Vijai Sardessai.

"We joined hands with BJP only because the party agreed to the return of Parrikar as Chief Minister. It is always good to work under his administration. Parrikar's comeback to the State is a positive sign and we are confident that under him we would give a stable, clean governance," MGP leader cum MLA and Minister Sudin Dhavalikar told TNV.

Parrikar's journey from being an IITian to Chief Minister of Goa and then the Defence Minister under the Narendra Modi-led cabinet and now back as Chief Minister is fascinating. The path involved bumpy rides, but he made it through more or less smoothly. Parrikar was first elected to the Goa Assembly in 1994 from Panaji assembly constituency and remained undefeated till the March 2012 elections.

In a state known for political swings as well as rise and fall of ministries, Parrikar's first stint as Chief Minister was from October 24, 2000 to February 27, 2002. He had his next term at the top slot in the state from June 5, 2002 to January 29, 2005. And then from March 2012 to November 8, 2014. While his first two terms were cut short due to the anti-defection factor, his last term ended as the Prime Minister handed him for the Union cabinet.

"The return of Manohar Parrikar to



State politics has always been a dream of every BJP leader and we are happy that we would be once again running the government under his able leadership," BJP MLA Michael Lobo said.

Having been sworn in as Chief Minister on March 14, Parrikar has to get himself elected as a State Assembly legislative member within six months. There is a lot of speculation about which seat he may contest for the polls. While Panaji has always been his best bet, it is unlikely that Parrikar would contest from there, considering that a young BJP leader and close aide of Parrikar – Siddharth Kuncolienkar – has been ruling the constituency ever since the former left it.

"I have many choices before me ... will take a call at the right time," Parrikar had told media persons. He was born to a middle class business family in Mapusa. Speculations are also high that he may contest from his hometown, which has always been a cake-walk for the BJP under MLA Francis D'Souza.

Manohar Gopalkrishna Prabhu Parrikar graduated to the BJP from the ranks of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. He joined the RSS in his school days and always held that the ideology and training he received from the organisation stood him in good stead in public life, most importantly in decision-making.

The top brass of the BJP, right from Narendra Modi to party president Amit Shah to Union Ministers like Rajnath Singh and Nitin Gadkari, have often lavished praises on Parrikar for his dedication and hard work. He was showered with praises across the country during the 'Surgical Strike' last year.

A leader who enjoys acceptance from the BJP and beyond, Parrikar has played

a key role in making the party a force to reckon with in Goa, which had remained a Congress bastion for a long time, with regional outfits having pockets of influence. The 2012 March election was one such example, when the electorate came out in large numbers in support of the BJP only because it was headed by Parrikar – giving him an absolute majority.

Looking at his magnificent performance post election results, political analysts say that Parrikar has once again shown his mettle in cobbling up an alliance government. His political skills have even attracted some in the Congress – with one of its MLAs Vishwajit Rane quitting the party and deciding to re-contest to support the BJP- government.

If rumours are to be believed, it has been learnt that Parrikar is now on a mission to divide the Congress in a bid to fulfill the Prime Minister's dream of 'Congress mukt Bharat'. Apparently a few Congress leaders and MLAs are in contact with Parrikar, who is eyeing more and more support to provide a stable government for the next five years to the people of Goa.

Having nearly nine non-BJP MLAs in the coalition government, the biggest challenge before Parrikar is to ensure the stability of this government – considering the fact that MLAs like Vijai Sardesai and Rohan Khaunte have been up in arms against the then BJP government's anti-people, anti-environmental policies. Parrikar, who has faced defection from the alliance partners in the past, leading to toppling of government, will have to be 'extra cautious' in his decision making while pleasing his allies. After all he has to primarily protect and safeguard the interests of the State.



Photos by Aslesh Kamat

festival

CHOROTSAV IN SATTARI TALUKA

The Zharme and Karanzol villages of Sattari celebrate the age-old Chor-otsav festival which means the festival of thieves, during Shigmo. It is believed that in ancient times some men travelling from the Chorla Ghat and Kel Ghat were mistaken for thieves by the local villagers, and were beheaded. The Chorotsav festival is celebrated as an act of penance for this incident.

At the beginning of the Chorotsav the locals who consist of children, youth and elders dance in front of the temple to the beat of drums and other traditional musical instruments. Once the dance is over, the people gathered there can view the scene of the men symbolizing the 'Chors' (thieves) buried in the ground. In all eight men are buried in the ground, of which four have their heads buried with swords in their hands and the rest of their body above the ground. The other four men are buried with only their heads visible. According to the villagers these eight people are buried in this way to show four victims, with their heads separated from their bodies, as they were beheaded.

Over to Canacona, where the famous 'Shishyaranni' festival is celebrated once every two years (it alternates with 'Veera Mel') on the occasion of Shigmotsav. During this festival, three gade are made to lie prone on the ground with their heads touching each other. A fire is then lit between their heads, which boils the pot of rice balancing on the three heads. A holy man (Bhagat) sits with his legs crossed in front of another Bhagat and hits a sword on the other's head. The blood that oozes out is then mixed with the boiled rice and sprinkled around.

During this entire time, the Taranga (a decorated structure in the form of an umbrella with a wooden handle and colourful clothes over it which is considered holy by the villagers) remains erect, seemingly without any human support, and is kept in the outer hall of the temple.

Though there are some who challenge the authenticity and legitimacy of these rituals, the faith of the fervent villagers continues to flourish at the gade festivals in Goa.

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FAITH THAT STILL RESIDES IN GOA'S VILLAGES

ANWESHA SINGBAL

Shigmo is the celebration of the season of spring. There are some fascinating variations in the way Shigmo is celebrated in various parts of Goa. Unlike in North Goa, where Shigmo festivities begin on the full moon day of the Hindu month of Falgun, Canacona and most of the places in the South begin their festivities on the tenth day of Falgun. Let us explore some rare traditions and customs of Shigmo in Goa, that have ancient stories to tell.

While the floats and processions organized by Tourism department enthrall viewers in the main towns, the villagers of Goa still bestow their faith in these traditions that continue to exist here as part of the Shigmo festival.

On a full moon night of the month of Falgun, the village of Kudne located near Sanquelim in Bicholim taluka, goes

mysteriously dark. In the obscurity of this darkness, some village men, designated as 'gade' run towards the crematorium and come back with parts of human bodies cremated there.

In some parts, this tradition is also a celebration of those brave souls who fought for the village against an enemy or who died to protect the village and its villagers from wild animals.

The Sal village of Bicholim is famous for the 'Gadyachi Jatra', a ritual where the gades' bodies are said to be taken over by evil spirits. On the day of Holi Pournima, a mango tree trunk is decorated with mango leaves and erected near the Mahadev temple. On the following night, men dressed in white dhotis assemble at the sacred place called Mand. Soon a crowd (called Romat) assembles at the mand dancing to the beats of the dhol and taso. While the elderly sit nearby singing non-stop

folk songs called 'Naman' to the beats of the dhol, the villagers invoke blessings from all the deities of the village and the gade move around the pole erected at the site of the mand.

It is believed that under a trance, these gade run in the direction of the hill where they are led into the forest by following a mysterious torch controlled by an evil spirit or devchar. Sometimes he lights the torch at the top of a tree, then suddenly it's on the ground. This goes on for three nights.

In Bali in Cuncolim, the tradition of gade is celebrated as 'Shidiyo'. Here the main gado is tied to a long wooden pole (khaamb) that is fixed horizontally and moved sideways, from left to right and back, while the villagers seek his blessings. Here, young boys are also revered as gade and a needle and thread is stitched across their belly on the day of the festival.

GADYAANCHI ZATRA IN POINGUINIM

The festival of Gadyanchi Zatra, which happens once in three years at Poinguinim, Canacona, is celebrated in the name of Shri Betal, the most feared and highly revered deity of Poinguinim and its neighbourhood. The story goes that Shri Betal conquered 12 kingdoms in Goa. In the 13th century, he conquered Poinguinim and annexed it to his 12 other kingdoms. The villagers requested him to reside peacefully in Poinguinim in return for various wishes that he asked for.

"It is believed that earlier human sacrifice took place, which was later given a humane face by killing cocks instead of human beings. Gadyanchi Zatra is the day when this sacrifice still takes place in Poinguinim," explains folklore expert Pandurang Phaldesai from Canacona.

On the day of the zatra, the two 'Tarangaa', the 'Satri' and the 'Pillkucho' (bunch of peacock's feathers) are

brought ceremoniously to Poinguinim from Amona near Khotigao prior to the festival. Two massive tree trunks called 'khaamb' - around 13 to 14 meters high - are erected in front of the Shri Betal temple. A huge wooden spindle called the 'Raatt' with four arms is mounted on these 'khaamb'. In the evening a metal hook is pierced into the back muscles of the four 'gade'. The 'gade' climb the 'khaamb' wearing a turban and a dhoti. Each holds a sword in the right hand and a piece of cloth in the other. Each 'gado' is tied to the arm of the spindle. The spindle is then rotated. The 'Mhaal gado' (chief) then poses four questions to the crowd below, asking if the villagers from Poinguinim, Loliem and Kharegall have come and the final question asked is whether 'everyone is happy'. After receiving a positive response the spindle is rotated and stopped, thus marking the end of the zatra.

PEOPLE NEED TO BE MADE AWARE THAT POLITICS IS NOT A DIRTY GAME - ROYLA FERNANDES



➔ Royla Fernandes is the former Sarpanch and present Panch of Benaolim. She contested the 2017 Assembly elections on the AAP ticket and was the only AAP candidate who managed to save her deposit. TNV spoke to her in view of the upcoming Panchayat elections.

Q You are one of the youngest panch who got to the position of Sarpanch in your Panchayat. How tough was it being a first timer and of smaller age?

Being a first timer didn't make much difference to me because I had started preparing myself with the duties and responsibilities as panch member much before contesting the elections. Being an architect by profession and having handled my files in various government departments added to my knowledge of working in the panchayat.

Q Was it difficult being a woman?

Though society is patriarchal, I personally did not feel it was difficult. Most gramsabhas are attended by men, but it did not make any difference. After all they were all my village people.

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

Development of human being is primary for me and hence I conducted awareness camps, training programs and educated my villagers about the panchayat rules and regulations. Getting the panchayat administration streamlined and making available the information to the people by launching panchayat website was another major achievement.

One of the major works was installation of street lights of about

9.8 lakhs through MP funds in my tenure. I also got 1.5 crore rupees sanctioned for panchayat for developing infrastructure for the Dando Ground, through Deendayal Scheme. Systematic regular dry waste collection for the village was started on 2nd October 2012 and is followed till date in all the wards. I also got sanction for acquisition of 3000 sq.mt of land under Rural Garbage Scheme for waste management.

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

Panch members need to be made more aware and should have concern for their people and village. Cooperation follows automatically.

Q Do you feel Panchayats have enough powers in hand?

The powers of the panchayat are limited. The legislative assembly needs to develop more powers through the 73rd and 74th Amendments.

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

No. Local self government elections should not be fought on party lines. It creates a divide in the social fabric of the village.

Q Do you think there is lack of woman leadership in politics? What do you think are the reasons?

Women are taking strides in getting desired space though we find only two women legislators today. But the panchayat does show sizeable women members. People need to be made aware that politics is not a dirty game. Unless you get into it, you cannot clean the system. Your active participation in formulating development plans for your ward and village will eventually develop the leadership needed to take on future challenges.

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

Be the change, you want to see. Besides fighting WhatsApp and social media wars for change, involvement in grassroots level problems is more important. Looking forward for more youth leaders to evolve in years to come.

TEA N TONIC TO BOOST YOUR BUSINESS

TEAM TNV

Q When did Tea and Tonic begin? Please tell us of your journey.

➔ I started my career in PR and Marketing in 1997 when I passed out of Chelsea College of Art and Design in London, where I studied as an interior and textile designer. It was the first job I could get, so I grabbed it, and soon realized that I had a flair for PR and maybe this was the right path for me. I moved to Goa in 2001 as I felt that London life had somewhat stagnated for me. I soon got persuaded into consulting for friends who had restaurants and needed the help as they were too busy with operations and didn't have the time to do their own promotions. Hence 'Tea n Tonic' was born. The name 'Tea n Tonic' came about as it represented the commonality between the two countries, as both Indians and Brits love their tea, and tonic was first produced here in India during the Raj – so what better way to portray who I am, a proud Indian brought up in London.



Tea n Tonic is a creative PR communications agency that helps its clients to stay ahead in an ever-evolving landscape. TNV interacted with its owner Anuradha to know more about the venture.

Q You seem to be an all-women team. Any specific reasons for this?

➔ We in India as women don't always get the chance to build our career and here at Tea n Tonic we are all about women empowerment. Also, I come from a family of strong women such as my Nani (maternal grandmother) and my mother Sucheta Visvanathan, who always taught me to be financially and otherwise independent in everything that I did. We believe that all women should have the opportunity to be independent and as India emerges into the world economy why not show the world that our women are just as capable as the ones in the west!

Q How is Tea and Tonic different from other such firms?

➔ Having amassed huge knowledge across two continents since 1997 gives Tea n Tonic an edge over other



companies epically as we specialize in PR and Marketing for F&B outlets. Having worked hands on and supplied seafood to lots of restaurants and hotels both in London and Goa, Tea n Tonic has an intricate insight into the working of any F&B outlets, especially. We are able to do PR from within, not just externally, and that is one of the first lessons one learns when stepping into this industry. Tea n Tonic don't just provide media relations but a plethora of other services ranging from social media, events, brand and advertising consultancy, music programming and promotions, and all platforms – a 'one stop shop' for all your needs.

Q Who are your clients?

➔ We primarily work within the F&B or Lifestyle sector and have had a hand in launching 53 outlets in Goa alone. Currently we are working with some amazing restaurants and people such as Aakritee, Chef De Cuisine of A Reverie, Sarah Todd – Master Chef Australia 2014 – Antares, Sahana Kumar of Divo and Watermark (First floating bar) in Morjim, Tejpal Singh Gandhi – The Banyan, Arthur's Theme, South I, Casino Strike, Marriott, but to name a few.

Q Do you see a difference in how Goa pursues PR companies?

➔ PR and Marketing is viewed as an integral part of a lot of businesses especially chef driven restaurants in the west whereas in Goa they are just realizing that not all work can be managed successfully by in-

house teams. More often than not the proprietors of the business are too busy with daily operations to do enough justice to their PR or event and their Social Media Marketing. This is where we step in and bring fresh ideas and perspective to their business. More than that, we are an extension of their team and work hand in hand to reach the right audience.

Q Do you think PR companies have a good future in Goa?

➔ I truly believe that they do. Goa is one of the best tourist destinations in India and there is always an influx of people from all round the world, an amazing melting pot if you please. There is always something new, and more and more people are making it their home and opening businesses here. So there will always be a need for PR and Marketing companies such as Tea n Tonic.



HEALTHY LIVING ISN'T REALLY EXPENSIVE!



SZWENSKA CHRISS

Many people believe eating healthy is expensive as compared to junk food. That's the number one excuse people give for not buying good, nutritious food. However, not only is healthy food not as expensive as you think, you are also asking the wrong question. Here's why.

Healthy foods like fruits, vegetables, lean meats and fish all cost more to produce and the prices only go up if they are organically produced. These foods might not taste as good as processed food, but it's definitely better for our body. Sources of cheap calories such as white bread are made with refined ingredients and contain harmful additives. They can rob your body of crucial nutrients and can over time harm your health.

In our society, healthy choices are sometimes a lot harder to make than unhealthy ones: going to the gym versus staying home, ordering a salad instead of French fries or buying healthy groceries in place of unhealthy

SOME BASIC TIPS

- Purchase local, unprocessed food.
- Plenty of wholegrain breads and cereals, fruit, vegetables and legumes (such as chickpeas, lentils and red kidney beans).
- Cut the junk. Eliminate foods such as soda, and processed foods.
- Stick to your grocery list. The more prepared you are, the less impulse purchases you'll make.
- Low-salt foods and use salt sparingly.
- Small amounts of foods that contain added sugars.
- Reduced-fat milk and other dairy products.
- It is also important to drink an adequate amount of water.

stuff. Healthy groceries such as fresh fruits and vegetables, lean meats and 100% whole wheat products always seem to be more expensive than their unhealthy counterparts. The reasons are simple but the solutions are complex.

DEMAND VS. SUPPLY

Simple economics is the main reason healthy food is expensive. This country demands much more unhealthy food than healthy fresh produce. Food manufacturers supply what is in demand. The result is cheap junk. The way to change this is to change the supply and demand equation, but that cannot happen overnight. Only changing attitudes can move this process along.

While buying healthy food might seem like the more expensive option, in the long run going healthy saves you a lot of time and money. Ingredients found in some of our most popular fast foods (sugar, sodium, saturated fat, trans fat) are known to increase your risk for a number of diseases including heart disease, cancer and type 2 diabetes. There are ingredients (fiber, vitamins, minerals, antioxidants) found in healthy foods that can prevent those same diseases. Instead of worrying about the damage healthy food does to your wallet, you

➔ Simple economics is the main reason healthy food is expensive. This country demands much more unhealthy food than healthy fresh produce. Food manufacturers supply what is in demand. The result is cheap junk. The way to change this is to change the supply and demand equation, but that cannot happen overnight. Only changing attitudes can move this process along.

should be worrying about the havoc unhealthy food causes to your body.

HEALTHY FOOD AT HOME

Eating well is crucial to your mental and emotional health, but that doesn't mean you have to spend a fortune on food. Whether you're at school, living on your own, or raising a family on a budget, you can enjoy healthy food on the cheap. The key to saving money on food is to limit unnecessary spending, revise your shopping habits, and focus on healthier choices. Prepare meals at home and making mealtimes a social experience. The pleasure of eating increases when a meal is shared. Your meals will be healthier and tastier. You will feel better and think and act better. And save more money in the short and long run. Eat out less. Even if you live alone, there are plenty of ways to cook cheap, healthy meals at home.

Don't assume that more expensive or organic items are immediately better in every way, but also don't assume that healthy products are actually more expensive. Your body is like an incredibly powerful sports car, treat it like one and it will drive like one.

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The writer is a Mass Communication student



IT'S AN ONLINE MARKET!

TEAM TNV

We are living in online times. The business scenario is not lagging behind in this area either. Several new businesses in Goa are using online marketing, especially social media, extensively to promote their business. From clothes to food, accessories to photography, every field is looking at online marketing as its major backbone today.

TNV caught up with a few businesses that are making the best use of this medium. And these aren't big business houses. They are start ups from young minds that are changing the way we look at marketing products.

Poonam Sinai Kenkre from Cuncolim, an engineer by profession, was actually teaching at an Engineering College in Goa when the idea of business struck her. "I always wanted to have my own business, but things did not favour me. And when I finally started, lots of eyebrows were raised, says Poonam who owns a clothes business today, entirely run through online marketing and social media.

"A lot of people criticized me. Why should you sell clothes being an engineer was their question. That's when my mother in law stepped in and boosted by confidence. In fact she is the one who handles a lot of back office chores like dispatching goods and maintaining accounts while I look after the online marketing," says Poonam.

"Online marketing has its own advantages since customers don't need to go to shops to search items. They can have a look at the items and prices sitting at home and order online. Their goods reach their doorsteps. And since it's online I don't have to incur extra cost on manpower and other infrastructure. I can sell my goods at a lesser cost," says Poonam. "Initially it was only through WhatsApp. Today I have my Facebook page too and people know my brand only through these two mediums," she adds.

Poonam today delivers dress materials and sarees across Goa. It is nothing less than a mini Snapdeal or Myntra of her own.

Tanvi Kudalkar's Sugar Rush in Vasco is another such start up, all managed

through online media.

"I always had a passion for baking and what's better than making your passion your job. To be honest I didn't have a concrete plan or a business proposal to get this going. That's when online marketing really helped me promote my business," says Tanvi, narrating her journey.

"Technology has reached such a level that you can get anything around you at the tip of your fingers. Social media plays the biggest role in this. People nowadays are always on their phone, updating statuses or uploading photos, so the World Wide Web or the internet today has become a platform for marketing as well," says Tanvi, whose gourmet desserts are a household name in Goa today.

"The response has been tremendous for me. People always want to know what's new around and see what's trending. So the response I get has helped me create my own brand," she says.

"Since Sugar Rush is a bakery set up at home, I plan on getting my own space for now. And more importantly I am also planning on working on a few

strategies to expand my business and increase clientele using social media. For instance, getting a website or hire a part-time intern to only look after Sugar Rush as a brand and use digital marketing, as I don't get too much time to concentrate on media marketing," she says.

Sudha Raut from Vasco has also managed to successfully promote her business through social media. "I have a Facebook page 'Sudha's Creations' where passion meets soul and I market handcrafted customized jewelry of silk thread and quilling through the same. For the past two years I am doing online business and through that my business has reached across the world. I have got lots of orders from Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Gujarat, Mumbai and of course across Goa. I have even fulfilled orders abroad."

"Through online promotion you can reach to the masses. My customers can contact me directly and can tell me their choices and needs through texts or through calls. Online business gives you a direct connect to your client," she emphasizes.

23 MARCH**Manthan 4.0 Art Exhibition**

10:00 am

Kala Academy, Panjim, Goa, India
Dnyanprasad Mandal's college of Arts, Science, commerce management studies and technology is organising an exhibition with an aim of providing opportunity to all the talented students and help them to showcase their talent. In this exhibition the students along with artists will be displaying their talents through the various artifacts like Warli Paintings, T-shirt paintings, Paper quilling art, etc. The profits generated through sales in the exhibition will be donated to a Charity Trust.

'Disguises and Deceptions: Hiding in Plain Sight'

07:00-10:00PM

The Cube Gallery

'Disguises and Deceptions' by Omaggio is set to make an appearance in honor of the Cube Gallery's 3rd anniversary. Omaggio is a multidisciplinary performing arts company based in Goa, pioneered by Tino Sanchez and Peeya Rai Chaudhari, and will be making its first public appearance

for Goan audiences since their extremely well received production 'The Playground' (2014). 'Disguises and Deceptions: Hiding in Plain Sight' is a piece created specially for the Cube gallery space with intentions to encourage a dynamic interaction between the audience and the underlying theme of the performance, that suggests that we as a society find ourselves constantly hiding in plain sight from ourselves and as per the perception of others.

23-24 MARCH**Kingfisher Ultra Style Week Goa**

11:00 PM

CLUB TAO Baga, GOA

Storm fashion Company is India's largest fashion company dedicated to showcase the latest designer collections on the runway. We invite you to experience the best of goa style masters and a couple of acclaimed national designers on the Club Tao, Baga location. The line up will feature 16 Fashion models and 6 fashion designers designers and two after parties.

24 MARCH**Bollywood Nyt with Amour**

09.00PM

Sinq Nightclub

Dj Amour is one of the most talented female djaround, she has made a mark in the national & international party circuit. She specializes in all sub genre of House. Get set to groove with her.

**Friday Nite International Act Shishko DISCO LIVE in Concert**

8.00 PM

The 248 Collective, H No. 248, Bella Vista, Chogm Road, Sangolda Goa

Shishko was born in the spring of 2014 in the foothills of the Himalayan Mountains. Founded by Oshan Mahony and Moshe Zehavi, the later is the main composer/arranger and leader for the project and collaborates with fellow musicians across the globe to create a unique and unforgettable sound. The diverse musical expression within Shishko spans clear across the world touching notes of Contemporary, Balkan, Turkish, Arabic, Latin, Rock, and Funk just to name a few. Its an energetic, animated and theatrical show that's sure to move a room.

24 - 30 MARCH**Bengal Folk Mela**

10.00 AM

Ravindra Bhavan, Margao

Goa Bengal Folk Mela will be organised on March 24 to March 30 at Ravindra Bhavan, Margao and it will have handicraft and folk performance from Goa and Bengal. For details contact 9883962502/9604274916.

25 MARCH**Critical Analysis on Ximpio by Selza Lopes**

4.00 PM

Reginald Fernandes Conference Hall, Panjim

Dalgado Konknni Akademi has organised a critical analysis session on the latest book of poems 'Ximpio' by Selza Lopes. The book consisting of 70 poems on several topics was released in 2016. The well known Konkani writers Pandharinath D. Lotlikar, Vassalo Carvalho and Daniel de Souza will participate in the session, appraising the sentiments of the young poet, Selza Lopes. This will be followed by an open discussion and the personal views of the poetess.

1 APRIL**Once Upon a Book**

9:00 AM-5:00 PM

District Library, Navelim, Margao

In celebration of World Children's Book Day, Once Upon a Book brings you a full

events



day of fun, frolic and all things bookish, for the whole family! Contact The Hungry Mind at 9923103514 or The Dogears Book Shop at 9422685530 for more details.

5-25 APRIL**Summer camp!**

9am to 12noon.

Little penguins School, Kadamba highway. Sports, Skating, Dance, Zumba, Embroidary and Basic cooking skills.

Age group-5 to 15years.

Contact-9822247601,0833-6512885

2000rs per student/15days.

6 APRIL**fifth Galvanizing Coating & Profiling (GCP)****Summit GOA**

9.00 AM

The Zuri White Sands, Goa Resort & Casino Goa

The objective of the initiative is to increase the awareness about galvanized and colour-coated steel in India. It is a step in the direction to increase demand for coated steel in India. Use of coated steel in solar power as well as for cold storage using sandwich panel are the main topics to be addressed in the event. The conference will witness national and international speakers presenting on various innovations in the field of coated steel across the globe.

8-9 APRIL**The Goa Swimathon 2017**

Bambolim Beach

Get ready for one of India's largest open water swimathons, The Goa Swimathon 2017!

It's the seventh edition and the organisers are proud to introduce a new category, the 10 km Olympic swimathon in addition to the 5 km half-Olympic swimathon, the 2 km and 1 km swimathons and the 250 m sprint.

WORK WITH US

We are looking for

- FREELANCE WRITERS
- PART TIME MARKETING EXECUTIVES
- EVENT PLANNERS

The job offers competitive salary, excellent working environment and ample growth opportunities. for more details.

CONTACT
9923442746

TRAVEL GOT EASY!

TANVI BAMBOLKAR

Technology entered our lives like an Alladin's lamp and made some magic. Travel was no exception to this magic that modern tech played in our lives. Travel is now no more about getting fooled. Just download the cab apps like Uber and Ola, book the ride and the nearest taxi guy comes to pick you up, without you running around to look for him.

If only we had a Tiago car like the siblings who go travelling in the web series TVF Tripling, and NRI money like Chandan from that hit series, we would all have travelled like crazy. But alas, all we have is a lot of interest in travelling and skimpy budgets, out of which we also need to save a bit for the future. Nevertheless, the Facebook-Twitter generation isn't stopping themselves from travelling at least once a year, at least for the sake of those amazing posts and tweets.

Travelling is a soul searching activity that teaches a lot and that's why it's necessary that we all travel. But it's not that easy. It is definitely not just driving spontaneously to some place away from home. That happens only in entertainment programmes. In real life, a good trip needs a plan. And that plan needs to be implemented.

There was a time when travelling would cost not just a lot of money but also cause a lot of confusion and getting fooled in an unknown land. I get goose bumps when my father narrates his tale of going all alone to Mumbai to answer his Matric examination and of getting lost because he had no knowledge about the city. Fears of staying in scary dingy hotels and getting looted by rickshaws and taxiwallahs would top the charts of travel experiences.

But then times changed! Technology entered our lives like an Alladin's lamp and made some magic. Travel was no exception to this magic that modern tech played in our

lives. Travel is now no more about getting fooled. Just download the cab apps like Uber and Ola, book the ride and the nearest taxi guy comes to pick you up, without you running around to look for him. The app sends his name, phone number and even the ratings that he has got with his previous rides. Most importantly, the taxi guy doesn't know your drop off location till you tell him the one time password that the app sends you.

"Where would we search for taxis if not for these apps in this old age," said my recently retired parents after our Delhi trip, where we made maximum use of the Ola app. At the end I was even named as Ola Bambolkar as I used it the most! Jokes apart, the charges aren't much either. The app provides you an estimate before your ride begins. All you have to do is send your location and your drop point. You can also choose from various kinds of vehicles that are available in their category according to how many people are travelling. Isn't that cool?

But sadly, these companies operate only in a few cities in India. Founded in 2010 in Mumbai, Ola now works in ten other Indian cities. The other day when my college bus

ditched me in Goa after I was back from the Delhi tour, I looked at the Ola cab app sadly, thinking of how useless it is in my home state. If this service was available here coming back home late at night wouldn't be an issue at all. No wonder my friends who work in cities like Mumbai and Delhi are so relaxed about getting back to their homes at late hours. In Goa, our hearts start beating fast if we are about to miss the last Kadamba bus going to our hometowns. In contrast to that, when I had travelled to North India with four girl pals of mine last November, I remember reaching Delhi from Chandigarh at midnight, but we managed to book an Uber taxi to the airport and yes, we reached safely. Can we imagine the same thing happening here in Goa?

Accommodation is another crucial aspect of travelling. Being at a comfortable place is extremely important when you travel. Without that you may just not have the energy and mental peace to enjoy your dream destination. An app like Oyo solves this issue. Initially started as a 'platform for booking budget and premium accommodation' by Ritesh Agarwal in 2012, Oyo has now turned into an app to get the best deals on hotels for travellers. The service that started with one hotel in Gurgaon is now operational even in Malaysia. Once you select your destination, Oyo gives you options of the hotels that have a tie-up with them. You don't get to know the name before booking. Once you have booked you get the details. The app sends you a map link which you can follow on Google Maps. You can't book the same hotel independently, Oyo books it for you according to your preferences. You can also check the reviews and book hotels based on other travellers' experiences. Luckily this service is available in Goa.

Let us hope that other services that make travel better arrive here soon and make the life of Goans and Goa-lovers better!

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Writer is an assistant professor in English and freelance journalist



GLOBAL SOFTWARE OUTSOURCING

MANGIRISH SALELKAR

It is in our Human Nature to fear what we don't understand or what we have never seen and felt. The fear of the unknown is very common. Outsourcing is one such concept that has never been fully understood nor fully justified. The term 'outsourcing' or 'outsourced' is at times overused and yet, not to its fullest potential.

To understand this better, earlier for weddings and birthday parties, we used to prepare all the food items at home. Now we believe in outsourcing this to caterers, so that we can invest the same time in something more important and productive. Similarly in software business, when you outsource your product development to service IT companies, you have more time and space to concentrate on business development or marketing.

With outsourcing many other words came into being, and one that is interchangeably used is Offshore Development. This is used when the outsourcing contract is given by a company to a third party in a foreign land. Outsourcing can take place in the same country as well, but would not be wise because the cost involved would be same as that borne by the outsourcer company otherwise. In such a case, the concept of offshore development does not come into play.

Over time outsourcing has attracted many eyes and ears, and so also brought forth many false tales. These tales added a fear in the minds of the prospective outsourcers. I would like to highlight a few, which cause false perceptions of outsourcing.

It was, in fact still is, believed that once a project is outsourced the control, the direction, the authority and ascendancy over the same is lost to the outsource company. This is not at all true. The project is of the outsourcer and has been financed by it, so there is no question of not having authority over it.

Check out for a service provider who has a transparent work flow wherein the status of the project and its working is always under the nose of their client. With this, the provider tries to erase the next false notion of outsourcing i.e. out-of-sight means out-of-mind.

The culture followed in the west is reflected on us Goans. We are open-minded and have good communication



Over time outsourcing has attracted many eyes and ears, and so also brought forth many false tales. These tales added a fear in the minds of the prospective outsourcers. I would like to highlight a few, which cause false perceptions of outsourcing.

skills. We value the work and ideas of others as our own. You need to deal with customer-centric companies that are adaptive to the culture, working style as well as work timings of the clients.

Another misconception of outsourcing is that only big projects can be outsourced and not the small ones. And that outsourcing is only for big companies. This is not correct. One has to value each and every client, value every small, big, tiny or large project.

Outsourcing was and still is synonymous with India. The clear reason is that the workforce is talented and comes as value for money. And it doesn't take rocket science to come to figure that outsourcing is cost effective because of these savings:

- No training of employees – saves precious time and effort
- No employment costs – one does not

have to spend on employees' insurance, pension, training, grooming etc.

- The best technology is available – this means you don't have to buy it yourself, use it to serve your purpose.
- No hardcore investment required – that cost is already borne by the outsourced company.

Above all the outsourced company that provides software development service has to deliver a quality product. A product which stands tall in the market and makes it a brand. Choose quality over money. Something economical may not always be the best. So invest in something which will give you long term returns and always stands beside you forever.

Besides India, there are many other countries like Philippines, Poland, Costa Rica, Ireland, Czech Republic, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Malaysia, Hungary, Ukraine, Brazil and Singapore which are coming up in a big way. However India continues to charm the world because of its central location, language, communication and powerful technical talent pool.

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The writer is an entrepreneur who is the CEO and Co-founder at Umang Software Technologies



My Dad

Fifteen years back on the 15th June at 1.53 am, a daughter achieved the best father ever produced by this planet. Eight years later, another daughter was blessed to have this great personality as her father and this blessed daughter is none other than me. At this point, I am actually out of words because my dad cannot be described in a few words.

Behind every successful daughter there is a father. I truly believe in this statement. My father supports me just like a spinal column that helps us to maintain body posture. He often says that his two eyes are his two daughters for whom he would sacrifice everything in the world. When I look into my father's eyes, the only thing I see is my sister's and my reflection.

My dad does not have any kind of supernatural power but he still remains the superhero of my life. My father has undergone numerous compromises and constant sacrifices with a smile on his face never letting any of the family members know his problems, just to see them swimming in the ocean of happiness. There has never been a day when I have seen my father not working hard and in spite of so much pain and fatigue, he still continues to say that he is fine.

All fathers teach their daughters and sons values of life in order to achieve success. It is often noted that children are being continuously pressurised and forced to do something they do not have a liking for,



My parents are my life,
Both my father and his wife
I love to help her in the kitchen
But she warns me not to play with the knife
My father is my delight
Just two years to forty five
My brother too is my life
But gets scared of bees and their hive
This is my life
Tell me yours in a count of five.

DURVA TALAULIKAR

Std V, Vidya Vikas Academy, Margao

but my dad encourages me in every single thing I desire to do. My dad often says to believe in yourself no matter what the results are, because in every game a player wins a game whereas the audience is just present to make noise. My dad always tells my mom that he will win the game of life when he sees both his daughters independently touching the stars of the sky. I will make sure that I work hard, face all the challenges and make a name where my dad will be known after my name, who will be saluted for having raised his daughters so excellently. I am sure that I will not fail in this task, because my dad is always standing behind me to help me forward.

I honestly think I could not have asked for anything better because I am blessed with the best. The day I forget my father will be the day I will close my eyes forever. A big big thank you for everything that you have done.

MAYANKA RAGHURAJ ARSEKAR

STD IV, Manovikas English Medium School, Margao.

SUDOKU

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ISHAAN TIMBLE

Std II, GVM's KG and Primary School, Ponda



SURAJ KUMATHKAR

Lokvishwas Pratishthan's Special School, Canacona



VIDHITI SAWANT

Std III, Bhatikar Model Primary School, Margao



VAISHNAVI ARSEKAR,

Std VII, Manovikas English School, Margao



SPICING IT UP ORGANICALLY

PRASAD RAICAR

Tourists from all over the world have made Goa their playground, and they pour into this small land in hordes, filling thousands of hotel rooms in the peak season. A few spend weeks roaming up and down the coastline, while others fly down over the weekends. You can see them lying on the beaches soaking up Vitamin D from the sun, hopping around from one beach to another riding rented bikes, digging their spoons into fresh local seafood or just trying their luck at the casinos. You can almost hear the sighs of contentment all around.

But what can a local Goan do that would help him or her relax over a weekend? Where can we sigh in peaceful happiness? Driving out of state every now and then is not our cup of tea – it reduces the time which we'd rather give to discover new levels of susegadponn!

Behold the world of rustic spice garden weekend getaways. These have been around for some time now, but are recently becoming part of our 'things to do'. Right from the Sahakari Plantation in Curti, Rustic Plantation in Valpoi, Savoi Plantation in Savoi Verem to Nandanvan in Opa, there are a host of these places which provide facilities to guests, ranging from day visits to overnight stays. One such spice plantation is the Tanshikar Spice Farm in Neturlim.

Run by the very humble and down-to-earth couple Chinmay and Gauri Tanshikar, this verdant place is advertised as an organic and working farm. Having settled in this village since the last five generations, they are into organic traditional spice farming for the last 50 years. The 225-year-old mud house that they

live in gives a very good picture of how life must have been in that era. Surrounding the house is the peaceful plantation that yields cashews, vanilla, nutmeg, pepper, cinnamon, coffee, cacao, etc.

At the other end of the plantation, on a small ridge, are the rest houses. There are six individual mud houses which have their own balcony opening out to a sea of greenery. There are four houses which converge into each other to form a community space or 'razaangan' as is known in Konkani. And then there are two treetop rooms where you can greet the birds in the morning on your front porch! There is no air-conditioning, table fans are provided –and you don't need even these except to beat the afternoon summer heat. There is no television to distract you and the only sounds are that of the wind blowing through the trees, the chirping of a multitude of birds and the croaking of tree and forest frogs.

SERVES

➔ Solitude for the restless mind

HOW TO GET THERE

➔ 50 kms from Margao towards Curcholem. Take the turn from Tilamol to Rivona, and continue to Neturlim. It is around 500 metres from Neturlim High School.

CONTACT

➔ Chinmay: 9422184114, 832-2608358

TIMINGS

➔ 24 hour package

PRICES

➔ Rs 1500 package per person, which includes stay, all the meals, and an excursion to the Saavri waterfalls

PARKING

➔ Ample uncovered parking in front of the farm.

or some Goan delicacies. One can order various juices or soft drinks, with beer being an option too.

The farm provides many activities. Cooking classes can be booked by those who want to learn traditional Goan vegetarian cooking. The farm is right next to the famous Budbudyam Tollem, a temple water tank where bubbles rise continuously from its depths. As the Netravali Wild Life Sanctuary is right next door, this place is a good base to explore the surroundings. The Western Ghats are a mecca for bird watchers, and the Tanshikars arrange camps regularly. There are also excursions to the nearby waterfalls like the Saavri falls.

The sale of fresh farm products is a big hit with everyone. Some of the rather different things you can buy here include organic coffee, honey from their own apiculture, bee pollens, coconut sugar and cocoa powder, along with a host of other produce. A long shelf near the main area exhibits a few vintage house articles which may be of interest to the out-of-town guests. But the thing that will astound one and all are the couple of ancient wooden pillars that have been salvaged from a nearby temple that was renovated recently. Kudos to Chinmay Tanshikar for saving these priceless pieces of history, and giving them a home here.

The air is fresh, and spirits are high. Go with your friends or by yourself. Time becomes immaterial and you do not seem to care at all. Welcome to another side of Goa, waiting for you to embrace it!

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



KONKANI FILMS NEED MORE THEATRES TO SHOWCASE THEIR PRODUCTS

-EDISON GOMES



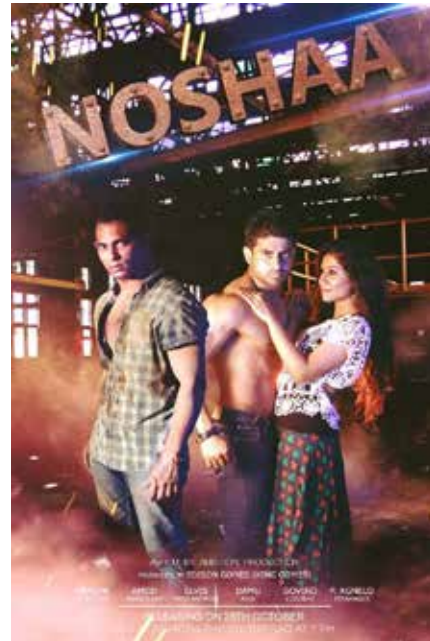
TEAM TNV

Edison Gomes is the director and producer of the Konkani film Noshaa, which claims to be the first action film in Konkani. Noshaa has managed to pull in large audiences to theatres. TNV interviewed Gomes to find out more about the movie and his future projects.

Q Noshaa, your first film is the first action thriller in Konkani. Tell us about the movie and the technology used.

Noshaa is a journey of a villain from good to worse and where life leads him in the end. The climax of the film is based on a true story. The 2 hours and 17 minutes film is power packed with six action sequences. These sequences have been directed by Josephfern D'Souza. Produced by an entirely Goan team, the whole film was shot in Goa. With 500 characters in the frame, all of which are Goans, Noshaa is a game changer in the history of Goan films.

This is the first Konkani movie to use techniques like colour grading and 5.1 sound with latest software for production, which is presently used only in Hollywood films. Royce da



learning process. Noshaa helped me to understand the actors, technical crew as well as the other team members. This film also made me understand that it is lot of hard work, patience and a lot of money involved. There are several topics that I am working on presently. I will reveal my next projects at the right time.

Q Do you think Konkani movies have a good future?

There are a lot of new movies coming up. So I feel the future of Goan films is good. But we need more auditoriums wherein we can show our products. The system of sharing profits with theatres like Inox is not practically profitable to the producers. Goan Producers and directors are making several interesting films that need to reach their audience.

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

The government has been very supportive towards the industry. I don't think we can ask for more.

Q Has hosting of IFFI helped Goa?

IFFI has given a lot of exposure to the Konkani film industry. I would still say we are in the learning process but the growth is superb. Very soon we will have many high quality films in Konkani. I am very positive about the same.

Costa, a post production freelancer, has edited and post produced the entire movie. All the equipment was bought and configured to the necessary specifications and a studio was set up at Fatorda where the entire post-production process has been carried out.

Q Noshaa, your debut movie has won viewers hearts. What next? What project have you been working on?

As a debutant in the industry, Noshaa has helped me to grow overall as a person. The experience was a good

