

# The Neutral View

FORTNIGHTLY Wednesday, November 8, 2017 | Vol. No. 1 | Issue 20 | Price Rs. 10 | Page 1 | RNI: GOAENG00427

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# food

## What's cooking?

### TEAM TNV

**Vasquito Alvares is the name known to many culinary connoisseurs and food enthusiasts in Goa. Vasquito is a graduate in hotel management and has worked with many restaurants and popular hotels in Goa also around the world. Vasquito shares his experience with team TNV about his profession.**



### WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BECOME A CHEF?

My family was always in food business. My dad had a business of ready to cook products in the 80s and the fact that my mother and grandmother were amazing cooks, so that connection to food was always prominently present in the family.

### WHICH CUISINE DO YOU SPECIALIZE IN?

I specialize in barbeque and smoked cuisine and all kinds of meats. Since, I travel a lot I also cook Italian, Mexican, Jamaican and other oriental cuisine.

### WHO DO YOU IDOLIZE?

I idolize Mr. Gordon Ramsey, because I like the fact that

he has changed the way food is viewed and has focused more on the taste also have drawn the attention back to basics. I try my best to follow him and stick to the basics.

### THE CLUCK TALES STORY ?

Cluck Tales started 18 months ago with the concept of serving only chicken recipes. Recently, in August 2017, I took over it and since the initial concept did not work out, I decided to revise the whole menu to suit the audience that we cater to and change it from a fast-food joint to a full-fledged restaurant. We now serve all kinds of meats and other dishes as well.



### THERE ARE SO MANY EVENTS HAPPENING SUCH AS WINE FESTIVAL, SAMBA SQUARE ETC., WHERE MANY RESTAURANTS PUT UP THEIR STALLS, WHAT IS YOUR VIEW ON THAT?

The major event that I have done is the wine festival, though now it is not all that grand but earlier days it used to be a huge thing. But talking about the culture

that these festivals are creating, I feel it is very beneficial for the people as they get exposed to variety of flavors and get to tickle those taste buds a little more! These festivals are helping create a food culture in Goa.

### WHAT IS YOUR MESSAGE TO ALL THE YOUNG ASPIRING CHEFS?

To be able to establish oneself in this line of work, one needs to work hard and should not mind the long hours; but most importantly, one must have passion towards cooking. To me, to be a good chef you must love to eat! And always remember to keep it profoundly simple just like basics.

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# The Neutral View





# DIGITAL DETOXIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SOLDIERS IS MUST

The choice between development and environment is not new for the ecologically sensitive State like Goa. We have seen it happening for ages. Right from the time when foreign tourists had arrived in the state to the current agitations against various projects, people are always asked to decide what they want.

Sensitivity towards local culture and environment has been running in the blood of Goenkars. Way back in 80's, when first chartered flight touched Goa airport carrying German passengers, what they faced was unexpected. The people hurled cow dung on them and shouted slogans asking them to go back.

The anti-tourism lobbies were protesting against these guests. Two and half decade down the line, we can see State tourism department officially welcoming the tourists at the airport when first Chartered Flight arrives. The Tourism department officials offer garlands and roses to the guests who like to hear 'Namaste' when they land at Dabolim airport.

But it does not mean that the fear, which was expressed by anti-tourism lobbies in 80's, was wrong. They were absolutely right and they had since then predicted what Goa is witnessing now. The sale of narcotics, trafficking of girls and all other bad things that can possibly be avoided has landed on Goa's shore. Name the evil and we have it.

It has been an unending debate on whether we really did a wise thing by accepting the concept of developing State as a tourism

destination or was it a mistake. The opinions are divided. But there is one certain thing, that is, we have accepted tourism as a main pillar of our economy. The tourism arrival has become an important subject that works as a barometer for the State government.

Union shipping minister Nitin Gadkari was down in Goa this week to review the developmental works on different ports and rivers that are undertaken by his ministry. During a press conference, when he was asked about the opposition to the project like coal handling facility and dredging of rivers, the minister minced no words in telling the media that "if you all don't want, we are ready to shift the projects elsewhere."

The statement could be read in different perspective. The tone of the statement is that union government is doing a favour by sanctioning these projects. The statement that should have been headlines in the newspapers was hidden in the bunch of other announcements that he made. Our website [www.theneutralview.com](http://www.theneutralview.com) was the only one to highlight it and evoke public reaction towards it.

Goa is on the cusp of a moment that will determine our future. The divided lobby of the environmentalists is not helping the cause in any way. Though having cause of Goa at their heart, the environmentalists are looking in different directions. There is no single umbrella that could bring them together. This is helping the capitalists and lobbies that are aiming to convert Goa into their business colony.

Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar who was vociferous during his tenure as a leader of opposition had spoken much about the environmental degradation. He was seen as a torchbearer for the cause. Even his initial action against illegal mining was considered as his love towards the motherland.

But ironically so, he has changed over a time. After becoming union defence minister, his statements comparing Goa's air with the polluted environment of Delhi are something surprising. His silence over few projects can only be considered as a political compromise that he has to make.

The crucial question remains before the State of Goa is how much can this land take? The High Court Bench in its judgment about National Green Tribunal (NGT) had

mentioned the richness and serenity of Goa. The Judge who is not of Goa origin had expressed the need to preserve this land for posterity.

If a judicial figure, who has nothing to do with Goa except his posting here in the High Court can understand and feel so much for the land, why can't we? We are going to live here till we breathe our last. Our future generations are going to inherit this land from us. Shouldn't it be a reason for us to at least express our concern for the environment we live in?

Back to the question of how much can Goa bear? We are not trying to find out the answers. The carrying capacity of the beaches was supposed to be examined while allowing shacks. Has it happened? If that has happened then where are the results?

We have been adding bridges and roads to the infrastructure. But have we studied how many new vehicles would be added to the State in next decade? Whether these roads will be enough to handle the stress? What can be done to control the number of vehicles?

Goa is a small state and can set an example for rest of the country. But the attempts are lacking. I still recall the agitations against Nylon6, 6 and Meta Strip factory projects. And protests on some of the issues like Regional Plan. Those movements indicated the collective strength of the people. It was a mass movement.

That was past. And now we have seen many social activists hanging their shoes. New leadership in environmental activism is not coming up. There are few who have kept their fight alive through courts. But on the ground there are neither leaders nor foot soldiers.

The wars are now fought on whatsapp. The mobile worriers are awake entire night debating, discussing, fighting, condemning and putting up their protest on whatsapp or Facebook. That is the virtual battlefield which they have mastered leaving Azad Maidan and Lohia Maidan empty.

Till we have the leaders who can really digitally detoxify our new generation and get them on the ground for the real slogan shouting and protests, we will have to bear with the statements like that made by Gadkari.



**Owner: Uttam Kumar, Printer: Elegant Offset Printers Pvt. Ltd. Publisher: Priya Salgotra, Published from Off No. Of/8, 1st Floor, Sapna Garden Co-operative Society, Chogm Road, Porvorim, Alto-Porvorim, Bardez 403521, Printed from D2-31, Tivim Industrial Estate, Karaswada, Mapusa-Goa 403526. Editor: Anwasha Singbal (Responsible under PRB Act) Regd Office: Off No. Of/8, 1st Floor, Sapna Garden Co-operative Society, Chogm Road, Porvorim, Alto-Porvorim, Bardez 403521. Ph: 0832-2416502 Email: editor@theneutralview.com, letters@theneutralview.com, features@theneutralview.com, feedback@theneutralview.com For Advertisements Contact: 9822122922 / 8208980078. Email: advertisements@theneutralview.com**

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# EXPLORING EAST AFRICA

AMEY JOSHI

History or mystery, adventure or wildlife, the African continent has been the ultimate destination for story seekers and explorers. Having watched several shows featuring African wildlife as well as culture, also the films such as Blood Diamond and Black Hawk Down, my urge to visit this continent grew even stronger. It was just a matter of luck that my cousins decided to visit Kenya in the October of 2017 and I didn't think twice when they asked me to tag along. However, Kenya is a peaceful country unlike its extreme neighbour Somalia.

Well, before I introduce you to Kenya, let's take a brief look at the history and geography of this beautiful East African country. Kenya is the founding member of the East African Community (EAC). English and Kiswahili are the official languages of the country. It shares its border with Tanzania to the south and southwest, Uganda to the west, South Sudan to the northwest, Ethiopia to the north and Somalia to the northeast. Kenya covers 581,309 km (224,445 sq. mi) and had a population of approximately 48 million people in January 2017. The connection which Kenya shares with India is that, during the colonial period, the British brought in nearly 30,000 labourers from India to construct the railway line to link the interiors of Uganda and Kenya with the Mombasa port. While most of the Indians returned home after the completion of work, there



The Ark Resort at Aberdares



was a significant number of these Indian workers who decided to stay back. It is evident from the fact that there is a good number of people of Indian origin in and around the capital city of Nairobi. And, a few years ago Kenya also had an ODI Cricket team.

Finally, after a one hour flight from Goa to Mumbai, eight hours of waiting at the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, and nearly six-hour flight from Mumbai to Nairobi, we reached the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport. Here we met our guide Jeff, who is a very humorous individual. Jeff is very much interested in political affairs and will be entering into active politics

after quitting his job. He is indeed well known to all the people and they call him as one of the best guides in Kenya. Well, who knows? Next time we visit Kenya, Jeff might actually be the head of the state. Jeff will be driving us to our first destination- Aberdares National Park, which is a four-hour long drive from the capital Nairobi.

Taking some good clicks of the birds and animals was the first thing which I had in mind, but little did I know that I will have to remove my camera right outside the airport to take pictures of a beautiful 'superb starling' bird. However, I didn't get a chance to put the cover on my camera lens as we came across the beautiful countryside, picturesque landscape, including some unique signboards.

At last, after a long journey, we arrived at the Aberdares Country Club in the evening. This entire area is surrounded by a beautiful lawn which I presume was a Golf course.



And, on this Golf course, there were small herds of gazelles and also warthogs. Out of excitement, we asked Jeff to slow the vehicle down a bit so that we could take pictures of these animals to which Jeff replied: "there will be many more chances ahead". Well, all I could say is that he was so right!!!!

After having a cup of tea at the Aberdares Country Club we proceeded to our resort which was deep inside the Aberdares National Park. The resort is named The Ark, and for a good reason. Resembling and named after Noah's Ark, The Ark comprises of three decks which provides a superb location for wildlife viewing. The Ark overlooks a floodlit waterhole and salt lick, which attracts a host large animals as well as birds. While many people like to check out the rooms once they enter the hotel I rushed straight to one of the decks. And, there it was, one of the Africa's BIG FIVE- the Cape buffalo. As I was digesting the fact that it was just the first day in Kenya and I had already spotted one of Africa's most ferocious animals right behind the resort near the watering hole, out from the bushes

came the herd of another animal in Africa's big five - the elephant. Wow!! How often you would see such huge wild beasts behind your hotel, not to mention the other animals such as the hyena, African wild hog, gazelles also different kinds of birds. I spent the entire evening on the deck till there was a call that the dinner buffet was open.

After the dinner, there was an informative session on the Africa's big five - Lion, Elephant, Cape buffalo, Rhino and Leopard. All this while I had a misconception that the animals were listed in the big five based on their size and aggressiveness. But in fact, it was something else altogether. Throughout the session we were informed that, during the colonial period, animals like the elephants were hunted for the ivory; rhinos and cape buffaloes for their horns; lions for their claws, and leopards for their skin. These animals which were hunted extensively came to be known as the Africa's Big Five.

Having visited many wildlife sanctuaries in India I know that spotting wild animals is a matter of luck, but after my first day in Kenya, I realised that's not going to be the case here. Well, I haven't really spent 24 hours in this place but its energy has already overwhelmed me. I have almost a week up ahead and deep down I knew that today was just a preview of things that are about to unfold.



# BEST INTERESTS OF A CHILD UNDER THE GOA CHILDREN'S ACT

SONAL SARDESAI

**C**hildren are not only the future of the nation but also its strength in reserve. The right to childhood means the right to be free from working at a tender age, it means the right to play, the right to be safe and fundamentally the right to be happy. And it is the duty of all concerned, parents, employers, trade unions, government, voluntary organizations, and society to see that each child at least has a childhood. It should be our endeavor to enable every child, 'to climb every mountain, ford every stream, follow every rainbow until it finds its dream'

**Status of Children In India:** Over one billion children have been denied their childhood worldwide (UNICEF Report). About 63 per cent of children in India go without food and 53 per cent suffer from chronic malnutrition, 27 million are severely underweight and 33 million have never been to school. National Dropout Rate at the Elementary Level is over 40% (DISE, 2011-12). Around 25 to 30 million children in India spend their lives on the streets in a poisonous environment. 6.6 million children having a damaged brain from iodine deficiency. The National Family Health Survey has revealed that over 70 per cent of the children in many states suffer from iron deficiency, 11.8% children in India are engaged in some form of child labour. Nearly 45% girls get married before the age of eighteen years and only 54% children received full immunization (DLHSIII, 2007-08).

## Legislations related to children:

There are innumerable nationwide legislations in India which relate to laws dealing to children like, The Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act, 1956, Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act (ITPA), 1956, The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, The Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act 1994, The Juvenile Justice Act 2000 and Amendment Act -2006, The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009 (RTE Act). Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012.

In 2002, the state government along with few individuals "sincerely and genuinely" committed to the cause of the children, identified and drew a wish list of what needs to be done to create a "child friendly society".

And as a step in this direction the Goa Government came up with a "landmark legislation and a path breaking initiative" called as the 'Goa Children's Act, 2003' which

was brought into force in July 2003 while the Children's Court started on December 10, 2004 in Goa. Goa is one of the few states in the country to enact legislation that seeks to give every child, a childhood. Innocent children still continue to be raped or molested, child labour and prostitution exists. The Goa Children's Act was amended two years later in 2005

## Salient features of the Act

This Act addresses problem with a holistic view of the child. The Act clearly enunciates the definition of a child, and the age of the child. It recognises and includes 'foetus' as a child. Certain provisions on sexual abuse of a child, not contained in

the Indian Penal Code have been incorporated in the Act. The Act has attempted to identify and include provisions necessary to protect the child in today's time. The provisions of the Directive Principles of State Policy pertaining to children have been made legally justifiable.

The 93rd Amendment to the Constitution making education a fundamental right, is a similar step in enforcing a Directive Principle. The Act goes several steps further and makes all the directive principles pertaining to children, a right. The provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child have been made legally justifiable. All children Homes shall be registered and regularly inspected. Child labour, including domestic labour is prohibited. Extensive provisions for protecting a child from child abuse, as it is actually happening have been incorporated.

In attempting to prevent them, the Act has taken a bold step in recognising the actual forms of child abuse which are taking place. Onus has been placed on hotels and

other establishments also on persons keeping children with them. Sale of child, or a body part/organ of a child/ Child prostitution is prohibited. Special provisions for the Girl Child, the Differently Aabled, on education, on health and nutrition have been included.

## An Overview of the Act.

The Act provides to definitions of the word 'child'- Under the Indian Majority Act 1875, a minor child is one who has not attained the age of majority, i.e. generally 18 years, and with court orders, 21 years of age. However, under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2000, a juvenile or a child means a person who has not completed 18 years of age. As regards the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929, a child means a male person below 21 and female below 18 years.

Under the Goa Children's Act 2003, a child also means any person who has not completed 18 years of age unless otherwise specified by any other law. The act calls for the state to ensure children are protected against any form of abuse, exploitation and neglect; SC/ ST children receive special attention with regard to education, ensure the improvement of children's health and nutrition services, following the provisions of the UNCRC, and making these provisions legally enforceable.

In case of offences committed by children, they would be dealt with under the Juvenile Justice Act 2000, as children in conflict with law and in need of care and protection. In respect of offences against children, only in Goa, there is a separate Act dealing with such offences under which, a Children's Court has been constituted for the entire State of Goa. In Goa, only the Children's Court has jurisdiction to try all



offences against them, under the Goa Children's Act as well as other Laws. In the rest of the Country, the general criminal courts deal with offences against "persons" of all ages, including children.

This Act has come out with all inclusive and innovative definitions of child abuse, sexual offences, child trafficking and so on, expanding the meaning of such terms under the Penal laws in our country. For example, a "grave sexual assault", is defined as covering different types of intercourse, forcing minors to have sex with each other and so on. It also deals with "incest" which is the commission of a sexual assault by an adult on a child related or adopted by him. The Act also provides for more stringent punishments for the offences, as compared to the I.P.C.

According to the learned Solicitor General, in case of writ petition, in case of Bachpan Bachao Andolan vs Union Of India & Ors also

stated that the Goa Children's Act, 2003 must be viewed as a model legislation. The Goa Children's Act does not only defines the child trafficking but also seeks to provide punishment for abuse and assault of children through child trafficking for different purposes such as labour, sale of body parts, organs, adoption, sexual offences of paedophilia, child prostitution, child pornography and child sex tourism. All state authorities such as airport authorities, border police, railway police, traffic police, hotel owners are made responsible under the law for protection of children and for reporting offences against children.

The Act calls for the registration, monitoring and evaluation of all Children's Homes. The Act prohibits children under 14 being engaged in child labour and calls for the release and rehabilitation of all child labourers. All police bodies must take actions against



any reports of child labour and child trafficking. Child trafficking for any purpose is a punishable offence. Alleged sexually abused children will go under medical testing.

The Act prohibits the sale of children. The state will take all necessary measures to prevent, rescue and rehabilitate child victims of commercial sexual exploitation. Likewise, the state shall also take all necessary measure to protect child in difficult circumstances from abuse, neglect and exploitation of any kind with special attention for the girl child and differently-abled children.

With regard to education, the Act calls for schools to have a no rejection policy and include in their curriculum certain topics such as child rights, gender justice, and life studies on hygiene, health, etc. Schools should

have student parliaments to ensure child participation, and provide appropriate facilities. The act makes a commitment to make education universal within seven years of the passing of this Act.

With regard to health and nutrition the Act calls for the state to universalize all vaccines and immunisations, to take preventive measures against the spread of diseases such as AIDS, provide care and rehabilitation to all ill children, pay special attention to the needs of children with leprosy, substance abuse problems and disabilities etc.

Under this Act the state must create a Children's Fund to ensure the implementation of this Act. A state level authority to see to all child rights violations will be established. The Act also lays punishment for violation of any of the provisions in the Act and procedures for

prosecution of violators. It lays out the role and powers of the Children's Court.

As per the general law, as anyone can set the law in motion, any person who is aware of an offence against a child can file a complaint before the police. The police can take cognizance in terms of Section 154 Cr.P.C. But, under section 20 of the Goa Children's Act, 2003, the Children's Court can take cognizance only on the complaint of the victim, the relative, the Director or the police report.

To conclude as set out in the preamble of the Goa Children's Act, 2003, it is an Act to protect, promote and preserve the best interests of children in Goa and to create a society that is proud to be child friendly.

As the Declaration of Rights of the Child proclaims "mankind owes to the child the best it has to give." There can be no task nobler than in giving every child a better future.

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# NEUTRAL VIEW IS A YEAR OLD AND GROWING WITH THE SUPPORT OF YOUR LOVE

**RUPESH SAMANT**

It was a journey that almost a year back, what started as an English fortnightly has turned into a full scale media house with an English fortnightly, a Marathi-Malwani fortnightly, a website and a daily television show under the banner of The Neutral View.

Alike any other media house, it was a humble beginning for the English fortnightly which was published for the first time on November 23, 2016 with mere 16 pages that has now grown into 32-pages tabloid covering all the aspects of Goa. There is something for everyone.

The Neutral View has become a name to reckon with the best of content including editorial, which is hard hitting and speaking heart of the people. The cover story always highlights the burning issue of the State. The news related features are written by the professionals who have insight into the happenings in Goa.

The vast coverage offered by our fortnightly magazine has earned praises. Right from fashion to politics and food, all the aspects of Goan life are covered by the magazine. The beeline made by advertisers

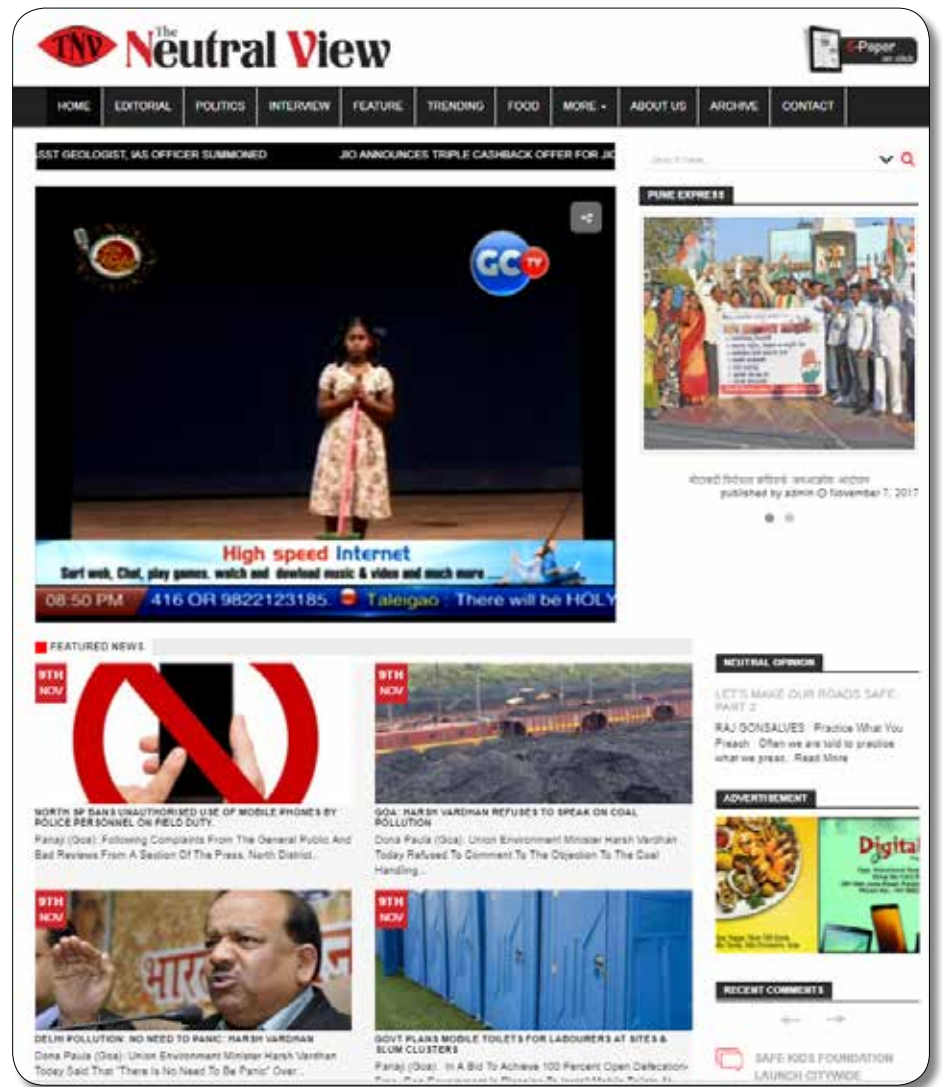
to be on our magazine indicates the popularity that we have gained in such a short duration.

With the readership spread across all the section, the panel of writers has been increasing. We have also widened our reach outside Goa with the articles from Konkani and Pune featuring in it. Our journalists based in Pune have been bringing in the pulse of the city through two pages dedicated to it.

The website was launched in the month of April 2017. And in a short time of six months, we have hit half a million mark. The landmark is significant for the media house based in Goa.

The uninterrupted coverage of the breaking new day in and out has made this website a reference point for many including professional journalists employed with various newspapers. The news is broken on the website as and when it happens. The unbiased coverage has been hallmark of our website which covers all the political parties and incidents without trying to give any angle to it.

We believe in neutral journalism and hence bring to you the facts as and how they happen. We have added another attraction to the website, that is live television.



Our partner GCTV has associated with us providing us the live footage which is beamed through the website.

Our regular interview series Goa@9 hosted on GCTV every night at 9 p.m. is viewed by more than 5,000 people on the website besides watching it on the television. The programme is powered by The Neutral View.

The television chat show invites the newsmakers in the studio and discusses with them the current affairs. The host of political personalities, social workers and artists have participated in the show which has made it a 'must watch' every night.

While we have Goa at our heart, the company has been expanding. This Ganesh Chaturthi we launched Marathi-Malwani fortnightly

'Yeva Kokanat', which means welcome to Konkani.

We have large-scale cultural similarity with Konkani region. The people in Goa and that area are known as Konkani people. Though it is a part of Maharashtra, the people in that region find themselves closer to Goa. There are many people who have their lineages to this region.

The fortnightly has people in that region at its heart. The issues that are troubling the Konkani area are vastly covered in this magazine, which is edited by renowned journalist Vivek Tamhankar. The team of journalists bring in choicest of the stories and current affairs from the area. The editorials are usually written in Malwani language.

The future projects in

Konkan include online Radio station, which will bring out the real Malwani flavour through its programmes. The groundwork for the Radio project is already done. We will launch it in the coming year.

The Neutral View is growing from a non-descript media start up to the company that cannot be ignored by Goans. The launch of Pixegia solutions, a venture that deals with the digital and social media and outdoor marketing was another milestone for the company.

This journey would not have been possible without support of our patrons, that is you all. The kind of love that has been showered by you all have made our journey memorable, smooth and inspiring. Keep loving us!





# DOES GOVERNMENT REVOLVE ONLY AROUND JOB CREATIONS??????????

TEAM TNV

The challenge of creating jobs both in government as well as in private sector has moved to the Centre of the political stage all over the country, and Goa is no exception. The then Laxmikant Parsekar led BJP government decision to ban recruitments in the government sector just at head of general election, cost the saffron party badly in February 2017 polls – giving a clear indication that “job security” is all what voters are hopeful of from the ruling party.

Off late, the issue of recruitments in the government sector has attended uttermost importance. It's nearly nine months since Manohar Parrikar took over reins but the recruitments are at very lower scale. And this not only did upset the opposition but also the coalition members in ruling and so also the saffron party cadres.

“In a State like Goa, employment generation will always be an issue. Goans want white coloured jobs and that people have slowly forgotten the concept of ‘dignity of labour’. This is what Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar had said in his Independence Day speech. The coalition government now wants its people to be ‘job creators rather than job seekers’, a dream concept of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ‘s, ‘Make in India’.

Unfortunately, the concept of “job creators” is not very well welcomed amongst the voters, who only look for jobs with ‘lot of benefit’ and ‘security’. Why just voters, even the Ministers, MLAs and party people feel that though the idea of job creators is unique and needs to be promoted; one cannot get elected unless you give job security and surety to the



voter.

Parrikar, who himself is strong promoter of ‘job creator’ concept, is now also on the back foot, considering the growing unrest within the Government and people over the recruitment issue.

“There is mass and growing unrest in society as people get more fearful, worried and demand action on job creation and social security from the government,” an MLA from ruling dispensation, on request of anonymity told TNV.

Creating jobs is one of the biggest challenges facing every country both developed and developing. State like Goa, where over 65 per cent of the population is in the economically active age group of 18-50 years, the unemployment has been the major hurdle in its growth.

The then Bharatiya Janata Party's key election promise in 2012 was creation of 50,000 jobs over next five years. That project fell far short. Neither through private sector, nor government was the State

able to create the required number of ‘white coloured’ jobs to its people.

There are nearly 70,000 government employees that include regular and contractual servants. Nearly 1.05 lakh government servants and pensioners are availing benefit of VIIth pay commission.

“There is craze for government jobs. Government can make effort to provide jobs in organized sectors. But the benefits, security and surety that the government sector offer is difficult to match with,” a senior politician said adding ‘development, revenue, growth are all second priorities; creation of jobs in government sector is the top priority for any government’.

The political leader said it rightly. The downfall of BJP during February 2017 election, wherein it crumbled from 21 to 13, is attributed to the Parsekar government decision to ban recruitment in November 2016. The ban was imposed

for smother implementation of the VIIth pay commission recommendation, taking into consideration State finances.

As per rough estimate State spends around Rs. 280 crore per month towards the salaries and pension to its employees.

“The Parsekar government decision to ban recruitments led to defeat of BJP. It was because of the decision that Parsekar, who was sitting Chief Minister at that time, faced defeat. Not just one, Seven Ministers lost election because of that one decision,” PWD Minister and MGP leader Ramakrishan ‘Sudin’ Dhawalikar said.

Dhawalikar, who was part of the Parsekar government, said, “cabinet was never taken into confidence about this decision”.

The decision resulted into non-filling of as many as 1200-1500 posts advertised by various departments.

The Parrikar government, which has partially lifted the recruitment ban, has now announced creation

of 10,000 new posts in government over next one-two years. In the first phase, over 4000-5000 new posts will be advertised by January 2018. “Government is committed to youth employment and recruitment in government sector. Direct recruitment following all procedure of law will be the priority,” Health Minister Vishwajit Rane said adding in the second phase another 3500-4000 jobs would be advertised.

Government has also now proposed major administrative reform providing immunity to various posts from being lapsed. An empowered committee under Chief Minister will now work towards hassle-free recruitment process. Government has also decided to categorize all the posts into core and non-core section in each department, wherein the core posts will not be lapsed.

A policy to regularize all the contractual workers in the government sector is also in process.



# MARGAO BYPASS TAKING LONGER THEN EXPECTED

TEAM TNV

The Government of Goa may have aimed at plying vehicles on the new Margao Bypass by 2018-19. Although, the work of the Verna to Navelim road has been going on at a steady but not satisfactory pace. According to the contractors, the Project will be completed on the scheduled time but lot of work has remained yet to be done due to the constant opposition and delays in getting the lands.

The Margao bypass road stretch of roughly 12 kilometers was tendered and started by its construction from 2016. The contractor has covered a substantial amount of road stretch till date. The work of Rs. 274 crores has been going on from Nuvem to Navelim Dharmapur all at a time. The work has been completed on time in some of the stretches like Nuvem to Fatorda in full speed where in land filling and tarring is complete. However, the work has not even started in some of the areas like Colva to Benaulim stretch and ahead. This is due to the opposition from various villages and the delay due to individual complaints filed at Panchayat and courts. The Contractor NG Tarmac has been able to cover a lot of distance from Nuvem to Fatorda but the stretch from Agnel Ashram to the Bypass road Verna is yet to begin. This is because of the delay in the land acquisition process of some stretches.

A visit to the campsite revealed that the land filling of the stretch from Nuvem to Fatorda has been done and half the stretch is yet to be tared. Officials at the site informed that the work of the connectivity has been going on from several months. It is also been noticed that the road has been done just about till Seraulim and the actual work is yet to begin on the stretches beyond that.

The discussion of the works has also been held with the Central Minister for Roads and Surface Transport, Nitin Gadkari and according to highly placed sources the Minister has given a go for all the projects that are coming under the Highway project.

The irony is that since the National Highway passing through the town was denotified, the Margao town only has bypasses and no Highways for heavy traffic. "The problem of heavy traffic entering the towns will only be solved with a Highway bypassing the town," said one of the commuters Romi Bhat.

Navelim has successfully managed to get an over bridge over the Saipem lake and the execution of the same has already begun. The bridge has come at an extra cost of Rs. 90 crores and will be executed by the same contractor.

It may be recalled that the Navelim MLA Luizinho Faleiro had claimed that the Goa Government has agreed in principle to go for stilts over Saipem Lake for the construction of Western Bypass in Navelim. The Navelim MLA

told that the road over stilts over the Saipem Bandh has been approved in principle now. "There have been fruitful discussions with the Chief Minister over the work and the demands of the people also the problems of the people regarding the work. The Chief Minister has assured complete resolution to all the problems," said MLA Luizinho.

It has been learnt from highly placed sources that the Government has given a go and is in process to approve the additional scopes of works in the 12 km road project.

As it looks like, the most awaited Margao Bypass road may take longer to complete due to the controversies. The Assistant Engineer of PWD, Laxmikant Naik, had earlier informed in May that the work was at 30% of the work

tender. However, it is long overdue now and the work of the Western Bypass that started in December 2015 doesn't look to have increased substantially.

The Rs. 274 crore tender is presently being executed by NG Tarmac agency and the work has begun now after monsoon.

Commenting on the delay in the Highway Neena Sadekar said, "We are expecting the work to complete on time as the Highways have to necessarily go from outside towns. Lives in the town roads cannot be risked for some silly oppositions".

With the aspirations as well as the anger running parallelly, there is a task at the hands of the PWD and the Agency to get all the bottlenecks cleared and put the road in order by 2018-19.





## PRITHVIRAJ THALI

The concepts of Karma and Re-incarnation have, for eons, been a part of the Hindu thought. The re-incarnating soul is said to carry over to the next life some part of as yet un-reconciled balance of his Karma – the causative mechanics of our very existence.

Karma, as per Hinduism, can broadly be divided into Sanchita, Prarabdha and Kriyaaman. While the first refers to the entirety of the stored up energies one has put into motion by the exercise of free will, the second denotes that part of the Sanchita Karma which one is destined to reconcile in the present incarnation. The third is that Karma which we incur as we will and act in the present life. Kriyaaman thus keeps getting added to Sanchita.

The sages from the long, hoary past discovered ways of weaving the omens and signs they saw in the cosmic fabric into a meaningful pattern – one which foretold the human drama that was to unfold on the individual level, as well as at the level of the mass collective consciousness. They realised that immensely striking planetary patterns emerged in the heavens whenever cataclysmic events such as mass exterminations, natural calamities, genocide and war took place on earth. On the individual level, the journey of the soul from its last incarnation to the present one, and then onto its next was predicted in startling detail by these wise ones. Case in point is Nadi Jyotish -- a very secretively guarded branch of Indian astrology practised today by only a handful of Jyotish experts.

The concept of Karma is also embedded in western astrology, though it has not been understood and interpreted as deeply by them as by Indian Jyotish. As per the western astrologers, Karma is indicated in a birth chart only by Saturn and extra-saturnine heavenly bodies of the solar system, namely, Uranus, Neptune and



**Rather than successful predictions, a more profound goal of astrology is to make us understand that every atom of our body is karmically connected to every other atom of this cosmos, just like our soul is but a tiny drop of the universal spirit, both of which are essentially the same stuff!!!**

Pluto. In striking contrast -- and to the credit of the great ancient seers -- Indian Jyotish holds that all the members of the celestial cabinet (nine in all) and in fact the entire birth chart is an accurate depiction to what the soul has journeyed through to reach its present state of being. Its primary focus, though, remains Prarabdha Karma -- that specific part of the entire basket of your un-reconciled Karma which you are destined to go through in the present life. As per Indian Jyotish, a sick as well as a robust body, immense wealth and abject poverty, happiness and sorrow in the present

are all the result of our own past actions. The first step to reconciling difficult Karma is to accept it as one's own doing. Thus, one can ease the pain by repaying one's Karmic debt with an impersonal approach. Even suffering and sorrow have a great role to play in our lives in facilitating our spiritual growth.

Everything, in the cosmos is nothing but energy in varied forms. Even the substance of our thoughts is essentially energy, in a more subtle form. If thought is only energy, then it must travel at a specific vibratory frequency. Telepathy, is a form of thought-transference in which thought-energy emitted from one mind-radio travels through the ether and registers itself on another mind-radio tuned into the same vibratory frequency or wavelength. Thus, it is nothing but only advanced science, as is the entire realm of spirituality.

One uniquely marvellous aspect of Indian Jyotish is the timing of events in an individual's life, which is largely missing in Western astrology. Telling you what

fate awaits you is one thing, but telling you when it would befall you, would be rather more desirable. Apart from answering the 'how' and the 'why', Jyotish also suitably answers the 'when' with fair accuracy. The western brethren are often surprised at their Indian astrologers to know that events can be timed in the first place. Some mediocre astrologers frequently paint bleak picture of your past karma when they find that certain celestial bodies in your birth chart are ill-disposed toward your material or domestic wellbeing. These charlatans often see such areas as road-blocks rather than opportunities for karmic redemption. Astrology has, therefore, wrongly earned a bad name as a baseless craft devised only to con the gullible. Censure is acceptable only if the finger that now blames has first flipped through the pages of astrology tomes and has sincerely examined the principles laid down therein. Even to criticize something with undisputed authority, one must first delve into its depths with

dedicated one-mindedness. Mathematics and astronomy rest at the very foundations of Indian astrology, and as the saying goes, 'numbers don't lie'. This amply points to the quantifiable nature of prediction of ultimate outcomes and consequently to astrology's empirical approach toward terrestrial life.

Rather than successful predictions, a more profound goal of astrology is to make us understand that every atom of our body is karmically connected to every other atom of this cosmos, just like our soul is but a tiny drop of the universal spirit, both of which are essentially the same stuff!!! This knowledge, once realised, should ideally make us humble and compassionate. Indian Jyotish aims to enlighten us about the nature of our past actions that have resulted in the present series of circumstances and ease the feeling of helplessness and despair. Let us then be a little more aware, every moment of our true potential, of being a little more godly and a little less human.





## TEAM TNV

The Margao town was clad with lighting, stalls of sweets, toys, and balloons on the most awaited Margao Dindi festival.

Margao celebrated its 108th year of Dindi. The streets of Margao were upbeat with people entering the town early evening for the all night celebration. The palanquin of lord Vitthal and Rakhumayee left from the Hari Mandir in the evening, which went around the town and stopped at all the temples and reached at dawn back to the Hari Mandir. Dindi Celebrations ended after the Gopal Kalo at dawn.

The Dindi festival is a dedicated celebration to Lord Shree Vitthal Rakhumayee and is being organized at Hari Mandir in Margao as early as from 1909. The Dindi of Hari Mandir is celebrated on

# Margao Dindi

the auspicious day of 'Kartiki Ekadashi' and the programs are on the lines of Mohotsav's of those at Pandharpur in Maharashtra. For Margao, the festival is the most waited after Chaturthi and Diwali and has now become an integral part of the culture of this town. On the Dindi night more than a thousands of people come to the town from all over Goa and enjoy the programs at all the temples nearby.

Looking at the ever-increasing popularity of the festival, elaborate arrangements were made for this year's Dindi celebrations.

On 19th of the month, the celebrations began in Hari Mandir and Vitthal Mandir with pomp and gaiety. On Dindi, there was a range of cultural programs at both the places and in Margao town as well. Shree Dambabalem Ghodem Cultural Association on the occasion of Margao Dindi Mohotsav organized 'All Goa Dindi Competition' at Shree Dambab Chowk, Nr. State Bank of India, Margao. Several Groups participated in the competition where a prize money of Rs. 31000 for the winner, Rs. 25000 for 2nd Prize, Rs. 20000 as 3rd Prize,

Rs.15000 as 4th Prize and Rs.10000 as 5th Prize along with Consolation Prize of Rs. 5,000 each for Dindi Pathak was awarded to winners.

Best Pakhwaz Vadak, Best Costume, Best Singer competition was also organized in addition to the 13th All Goa Akash Kandil, Fruit & Vegetable Carving Competition at Shree Dambab Chowk.

The Hari Mandir Devasthan Committee, which hosts the Palkhi and traditional Dindi Program, had organized a host of programs on the occasion of the 108th Dindi of Margao. Various singers performed in Margao from 28th of October after the religious programs at the temple. 5 nationally acclaimed classical singers performed on the Day of Dindi.

The 10th Yuva Sanjivani Dindi utsav 2017 on the Dindi day was also held at the Mahila Nutan School from 31st of November. The Comba was bustling with programs during the 3 days of celebration. Various cultural programmes including 'All Goa Rangoli Competition', a pharsical play "Baaylek

Duvaale aani Ghovaak Vokaare" also, a competition of making sweet or spicy dishes from corn was held followed by the Akash Kandil competition in the evening.

Yuva Sanjivani also organized a distinctive Talent Hunt competition on the 2nd November in Comba, which witnessed a presentation of a host of different skills arts ranging from Yogasanas, acting magic and other unique trades.

On the Dindi, night stalls of various products like khajje, Chaney bhikana, clothes, toys even ice cream were set up at the Abade Faria road where the people came shopped too. At the Margao center, the celebration for the people will end with a firework's show but for the temples and the Gods, the celebration ends as late as 3 o'clock in the morning when the Palanquin of the Hari Mandir meets at the Vitthal mandir in Comba that follows with Bhajan and Prasad.

The Daambabale Ghodem representative Former MLA of Fatorda Damu Naik said that they have been attempting to protect and improve the cultural legacy of the Margao Dindi and has urged the people to help them in the cause.

The President of the Harimandir Devasthan Suhas Kamat said "The year 108 and the number 108 reserves lot of reverence in the Hindu Mythology and we have attempted to have the new temple of the Hari mandir ready within some more months".





# HOROSCOPE

This fortnight is all about relationships. Read your in-depth monthly horoscope to see what that means for you.

## ARIES

MAR 21-APR 19

You will be more interested in family and love life rather than career. Be sure to cut down on your spending and save for the rainy day. Everything will work out in your favor provided you learn to work as a team with others.

## TAURUS

APR 20-MAY 20

Travel is on the cards for you. You will have an active social life and spend your time in socializing for work or pleasure. Do not indulge in excess of food or alcohol as this can spoil your health.

## GEMINI

MAY 21-JUN 20

You will be socially active with a busy professional life. Your love compatibility in relationships will be excellent which can even lead to the birth of a child. Finances will be favorable and you will even indulge in some expensive shopping.



## CANCER

JUL 21-JUL 22

You will be pulled in different directions. You don't know which path to take, what is right or wrong and are totally confused. Go slow on your decisions and you will see light at the end of the tunnel.

## LEO

JUL 23-AUG 22

You will be caught between commitments in personal and professional life. This might make you more anxious. You need to divert your mind to family and make your sexual life a little more stimulating. This is also a good month to apply Feng Shui tips for your home.

## VIRGO

AUG 23-SEP 22

You will be flexible and adaptable. Your good judgment will be important when it comes to making important financial decisions. This is also a favorable period for Virgo romance and relationships.



## LIBRA

SEP 23-OCT 22

You will be dominating, even though it is against their nature. Financial investments will prove to be profitable. Libra love relationships will be a little rough with misunderstanding between spouses.

## SCORPIO

OCT 23-NOV 21

It is a period of transformations for you. Remember to give equal importance to all aspects of your life. Your health will be excellent and your personal charm will get you new lovers.

## CAPRICORN

DEC 22-JAN 19

This is a period of emotional healing for you. It is a good idea to complete old projects and plan for the future instead of beginning new business deals.



## SAGITTARIUS

NOV 22-DEC 21

You will be spiritually inclined and interested in mystic ways of life. Career and finance will need to be studied thoroughly before you make any major decision.

## AQUARIUS

JAN 20-FEB 18

You will be a career-oriented month. Finances will improve as the month progresses. Health will be delicate and needs to be taken care of. The ambitious Aquarius personality will help you take on more challenges.

## PISCES

FEB 19-MAR 20

Professional growth can be expected though finances might be a little strained. Friendships will flourish though the same can't be said about romantic alliances.





# MUSEUM: A SHADE OR FADE

VINAYA WALAVALKAR-MANTRI

**M**useum as per defined by Merriam Webster's dictionary is, "an institution devoted to the procurement, care, study and display of objects of lasting interest or value." I recently decided to wander around the places I haven't seen nearby. To my curiosity, last week I came upon well known - The Archaeological Museum at Old Goa.

The moment I reached, the place attached me with its pleasant, charming vibes. There was a light greenish lawn with attractive yellow flowers. Watchman was at the gate to welcome and some people wondering around. The building had a very good taste of Portuguese architecture. At the description board, I read the museum was established in the year 1964. It also gave brief account of the antiquities displayed inside as well the instructions. Looking forward to a positive experience, I entered the museum building. My eyes were all stoic and the sculptures seemed to move me through the times when all this history was a present. It was astonishing to experience the feel of the place. It had magnificent sculptures, paintings, some weapons etc.

It was especially thrilling to see the sculpture of Luis Vaz de Camoes. In description, he was a great Portuguese poet. The sculpture was huge, dark and the dimmed yellow lights falling gradually over it amplified the magnanimity it upheld in that pose. Immersed into my thoughts in praise of the sculptor, I however got distracted. Some people around me were disrespectfully treating the statue just for the sake of a picture. Whereas, in the restrictions it was clearly mentioned that handling or clicking pictures was strictly prohibited. Looking around for some official who was responsible to take care of violation of rules from quite sometime now, I found no one. So in my polite



yet a bit blatant diction, I suggested them to follow the instructions as it was for all our good. Little did I know, to my surprise these people came back at me, taking the words very casually and making sheer fun out of it. I tried to keep my calm and moved away.

Later, I saw some stone structures of Gods, in various poses and forms. They depicted the ten incarnations of lord Vishnu according to information given. The next big thing I saw there was a map displayed on the shelf. It was that map which wrote the history of Goa. This map in detail showed the route by which the famous Vasco da Gama came to India. It is so appreciable of the explorers of ancient times who travelled world without any



satellites or GPS. Admiring intelligence and incredible navigational skills these ancient individuals possessed in those times, I was stunned.

Afterwards, I wondered around a place outside where a cannon was kept. It probably was from the times of war. Perhaps would have had been crucial during battle. I was just about to read the description but was taken aback. Some tourists were eating their tiffins in very close proximity with the cannon as if it were a picnic spot. Without following any sort of instructions, these people were almost harming the monuments that were meant to be respected. To top the fury, there wasn't even one government official or someone in charge again to report the mis happenings.

Museums defined as above is to be cared, protected and respected. It is the cornerstone of great Indian heritage we always love to wear with audacity. It is not all fault of the people. If there is not going to be anybody to make them understand rules or admonish them towards possible consequences, they will not think a bit to behave otherwise. Immorality cannot be justified but neither do negligibility. Ignorance

towards the responsibilities pertaining to sacred institution like museum by the archeological museum officials implies to the importance of culture that they have towards it. Museums are meant to preserve age-old masterpieces so that coming generations would know what it is like to be a great warrior, a sculptor or an artist for the nation. If government cannot act or put forward discipline to an inspiring place as such, how are we as a society, ever going to think about sculpting our children's future appropriately? How are they going to learn to respect the foundations that have made us so great today? How are we going to explore in us another Vasco da Gama?

Nowadays, Goa tourism is at its peak. So many tourists visit and love Goa for its beauty and artifacts. If this continues, chances are its going to loose its lustre. To refrain that from happening and preserving our heritage literally, Archeological museum must act towards its responsibilities. We should also consider being moral and a good citizen. Let's stand with integrity as our rich culture teaches us, staunch and powerful just like its sculptures but with our rules not against it.





# FERRYING GOA FOR AGES

TEAM TNV

The vintage ferryboat service in Goa, launched by the State's former colonial Portuguese government in the 50s, has managed to control the increasing vehicular traffic on Goan roads. Its popularity is such that these have also prominently featured in numerous movies like Dil Chahta Hai, Drishyam, Dhoom, Dear Zindagi and many more besides the regional cinemas in the West and South India.

Being country's unique transport system, it has caught many eyeballs as nearly 2.5 lakh people ply on around 39 ferries across 18 routes every single day. What's also unique about this age-old concept is that even vehicles are transported from one place to another in which two wheelers top the chart.

In a true Goen, Goenkar and Goenkarponn; each of these boats are given names of Goan villages, rivers, etc.

The records are interesting indeed but what now raises concern is safety of the commuters taking this boat service. The ageing boats have become a Centre of debate considering that the oldest are aged over three decades. Four ferryboats were included in the fleet in 1986 year, replacing some condemned ones. Subsequently, many were added substituting

the old ones but with the new passenger ferryboats now turning older, the Goa government through River and Navigation Department (RND) hasn't really thought for its replacement. The last procurement in 2012 year were named 'Wadi,' 'Vanxim' and 'Savoi Verem.'

The data indicates that to ensure the uniqueness is kept intact, the government has a heavy task ahead.

The officers defend stating the ferryboats do not have any age period to operate and neither its maintenance is difficult. "Unlike the vehicles on road, ferry boats don't have life period of 15 years or so. It only needs annual maintenance wherein the engines are overhauled and servicing is done routinely," said RND's senior official.

The department claims it hasn't felt the need to condemn the old boats except for three at the moment, which would be replaced with new boats by January 2018. These boats are being built at Dempo Engineering at Old Goa. Two more ferry boats 'Cumbarjua' and 'Canacona' will soon be condemned to be substituted with new ones, however no concrete date has yet been finalized.

But if all is well and fine then why do the ferryboats suffer technical problems? There have been incidents

## LIST OF SOME FERRYBOATS AND ITS PROCUREMENT YEAR

NAMES OF THE FERRY BOATS	YEAR OF PROCUREMENT
Tiswadi, Quepem, Sanguem, Mormugao	1986
Canacona	1987
Chandor, Vagator, Miramar, Britona	1988
Dudhsagar, Penha De Franca	1990
Harvalem, Aguada	1991
Chodan	1996
Curchorem, Zuari, Candolim, Betul, Cumbarjua, Sal, Keri, Dona Paula, Curtorim	1997
Colva, Divar	1999
Betim, Margao, Bandora, Madkaim, Piedade	2009
Durbat	2010
Wadi, Vanshim, Savoi Verem	2012

wherein it has stopped in the middle of the water route leaving hundreds of passengers stranded and at risk. The RND argues these are "once in a while" cases whilst making a comparison with accidents on roads. "Accidents on roads are common but there is hardly any debate whereas our ferry service is comparatively much better. There are isolated incidents of technical failures," he said adding that the boats have life saving apparatus like ring buoys and four life rafts in place for emergency. "These are enough to rescue over 100 passengers. The coxswain, two sailors and a technician on board each boat are qualified in life saving. At the time of recruitment they undergo an extensive training in Maritime School. They are also trained to use the life saving apparatus. Nobody should be scared or panicked," the officer added.

The question however

remains about technical faults, which fortunately is not very often but definitely a cause of worry. The RND reiterates that these are not due to the ageing of the boats. "If the boats were unfit, then the Captain of Ports Department (which is the registration authority) wouldn't give a fitness certificate during annual inspection," he added.

The CoP department has also confirmed that fitness certificate is granted/renewed only after thorough survey of the internal and external parts of the boats.

The RND officer went on to explain that a government-appointed committee decides about condemning the boats, each of which costs a whopping Rs. 1.75 crore approx. "If the boats are condemned one after the other, there would be an audit. These boats are very expensive and we don't want any allegations of corruption," the officer maintained adding,

"If the ferry boats are not fit, the surveyors would reject the renewal during annual inspection. The boats undergo yearly maintenance at our Marine Workshop. After an extensive inspection, the experts declare if it is sea worthy or not."

Justifying its service is reliable, another senior RND officer claimed that ferry service operate even during the late hours like 2am and begins its day at 5am daily. "Does any transport system operate during odd hours? Ferry service works round the clock for the public and for transporting vehicles and goods. There are even islands without road access, and this is where we come," he added.

"This service reduces the traffic load on roads and helps in saving fuel energy by utilizing the untapped water ways. RND was established during preliberation time and is still an important mode of transport for the Goans. It is a fact that vast spread inland water ways of Goa have been underutilized."

The department - declared as essential public utility service - claims it now wishes to focus on public transport which is core to its service mission, while identifying non-core activities such as fast ferry service across the important towns/cities for public, vehicles and goods. Ferry service from Panaji to Vasco has been identified as one of the viable development options for development of waterways.





# ORE TRANSPORTATION

A never-ending logjam between truck owners and mining companies



## TEAM TNV

Nearly thousands of truck operators, involved in transportation of iron ore, agitated and created ruckus at Codli mine of Sesa Goa Vedanta at Dabhal in Curchorem earlier this week. With the mining company rejecting the truck owners' demand for increased transportation charges as proposed by them, the situation at Codli turned tense as agitators stoned a truck and attacked a driver. Post Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar intervention, the transportation has now come to

standstill.

This is not a new scenario. Every mining season resumes with logjam between the truck owners and the mining firms over ore transportation rates. The never-ending issue has raised its head this season too, even as the iron ore production activities are yet to resume in full swing.

If one remembers truck owners' protest last year, it had turned ugly with several indulged in violence - had stoned trucks belonging to mining firms and had hurt workers. Their fight was against the Sesa Goa, the subsidy of Vedanta Resources- the only company that had resumed its operation to the fullest.

Over two month long protest was to hike the rates from Rs. 8 per tons per kilometers to Rs. 11.27 per tons per kilometers. However, after much tussle, a compromise was done at the rate of Rs. 11 per ton per kilometers. However, the truck owners are now demanding hike of Rs. 14 per ton per kms, which government and the mining firms have not agreed upon.

The Government is firm on its decision of

Rs. 2 hike in the iron ore transportation charges. As per the new rates, trucks will be paid Rs. 12.50 per kms per tone for the first nine kilometers, Rs. 12 per kms per tons between 10kms to 20kms and Rs. 11.50 kms per ton for above 20 kms.

As many as 8000 trucks with global positioning system (GPS) are registered with the Directorate of Mines and Geology to ferry 20 million tons of ore at a transportation rate of Rs. 12.50 per ton per kilometers- the business that is not profitable to this sector. On top, the trucker owners are also facing the heat of taxation in form of road tax.

"What is the point in undertaking the business, when it is not profitable at all?? To top it, the mining companies have indulged trucks outside the jurisdiction. We are asking for hike in rates as there need to be some profit for us too," Rakesh Gawas, truck owner from Codli said.

"We will not allow transportation activities to resume in the area until our demands are met. We too want the industry to resume in full scale but not at the cost of our livelihood," Vithoba Parab, yet another truck owner, reacts.

On the other hand, the mining companies are also crying out about poor business, which is yet to pick up for the season.

"The Business is not profitable to us also. Our production limit is restricted to six-seven million tons of ore annually and the entire extracted

quantity is not meant for export. And with declining international market prices along with taxation, we are left with not much profit," a Sesa Goa official explains.

"Truck operators seem to be biggest hurdle on the way of mining resumption. Just like us, they too need to have some patience. Industry is not at its best as it was earlier and we all need to understand that. We all need to work together," a mine owner added.

It is a known fact that the Goa's iron ore industry, which once ruled the international market like China is today, is reeling under serious crisis-right from declining market prices to losing out market to other low grade ore producing countries like Australia. There is profit, but not the kind it was during the boom period in 2010-11, 2011-12 where mining companies use to earn in millions and the truck owners revenue was nothing less than Rs. 1.5 lakhs per truck per month.

What is interesting is that, there is division within truck owners. While the North Goa Truck Owners Association (NGTOA) accepted the proposal, the South Goa Progressive Truck Owners Association (SGPTA) declined to accept the new rates while sticking to their demand of Rs. 14 per tons per kms.

The NGTOA has a valid point to raise here. They say, irrespective of what the rates are, at least let the mining business resume for the season, thus fetching little revenue for their livelihood.

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“What is important at this stage is mining activities to commence. We agree, that the business will not give us much profit but definitely little higher compared to the last season. Halting mining activities is not a solution to this problem,” NGTOA member said.

“Government has not accepted to our demand but has given some relief. We cannot keep trucks off road for long. We want some business and hence we have agreed to the government proposal,” they claim.

The SGPTA declined to accept the proposed rates demanding that they are firm on their decision for Rs. 14 per ton per kms. “We are not happy with the rates proposed. Also, government decision to allow only one truck per family is not acceptable. We don’t want any financial package; we want business for all trucks,” the association treasurer Cajetan Fernandes said.

“We will not allow any transportation to take place unless our demands are met. We are fighting for our rights. The fuel price has gone so high, the maintenance cost per truck is also huge as these trucks are old and were out of operation for quite some time. There is also payment to drivers, etc. Mining transportation is only our business,” Fernandes explains.

During the boom period between 2010-2012, as many as 22,000 trucks were ferrying ore from mining sites to jetties. Total 90 mining leases were in operation at that time extracting over 45-52 million tons of ore. Until

last season only 40 mines were in operation though, 68 had valid permissions.

A truck costs around Rs. 12-14 lakh, and EMI on the loans cost around Rs. 30,000 or so every month. The owner of the truck easily earns around Rs. 12,000-Rs. 18,000 a day for about 160-170 days. One truck use to have ten trips for a shorter distance while four trips for longer distance beyond 20 kms. After paying EMIs, the driver’s salary and the fuel costs, the truck owner makes Rs. 16-18 lakh a year. That is around Rs. 1.5 lakh a month per truck.

But today the business has nothing much to offer. The earning behind per truck per month is as low as Rs. 35,000-40,000, with trips per truck restricted to only 2-3. There are 18,000 trucks registered with the department for plying ore, but only 8,000 are engaged in the business.

“It is not possible to give business to all. Also, the rates proposed by the government are not bad. There is a hike of Rs. 2 per ton per kms. Government has to take into account all the aspects. The truck owners will have to understand the problem of the industry today rather than agitating,” MGP MLA from Sanvordem mining belt Deepak Pawaskar said.

In the State’s mining hotbed lies the tale of how this economic activity has always been riding on political interest. The truck owners are not very happy with the interference of the local politicians, who too are involved in the

transportation business. Right from former BJP MLAs Subhash Faldesai, Ganesh Gaonkar to sitting MLAs Nilesch Cabral, Pramod Sawant, MGP MLA Deepak Pawaskar, all are part of mining business, in form of transport contract.

All Goa Truck Owners Association president, Nilkant Gawas blamed the government for lack of negligence towards the mining belt but the locals are also irked over mining belt MLAs’ interference in business. Truck owners and locals allege that the government, in connivance with mining companies, is only interested after collecting revenue.

State Government has proposed to reintroduce the scheme providing financial package to those families, whose trucks fail to get business for the season. An amount of Rs. 8000 will be given per truck per family. Only one truck per family will be eligible to avail the benefit.

#### STEPS PROPOSED BY GOVT TO REGULATE TRANSPORTATION

- Cancellation of registration of trucks if found involved in violation of rules and creation of law and order situation
- One Truck per family to be allowed in the business
- No transportation during school hours
- 6.00am to 7.00pm with stoppage of

transportation from 7.30am to 8.30 am and from 1.00pm to 2.00pm

- Speed limit restricted to 40kms per hour

#### LEASE HOLDERS TO FACE ACTION; IF TRUCKS INVOLVED IN ACCIDENTAL DEATHS

Warning of punitive action against the lease holders, the DMG has announced to reduce the iron ore production quota by upto 1 lakh tons, if the truck ferrying the ore are indulge in accidental death.

Director of Mines Prasanna Acharya, while stressing upon need for zero tolerance to accident and accidental deaths due to mining transportation, has told the lease holders that in the ongoing season, not even a single death relating to transportation will be tolerated and punitive action will be initiated.

“There shall be reduction in ore quota allotted to any lease holder upto 1 lakh tons if any accidental death occurs during transportation of ore including the empty truck plying for ore extracted from such lease hold area,” Director said.

DMG has asked lease holders to deposit a sum of ten lakhs rupees within next two days for accidental deaths and Rs. five lakhs in case of serious injuries and Rs. one lakh of simple hurt- to be paid to the victim or the victim’s family.

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Gratitude and awareness goes a long way in life

## Jayashree Jain



### TEAM TNV

“People often feel surprised that I am an interior designer as well as a certified meditation facilitator. They might feel these are two different fields but to me it was an obvious choice because I am passionate about interior spaces, both inside and outside our body.” Jayashree Jain is an interior



designer by profession and work is Worship for her.

Before moving to Goa and starting up on her own, Jayashree has worked for award winning firms in Pune and Bangalore and now she has 11 years of experience in designing. She topped her batch at Jain school of interior design, Bangalore in 2006. She came to Goa just 2 years ago for a new beginning in life with great will and trust that Goa will embrace her too. Currently Jayashree has 10 projects across Goa, Many more in the pipeline, which itself is a testimony for her hard work and dedication towards her work.

Talking about her past she says “I had no friends or relatives in Goa to help me settle here! All I knew was

Goa felt Home and I followed my heart with immense trust. Yes, I know it was a scary decision. But it is so gratifying when I look back”.

Talking about her work she says, “all my projects and designs are customized to suit the clients and their needs. I try to express client and their stories through my designs. This is why each project is Unique & personal. I am grateful that I play a crucial part in fulfilling their lifelong dream of having a beautiful Home and am also humbled that they trust me with their hard-earned savings”.

For Jayashree, Success is not just a materialistic accumulation of wealth. It’s about the quality of life we live. The friends we make, the legacy we leave behind.

How authentic and truly did we live. Giving credits to her father for her success she says “from an early age, my father had immense trust in me, this somewhere taught me to be independent to take my own decisions and be responsible for them.” she also adds “my gurus have also played a big role in my life, as they have shown me the path and have given me the courage and strength to walk it and live it.”

She doesn’t believe in competition. One has to do best to their capacity. Only then it is justified. To be 100% in everything we do is all that is needed. An alignment of Body, Mind & Heart in everything that we are doing brings nothing but best results.

She says, “To live life one needs a lot of courage. Life is meant to be lived in its Totality, with gratitude for what we have, this Body, parents, education, opportunities, breath and everything else. Gratitude and awareness goes a long way in life. Also, remember to have fun along the way. Then everything is in place”!

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# A COLLECTION OF WONDERS

## GUNWANTI PARASTE

**S**. R. Bhat and his son Punit is not a new face to the city of Pune. In fact their hobby of collecting antique has put Pune on the world map. The Limca Record Holder duo spoke to The Neutral View revealing the inspiration behind their passion. S R Bhat is a retired industrialist and former organizing Secretary of Women's Hockey Association of Maharashtra and Punit is currently working for a construction firm as Head - Marketing and Sales.

Both of them together has the collection comprising of over 5,000 coins, 200 Ganesha Idols in metal, 525 Sealed Miniature Liquor bottles and over 1200 Lapel Pins, all of whom are having antique value.

The story of duo is interesting. When Mr. S. R. Bhat went abroad for the first time in 1995 to U.S.A., he wanted some memento of the places he visited. The normal items such as replica's of The Statue of Liberty or places of interest printed on saucers were either too cumbersome to carry or there was a fear of breakage during travel.

That is when he happened to see a lapel pin depicting New York and he bought it. Later when he visited other places like Florida, San

Francisco, Las Vegas etc., he found pins of those places and also those of Universal Studios, Walt Disney World etc.

This continued when he visited numerous European countries a few years later. In 1996 when he visited U.S.A. again just before the Atlanta Olympics, he bought a rare set of all Olympic Lapel pins from 1896-1996 and thus began his interest in collecting pins related to sports and sporting events in which his son Punit is also taking keen interest.

As far as coins are concerned, the collection of coins started when his mother gave him the first coin issued when India got it's independence in 1947 and the previous British India coins which had now gone out of circulation. His collection comprises of World Coin Sets, Ancient India, Mughal India, Maratha Coins, Tipu Sultan Coins, Republic India Coins, Coin sets issued by the RBI, Princely state coins, Bi-metal coins, Wildlife Coins and World Coins.

His fascination for collecting Ganesha Idols also started at a young age when he brought home an idol made of clay. His mother advised him not to keep the clay idol since it could break and be considered inauspicious so instead gave

him a small idol made of Brass. He got an opportunity to travel all over India once his career started and he made it a point to bring home an idol made of any metal which was peculiar to that particular state/place. His collection comprises of Ganesha in various postures – sitting, standing, sleeping, and crawling or with numerous hands (2, 4, 6, 8, 21 etc.) and heads (2, 3, 4, etc.) or from various places such as from Nepal, Cambodia. This collection is now of 212 idols. He also has Ganesha carved out of semi-precious stones, corals and Ganesha depicted on a currency note.

It was but natural for Punit to follow footsteps of his father. Punit's collection of Miniature Liquor Bottles started nearly 30 years ago when a visiting relative gifted him a miniature bottle of Johnnie Walker, Black Label that he had got on the airline on his way home. Thereafter, whenever his parents or he himself traveled abroad or had friends and relatives visiting them from abroad they would always bring a few bottles to add to his collection.

These bottles, which earlier used to

be primarily made of glass, have now been replaced with plastic as part of security and cost cutting measures taken up by airlines.

The duo take special care to ensure that the collection is left untouched. Lapel pins are put up in specially made places in the house and have been classified neatly.

Each coin is placed in a coin holder made of cardboard and a cellophane portion through which the coin can be viewed and it does not get spoiled due to frequent touching. The coins in turn are put in a plastic folder which are made as per the coin holder size then this folder is put in a cloth folder that can be zipped up and carried safely.

Ganpati idols are placed all over the house - in cupboards, on shelves, in showcases etc. They just require frequent dusting for maintenance.

Duo said that all the collection is their favourite.

"Alike as you cannot have a favourite child, similarly all our collections are our favourites and each of them gives us equal joy and satisfaction", they said.

It's teamwork for father son duo. Bhat says," my son Punit helps me with sourcing coins by searching the Internet and finding dealers for recent releases. Similarly, for lapel pins he is always on the lookout for sporting events happening around the world and how we can source their lapel pins. For example, we already have in our possession 4 lapel pins of the Tokyo Olympics that is going to happen in the year 2020".

Bhat has a World coins collection, which comprises of at least one coin from each country totaling to 342 countries.

Punit is listed in the Limca Book of Records, 2005 for his collection of 231 Sealed Miniature Liquor bottles.

Since that time, his collection has now touched 525 bottles.

This collection comprises of various brands and varieties such as Whisky, Rum, Vodka, Wine, Liqueurs etc. in various shapes and sizes such as Golf Ball shape, house shape, bell shape, trumpet shape, bottle covered with sea shells etc.

This is not the end, duo wants to explore more in future. They have also started collecting Miniature Sheet Stamps of India. "Apart from this we just plan to add to our collections and no new collections is planned as of now", Punit said.

Bhat said, "for the sake of collection, apart from travelling extensively throughout India, between both of us, we have also visited USA, Europe, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Hong Kong, Egypt, Dubai, Mauritius and Kenya".





# PUNE TO GET BEST EXPERIENCE OF CRAFTS THROUGH DASTKARI HAATH SAMITI

Gunwanti Paraste

**This comes directly from the people who make it. The craft lovers of Pune who are eager to get their hand on the original piece of the culture expressed in India's crafts will now get an opportunity to make their dream come true. They can witness an exciting and vibrant collection of art, crafts and textile pulled from across India. They will be on display and sale at The Monalisa Kalagram, Next to Blossom Boulevard Building, Koregaon Park, Pune.**

**The Neutral View spoke to the organizers of this unique initiative. Dastakari Haat Craft Bazar promises to be a very festive, colorful event, which is full of innovative and newly designed crafts. Craftsmen from all over India will demonstrate their skills live to the visitors. It would be a learning experience for those who have never seen the product being crafted. There will be specially designed decor and daily performances of folk culture shows. We caught up with the organizers with few questions.**

## What is the exact background and history about Dastkari Haath Samiti?

It was in the year 1986 that craft expert Jaya Jaitley took up the initiative to form Dastakari Haat Samiti. It grew from a humble beginning to such a venture that is now well recognized across the world. The concept of this creative exhibition is also a brainchild of President and Founder of the Dastkari Haat Samiti – Ms. Jaya Jaitly. She is a well-known social and political activist, who has worked for four decades to sustain crafts and give status and dignity to people doing crafts. She is one of the pioneers of the present craft movement in the country.

## For which purpose this Samiti was established?

The Dastkari Haat Samiti is a national association of crafts people founded in 1986. It has over 1500 members from all states of India in all craft

skills. It has conducted over 100 craft bazaars all over the country and has been invited to prestigious crafts programs in London, Oxford, Frankfurt, and Addis Ababa in Ethiopia for the second Africa-India Summit. It has conducted cultural and skill exchange projects between artisans of India and Pakistan, Vietnam, Thailand, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Nepal, Afghanistan, Bhutan and Bangladesh.

The Samiti has created artistic crafts maps of each state of the country, which became a major exhibition shown in many parts of India and abroad. It was later donated to the National Crafts Museum at Delhi. The maps form an art gallery at the Race Course Road Metro Station in New Delhi. Maps and their accessories are available for sale at the crafts bazaar.

## In presence situation how is the demand for handmade items?

We still need to create



awareness but yes the market for handicrafts is increasing. There is awareness amongst the people. They appreciate the final products because of their uniqueness. The situation is improving and exhibitions like this help to get more attention.

## Can you please elaborate about the festival?

During the exhibition there will be a display of new, innovative and exciting products developed out of Madhubani Art, wood and textiles, Gond Art, Bead jewellery, Kantha embroidery from West Bengal, Block prints, embroidery and weaving from Rajasthan, Chanderi and Maheshwari from Madhya Pradesh,

Banaras weaves and chicken embroidery from Uttar Pradesh, ceramics and pottery from Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, Linen sarees from West Bengal, silver jewellery Orissa and many more. You have to visit it to know about it.

## What has been the earning during last three years?

We are not concentrating much on the profit making as we want the artisans to earn. But we organized nine to ten big bazaars all across the country during last three years during which our turnover was around Rs. 45 crore.

## The artisans from how many states are participating in it?

We have been trying to rope in maximum number of artisans. We always feel that more is the variety we can offer better will be the experience to the visitors. At present, there are artisans from 22 states who are associated with us.

## What is so special about the festival?

It is not going to be the exhibition for the sake of it. There will be demonstration of crafts, performance by the

artists also, our traditional food would be offered to the visitors. The Dastkari Haat Samiti is very pleased to bring its best crafts people to Pune to show new developments and designs in crafts, and create a happy ambience at The Monalisa Kalagram. The Samiti will also have its own stall selling its exclusive artistic stationery, maps, and craft books.

## Which according to you, is the star attraction for the exhibition?

We usually feel that all the crafts are star performers as it all depends upon the choice of the person who visits the stall. But to mention one important craft one should not miss is Bamboo sarees from Gujarat, Bhandhani from Gujarat as well, Kashmiri carpet and Sanjhi art that will leave you mesmerized.

## Amongst all the States, which are the places from where the maximum artisans participate?

We have craftsman from different states. But the States of Gujarat and Rajasthan accounts for maximum of them. There is much awareness about the craftsman skill and its commercial exploitation in these states.



# WHEN WE HAVE A DREAM IT IS OUR DUTY TO FOLLOW IT : JASMINE AMONKAR

LAKSHMI BUDKE

Jasmine's passion for crochet began when she saw her neighbor's crochet collection. She became fascinated with the art and wanted to learn it, she fondly recalls, "my neighbor taught me my first crochet stitch and she also gifted me my first needle." She adds, "Since then on, I began observing people practicing crochet and see how they did the stitches and created patterns. To do this I used to wait at the bus stop for hours to see the ladies do crochet and then rush home to try them out, I also used to keep doing trial errors, kept trying on new stitches and discovered new patterns; but all this was just a hobby."

Jasmine has done her masters in geology and before starting up on her own, jasmine worked for a firm for over 11 years. But even though she was working, her love for crochet never died, she used to keep doing her crochet patterns and kept learning. Finally, there was a time when she decided to take her talent seriously and put it to good use.

She then quit her job and began focusing on crochet. When asked about coaching in crochet she replied, "I don't have any formal coaching in crochet as such and if we go to see Goa, it unfortunately has no academy that reaches this art!

Internet she says, has proved to be a good teacher for her. She used to watch a lot of videos where she not only learnt the Indian patterns but also a lot of international patterns too. This access to global designs helped her to improve and innovate her skill and create new patterns.

Jasmine recalls her initial days when she used to attend groups, she found it especially difficult to convince people that the crochet can be used to make a variety of things apart from just clichéd table cloths etc., it also has such a wide horizon for invention and improvements. Recollecting one incident, where she was told by one of the elderly members of a crochet group that, "a crochet purse was impossible!" to which Jasmine laughs and says "I

had to show her my work, for her to believe me!"

For Jasmine it was always how she could incorporate crochet in everyday items. She didn't want to limit the use of crochet to the traditional cliché items. That is how she began experimenting and launched a wide range of products ranging from pen drive tags to purses under the brand name Avya. Her specialties are bookmarks, but she can also up your fashion game with crochet shawls wallets and other accessories. Her Facebook page 'Avya' portrays all her work and she also takes customized orders.

Discussing her start up problems she says, it was very difficult for her to find vendors to sell her products and convincing them of its utility. Hence, she spent two entire years on market research and feedback from the people. After all the research she started Avya in May 2017 and has been doing tremendously well since. She says that, the uniqueness of her products helped her to make her mark in the market. Social media has proved to be a massive help in promoting her work and also word of mouth.

Talking about Goa Go Womana, she tells us, "I was introduced to Goa Go Womana through social media and I loved their concept. It has also helped me to showcase my work to a wider database of ladies and provided me a chance to help out many other women who were following their dreams in whatever way I could."

She is always packed with orders but she doesn't let her work stop her from enjoying her personal life, she gives equal amount of attention to her family as well.

She proudly says that, if it weren't for her brother and his efforts to push her to take crochet seriously, she wouldn't have been able to start Avya. She says "my brother has been

a constant support in my life, he helped me in every step along the way. Avya is as much his baby as much as it is mine."

She also praises her son, who is just 5 years old but she is always surprised by how understanding he is at this tender age because she mentions, "he always knows when to give me time for my work and is very careful that he doesn't disturb his mamma; he understands what

crochet means to me." Apart from that she also thanks her family for having that immense trust and faith in her.

A message she sends out to us is that, we need to dream first to do anything. And when we have a dream it is our duty to follow it with everything we have got. After all, time once gone will never return! Be a wise to smartly utilize it.





# PLAN YOUR DAY

**PRITESH NAIK**

In today's world, life has become hectic and we find ourselves struggling against time trying to meet deadlines. No matter what professions you are in or even for that matter if you are a student, planning your day in advance is the need of modern times. Knowing how to plan your day makes a massive difference to what you achieve and how you feel about it. If you want to make the most of your day, planning it properly is a must. But how do you do that?

Most of us have planned some goals in life. Some for the long term and some for the shorter run but all this need to be planned on chunk of days. For the start, you have to plan your upcoming day that will eventually help you achieve your longer goals. Before you can plan your day, you need to know the availability of time. When planning each day you need to work around your regular activities.

Many time management experts have advised planning of tasks the night before or

whenever you get time or even when the work arrives. Given something to do that doesn't genuinely merit a same day response, put it on your list for the next day that you think you'll have some time for.

Many scheduled tasks and events tend to be organized on a seven-day basis, so use a week planner to help you decide your task for a week. Once you know what you have to do, taking a few minutes to organize what to do, when to do it, and for how long, is an essential exercise for knowing how to plan your day.

This takes practice and a degree of self-discipline particularly when you start a task and get into the flow with it. If you want to keep going with it, you have to decide whether or not it's worth the cost of the knock-on effect that comes with not doing the other things that have to be done. Sure, they can be shunted over to the next available day; but you'll end up with less time and more pressure.

Most days, you get things



to do. Organizing when to do something is fairly simple: Do it tomorrow, or on the next available day when you can. But what about those things in your life that won't get done this week? It makes sense to schedule your roles, goals and projects in the same way.

Do something about them each day when you have some unplanned time. Too much of unplanned time also implies that you are over liberal with your time and you need to give attention to important commitments and tasks yet on your list than just postponing it unnecessarily. Also, you will need to cut off some unimportant commitments and if you're not prepared to do that, you'll

have to schedule them on a weekly basis. At the end, doing at least something about everything is all that matters.

If you want to know how to plan your day, this is one the most important time management strategies you can learn. Whatever time you have available to get things done, plan to leave a percentage of it as 'open' time for the inevitable disruptions that will interrupt your day.

It takes time, trial and error before you get to the point at which you allow the optimum amount of buffer time. Too much means wasted time; too little creates stress and pressure. You will have to practice balance.

What happens when a

meeting or appointment goes on longer than anticipated?

This sort of thing happens all the time. When it does, you have two options: Cut it short or re-think your plans for the day.

If you choose to cut it short then you must be willing and able to be the one who draws things to a close. This may mean learning how to be assertive but it is one of the best ways to do if you want to know how to plan your day effectively. Otherwise, if events eat up your buffer time and beyond, you'll have to use whatever time is left to work on whatever needs doing first thus by rethinking your plans for the day. Everything else will have to either be done later or left until a next date.

Remember, anything planned is better than none. Always Prepare future lists as you go through each day. Decide the time required to give for each item on your task list based on the time available and urgency of each task. Make time each week for longer term roles, goals and projects. After all, "if you fail to plan, you'll plan to fail".

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# THE JIO EFFECT

**PALASH VOLVOIKAR**

India might be called the up and coming IT hub, but there is one thing that has stunted the expansion of the technological sector and that has been the trickery of Indian network and internet service providers. While unlimited call and data plans at an affordable rates and broadband without a fair usage policy enforced have been common practices in America and Europe for years now. On the contrary, Indian providers have been stringing us along for years by giving horrible price to performance ratios. However, the entry of the disruptive and public admired - Reliance Jio has caused a giant tectonic shift into the tariffs in India, sparking the biggest ever tariff war that we have ever seen, it seems like the change is here to stay.

To gain a little perspective, we have to go

back to the time when 2G was a thing and broadband meant 256 Kbps. This can be seen as the definitive beginning of Digital India as gradually 2G plans started becoming cheap and there was a small tariff war between operators trying to offer the most for the least amount of money. Speeds were terrible. Although, competition in the market was such that it meant the benefit of end users by giving them better and better value for money.

Then came 3G, by then broadband had gotten cheaper and faster. Since it was a new introduction and not everybody had a device compatible with it, service providers started nudging customers by giving lucrative offers bundled with new devices and offering 3G data plans for the same price as previous 2G data plans. After the initial hype died out, 3G plans started getting more and more expensive also did 2G. Unlimited calls became a rare occurrence

among the plans and SMS plans saw their prices soaring alongwith.

The market at this point had become quite anti-customer as we all had been overpaying for services which didn't even have the quality expected from them. 4G services saw a rollout that was a bit less enthusiastic as compared to the 3G rollout years ago. However, the services were being offered for the same price as that of existing 3G plans. The adaption was rather slow, especially because of expensive data plans and there was no sign of a price war between operators as well which meant that customers were paying quite a lot.

Just when we had lost all hopes, came Reliance Jio to the rescue!

Reliance Jio started off last year with a test run. Its SIM cards were really hard to get one's hands on. 4G unlimited for testing purposes at zero cost was indeed a lucrative offer and many people ran

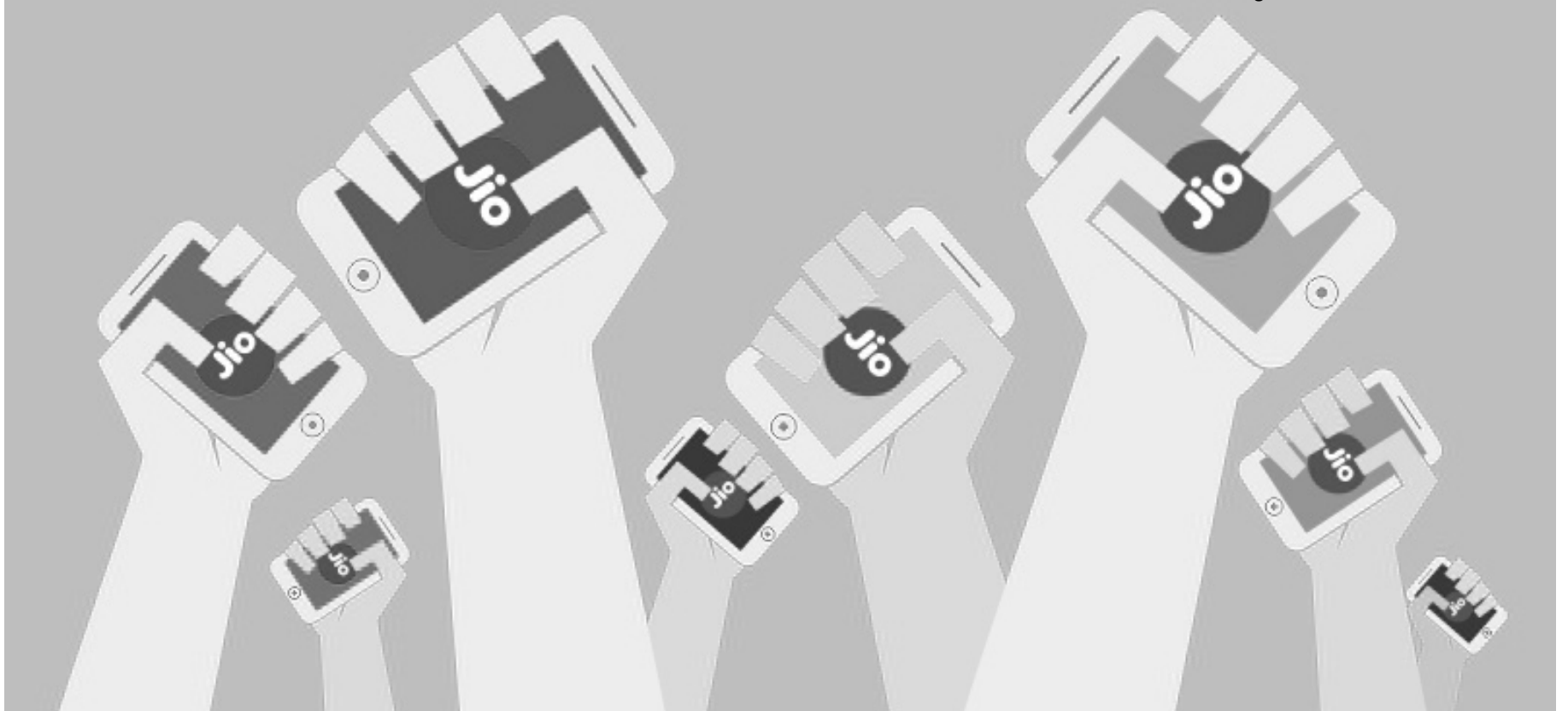
towards this offer. It wasn't still fully official. Other network providers had not been reacting as such but there was an obvious air of anticipation mixed with fear. Pretty soon, Jio made it official, slapped a fair usage policy of 1 GB a day, and started offering 25 times as much data for the money as any other operator in the country.

What Reliance Jio did was one of the most disruptive moves in any sector of the Indian market ever. It really boiled up the whole internet scene in India. Even after the full official rollout, Jio has been pushing the market by offering cashbacks and validity extensions that offers data with 2-3 times as much validity as the intended 28 days, which means that other operators have had themselves forced into a tariff war.

Nearly, every operator has been trying to match Jio's prices and speed. Vodafone and Idea even decided to merge their operations, a clever move

for survival. BSNL is trying hard to survive. Being in the toughest position and lacking 4G services and quality. Also, responding to every threat with a price cut on its mobile and broadband internet services. The only operator that is actually holding on well against Jio, is Airtel. It seems like the Jio wave will wipe out most of the smaller ones.

In the meantime, calls have become free more or less. Every operator has an unlimited calling plan and to match Jio's call quality. Airtel has begun deploying VoLTE across the country. Broadband has been seeing a price war too, with operators trying to offer more in anticipation of Jio's Fibre broadband rollout which is currently being tested in metros. Reliance Jio is responsible for connecting India like never before. Eventhough the prices if spike a little, moving forward, the revolution will always be remembered as the one that truly made India digital.





# SERVICE IS THE BACKBONE OF ANY INDUSTRY: PARESH THALY



## TEAM TNV

**A graduate in civil engineering from MIT College in Pune, Paresh Thaly, a young and energetic entrepreneur, and proprietor of Thaly TVS in Porvorim talks to team TNV about his journey.**

### **What was your inspiration for getting into the business field?**

Since my family has a background in business and my father was a timber merchant, I too decided to venture into the business line with real estate. However, I decided to venture into a new enterprise and explore new opportunities. I had a passion and interest in automobiles and I had an ideal location here in Porvorim which I always wanted to develop into a showroom and taking up a dealership. So, I started looking forward to taking up dealerships and then I tied up with TVS in the year 2014. It has been nearly three years that I have been associated with TVS.

### **How would you describe TVS as a brand?**

TVS is the third largest two-wheeler manufacturer in India after Hero and Honda. TVS provides a superior quality product and our main focus is on how to keep improving.

### **What is the market share of TVS?**

TVS is having 20% to 25% market share in two-wheelers. The segment is divided between the geared and the non-geared. In geared section Hero is leading while in non-geared section we are the second largest after Honda in Goa and also in India.

### **How would you comment on the recent trend of high-end bikes in Goa, such as Harley Davidson, Benelli, KTM etc.?**

TVS has recently tied up with BMW for manufacturing high performance and high-end bikes. The replica of BMW G310r is about to be launched shortly which is as of now named Akula or they might name it as Apache 310rr. Only a few TVS dealers are selected for keeping the BMW products, and from Goa region I have been selected to keep the BMW products on display for sale.

### **What are your future plans? Do you wish to venture into four-wheeler business as well?**

Four-wheeler, not so soon but I might continue with real estate. TVS is a long term proposition for me, it is not something that I would discontinue. We are leading and are growing at the rate of 50% annually, which is very satisfying.

### **Do you have any plans to expand?**

I am looking forward to starting another branch of Thaly Motors after sometime but recently I was busy in accommodating the BMW product so there was a huge investment. But yes, I do have plans to expand.

### **Being in this business all these years, what do you think is your biggest achievement?**

Within a short span of time Thaly TVS has been rated No. 1 by JD Powers for providing quality service to the customers. In Goa region we are leading TVS dealers and we are appreciated for our service to the customers. Our main focus is providing good service to the customers. Service is the backbone of any industry. Being appreciated by our customers for the service is my biggest achievement.

### **There are many youngsters who like to own two-wheelers as soon as they are eligible for obtaining a licence. And, road safety also being a popular topic in recent times, what message would you give for youngsters on road safety?**

I urge all our customers and youngsters who are riding two-wheelers, to ride safely and wear a helmet at all times. I would also urge the pillion rider to wear a helmet. If you have an urge to race please do it on race tracks and not on the roads. Don't ride under the influence of alcohol and be safe.





## WEIGHT TRAINING: THE BEST FORM OF EXERCISE FOR FAT LOSS



defining fitness...

### TARIQ MOHAMMAD

So now you know the secret to fat loss is revving up the BMR and the secret to revving up the BMR is to gain muscle also, the secret to gaining muscle is to tear it down at the cellular level through intense weight training. Thus, causing a need in the body to get stronger through an increase in muscle, then giving it sufficient muscle building nutrition (Protein). Additionally, giving sufficient recovery time for the repair work to complete itself & build a bigger muscle cell. Muscle being metabolically active, increases BMR with an increase in its quantum.

But all this always seems like too much of a long-term plan for fat loss. Majority of the gym goers

are looking for a short-term solution. They don't have the patience to wait for hypertrophy to eventually increase BMR to help them burn fat.

I have always considered weight training to be the finest available activity of choice for Fat Loss. This is not only due to the fact that weight training is the best tool for muscle gain but also because of its distinct property of AFTERBURN.

Let's just say you are convinced, that the only way to lose fat is to increase your BMR & you also agree about the only way to increase BMR is to increase muscle. Although, you might still not be happy about the time it is going to take to achieve that hypertrophy to cause an increase in BMR and to finally cause fat loss...I am glad to say that I have

good news for you & that is, weight training causes an immediate increase in BMR. You do not have to wait for Hypertrophy to occur to cause an increase in BMR.

You just have to cause micro trauma to the muscles through weight training to initiate the process of growth and repair. This very process of repair work is a great consumer of calories throughout the day, thus effectively bumping up the BMR immediately. Hence, after your intense weight training session ends, the body keeps burning calories at an accelerated rate throughout the day feeding the repair process. This is called as "After burn".

Thus increased muscle and the very process of increasing the muscle, both results in increase of BMR.

Since there is a very

little or no damage even micro trauma through cardiovascular aerobic exercise like running or walking on a treadmill, there is no after burn, therefore, there is no impact on BMR.

Any activity that has no impact on BMR & only concentrates on the amount of calories burnt during exercise can never be even considered to be an option for Fat loss. At best it will achieve weight loss, which is totally undesirable as it makes the body lose more muscle than fat, as a result effectively lowering BMR and setting the body up for future Fat gain. (This will happen only if cardio activity is overdone.)

Thus cardiovascular activities concentrate only on the amount of calories burnt during exercise & have no impact on calorie

burning through the day. Whereas, weight training has tremendous after burn properties that force the body to burn calories at an accelerated rate even after the cessation of the workout throughout the day while the body repairs the micro trauma caused by weight training.

Please note that cardiovascular activities are inferior to weight training only specifically when it comes to Fat loss & not per se. Cardiovascular aerobic type activities must be used on a regular basis specifically to build endurance & not to burn fat.

Hence when It Comes to Fat Loss Weight Training Rules, It Is indeed The Greatest Activity Known to humans for an Increase in BMR.



# PDAs ARE MACHINES FOR CORRUPTION

## YATISH NAIK

**GPCC's general secretary Yatish Naik was on Goa@9 show on GCTV powered by The Neutral View where he was interviewed by senior journalist Rupesh Samant**

**THE CONGRESS PARTY MANAGED TO WIN A TOTAL OF 17 SEATS IN THE 2017 ASSEMBLY POLLS. DO YOU THINK THAT THIS NUMBER WILL REDUCE?**

Not at all, Congress party is a people centric party. The party is fully supported by the people. The ideals of the party are well appreciated by people. Congress is not a kind of party that will

shrink or go down. We have emerged as the single largest party in the last assembly elections and the party will only keep growing.

**THERE ARE TWO ASPECTS - ONE IS THE PARTY IDEALS AND ANOTHER IS PARTY LEADERS. DO YOU THINK THAT IF THIS PARTY SUCCEEDS IT WILL BE BECAUSE OF ITS IDEALS AND IF IT FAILS IT WILL BE BECAUSE OF ITS LEADERS?**

No, I would not think like that. Our leaders, our ideals, our vision and our principles, all these aspects amalgamate well and help in the progress of the party as a whole. So, I don't see any weak link in this. It

is a part of process of growth. Our leaders, our ideology and our principles is what makes this party so beautiful and so acceptable to the people of Goa.

**THE CONGRESS PARTY RECENTLY CONDUCTED ORGANIZATIONAL ELECTIONS TO ELECT NORTH DISTRICT AND SOUTH DISTRICT PRESIDENTS, BUT THE DECISION TO APPOINT GPCC PRESIDENT IS RESTED WITH AICC PRESIDENT SONIA GANDHI. HOW DEMOCRATIC IS THAT?**

Our party is a national party, every state has a Congress unit. We are led by a person who has proven her capacity of leadership. So, we had a PCC meeting in which it was unanimously decided that the GPCC president would be appointed by AICC president Sonia Gandhi and vice-president Rahul Gandhi.

**DO YOU THINK THAT THERE IS INFIGHTING GOING ON WITHIN THE PARTY?**

Congress is a party which takes the views of everyone along. Everybody seats together and take a particular stand on issues. There is no dissent and there was never dissent. In Congress, we respect views of everybody and take everybody along in the process of decision making.

**IS CONGRESS PLAYING THE ROLE OF A GOOD OPPOSITION?**

We have got very senior legislators, we have got young faces, and we have some popular leaders as well.

Therefore, our legislature wing is an amalgamation of all types of people.

Our legislators have been pointing out the mistakes of the government. Our legislators have been showing the government where they are going wrong on so many issues.

**DO YOU THINK THAT YOU HAVE A LEADER OF OPPOSITION WHO IS FIT FOR THE JOB?**

Our leader of opposition is an MLA for fourth term. He is an experienced man and he is doing his best. He has been tackling the government on many issues. He is not just an able leader of opposition but also an able administrator.

**TALKING ABOUT PDAs, DO YOU THINK YOU REQUIRE SEPARATE PDAs FOR BAMBOLIM AND TALEIGAO?**

The present CM Manohar Parrikar has spoken a lot of things on PDAs. Time has proven that PDAs are nothing but machines for corruption. Can anyone direct me to what development work has PDA executed till date? People have realised the truth of PDAs. One alliance partner in the government demands PDA for certain areas, another alliance partner asks for two more PDAs. From this, one thing is clear, these PDAs have nothing to do with planning or development. These PDAs are being designed to suit political interest.

**MGP AND GOA FORWARD'S INFIGHTING HAS COME TO THE FORE RIGHT NOW. IS IT GOING TO HELP CONGRESS IN ANY WAY?**

BJP has manufactured numbers by manipulating them. There are desperate voices. It is a coalition of people who are ideologically opposite to each other. They have just come together for the lust of power, so that is what which is being exhibited. The fact is clear to the people that Congress is the only party that can give a stable and a secular government.

**THE 2019 LOK SABHA POLLS ARE COMING CLOSE. DO YOU THINK THE CONGRESS SHOULD GO ALONE AND CONTEST ON BOTH THE SEATS OR SHOULD THE PARTY TAKE HELP FROM OTHER PARTIES?**

As of today, Congress is emerging. We are a strong and vibrant party and we will only get robust with time. People are gravitating to the Congress even more and more in number. So, we will win both the seats of the Parliament, there is no doubt about it.





**SUNDARAM CHITRAMPAT**

Indian educationalists should understand that human brain cannot and will not expand like human belly when the brain is fed with truckloads of brain feed. Otherwise, India would produce more Nobel Prize winning Scientists, innovators, artists, economists, and you name it, more than any other race of humans in the world. Each individual's brain has each and every faculty that every other individual's brain has, is well-known a fact. Nevertheless, the performance of every department in each individual's brain is not the same. In one individual's brain, the section that helps him/her memorise whatever is fed into it may have larger storage capacity. At the same time the same individual's brain may not have other functions as bright as the memory chip but many others. For instance, one who does not have great Memorising power although will have great talent in fine arts or playing chess or something else.

Without savvying the fundamentals of how the brain functions differently in different individuals, compiling general curricula for all children to learn an assortment of subjects defeats the very fundamentals of education. I'm not an idiot to believe it is practical to detect particular talent in each child before his/her educational process was commenced. Of course there is no panacea for all relevant issues connected with education. A practically feasible modern educational system be chalked out by sifting through all the pros

and cons of it to arrive at a more talent-focused study system. In order to develop a suitable and fertile environment for the young to grow unhindered and become professionals who could transform India to a land of health, wealth and happiness.

Why each child is given compulsory education? It is for the basic need to assist a child to develop his/her innate potential to be productive in his/her adult career/life. By assisting to make an individual successful, the society too benefits a lot from his/her excellence as individuals. For example, a child who has great talent in singing be encouraged to develop it to her highest acme. Compelling

**LEAVE THOSE KIDS ALONE**

such a child to learn subjects he/she has no potential to excel is a waste of resources. More than the loss due to lack in finding resources, an individual's inherent gift is destroyed by an educational system that has been set up in the name of nurturing talent

to make him/her an asset of the state.

Whereas, Indian school curricula creation is entrusted in the hands of Academicians, who are not themselves endowed with creativity and imagination, as a result handicap millions of talented young. They are individuals with degrees in particular subjects thus get selected by the PSC to choose subjects to be taught at each standard from LKG to standard 12. It means children are made slaves to study subjects in which they have no interest to learn. As a matter of fact therefore, under duress majority of them cram up uninterested subjects to score marks. By this method of learning inherent talent in a child is suppressed and snuffed. Parents do not have any choice to send their children to a different mode of learning, as all schools have replication of the very same chassis.

Yes, each youngster needs to be taught his/her mother tongue thoroughly until he/she completes 12 years of learning. India being a subcontinent with myriads of languages we need a common language to interact with each other. That language too needs to be taught for entire 12 years. Also, rest of all remaining subjects be taught only until 8th standard compulsorily. During these 10 years, that includes 2 years of KG study, a child's learning capacity level and

interests can be assessed by properly trained people who have specialized knowledge in assessing and detecting a child's talent and interests. The teachers in India aren't trained to make assessments of children's mettle hidden in them. They are just like all other members of the society who would insist on learning certain subjects which help children secure a professional education, which is lucrative only in terms of money and position!

From class 9 onward, a pupil will only be taught the subject(s) that he/she has interest in learning except the mother tongue and common language.

By adopting a system like this children who are interested in science go for higher education in their chosen field. Those who are good in sports and games go to institutes where they can get trained to be big achievers. Children who are creative in fine arts will be sent to educational centres where such talent could be fine-tuned.

Children and state will gain a lot from such a well-thought educational system. Youngsters wouldn't waste their valuable time learning subjects in which they can never excel. Some may choose vocational learning in areas where they have interest, or like it, but most importantly everyone will opt for something that suits him/her. While, state exchequer can as well save 1000's of crores of rupees from not expending money on children who cannot benefit from it.





# The Foolish Sage



Once upon a time, there was a sage called Deva Sharma who lived in a temple in the outskirts of a town.

He was widely known and respected. People would visit him, and offer him with gifts, food, money and garments to seek his blessings. The gifts that he did not need for himself, he would sell off, and got rich on the proceeds.

And by nature, he trusted nobody.

He never trusted anybody. So, he kept all his money in a bag which he carried under his arm all the time. He would not part with the bag for a single moment.

One day, a swindler came across the sage, and he became sure that the bag this holy man was so possessive of, must surely contain a lot of treasure.

He planned on stealing the bag from the sage, but could not think of a way to do so. He thought, "I cannot make a hole in the temple wall, or jump over the high gates. But I can charm him with sweet words to accept me as his disciple."

He wondered, "If I can stay with him as a disciple, I can win his confidence. When I get an opportunity, I will rob him, and leave this place."

Having planned so, the swindler approached the holy man with reverence, "Om Namah Shivaya! (I bow before Lord Shiva, the God of Destruction)"

With these words, he fell on the sage's feet and said, "O Guruji, Please guide me to the right path of life. I am fed-up with life, and want to seek peace."

The sage kindly replied, "My son, I will surely guide you. You are blessed because you have come to me to seek peace at this young age".

This was the opportunity the swindler was seeking, and he at once

touched the feet of the sage for blessings, "O Guruji, please accept me as your disciple. I will do whatever you ask me to do."

The sage accepted the swindler as his disciple, but only on a condition. He said, "A holy man as me is recommended to spend the night alone without company. This helps me to meditate also. So, you will not be allowed to enter the temple at night. You will sleep in a hut at the gate of the temple."

The swindler agreed, "I shall willingly serve your wishes in every way that you ask me to."

In the evening, the sage initiated the rituals and formally took the swindler as his disciple.

The swindler in return proved himself an obedient disciple. He massaged his hands and feet, washed his feet, and helped him with all the rituals along with cleaning the temple. Although the sage was happy with his disciple, the swindler could not gain enough confidence for the sage to part with his bag when he was around.

As days passed by, the swindler started getting frustrated, "He does not trust me enough to leave the bag with me. I can gain access to the bag if I kill him with a knife or feed him with poison."

When he was thinking all this, the swindler saw a young boy visit the sage. He was the son of one of the sage's followers. He invited the sage, "O Guruji, I have come here personally to invite you to our house for the ceremony of sacred thread. Please accept the invitation to sanctify the ceremony with your kind presence."

The sage accepted the invitation, and after some time started off for the town with the swindler. On the way, they came across a river, where the sage thought of relieving himself. He folded the bagful of money in his robe. He asked his disciple to look after it, "My child, Look after the robe until I return".

This was the opportunity that the swindler was seeking all the while.

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As soon as the sage went behind the bushes, the swindler ran away with the bagful of money.

When the sage returned, he did not find the disciple around but found his robe lying on the ground. Shocked and anxious, he peered inside only to find his bag of money was gone.

At once he knew what had happened, and began to shout, "Oh. Where are you, you rascal. You have robbed me."

The sage then started trailing the swindler's footsteps, but he reached town. He knew he will not be able to catch hold of him. He stayed the night in town to return empty-handed to his temple next morning.

The wise indeed say:

Do not be taken in by the sweet words of a swindler.







## (Un)faithfully Yours (Part 2)

CHARLENE FARRELL

In the last issue, a few marriage related concerns were highlighted and discussed. We ended trying to figure out how obsolete this institution has turned out to be and questioned ourselves about how important it was to try and save this institution. This time, I would like to go a bit further down this winding road trying to find solutions and ideas to help us not give up on one of the most sacred bonds known to mankind. A very important aspect of married life in my opinion, is LUST. The way I look at a successful relationship is by acknowledging the acronym "LUST" which stands for the four cornerstones, namely Love, Understanding, Support and Trust. When a union is built on LUST there is very little that can tear it apart.

Yes, love is the first stone on which relationships stand, but prior to the process of falling in love comes the oh so wonderful phase of attraction, where things are butterflies,

**Life is wrought with ups and downs and in both good times and bad, what every human being needs to propel them forward, are the stronger crutches of support that a loving, understanding spouse can provide. When there is support, nothing is impossible. A lot of issues crop up because of misunderstandings.**

swooning and waiting for the object of your attraction to pass a quick glance in your direction. When we decide that it is the time to settle down, there has to be at least some amount of attraction. Even today, there are plenty of people who believe that attraction can come later and all that matters is a presence of physical and mental match. How do I know this? I have plenty of village elders who make it a point to tell me, it is time that I settle down. It doesn't matter if I'm not attracted to the poor candidate and vice versa, that will come in time they say. However I say, even if it's a 5% attraction, it is necessary. Plants grow from seeds and attraction here is the seed from which plant of love can grow. Even though it is the 21st century, you will be surprised at the number of people who still bank on others to find them their matches. True it is, love takes time to grow and it is great how with time, it can turn into a raging fire. Love

is however, much beyond than two just gravitating toward each other. Love encompasses compromise, sacrifice, care, joy, warmth, patience, kindness and very importantly, respect. This tiny four letter word is the first corner stone because within it lies all this, topped with a sprinkle of passion. For years, writers, poets, artists and all types of creative beings have been singing, painting and writing about love. Someone also sang 'All you need is love', but we all know that is not the whole truth.

The second corner stone on which a stable structure of marriage can be built is Understanding. In any situation that includes more than a person, understanding is an essential ingredient. Every individual is unique and thus, have their own ideas, ideals, views and habits. In order to be able to accept these attributes of another, it is important to understand the importance of them. In a marriage, individuals marry much more than just a

person. To a marriage, each partner carries with them their own set of habits, behaviours, likes, and dislikes also an extended family. Treating all these new entrants into your life with understanding will go a long way to build a stronger foundation.

As the foundation grows stronger still, so in steps the strong shoulders of support. Life is wrought with ups and downs and in both good times and bad, what every human being needs to propel them forward, are the stronger crutches of support that a loving, understanding spouse can provide. When there is support, nothing is impossible. A lot of issues crop up because of misunderstandings. Imagine striking out the mis by just allowing understanding to lead the way.

And finally, the most important. The final stone that secures this structure, is Trust!! Trust is built by a constant process of loyalty, commitment and faith. A very common reason for the breakup of marriages today, is infidelity. Honest, clear communications, expressing truth about needs of feelings and wants are the best weapon a strong couple can use in the face of adversity. Marriage like every other institution is worth saving. What we also need to be mindful of is the fact that many a times, kids are involved in the mess that a broken marriage leaves behind. No child ought to go through the uncertainty of stability, an environment that is unhappy or the void an absent parent leaves behind. In all that is being said, both partners need to work equally to maintain the stability and to ensure the strength of their foundation solid enough to match the vows of 'Till death do us part'. For in applause, there are two hands that are needed to make a difference, in marriage as well, there are two hearts, two lives and two minds that can make a conscious effort to work together and overcome any obstacle thereby celebrating even the tiniest of their joys.



## KHADIM INDIA LIMITED LAUNCHED ITS IPO



### DOMNICK RODRIGUES

Footwear giant Khadim India Limited launched its IPO -- from November 2 to November 6 Rs 500 million and Offer for sale of upto 6,574,093 shares -- priced at Rs 745 to Rs 750 per share.

Highlighting Khadim's beginnings, Siddhartha Roy Burman, CMD, described his journey from grassroot level to become a "street-smart, street-fighter businessman" and opening of his first Khadim outlet in Kolkata in 1981.

"Today, after BATA, Khadim's is the second-largest footwear retailer in India. Besides, it also is the largest footwear retail franchisee network in fiscal 2016," he said, adding that by June 30, 2017, Khadim posted Rs 621 crore business alongside operating 853 branded exclusive retail stores across 23 states, with their core business objective being "Fashion for Everyone" and establishing an identity as an 'affordable fashion' brand.

Noting that the branded footwear market is expected

to grow at 20@CAGR and domestic footwear retail at 15@CAGR, he said Khadim's surveyed fashion trends across the domestic and international markets, while catering to lower and middle income customers in metros, Tier I to Tier III cities in India.

To a question, he said the company posted a loss in 2015 due to it being a bad year for industry. "We were taken off guard with fashion and even festive seasons being affected where sales were flat and margins took a hit," he added.

## THE KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES COMMISSION (KVIC) IS ON A "HONEY MISSION"

The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is on a "Honey Mission" with focus on distributing over one lakh "bee boxes" this year to farmers, especially those affected by drought and other problems. Vinai Kumar Saxena, chairman, KVIC, said around 10 bee boxes would be given to each farmer with training at a cost of Rs 6,000 per box that will be discounted to Rs 1,000 per box.

He said besides collecting honey, such farmers would greatly benefit from collection of "bee venom" as well, which is priced at Rs 1.5 crore per kg and is used in treating diseases like cancer etc. "Each box generates 8-10 grams of bee venom. Also, the bees ensuring pollination of crops



(thus benefiting farmers), honey export and jobs for farmers, while protecting the environment," he said while pointing out that "wild honey" is in demand due to non-pollution though illegal burning of wild bees hives posed problems.

750 adivasis have been trained so far in using required equipment in climbing trees for honey. "We have a bee box distribution chart for the entire country with capacity for one crore boxes, while having 12 lakh boxes at present," said Saxena.

॥ श्री गणेशाय नमः ॥



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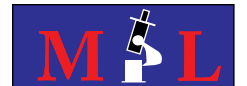
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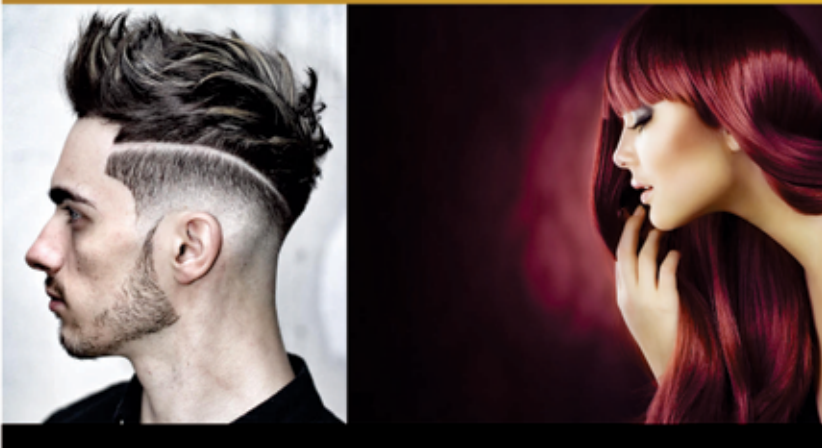
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