

The Neutral View

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**The Feel of a
Dhaba: Punjabi
food in Porvorim**

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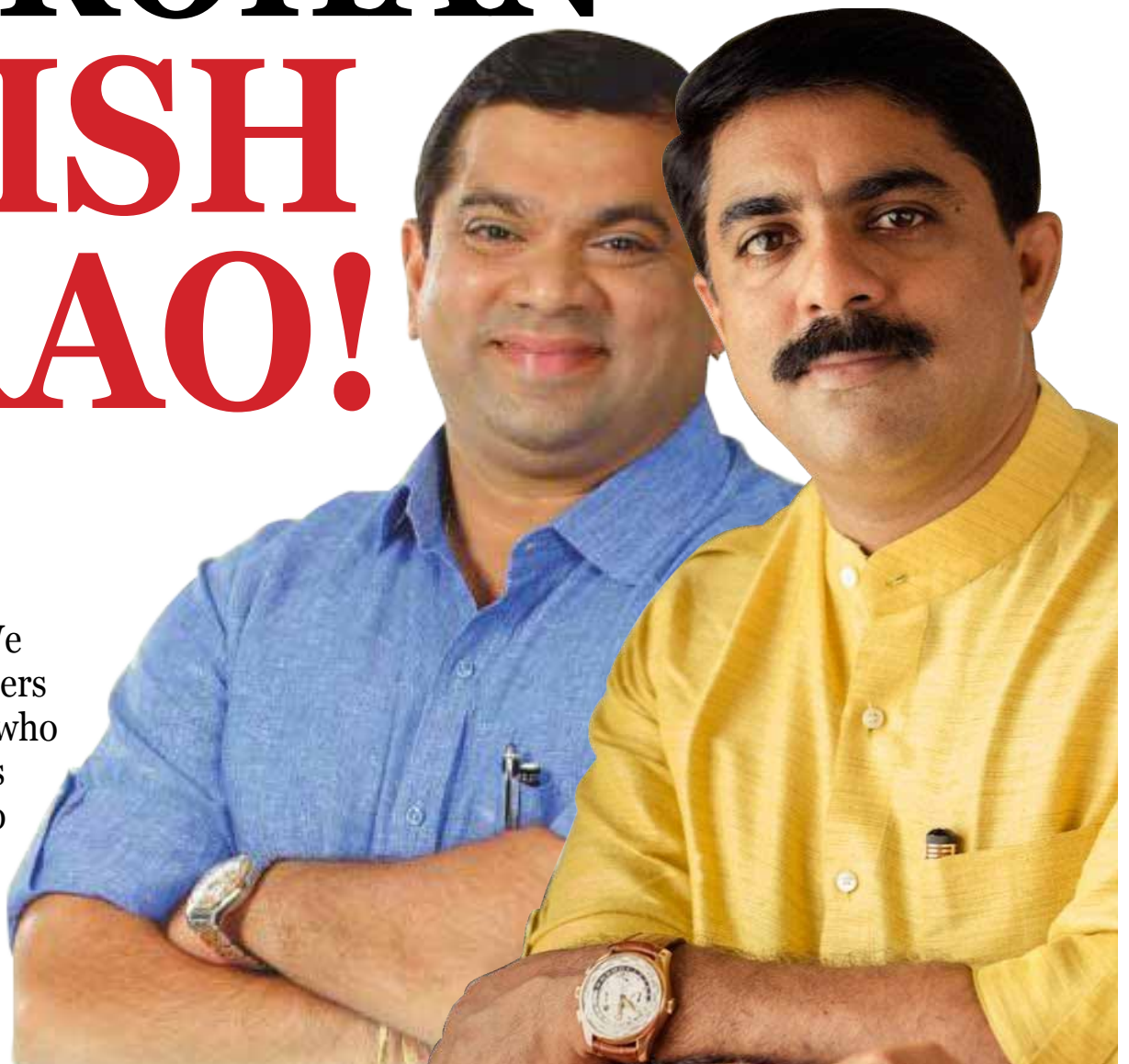
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**SUMIT NAIK: SPORTS
AMBASSADOR OF TNV**

VIJAY-ROHAN STYLISH PATRAO!

We have heard their political statements, but they are also well known for their style statements. We take a closer look at our new ministers Rohan Khaunte and Vijai Sardesai who have not only fascinated youngsters with their classy looks but have also managed to catch the eye of Goa's ace fashion designer, Monty Sally.



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Embrace The Digital Future

5 HOT TRENDS IN IT



Cloud Computing

This is the practice of using a network of remote servers hosted on the Internet to store, manage and process data. Cloud computing offers 3 types of broad services – Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS), Platform as a Service (PaaS) and Software as a Service (SaaS). Some of the advantages of Cloud computing are that it reduces the IT infrastructure cost of the company and promotes the concept of visualization, which enables server and storage device to be utilized across the organization. Cloud computing makes maintenance of software and hardware easier as installation is not required on each end-user's computer. Cloud is the new style of elastically scalable, self-service computing, and both internal applications and external applications will be built on this new style. While network and bandwidth costs may continue to favour apps that use the intelligence and storage of the client device effectively, coordination and management will be based in the cloud. Disadvantages of Cloud computing are issues concerning privacy, compliance, security, legal, abuse and IT governance.

MANGIRISH SALELKAR

The world is increasingly becoming an intelligent, digitally enabled mesh of people, things and services. Technology will be embedded in everything in the digital business of the future, and ordinary people will experience a digitally-enabled world where the lines between what is real and what is digital blur. Let's take a look at the top 8 emerging technologies for the digital future:

Continued mobile pervasiveness

Continued improvements in anytime, anywhere, any device access to data and services will continue to drive the need for better mobile apps and experiences, and the use of personal devices for work purposes. Not only will this dictate the need for better service and app design and delivery, and more intelligent approaches to Bring Your Own Device, but also the need to consider the security implications of mobility such as data segregation issues – with personal and business data and applications isolated from each other on the same device.

3D Printing

Worldwide shipments of 3D printers are expected to grow 98 percent in 2015, followed by a doubling of unit shipments in 2016. 3D printing will reach a tipping point over the next three years as the market for relatively low-cost 3D printing devices continues to grow rapidly and industrial use expands significantly. New industrial, biomedical and consumer applications will continue to demonstrate that 3D printing is a real, viable and cost-effective means to reduce costs through improved designs, streamlined prototyping and short-run manufacturing.



Big data

Big data as a concept is ever evolving as the capacity to mine structured, semi structured and unstructured data increases. In 2014, organizations were making more informed business decisions and becoming more intelligent as they interacted with their customers. More sophisticated 'recommendation engines' now anticipate users' interests more accurately for services such as Netflix, Amazon and Google. Further, credit reference agencies have been using big data to inform on lending decisions by developing the algorithms used to generate credit ratings. Retail, logistics and budget planning have all seen significant advancement last year due to greater business intelligence.



Web-Scale IT

Web-scale IT is a pattern of global-class computing that delivers the capabilities of large cloud service providers within an enterprise IT setting. More organizations will begin thinking, acting and building applications and infrastructure like Web giants such as Amazon, Google and Facebook. Web-scale IT does not happen immediately, but will evolve over time as commercial hardware platforms embrace the new models and as cloud-optimized and software-defined approaches reach the mainstream. The first step toward the Web-scale IT future for many organizations should be DevOps – bringing development and operations together in a coordinated way to drive rapid, continuous incremental development of applications and services.

The Internet of Things (IoT)

Of late there has been a rapid increase in IoT solutions being deployed to advance business intelligence. ABI Research reported a 20 percent increase in IoT connected devices in 2014 from 2013. This year, Cisco predicts there will be 25 billion connected devices, which will double to 50 billion by 2020. Information Age suggests IoT will revolutionise business by allowing companies to improve value propositions, engage with customers on levels previously unavailable and build entirely new revenue streams. Investment in IoT has mainly come from the IT and telecoms industry, which will naturally benefit from the increase in data generated and application capabilities for mobile devices. In 2015, spectators predict investment in IoT will increase outside this industry. The retail industry is one sector in particular that is looking to tap into sensor data generated via wearable technology to provide highly targeted products and services to their customers. As businesses look to IoT technologies to provide more insight, there is an ever-increasing demand for analysts capable of transforming IoT data into actionable business intelligence.



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The Feel of a Dhaba: Punjabi food in Porvorim

SHEELA JAYWANT

This restaurant opened in its new avatar with a bang, quite literally, with a drums session. A very un-happening place has been converted into something that comes alive by transporting a bit of Punjab to Goa with woven-rope 'khaats' to sit on, models of colourful vehicles and two paintings of dancing 'sirdars' on either side of the door. Inside, too, the very bright hues look good. There is a dhaba feel to it, as the name suggests, in an urbanized way. Although there is a Chinese section in the menu, possibly to cater to customer tastes, 'Urban Turban' sounds like a place where you eat only Punjabi. Buss.

The staff was attentive, not intrusive, and comfortingly so. The time taken for serving the order was about 30 minutes, and the food came piping hot, freshly cooked. The salad was slightly limp, though. After many, many years, I ate a truly Punjabi meal, not the made-somewhere-else sort. Even the chicken felt like it was raised near the Sutlej or Beas.

The starters had a choice of seven items, all non-vegetarian, each priced at less than Rs 400.

As would be expected from a cuisine like this one, the words chicken or murg or mutton had the following suffixes: -masala, -makhani, -kadhai, -tikka, -tawa, -handi, -saagwala, -keemawala, -do pyaaza, -dumka, -mussallam. To be really different, they should try adding some asli-Punjabi home-cooked stuff like stuffed tunday or kareley, dry urad daal, or red pumpkin cooked lightly and sprinkled with aamchur. Of that later.

The meat we ordered was tender and gently spiced. It was cooked in ghee, not oil, which made a difference to the texture of the gravy. The naans



and rotis were crisp as we desired, thin and flaky, flavoured with the wood-coal-ash of the mud tandoor that we saw at the entrance. With a dash of butter... aah. Nice! There were enough medium-sized meat pieces to make us feel paisa vasool.

The tandoori chicken, according to the Sikh couple we were with, passed muster with flying colours, crisp without, tender within. The fried fish (Punjabi/Amritsari style), was a fresh change from our Goan stuff; a bit spicy for personal taste, but that's subjective, no?

For paneer-lovers, this place beckons. I wish, though, that the chef had thought beyond cauliflower-carrot-bean combinations and included local vegetables which could be lightly tossed to accompany the rich curries.

The puris and the cholle were also carefully made and served well too. A far cry from the way some places slop over thin fluid with bits of channa floating in it, in under-sized bowls.

Since the husband has a 'must have' fetish for simple yellow daal, we ordered that. Cooked and mashed to perfection, seasoned just so, spiced

correctly. I hope they can maintain the standard. Nothing like a perfectly made daal to know whether those manning the choolas know and love their jobs.

Dum ka Murg and Murg Mussallam is available only over the weekends, on Saturdays and Sundays.

Baloo told me that someday soon they would be open for breakfast. That's something I'm looking forward to: say, mooli parathas with a pickle on the side, washed down with a thick, sweet lassi. I'm waiting for that.

The aside: I don't know why restaurants serve water in sealed plastic bottles. The norm should be filtered water, safe to drink. Only, and only if someone insists on the former should it be provided.

Grading: Must try at least once, you're likely to go back for more. We certainly are, especially as we've lived in Punjab and found the food here authentic. Urban Turban does home delivery within a kilometre's radius. There is a minimum order involved. Recommended.

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The writer is a senior columnist & food blogger

SERVES

Punjabi and Chinese food, the former being its USP. You can see the tandoor at the entrance, adding to the colourful drama of the place.

HOW TO GET THERE

About 1.25 km from the Porvorim circle going towards Calangute or about 5 km if you're coming from the Calangute side, from the Saligao circle. It's slightly away from the bustling shopping area.

CONTACT

(91) 8446016022 (Chef Baloo) or (Vijay Latwal) 8446600222- email: latwal@rediffmail.com

TIMINGS

1200 to 2400 hrs, open all days.

PRICES

The bar license is on the way. The lemon juice with soda suited us, though on neighbouring tables we found people drinking milk-shakes alongside aerated drinks. Perhaps to encourage their children to eat and drink healthy. Anyway, without drinks, a meal for two is possible for Rs 800 or less. Portions are enough for two persons with average appetites. With three other persons, I have had a meal with mutton roghan josh, tandoori chicken and rotis, without dessert, for about Rs 400 per head. Onion salad and roasted papad (the edges were a bit raw) came on the side, free.

PARKING

By the side of the main CHOGM road, not an issue at all.

PEOPLE INVOLVED

I met the head chef, Ms Baloo, who is quite a hands-on person. She has experience of running another restaurant in Dharamsala (Himachal) and a catering business.



'BABA RE BABA', WHAT VISHWAJIT DID WAS UNPREDICTABLE TILL MARCH 11

As more than a thousand people from Valpoi flooded the streets of Panaji earlier this month, there was something unusual happening. The news of Vishwajit Rane joining the BJP was already an old story, but to see it happen so quickly, was something unbelievable. But that's what Goa's politics has come to right now.

Vishwajit's introduction to politics was through his father, Pratapsingh Rane, the uncrowned king of Sattari, who is known for his classy style, no non-sense behaviour and marathon experience in running the State. 'Khashe', as he is known in this area, commands a lot of respect.

Then came Vishwajit. The current young generation in Sattari is witness to the growth of Vishwajit Rane in politics. Maybe that is the reason why they identify themselves with him. Vishwajit has a huge fan following.

Though Vishwajit entered politics as Rane's son, within no time he managed to capture the pulse of the people there, who don't have much demands except for wanting that their basic necessities be provided. But Vishwajit gave them more than what they expected. The most important being his direct connect with the people, going beyond just being 'Khashe.'

Walking through the villages during his election campaigning, people were so thankful to him, just for arriving in their

homes and drinking a glass of water sitting on the plastic chair on their cow-dung coated flooring. He listened to their problems and many a times brought solutions for them.

While all this happened, Vishwajit symbolized the Congress party in this constituency. There came a time during the 2017 election that Vishwajit had to canvass for his father in Poriem constituency. The reach of this Congress leader grew up to Bicholim and Mayem constituencies. Surprisingly though, he had not much say in Sanquelim.

And now back in April 2017, the month which starts with April Fool Day, we saw Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar and Vishwajit Rane rubbing shoulders with each other. It is the time for Valpoi to get saffronised. Junior Rane is now a BJP leader with each of his posters inevitably sporting the 'Lotus' symbol, while the 'Hand' has disappeared.

For the 2017 polls, Vishwajit polled 70 per cent of the total votes. It is almost impossible to dissect as to how many of these votes are his personal and what share Congress has. The upcoming by-election will surely showcase that division, but the fact remains that Valpoi voted anti-BJP.

Those who have been closely following politics in Valpoi constituency know that this constituency was once upon a time a BJP fiefdom which gave leaders like Narahari Haldankar to the State Legislative Assembly. But the influence of Rane has completely wiped out the BJP influence in this area.

Experts who are analyzing the trends, patterns, decisions and accidents in Goa's politics are yet to understand what Manohar Parrikar is really trying to achieve by inducting Vishwajit into the BJP and into the State cabinet. From the outside, it looks like the BJP wants to capture all of Sattari through Vishwajit, including the Poriem constituency. But is this the only motive?

Another reason why Vishwajit is currently in the BJP is to ensure that the Parrikar-led government survives its full term. The fear of alliance partners deserting might be playing on the mind of Parrikar. With Vishwajit in, BJP's tally will go to 14 if he gets through the by-election. This will give little more muscle to Parrikar, who will himself have to get elected in some or other constituency to retain the post of CM.

There are strong rumours that Pratapsingh will quit Congress and Parrikar will contest from Poriem constituency, which is the safest seat for him. But this sounds a little impossible as Rane would not like to hand over his bastion to a non-Rane and non-family leader.

Just as we have been doing all this while, we have to keep aside our thinking cap and watch what is going to happen. It's just a wait of another couple of months, as Parrikar will have to display the cards he has currently kept close to his chest.

The Congress party has already pressed Valpoi by-poll mode. Party leaders are scouting for the right candidate to take Vishwajit head-on. AAP is yet to pronounce whether they are going to contest in Valpoi or not. Their candidate Ashish Kanekar has joined Congress. For AAP, the first task would be to find a proper candidate who will not lose his deposit.

Other parties are insignificant in this constituency. Goa Forward and MGP are likely to support Vishwajit in Valpoi as they are part of the coalition government. Otherwise also, Vishwajit was part of the team led by Vijai Sardesai during the last tenure. What the team spoke then need not be repeated.

The season of election is going to continue for Goa. Now immediately we will have Panchayat polls, and after that by-elections, followed by Lok Sabha elections. So for the next two to three years the polls will be part of our daily routine. The state will go under the 'code of conduct' often.

Vishwajit has already hit the ground running and will camp in his constituency till the by-election. The main plank on which he is trying to convince voters is the development of the constituency. We have to see whether the people buy his contention, but looking at his popularity, it is unlikely he is going to face any major trouble. His arch-rival – the BJP – is with him, but it is not clear whether local BJP cadres will support him in the constituency.

Another factor, the Parrikar magic, will also play a vital role in this constituency. The Parrikar fan following will help Vishwajit to increase his vote share. Though it is not prudent to predict anything right now, by and large the by-poll will not be a very difficult task for Vishwajit to win.



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

STARTING FROM 15TH MAY TO 2ND JUNE

PINKY TRIPATHI'S PRIVATE TUTORIALS opens a new venture in GOA for TEFL (Teach English as a foreign language) and TESOL certificate course in association with ACT. This course is a ticket for you to travel and teach aboard. It's a 3 week course with Practise teaching in GOA and With Placement Assistance Abroad by Act is Asian countries.

Qualification required: Basic English 12th pass

The trainer for this course is Pinky Tripathi herself who is in partnership with ACT and has stood 1st in the TEFL course in Bangkok branch.

She has her own tutorials which is famous for activity based learning. She is also being awarded in Goa by former Miss Universe Sushmita Sen for here excellent contribution in the field of education. Also awarded as 'THE RISING STAR OF INDIA' by ASEAN submit Bangkok.

The tutorials based in Mumbai has 3 branches as it's known for it's personality development activities like Renaissance Annual Day

Her unique center PTEC that's Pinky Tripathi English club has done wonders in Green Meadows School in Goa, this club is to groom the over all personality of the child by teaching innovatively

Successful program of "Walk and Talk"; I love Vagator Town similar to her participation in Spain; "Vaughtntown"

Applications by foreigners as volunteers staying in goa for May month is welcomed..

To know more about the various summer camp programmes held in may for adults and children for dance. Drama, poem, storytelling, debate, library outlets.

Contact : 9967576138/ 8879511162



TEAM TNV

Believe it or not! For Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar the reins of power always come bundled with some major turmoil. Be it the iron-ore mining industry disaster in 2012 or the ongoing liquor ban crisis, Parrikar's sarkar has always been marked with 'panvoti' than 'parivartan'.

One may recall that within six months of taking charge in 2012, Parrikar had to face the biggest ever challenge in the form of the Justice M B Shah Commission report on illegal mining, which exposed a Rs 35000 crore scam in Goa and termed the entire activity as illegal. The report that nailed two former Congress Chief Ministers was a timely opportunity for Parrikar to take 'credit' for suspending the decades-old illegal activity, but he did not foresee its aftermath. The Supreme Court intervention, further closure of mines and lakhs of people being rendered jobless with huge liabilities were the stunning consequences of that report.

A similar situation is now unfolding in 2017. After initially ignoring the Supreme Court's December 15, 2016 order banning sale of liquor within 500 meters of State and National highways owing to the election mood, the Parrikar-led coalition government now finds itself on the back foot and helpless. Though a review petition is the need of the hour, the Government is dragging its feet on the same, asking the over 3000 odd affected parties to wait for another two to three months.

From April 1st the State and National highways passing through the coastal state of Goa went dry, with state authorities going full steam to implement the Supreme Court 'liquor ban' order. Licences of as many as 3200 liquor serving outlets have not been renewed by the Government, a move which is going to have serious multiple implications. It will affect the livelihood of thousands of people depending on this business, and also have a negative impact on the tourism industry and cause a further revenue drop for the State treasury.

The bars, liquor vendors, restaurants, star hotels, taverns and small pubs located within 500 meters of the highways have stopped serving alcohol to their customers, as a result of which people are turning their back to these places, especially restaurants and hotels, even for food. Vasco town has been hit the most by the Apex Court verdict.

The nature of Goa's topography and geography makes it one of the hardest hit small states, due to the Supreme Court's December 15, 2016 order (revised on March 31). The liquor

DRY DAYS AHEAD?

traders in the State are already agitated and are looking to Parrikar to protect their earning and livelihood.

Parrikar has assured the traders that the Government would try and save at least one-third of these outlets and give others an option to shift or dispose their stocks beyond the 500 meters set by the court and see that the livelihood of the affected parties is not compromised. After studying the revised SC order, the Government has decided to renew licenses of 1000 liquor outlets located beyond 220 meters of the highway – those in the municipality and village areas.

In the case of the remaining 2200-odd outlets, the Government is exploring the possibility of relocating them and allowing them to sell their stock at an alternate location.

After losing out on an opportunity to file a review petition in the SC to consider Goa as a special case and seek relaxation in line with states like Meghalaya and Sikkim, the Government has now announced it will file a writ petition, but only in the next two or three months.

"The Supreme Court revised judgment which came on March 31 was a black day for the liquor industry in Goa. It has spelt doom for over thousands of families depending on this business. As all know, Goa is a well-known destination, where tourists come to consume cheap and good quality liquor. It is an age-old business and the only source of earning for many," the All Goa Liquor Traders Association President Dattaprasad Naik said.

"Now, Government is our only



hope. Filing of review petition before the Court at the earliest is the only solution. Or it will have to de-notify the State highways or allow us to relocate," he said.

Speaking to the media, Parrikar said that his Government is working out modalities to help the affected parties. As per the existing excise laws, the bar and liquor store owners are allowed to shift their unsold stock to new premises; but unfortunately it has not received any applications for the same.

"For now, immediately we will start the renewal process of 1000 liquor outlets located beyond 220 meters of highways in the municipal areas. The excise department will collect the data and undertake renewals," Chief Minister said.

In a bid to provide relief to the balance 2200 affected outlets, the State government has worked out a strategy which includes allowing the impacted outlets to shift their premises outside 500 metres or 220 metres as applicable according to their local bodies. "Government will not charge any additional fee for such establishments which apply to shift their premises outside 500 metres or 220 metres," he said. "They will be permitted to shift to new premises, provided it (premises) fits into the criteria proposed by Excise rules and regulations," the Chief Minister added.

One of the most popular tourism destinations in the country, Goa is well known for its liberal liquor regime, where alcohol is taxed less as compared to other states. There are over 11000 licensed liquor vendors in the state, including bar and restaurant licence holders, and more than 3000 such outlets are facing the axe following the apex court order.

The enforcement of the highway liquor ban has not only come as a major blow to thousands of families dependent on this business but for the tourism industry too, which was slowly coming back to shape from the effect of demonetisation. The stakeholders

feature

are now fearing a dip in tourist footfalls.

"The impact on the tourism industry is going to be immense. There are a number of people who like to sit for a drink after a hard day's work. We predict a poor forthcoming tourism season if the situation continues," president of Travel and Tourism Association of Goa (TTAG) Savio Messias said.

"We offer holiday packages to the people. Also, the tourists who visit the State, come on their own dream package – that is sightseeing, eating and drinking. Even if one part of this package goes missing, then the tourists are reluctant to visit that place. This is the current situation in Goa," he stated.

As the State enters the new financial year, the closure of 3000 liquor outlets is going to further poke holes in the State exchequers. Already reeling under a financial crisis, the dreams of the State which was looking to generate revenue through excise have been shattered by the SC verdict.

Sources in the finance department confirm that the revenue from excise department had touched the 325 crore mark in 2015-16, which was almost 25 percent higher compared to the previous year. "In 2016-17 also it is expected to be somewhere between 350-400 crores. But then with demonetisation, it may be less also," sources said adding "with non-renewal of 3000-odd licenses, which is almost 35 percent of the total outlets, there would be substantial decline in revenue for the new financial year."

All eyes are now set on Manohar Parrikar – on what is he going to do to get the State and its people out of this turmoil.

WHAT THE SC ORDER STATES

The apex court, by its December 15, 2016 order, had banned the sale of liquor within 500 metres on either side of State and National highway. A bench comprising Chief Justice Jagdish Singh Khehar, Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice L Nageswara Rao, however, relaxed the ban by reducing it to 220 metres in respect of municipal or local bodies with a population of 20000 or less along the highways, while also exempting Sikkim and Meghalaya from the above restrictions.

WHO ARE AFFECTED

The verdict affects 789 wine shops, all of which are retail units within 500 meters limit. In addition to this, around 2289 bars and restaurants that include iconic and high-end restaurants are now forced to withdraw liquor from their menus. Of these, there are 1000 outlets which can be saved directly as they fall beyond 220 meters from the highways in the municipal areas.

TEAM TNV

? Is it true that you were kept completely in the dark regarding Goa Forward Party (GFP)'s decision to align with BJP?

To align with BJP was an option put forth along with other alternatives like sitting in the opposition, which was also scouted as an option. But both these were never considered as the options to be realized.

GFP core strategy was to keep the BJP out of power in 2017 and later to work for strengthening the regional political alternative for Goa and Goans in the future. The mandate of Goemkars was also against the BJP as it was reduced to 13. The vote which enabled the GFP candidates to win in Siolim and Saligao was a vote against the BJP. The voters of the two constituencies wanted to unseat the two BJP ministers and they found that they could achieve their objective if they rally behind GFP candidates. In Fatorda, it was a positive vote for Vijai Sardesai as he stood and espoused the cause of all Goemkars and expressed not only the anti-BJP sentiments but also anti-Parrikar stand at all forums.

Leaving aside the 'bhakts' of BJP, a chunk of the otherwise regular BJP voters stood with the opposition this time. Considering all of the above, it was imperative for the GFP to work to form a non-BJP formation first. I therefore maintain that there was no consultation and discussion. At most, you can say, it was intimation.

? Vijai Sardesai, in an interview with The Neutral View has claimed that you have been managed by somebody with whom you are having dinner nowadays. Your comments?

Presuming that what you are saying is true and that you are not trying to put words in my mouth, I can say that people who know me, and there are many, (laughs) know that I cannot be managed. I had dinner with many but with none that Vijai insinuates. I have not done any political activity on the sly. I do not wish to comment on such unsubstantiated claims. Vijai Sardesai could be trying to draw comfort for the self when the media confronts him with my resignation from the GFP through such gimmickry. Is dinner more lucrative than the opportunity of being a part of the ruling dispensation?

You ask this to any other GFP member on the State Executive because I am confident that this claim of Vijai Sardesai is seconded by none.

Anyway, this claim is not worth a comment. I spent very eventful 18 months with Vijai Sardesai right from the formation stage of GFP and I would

WE HAVE DITCHED OURSELVES: TIMBLE



like to cherish these good memories.

? Do you think the GFP's decision is opportunistic in nature? Is it driven by a few people who want to be in power?

I would not call it opportunistic as GFP was in an enviable position with multiple opportunities. No major party could have been in power by keeping the GFP out.

It pains me to say that this is a betrayal of people of Goa. When the Congress party ditched the GFP i.e. during pre-poll, I called it a betrayal of Goem and Goemkars. However, the mandate of the Goans is supreme, which should have been respected and honoured. GFP should share power as we want to develop the party and make it the ultimate choice of Goans. However, I would call the present decision of the three legislators penny wise and pound foolish. We have ditched ourselves. We have disproved the hope that Goa should be ruled by a Goemkar party in the years to come. After having said this, let me also add that I would be sincerely happy if I am proved wrong.

? Why did you choose to resign from the post of the President of GFP yet staying with the party as a member?

From the hasty decision and without scouting other alternatives respecting the electoral mandate, it was evident that I was not the President of the party at all. How could I claim to be the President when I found that I was

actually not? So, my resignation is just a technical certification of what I was i.e. I was not. (Laughs)

At that stage, I thought that there is no harm to continue as a member as I have been a part of Goa Forward movement. I can also take pride in the fact that I have played a key role in designing the Vision, Mission, Key performance areas and agendas of the GFP for Youth and Women. I also weighed the negative effect on the organization and particularly on some youth who claim to have joined GFP because of my presence.

? What were the reasons that finally compelled you to resign as a member?

As time went by, I did not get positive signs. Everyone seemed to be busy to justify rather than discuss and respect dissent. The feeling that I would no longer add value to the GFP caught me like fever. Further, my "Goemkarponn" which is liberalism, dissent, diversity and freedom of expression is non-negotiable for me. I did not want to embarrass the GFP as I cannot afford to remain silent on the major coalition partner of the party in the present government.

? Do you think GFP's decision to align with BJP is wrong?

This is not a difficult question to answer. I do not think a single GFP member in private conversation admits that the decision to align with BJP is right and proper. I consider it a betrayal

of people of Goa. For GFP, it's political(allow me to keep the blank); it may turn out to be good for the three legislators cum ministers.

? What went wrong between GFP and Congress?

All went wrong pre-poll. I do not think anything went wrong post-results. I doubt whether we tried. The question of going wrong comes later.

? Do you think a pre-poll alliance with Congress would have changed the current situation?

Definitely. A proper pre-poll alliance with mutual respect would have sent a stronger signal to the electorate.

? Do you feel that GFP has lost the faith of people? Will GFP survive in the long run?

No comments as the Goa Forward movement is dear to me, I may be out of the GFP. I do not wish to demotivate and drown expectations. People in control today would know better.

? Do you feel GFP has gone against its principles and motives by taking this decision to align with BJP?

Do I need to answer this again? As a student of Criminology, I would put this under a new category of "white-collar crimes without punishment". Media and political researchers may call this politics.

? Many had cautioned you against joining politics. Do you have any regrets?

Absolutely no regrets. I lived and enjoyed every moment I worked for GFP. When I joined, my friends cautioned. However, it was the right decision. You buy shares of a company when the prices are low, isn't it?

I still continue to receive congratulations and salutes for quitting. But, you don't quit a Company when it is ready to declare dividend, do you?

But, I have no regrets for both my decisions. In fact, I have earned the love and respect of all Goemkars.

? What next for Prabhakar Timble?

Prabhakar Timble will continue as before in politics, education and social issues. For me, nothing has changed. I am there, as before, to struggle for Goa, Goemkar & Goemkarponn.

INCREASING HUMAN-BISON CONFLICTS IN GOA

RAJENDRA KERKAR

The state animal of Goa – the majestic gaur – has been fighting a life and death battle in various areas in the state, ever since the man-bison conflict escalated in Goa. Cases of bison intruding into agricultural and horticultural fields are continuously on the rise. However the State Forest Department as well as other concerned government authorities have not taken the problem seriously and no proper plan of scientific management of the natural habitat and mitigation measures have been undertaken. This has resulted in intensified human – bison conflicts in different parts of Goa.

In October 2014, the Animal Rescue Squad of Bicholim and forest officials of Pernem range found two Indian bison killed by electrocution. In Alorna there are increasing cases of bison entering agricultural fields and destroying seasonal crops.

Alorna has a reserve forest area that was a natural habitat for wild animals. However increasing mining activities in nearby Kalane of Maharashtra and the destruction and encroachment of forests have forced the bison to enter cultivated fields and graze on crops in the Hankhane, Alorna and Ibrampur areas.

Killing bison with electrocution is not something new in Goa. In September 2003 seven bison were killed at a farm in Bela-Sancorda of Dharbandora. The owner had installed live wires that were 950 metres in length and of 240 volts capacity on the farm, to prevent wild animals from devouring pineapples, chickoo, papaya, banana and other fruit plantations on the property. In August 2004 skeletal remains of two bison were unearthed at Caranzol-Collem by the forest department.

The bison or gaurs are becoming more and more aggressive and destructive on account of the increasing struggle for fodder, water and the natural habitat on the whole.

These herbivorous animals, the largest among the bovines in India, were mostly found on the plateaus where the seasonal grasses, bushes, roots and shoots provided them the necessary food and fodder. But today these grassy plateaus are considered to be wastelands and are used on a large scale for developmental purposes.

On March 29, it was revealed that Yenu Soliyekar in Shivade near Sacorda



village of Dharbandora was attacked and killed by a bison. The Sub-Divisional Forest Officer Pradip Shet Verenkar along with the Deputy Conservator of Forests of North Goa, Kuldip Sharma visited the site. Verekar said, "The place where the corpse of Yenu Soliyekar was lying is just 1.5 km away from the Bondla Wildlife Sanctuary. The bison and other wild animals have been repeatedly visiting areas of horticultural plantation in search of food, fodder and water. There is a possibility that the bison might have attacked Yenu when disturbances were caused while going to the waterholes."

On April 2, the residents of Mayem in Bicholim informed the Range Forest Officer of Keri, Geerish Bailudkar, of a bison attack on three persons. Umesh Durbhatkar was riding a scooter along with his wife Vaishali and daughter Urvarshi near Mayem lake, when the bison collided with them. Umesh and his daughter suffered injuries. Urvarshi's leg got fractured and she was hospitalized for further treatment. Bailudkar says, "The villagers of Mayem informed us that they had sighted the bison near the road where work of beautification of Mayem lake is in progress. When I met the affected family in hospital, Umesh Durbhatkar told that they were attacked by a bison in the evening."

In Sattari and Bicholim areas, villagers have been repeatedly complaining that the bison are becoming aggressive and causing losses to banana plantations and paddy fields. Satej Rane, a horticulturist from Latambarce says, "We are facing heavy losses on account of bison. Our horticultural crops have been damaged again and again by the bison. To drive them out when they are feasting on the banana plants or other crops is very risky."

Amrut Singh, a wildlife expert from Bicholim, has studied the man-bison conflict in various parts of Goa. He says, "Climate change has been affecting the natural habitat of the bison. In



Canacona, Sanguem, Dharbandora areas I have seen water holes are drying up. Our efforts for improvement and management of the natural habitat of these wild animals are meagre. If no proper and scientific methodology is followed on a priority basis, the problem will not be resolved."

During a survey in the Bhagwan Mahaveer Sanctuary and Mollem National Park, 32 species of plants were identified as food for bison by the zoology researchers Dr. S. K. Shyama and Dr Suman- Gad. As per their research, the bison consume herbs, young shoots, flowers, fruits of elephant apple (*Dillenia* spp.) with a high preference for leaves. Food preference varies by season. In winter and monsoon, they prefer to feed on fine and fresh grasses and herb species of the legume family, such as tick clover (*Desmodium triflorum*), but also browse on leaves of shrub species such as karvy (*Strobilanthes callosus*), Indian boxwood (*Gardenia latifolia*), mallow-leaved crossberry (*Grewia abutilifolia*), East-Indian screw tree (*Helicteres* spp.) and the chaste tree (*Vitex negundo*). In summer, they also feed on bark of

teak (*Tectona grandis*), fruit of golden shower tree (*Cassia fistula*), and on the bark and fruit of cashew (*Anacardium occidentale*).

They may debark trees due to shortages of preferred food, and of minerals and trace elements needed for their nutrition, or for maintaining an optimum fiber to protein ratio for proper digestion of food and better assimilation of nutrients. They may turn to available browse species and fibrous teak bark in summer as green grass and herbaceous resources dry up. High concentrations of calcium (22400 ppm) and phosphorus (400 ppm) have been reported in teak bark, so consumption of teak bark may help the animals to satisfy both mineral and other food needs. Long-term survival and conservation of these herbivores depends on the availability of preferred plant species for food. Hence, the protection of historically preferred habitats used by the gaur is a significant factor in conservation biology.

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SONSODO DUMP FINALLY SET TO BE CLEARED

TEAM TNV

The Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar has announced plans of three more garbage treatment plants in Goa. He was speaking during his visit to Sonsodo earlier last week.

With these three plants the total strength of dedicated GTP's will go to four plants all over Goa. The Chief Minister has also assured Goans of streamlining the garbage management of the state within two years.

The TCP Minister Vijai Sardesai assisted the CM on his visit to the dump as the work of clearing the Sonsodo garbage mound began. A machine has been brought from the Saligao Treatment plant to Sonsodo to get the 50 year-old dump segregated.

The machine began its work on Monday evening and as per the TCP Minister it will be used to screen the mixed garbage from the dump and will segregate it into compost, plastic and inert waste which will go into landfills and construction of roads, etc. "This is a dump of over one lakh tonnes of garbage, which has seen many leaders come and go, and certainly will take time to go," said Sardesai.

Interacting with the media, he said "We

had promised that we would tackle the Sonsodo garbage hill and we have given first priority to this work, as the people of Salcete have been troubled by this dump for the last many years."

Speaking on the schedule and process of the entire work Sardesai said "We are starting it and it is taking around 40 tonnes an hour. There are two hills of garbage here. The hill is more than one lakh tonnes. There is one more hill of fresh garbage dumped. We have a plan to put one more screen below as we have planned to go on war footing to clear the garbage. At the present rate with one machine we will only be able to clear 10,000 tonnes which is not enough to reduce substantially before monsoons," he said.

"We have cleared the political garbage in the elections and the work is as firm as the Government which is working for the Goans," he quipped.

Ganeshan, the consultant for the process, said that "At the rate of 15000 tonnes in a month, and excluding the

months of monsoons, we can reduce 70 percent of the dump soon." He also informed that the Government is entering into an agreement with the ACC cement company to dispatch the plastic waste.

The issue of segregation of waste has been debated for years now. Even after the work on removal of the dump begins, much remains to be worked out on the segregation front. The TCP Minister said "Segregation of waste is another issue and I don't want to get into what Fomento is doing here. Like the cat dusts mud after defecating, they wanted to cap the area, by which the land wouldn't have been recovered. Mining of solid waste dumps is a science and we will save 15000 square meters of prime land and it will be a huge profit for the MMC," he said.

The Minister has also sought strict action against the dumping back of garbage from the Fomento plant into the dump. "The dumping back of garbage into the dump from the Fomento plant has to stop and steps will be taken to seal this side of the dump and put a security person to keep an eye. The hill is increasing and I also feel that much of it is coming here. It will not continue like this and it has to stop," said Sardesai.

The Chief Minister was assisted by the TCP Minister Vijai Sardesai, Chairperson of MMC Babita Angle, Chief Officer and others.

The Chief Minister said

"We have identified waste issues and found that there are 25 types of wastes being generated. We have formed a small action group and will meet next week to find a concrete solution to the garbage generation."

"My target is to solve the problem of garbage across the state in two years, but you will see results in six months," he said.

The CM added that they are looking into land for the plant at the Verna Industrial estate and will finalise the land by the month end. "The plant at Verna will deal with Margao and Salcete garbage, which will take care of garbage of areas around too."

Swearing by the technology of the plant at Saligao, Parrikar said that there is no disposing of any waste or byproduct into the land and only 7 percent of the garbage is inert and sent for land fill.

"The Plant doesn't require segregated waste and it is an approved technology. We are planning for a fleet of four plants for solid waste management, one at Saligao which is functional now and next ones to come up in Verna, Bainguinim and Cacoda. The plants will take care of the garbage of these and surrounding areas," said the Chief Minister.



APRIL 15**SUNSET SESSIONS**

05:30 pm

Antares Restaurant & Beach Club, Ozran Beach Cliff, Vagator
Head over to Antares restaurant & beach club to witness perfect sundowner at our sunset sessions with Transalento - Andrea Presa on the didgeridoo and Kavita Soni on vocals!

Reservations: 07350011528

ACOUSTIC SATURDAYS

8.00 PM

Martin's Restaurant, Garden View Apartments, Near Margao Post Office, Margao, Goa
Watch Adrien and Dillon as they mesmerize you with their amazing tunes and avail special discounts for the night at martins restaurant! For reservations : 0832 648 0377

Easter Bash

SEQUAA BEACH LOUNGE , Baga Goa.
Goan Nightlife Presents Easter Bash.
Join for the madness night.
Celebrate Easter like there is no tomorrow.
Featuring DJ's include Reonn, Cynthia,



Saunyk, Mash, Keegan, Manfred, Adi, Rock, Jawad, Edm Stories.
Gate Opens at 8pm

**APRIL 15 - 16
SUMMER SPLURGE 2K17**

10:00 am

Mall De Goa, NH17, Porvorim
This Easter be a part of the craziest shopping experience in goa. Presenting "Summer Splurge 2k17", your summer shopping stop! A flea at goa's prime destination Mall De Goa.

Be a part and witness two days of unlimited shopping, unlimited fun and unlimited food!

HILLTOP GOA SEASON CLOSING

5.00 PM

HillTop, Vagatore
Line up includes Dirty Saffi - Bom Shanka



Music - Uk, Dj Nuky - Bom Shanka Music – Uk, Psymmetrix - Bom Shanka Music – Uk, Fuzulu - Madjic Studio – Ind, Jovis - Peak Rec, Starling - Hilltop REC – Ind, Nitin - Hilltop REC – Ind, Janux - Looney Moon REC – Ind, Digital Hippie - Shiva Valley REC – USA, Pinar – Turkey, Spec - Shiva Valley REC – USA, Only Raa - Hilltop REC – Ind, Sunslider - Hilltop REC - Ind etc.

APRIL 15 - 22**YOGA FLOW ON THE ARABIAN SEA!**

12.00PM

Bamboo yoga retreat, Patnem beach , Canacona
Power Flow (Rocket/Baptiste Fusion) , Vinyasa Flow, Yin And Pranayama at the Bamboo Yoga Resort in tranquil South Goa on the Arabian Sea!

APRIL 16**CASHEW TRAIL 2017**

07:00 am

Park Hyatt Goa Resort And Spa, Arossim Beach, Cansaulim
Cashew trail is an annual event that was conceptualized by park hyatt goa resort and spa in association with madame rosa distillery in 2012. This event was curated to showcase the legacy of the fruit of goa – the cashew in its many forms and manifestations to the global audience so as to create another rare and unique park hyatt experience. April is the ideal time for this unique celebration being the perfect harvest season for cashews, showcasing the fruit in its true glory.

SUNDAY EASTER LIVE-INTERNATIONAL ACT-THE SUMMER REBELLION

8.00PM to 11.00PM

Alliance Francaise Panjim, Goa & The Live Music Project (TLMP) presents

Sunday Easter Special, French - Canadian Band -The Summer Rebellion. Born of the roaring thunder and crashing lightning, The Summer Rebellion recalls the burning flames of yesteryear and heralds the coming storm, when the slaves will open their eyes and see the truth through the failing summer sun. With the cavernous voice of David Koczij and thunderous accordion of Arthur Bacon, The Summer Rebellion arouses strong emotions with their particular brand of wild carnival freak song. Step right up and witness the modern day harbingers of the message, the truth and the dirt beneath the fingernails of our everyday saints.

APRIL 20**EDIFY SUMMER CAMP ROCK 2017**

09:30 am

Edify School Goa, Edify Kids, Hs No 143, Opp. La-Rose Bldg, Mangor Hill, Vasco.
It's fun, it's cool, it's awesome. It's edify summer camp rock 2017.

APRIL 24-MAY 6**MAJJA- CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL**

02:00 pm

Little Penguin School, Baiguinim and Konkani Bhasha Mandal, Margao 'Majja', the children's festival is back. After successful camps in Margao, Abhinav Creationz will be hosting its children's camps in Margao and Panjim this season. The camp in Panjim will be held from 24th to 29th April at Sunshine Worldwide Platinum Preschool, 760/A Near Dr. Bhale's Hospital, Porvorim for the age group of 4 to 9 years between 2.30 to 5.30pm. The Margao camps will be held from 1st to 6th may for two age groups. The camp for 4 to 8 years will be between 9.30 to 12.30pm and for age group 9 to 13 years will be between 2.30 to 5.30pm. Contact 9923442746 for more details.

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THE NEUTRAL VIEW
FORTNIGHTLY



Adventure In The Sky With

TEAM TNV

The adventurous hot air balloon voyages have been creating distress among the villages of South Goa lately. Two cases of a hot air balloon, with tourists and operators on board, developing a technical glitch during the trip and then making distress landings have been reported in Panchwadi and Raia in the last three weeks. Though the incident is more serious than what it appears to be the Goa Tourism Department has decided to downplay it, saying it's a routine affair and a completely planned landing.

Both the incidents occurred in the mornings. The balloon ride operators tried to control it and managed to land in a hurry at Egarziwada, Panchwadi near a house located near a field. The second incident of a distressed landing took place near Raia. The Panchwadi locals were concerned on seeing the hot air balloon landing in the field with some foreign tourists in it, and they immediately informed the Ponda Police.

Minutes after the Hot Air Balloon landed, the Goa Tourism Development (GTDC) was quick to claim that it was not a crash. A press release of the GTDC said that the news about 'the crash landing' was totally false and were attempts to malign the services which are successfully in operation in the State.

GTDC has reassured that Camping Retreats India, the agency which is operating the service in Goa, maintains the highest safety standards and has never compromised on safety of hot air balloon flights. "The flight that took off from Assolda on Monday also landed safely," the press release said.

"During the last two years of this service in Goa, no untoward incident has ever occurred and every flight and landing has been safe and successful and the rides have been a delightful experience for all tourists who have availed of this adventure activity," said Gavin Dias, General Manager of GTDC.

The GTDC has also said that the hot air balloon service has trained pilots, and over 100 rides have already created a buzz on the adventure tourism map of Goa resulting in an increasing demand and bookings from both foreign and domestic tourists.

Just as dust settled over the Panchwadi incident, panic gripped residents of a village of Raia when yet another hot air balloon of the GTDC landed in their locality on last Saturday morning.

The incident happened at around 9.30am

hot air balloon

The GTDC, in a bid to attract more tourists to the adventure ride, organised a balloon ride in Curcholem recently. Some untoward incidents which happened recently had caused doubts and fear amongst the people from Goa.



"In both cases where the hot air balloon landed at new open spaces in South Goa has followed all routine landing procedures and no negative feedback has been received from the passengers on board."

The GTDC management also said that the company has been conducting rides with experienced pilots and has been conducting operations in other parts of India since 2008.

In an attempt to clear the doubts raised the GTDC organised tours for some press men of South Goa. The GTDC, in a bid to attract more tourists to the adventure ride, organised a balloon ride in Curcholem recently. Some untoward incidents which happened recently had caused doubts and fear amongst the people from Goa. The GTDC organised the tours to smoothen things out and informed that the rides are completely safe and secure for all.

The contractor of the hot air balloon service Capt. Rathod took the journalists of South Goa to a height of 1000 feet and showed the occupants the entire Panchayat area of Assolda. The balloon tour lasted for one full hour. Capt Rathod said "The hot air balloon ride is completely safe. The Curcholem MLA has taken a lot of effort to get this service in Goa," he said.

"When the gas is over the balloon needs to be lowered and landed back to the ground. But no such incident has happened or has been reported in our services till now. We study the wind directions and only after that we take the flight. We can steer the balloon around but it is done only when we are at a elevation suitable and wind condition favourable to do so," said Capt Rathod.

"Several lands in Assolda, Guirdolim, Chandor and adjoining areas are barren, non inhabited and unused, which gives a good place for us to land. Now regarding the reported accidents and incidents I would like to inform that the balloon doesn't crash land but is moved towards a safe landing location and then landed," he said.

"We had tried this service in North Goa in the past but Government had invited tenders for the service in South Goa and we took the contract. The hot air balloon contractor in Jaipur has tie-ups with tourism companies there and has got lot of business which sometimes is as high as 70 percent. We have 80 percent domestic and 20 percent foreign tourists coming for hot at balloon trips even after doing no publicity at all," said Capt Rathod.

Presently the agency in Goa is operating with nine workers and two women pilots. Capt. Rathod said they have faced Rs. 25 lakhs loss last year. However they have got a good start this time.

in Raia village, where villagers were alarmed on seeing the hot air balloon and called the local police.

A local said "We all panicked because we saw the huge balloon with people coming down. We ran for shelter, but it landed safely," said a local villager from Raia village.

The tourists and the operator fled the site seeing the desperation and anxiety among the people. This is the second such incident within a week, prompting state tourism minister Manohar Azgaonkar to order an inquiry into the landing.

According to the operator company which manages the hot air balloon operations as a part of GTDC's initiative, they said the landing was normal and there was nothing to worry about.

Mukesh Yadav, advisor at Tiger Balloon Safari, said "It was not an emergency landing. It was normal. People panicked because they have not seen such a thing. It is usual for a balloon safari to find an open space and land there. It is a part of normal operations".

He said balloon safaris were uncommon in India and hence people were not aware about such landings. "There is a balloon safari only in Jaipur and Goa," he said.

The day after a hot air balloon landed at Raia, the Goa Tourism Development Corporation downplayed the incident claiming that the service providers are conducting longer duration rides and are thus landing at new sites.

The GTDC has took stock of the situation after the two incidents in a week. "The hot air balloon rides are being conducted and landings taking place as per the required procedures without endangering passengers or property," GTDC said in a statement it released. They have denied that the landing at Raia was a crash landing or a distressed landing.

BUDGET: THE ROAD AHEAD

TEAM TNV

Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar last month presented the State Budget 2017-18 projecting a 11 percent growth and sought to ramp up spending on infrastructure. But he spared the common man from any additional levies except for a hike in petrol prices, which he said was a need of the hour with inflationary prices, and to generate revenue for the State exchequer. While placing forth a Rs 202 crore revenue surplus budget, Government is admitting that the amount may go up marginally with spending on welfare schemes and the recent introduction of the 7th Pay Commission for over one lakh employees.

"I assure this house as well as the people of Goa that I will keep no stone unturned for the development of Goa and the welfare of the people of Goa," was the opening remark of Parrikar's budget speech tabled before the State

legislative Assembly. The budget also saw a whopping 50 percent rise in the Budgetary allocation for infrastructural sectors – Public Works Department (PWD) and Goa State Infrastructure Development Corporation (GSIDC).

With a shrinking State economy and the revenue backbones – iron ore mining and tourism – failing to provide the expected income, Government is now completely banking on its share from the Centre to keep the pace going. A revamp of the State's financial situation, while keeping the balance between spending on social welfare sector and development, is one of the biggest challenges that Parrikar faces today.

With the BJP-led coalition government working on a 'Common Minimum Programme' to be released in the second week of April, Parrikar restrained himself from making any 'populastic' announcement in the financial statement, which was largely

focused on restructuring the State's financial position.

Parrikar who holds the finance portfolio presented the annual budget of Rs.16,021 crore with a revenue surplus of Rs.202.48 crore. The budget size has increased from Rs 14,694 crore in the 2016-17 financial year to Rs 16,270 crore in the new financial year. Goa's per capita income stood at Rs 2,71,793, the highest among states.

"I have not compromised on implementation of any welfare scheme or on the infrastructure while making present budget provisions, but still controlled the increase in revenue expenditure at bare minimum," Parrikar said, while earmarking Rs 978 crore to the social sector and Rs 2482 crore for the infrastructural sector.

A close analysis of the Budget indicates that Parrikar has laid emphasis on his unfulfilled Budgetary promises made by him during his earlier tenure in 2012-14 (during which he presented three Budgets) – be it time bound service to citizens, or completion of the Mandovi and Zuari bridges, or commencement of the South Goa district hospital or self-sustained agriculture sector or garbage free Goa or rehabilitation of slum areas – all promises that remained mere announcements on Budget documents.

Beggar-free Goa, traffic management, voluntary retirement (VRS) to 'lethargic' government employees, revamp of education sector, ex-servicemen to man the mismanaged Goa medical college administration, proper mechanism to maintain the created infrastructure – these are some of the new initiatives promised by Government.

But even today, the question that haunts the people of Goa is how Mr Chief Minister is going to accomplish these tasks – especially of revamping the economy, Garbage-free and Beggar-free Goa, VRS to its employees and making agriculture sector self-sustainable by doubling the farmers' income.

"Failing to plan is planning to fail'. Government will draw a vision plan for each and every individual department with a road map to achieve this vision. While doing this Government would emphasize on 'minimum government and maximum governance' to provide services to the people of the State to the best of their satisfaction," Parrikar assured his legislative members.

FINANCE:

After recording a negative growth for the FY 2013-14, the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) witnessed 9.64 percent growth in 2014-15. Government has now pegged growth at 11 percent for FY 2017-18. However, it



BIG PROMISES OF BUDGET

- Growth at 11 percent
- Garbage-free Goa by 2020
- Beggar-free and Kerosene-free Goa
- Mandovi bridge completion during FY 2017-18
- Zuari Bridge to be commenced in 2019
- South Goa district hospital to be put in operation by 2018
- Agriculture growth at 6 percent
- Agriculture sector sustainable and double farmers' income by 2022
- VRS scheme for lethargic government employees
- Time bound service delivery to citizens
- Special vigilance cell to act against corruption
- Regularization of houses on communidade and government land
- Inventory of government land and encroachments

- 24x7 water supply with 100 liter per capacity per day to rural areas and 150 per capacity per day to urban areas

- Sewerage connection to all households
- Additional grants to primary schools imparting education in Konkani and Marathi language

- Three solid waste management plants at Cacora, Bainguinim and Verna
- 15 percent VAT on petrol
- Hike in recurring fees for casinos

has failed to outline the measures that would achieve the set target.

"The increase in VAT on petrol was necessary as it would help in generating a revenue somewhere between Rs 70-80 crore. Rise in recurring fees of casinos will also help fetch revenue of around 80-90 crore. Also, I am expecting revenue from mining industry this year," Parrikar said, without elaborating further on revenue collection.

If one goes as per Parrikar's statement, the budget may turn out to be a huge surplus as Goa is eyeing not less than Rs 2000 crore once the GST regime begins. Though it has not figured in the budget, Government hopes that Goa would accrue a minimum of Rs 1200 crore from the Goods and Services Tax once the bill passed by the Lok Sabha is through.

"Our revenue would rise by 25 percent once the GST regime begins," the Chief Minister said, explaining that Government at present collects almost Rs 1600 crore towards service tax and excise at the rate of 12 percent and could go upto Rs 2000 crore at the rate of 18 percent.

Further, the Union Government has earmarked Rs 3224.61 crore as State share of Central Taxes and Grant-in-Aid, accounting for nearly 22.40 percent of the net present budget. The rise is almost three-fold.

➤GARBAGE-FREE GOA by 2020 and BEGGAR-FREE GOA:

If one remembers, Parrikar during his earlier stint had announced to make Goa garbage-free by December 19, 2015. However, despite introduction of measures like cleaning of the national highways and a world-class solid waste treatment facility, the dream never came true. Even today, garbage is the biggest nuisance the coastal State is facing, with Government failing to come up with any concrete solutions.

As a first step towards garbage-free Goa, Parrikar announced a complete ban on plastic below 40 microns and said those violating this would be penalized with hefty fines. But the fact is that this rule already exists in the State, but unfortunately is not implemented in its full capacity. Under the Waste Management Rules, the use of plastic is banned in Goa but despite this one can see open use of plastic bags. This is something Parrikar needs to look into very seriously and take it as a challenge to weed out this practice.

Secondly, claiming the success of the Saligao solid waste treatment plant, Government now proposes to set up three such plants at Cacora,



Banguinim and Verna industrial estates on Design-Build-Finance-Operate & Transfer (DBFOT) basis. Though a very good concept, Parrikar here is expected to face massive protest, as 'everyone wants a solution to garbage but that solution should not commence from their backyard'. In Cacora, the villagers are already up in arms and so also in Banguinim, where locals have stalled a decade-old garbage treatment project of the State. Convincing the people here is going to be a tough task for Parrikar. The people's participation is of utmost importance to have a clean Goa of our dreams.

Moreover, these solid waste plants require 100 tons of garbage every day to treat. The question is from where so much garbage is going to come from. First and foremost, Government will have to streamline the garbage collection, segregation and transportation system at panchayat level. Only such an effective setup can help Government in achieving its dream of Garbage-free Goa by 2020.

Parrikar aims to make Goa the first State in the Country to be beggar-free. But can this be a reality? Practically speaking, no, as over the years Government has failed to take any action against the increasing number

of beggars who are a nuisance to people, especially to tourists.

The best example of authorities reluctant to act is when Panjim City Mayor Surendra Furtado undertook a drive to weed out beggars from the capital city. He wrote a letter to the North Goa Superintendent of Police asking him to take steps to eradicate beggars from the city, but a month has passed with no action in that direction.

Setting up of a rehabilitation centre for the beggars is not going to work as 90 percent of these beggars work for 'dedicated gangs' who employ them on contract basis and provide daily wages, along with pick and drop service. Government will first have to get rid of these organized gangs.

➤SELF-SUSTAINED AGRICULTURE SECTOR by 2022

At a current 3 percent growth rate, Government aims to achieve 6 percent growth in the agriculture sector, thereby making Goa completely self-sustainable and non-dependent for food grains, milk, vegetables and all other agricultural products.

The announcement comes even as the primary sector including agriculture has been reporting a declining growth over the last two financial years. The sector recorded 3.64 per cent growth in 2014-15 as against a 16.57 per cent in 2013-14.

Though Government intends to make State self sufficient in agriculture products, it is a fact that even today the State is dependent on the neighbouring states to fulfill its needs for food grain, vegetable, fruits and other requirements. But at the same time,

cover story

some traditional communities are seen cultivating vegetables, chillies and food grains in the State, but to a small scale.

"Government intends to revolutionalise the agricultural sector with greater emphasis on horticulture crops such as coconut, areca nut, mango, cashew spices and also encourage floriculture and vegetable farming. This would give better yield and higher income per acre for the land owned by the agriculture farmer," Parrikar said promising to double farmers' income by 2022.

The total budgetary outlay for the agriculture sector is Rs 172 crore.

➤TIME BOUND SERVICE TO CITIZEN & VRS TO LETHARGIC GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES:

It was in 2013 when the then BJP government introduced the Goa (Right of Citizens to Time-Bound Delivery of Public Services) Act 2013 ensuring time bound service to the citizens. But the Act remained only on paper, with citizens even today crying for quality and quick service. This is something that can make Parrikar sweat, as putting government employees on track is a challenging job.

Government employees, a vote bank of almost all the politicians, work as per their whims and fancies. You may find one in hundred giving his or her best to render good service to the citizen. With Parrikar's return as Chief Minister many have started improving on their conduct, but acting against those who don't meet standards is going to be a difficult task.

➤REVAMP OF EDUCATION SECTOR:

Education is one subject which is very close to Parrikar's heart. Except for the controversial medium of instruction issue (MOI) which did not find place in the State Budget, Parrikar will leave no stone unturned to revamp the education sector.

"Government proposes to revamp the entire Goan education system to align with the international benchmarks and bridge the academia-industry gap through formal collaboration between both," Parrikar said.

The proposals in the Budget – like Integrated Educational Complexes in and around Margao and Mapusa on similar lines of the IEC at Cujira, additional facilities such as swimming pool, badminton and basket ball courts, gymnasium, state library and modern buildings for schools – are goals that can be achieved. And with Parrikar in the chair, they could well become a reality.



THE TOMB OF JESUS

Christianity's
sacred
monument
restored
ahead of
Easter

WALTER MENEZES

Christians all over the world celebrate Good Friday and Easter to commemorate the crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Anointed and buried in a new tomb by Joseph of Arimathea after the Romans crucified him on the cross, Christians believe that God raised Jesus from the dead and that he appeared to many people over a span of forty days before he ascended into heaven. The resurrection of Jesus is the most central tenet of Christianity and the tomb where he was buried is one of its most sacred monuments on earth.

As St. Paul writes in his first Letter to the Corinthians, "For if the dead are not raised, neither has Christ been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is a delusion and you are still lost in your sins."

This article will focus on the tomb of Jesus and the recently concluded restoration work carried inside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem's Old City. The church is home to many of Christianity's sacred sites and includes the final stations of Via Dolorosa or the path that Jesus

walked before his humiliating death, Calvary where he was crucified and the tomb where he was buried.

In his article St. Helena and the True Cross, Fr. William Saunders informs us that St. Helena, mother of Emperor Constantine (reign A.D. 306-337), "went to Palestine in search of the sacred sites about the year 324." The earlier Roman Emperor Hadrian (reign A.D. 117-138), in an attempt to eradicate the influence of Christianity, had levelled the top of Mount Calvary and the hillside where Jesus' tomb stood and built a temple to the pagan god Jupiter Capitolinus. Ironic as it may appear, this destruction actually preserved the sacred sites in the process.

In the following years after St. Helena's visit, the temple of Jupiter Capitolinus was demolished and during excavation, the workers "discovered the remains of the tomb that was reported to be that of our Lord Jesus." A new shrine was built over the tomb, which according to Fr. Saunders, has been modified over the centuries, and today stands in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

The shrine known as the Edicule (from the Latin *aedicule*, or "little house") was most recently rebuilt in

1810, two years after it was ravaged by fire. The structure had been held in place for almost 70 years by iron girders erected in 1947 on the instructions of a British governor who ruled Palestine in the Mandate era.

Six denominations – Latin (Roman Catholic), Greek Orthodox, Armenian Apostolic, Syrian Orthodox, Ethiopian Orthodox and Copts – share custodianship of the cavernous church. Bitter disputes over territories and responsibilities have erupted in the past between them, sometimes involving physical altercations – and the keys to the church have been held by a Muslim family since the 12th century.

Although disputes and distrust had become a major stumbling block in restoration work for decades, they decided to bury their differences when they realized that the monument was in imminent danger of collapse. Water damage had caused it to buckle and it threatened to cave in under its own weight. In 2015, Israel's Antiquities Authority had deemed the site unsafe and the police, amidst much protest, had briefly shut down the building.

The restoration of the Edicule, undertaken by a team of Greek conservationists from the National



Technical University of Athens, began in earnest after the 4 million dollar project received a philanthropic gift of 1.3 million dollars from Mica Ertegun, the widow of Atlantic Records co-founder Ahmet Ertegun, besides generous contributions from King Abdullah of Jordan, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and the six denominations. A team of about 50 experts worked for nine months, mostly in the night, and used radar, laser scanners and drones in their conservation efforts.

According to a report in The Guardian, "last year in October, a marble slab covering the rock-carved tomb was lifted for the first time in more than two centuries, allowing restoration workers to examine the original rock shelf or "burial bed" on which Jesus's body is thought to have rested. A small window has been cut into marble slabs to allow pilgrims a glimpse of the rock."

On March 22, last month, the restored tomb was officially unveiled in the presence of Orthodox Patriarch of Constantinople Bartholomew I and other spiritual heads and dignitaries. Pope Francis was represented by the Vatican's representative to Israel and Palestine, Archbishop Giuseppe Lazzarotto.

"For the first time in over two centuries, this sacred Edicule has been restored," said the Greek Orthodox Patriarch, Theophilos III of Jerusalem, when the shrine reopened to the public. "This is not only a gift to our holy land, but to the whole world."

Silent Revolution at the Grassroots

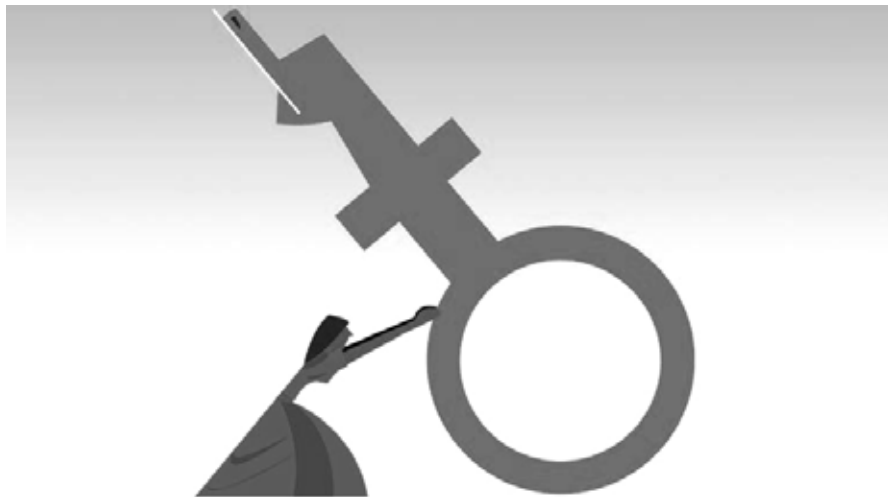
DR. SEEMA SALGAOKAR

Today there is growing consensus that women must play a greater role in the political affairs of the country. They have to be involved in the decision making processes of the government at various levels.

A major breakthrough was made through the 73rd Amendment to the Constitution of India in 1992 which introduced 33 percent reservation for women at grassroots levels (Panchayati Raj Institutions). Article 243 (D) also provided that not less than one third of the total number of seats for the offices of the Chairpersons (Sarpanch) at each level would be reserved for women. Different states across the country implemented these provisions and saw one million women getting elected at grassroots thus creating a silent revolution. It provided the much needed push, an impetus for women to enter local politics and occupy the centre stage rather than be mere recipients at the periphery. The rationale behind reservation was four-fold. It aimed at extending democratic justice, fuller resource utilization, ensure women empowerment, and promote village development. It envisaged greater inclusion and broad based democracy.

Various studies conducted in India to understand the impact of reservation on both, women empowerment and village development, reflect interesting observations. It is observed that there is a considerable increase in policies and programmes which benefit rural women. There is feminine perspective to the process of planning, policy formulation and execution and there is a sea change in the focus of rural administration towards important facets like health, nutrition, children's welfare, family care, drinking water etc. There are instances where elected women in some states have taken part in protest and rallies against wages and for drinking water.

In Arunachal Pradesh some of women leaders have even faced imprisonment in the process of persuading the Government to build a twelve-bed hospital for women. A Sarpanch, an old tribal woman aged 80, had set eradication of illiteracy from the village as her top priority in a Panchayat in Tripura and each and every



girl child attended school in this village. Women have raised many issues like alcoholism, lotteries, drinking water, health facilities, etc. It is noted that in the implementation of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, grassroots leaders, especially women, are playing an increasingly pivotal role in accelerating this process. This is a great leap forward towards realising Mahatma Gandhi's dream, who wanted women to enter politics to cleanse it and feminise it by bringing in a spirit of selfless sacrifice.

Studies were conducted by the author to gauge the impact of reservation in Goa and the following observations were made. There is predominance of women panchas within the age group of 31-50 years. A majority of them were married and were housewives. Minute observation reflects that those who were within the age group of 25-32 and were not married were more assertive than others. This could be because they had better educational qualifications, they entered politics voluntarily and experienced less pressure from the home front. It was observed that in many cases male members in the family dominated married women panchas. In spite of existence of Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in Goa, high female literacy rate and progressive society, there were cases where women were used as proxies. Proxies are those who display lower level of political awareness, owe their loyalty to their family, and they enter political arena for protecting the ward (constituency) of their male relative. There were also a few cases of "Sarpanch-Pati". These were the cases where elected women never attended any meeting or made any decision but

all panchayat work was actually carried out by their husbands. This scenario is discouraging because if women are expected to follow the lead of their husbands in activities outside the home, it is hardly likely that they will be able to act as independent individuals.

An attempt was made to understand the stand of elected women leaders on corruption, as corruption is faster increasing at grassroots level. A ray of hope emerged when it was found that some of the women panchas did protest against issues like corruption. A woman Sarpanch was adamant and refused an illegal offer from the earlier Sarpanch to ask for grants for laying a pipeline in the locality where there was a pipeline already laid eight years back and which was in good condition. Another woman Sarpanch narrated how she was pressurized by a so called 'privileged' person from the village to issue him a license to build a cowshed in the centre of the village, but she refused to bow down to such pressures. Another woman Sarpanch in a swift move removed the illegal fencing of an 'established' villager which was encroaching upon the public pathway.

Though these examples are refreshing, we cannot sideline the fact that women being new entrants in politics lack an independent power base of their own. So for their own political survival they too may imitate the autocratic model of male leaders of retaining control, and going down to the 'practical things of politics'. There were also instances where the male members in the family coaxed women to make money through illegal means. Women did not object probably because their

wellbeing in the family depended on the goodwill of the men.

Patriarchy, operating both subtly as well as overtly, also has been influencing women leadership. The women leaders are always among males – male Panchas, Secretaries, Talathis, Government officials and even the public who visit the Panchayat largely are males. This does put a lot of pressure on these women leaders. Many a times, they are dependent on the male members, in Panchayat or at home, who have been dominating politics for years. As a result women may succumb to these pressures and forget to draw their own line, develop their own leadership style or do anything towards their gender. And this has become a bigger hurdle for women empowerment, which calls for urgent attention.

It is important that elected representatives are provided with proper training and guidance from time to time. The women leaders also need to be more dedicated and sincere towards their responsibilities. It is disheartening to note that many of them have not even read the Goa Panchayati Raj Act 1994. Women who get elected on reserved seat are not very enthusiastic to contest again once the ward is deserved. And from among those who contested, only a few have been able to get re-elected. This reflects, may be partly, the failure of women representatives to establish the 'connect' and confidence in the people.

To sum up, the 73rd amendment has created a healthy environment for equal participation for women in rural areas. Women are getting an exposure to the outside world, and it has improved their status in society as well as at home. The fear that women's entry in political field will disturb the harmony of homes has been clearly proved wrong.

Elections to the Panchayats in Goa are scheduled for May 2017. Goa has a progressive culture and satisfactory education levels. With such a congenial atmosphere one can expect the newly elected women panchas to understand their role better, and work towards women empowerment and village development with greater zeal and vigour.



TEAM TNV

April is Autism Awareness Month and 2nd April is Autism Awareness Day all over the world. All over the world people try to create awareness of autism by wearing blue. Many buildings and iconic monuments are lit up blue in support of this cause.

Lourdes Convent High School at Saligao did its bit to create autism awareness, not only within the school but also in the surrounding community. Children were shown movies to educate and sensitize them regarding autism. An awareness walk was held by the school in the village of Saligao. The parents at the school's Resource Room held an awareness walk in Porvorim, where they distributed awareness pamphlets to passers-by and local residents.

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), commonly known as autism, is a disability in development that affects how a person communicates and relates to people around them. Children and adults with autism have difficulties with social interaction in everyday life. Their capacity to develop friendships is generally limited, as is their ability to understand the emotional expression of others. People with autism can often have learning disabilities, and all share a difficulty in relation to the world around them.

Autism is a term to describe the excess and behavioural deficits in three key areas that are known as the triad of limitations:

1. Social Interaction (difficulty with social relationships, for example

THE BLUE WAVE

2. Social Communication (difficulty with verbal and nonverbal communication, for example, do not fully understand the meaning of common gestures, facial expressions or tone of voice);
3. Imagination (difficulty in the development of interpersonal play and imaginary, for example - have limited imaginative activities, possibly copied and developed in a rigid and repetitive way).

In addition to this triad, there is also some behaviour like resistance to changes in routine. Perhaps the most distressing feature of autism is the emergence of challenging and inappropriate behaviours. For example, self-aggressive behaviours and tantrums.

I am the parent of a 15-year-old

son with autism, he is a student of the Resource Room in Lourdes Convent High school. Over the years I have experienced firsthand the benefits of living in an environment of an autism-aware, autism-accepting and autism-including school and community. But this would not have been possible without the foot soldiers of autism – the special educators, assistants and teachers, whose efforts often go unnoticed. Being a special educator requires much more than an educational qualification, it requires someone who is willing to go above and beyond the laid out rules. They do not restrict their work only to teaching but go out of the box to create awareness among the public in general and the regular children of the school. Their prime objective has always been welfare of children with autism.

On Autism Awareness Day, I want to

Teachers of the Lourdes Convent Resource Room – Eunice, Heywel, Leena assisted by Faustin are working selflessly for the welfare of autistic children. They do not restrict their work only to teaching but go out of the box to create awareness among public in general and the regular children of the school. They treat autistic children as their own and do whatever a mother would have done for her child. In doing so they never bother to see how much they are earning. All of them have worked or are working on very nominal salaries. And their prime objective has always been the welfare of autistic children. They are really angels for parents and kids.

– A parent

commend and acknowledge the efforts put in by the special educators, and appeal to the general public to be more Autism-aware, Autism-accepting and Autism-including.



TEAM TNV

Just as the strength of a metal chain is tested by the strength of its weakest link, that of a team is tested by the motivation of each of its members. BNI Goa aims to achieve just that by awarding members from all 10 chapters across the state for their invaluable contributions in terms of providing business to other members along with ensuring growth by increasing the number of visitors to these chapters, tenure performance, references passed and other such accolades.

BNI GOA started 7 years back in Goa by Executive Director Mr Rajkumar Kamat has now grown to a strength of 519 members across 10 Chapters in the state. These members range from industrialists to entrepreneurs, businessmen to professionals across fields such as designing, food, construction, law, finance, the list is endless.

'Ek Shaam BNI Ke Naam' hosted by BNI Mathgram Chapter led by Arman



BNI GOA SALUTES ITS ACHIEVERS AT GALA EVENT – EK SHAAM BNI KE NAAM

Bankley, Parag Loliekar and Priya Jain on the 8th of April, 2017 at Daivadya Hall was an event that appreciated the performance of members over the period of the last six months. However, for the first time, the focus of the event was broadened and included the families of the members to witness the winners take a bow, interspersed with dance and fashion show competitions and singing performances by all ten

chapters. Another first was to include food and game stalls set up by the families of the members.

The evening also included the passing of the baton from the previous term's leadership teams to the new teams taking up the posts for a fresh term of six months, across all chapters. The Mathgram Chapter's new Leadership Team is composed of Mr. Parag Loyliekar (President), Mr. Vishal

Kirtani (Vice-President), Mr. Shrivallabh Dubashi (Treasurer) and Ms. Priya Jain (Lead Visitor Host).

The event was honoured by the presence of Chief Guests such as Shri. Vijai Sardesai. Guests of Honour included Shri. Pankaj Jain, Shri. N. Ramesh, Shri. A Chakroborty, Shri. Yogesh Khandeparkar, Shri. Sai Panandikar, Mr. Monty Saldanha, Shri. Kunde and others who presented awards to the winners.

THINK PINK

The 2nd edition of Goa Going Pink, women's only run to promote healthy lifestyle will see participation of over 2500 women

TEAM TNV

The 2nd edition of Goa Going Pink was announced by model and Pinkathon founder Milind Soman today at a press conference held at Goa Marriott Resort & Spa. Miracle Munj, Runtastic Dil Se and Boarding Kites Entertainment are conducting this run in association with United Sisters Foundation (USF), an NGO working for empowering women through fitness initiatives. Pinkathon is India's biggest women-only marathon. Goa Going Pink 2017 will be held on Sunday, May 28. Over 2500 women, nearly double of last year, are expected to participate this year.

Goa Going Pink, the women-only run, is being organised under the umbrella of India Going Pink. India Going Pink is a concept initiated by United Sisters Foundation, which conducts Pinkathon and takes the message to all the other cities and towns of India in order to make women adopt a healthier lifestyle and have a positive attitude towards life.

Goa Going Pink is a model run under the aegis of Pinkathon. The objective of the event is to encourage women's

health and fitness. It also aims to raise awareness about breast cancer, its causes and prevention. Breast cancer is one of the leading causes of cancer deaths amongst women worldwide, in spite of it being one of the curable cancers if detected early. The key to controlling this disease therefore, is to create awareness about preventive measures for breast cancer. Goa Going Pink offers the running distances of 3 kms, 5 kms and 10 kms giving each woman runner an opportunity to run within their comfort zone.

Announcing the launch of the second edition of Goa Going Pink, Milind Soman said, "It is our pleasure to bring Goa Going Pink to the women of Goa and its neighbouring areas. We want Goa to be a part of this crusade that is being carried forward by a growing community

of empowered women across India, who share a belief that a healthy family, a healthy nation and a healthy world begins with empowered women. The first step in empowerment is taking control of your own health, respecting yourself and understanding and celebrating the value you bring to your family and society. Empowerment is not a gift of society, it is a gift you give yourself."

The numbers speak volumes. In the last 5 years, Pinkathon and India

Going Pink have spread its

footprints across India and internationally as well. In 2017, around 1,00,000 women will run across 14 cities. Every participant in every city is offered a free health counselling session and medical screening. This concept is unique to the Pinkathon and now India Going Pink also follows the footsteps."

In the current scenario, women neglect their own health and are encouraged to stay at home, and often made to feel guilty about spending time on themselves. Shockingly, 80 percent of women will not get the routine

medical check-up ever after being told that early detection of breast cancer may save their life. The reasons given, even by educated women from urban areas are that any symptoms will disappear on their own and the body will heal itself, and the time and money required will be better spent on other necessities.

The belief is that women's issues are something to be hidden away and best not spoken about. The truth is, all diseases can be dealt with in a more effective way if detected in the early stages. For

this, regular screenings are necessary. Perhaps even more important is a basic understanding of body function and a constant awareness of the changes taking place in the body. The best way to increase this understanding and awareness at an individual level is through sport. The biggest obstacle to this is social apathy and sometimes even a social reluctance to prioritise health and fitness. Women need to be encouraged to step out of their homes, meet like-minded people and adopt healthy lifestyle practices, especially regular exercise. The Pinkathon is the only event in India that encourages thousands of women to come together to learn, through experience, and from each other, the positive effects of an active lifestyle.

Goa Going Pink has received huge response from corporate sponsors like Goa Marriott, Tupperware, Muskan, Anmol and many more are coming forward to show their support.

To participate in GOA GOING PINK 2017 register on goagoingpink.com



WHERE DID MY SOSSEGADO GO-GO?

MALLAN KURIAN

'Quiet' in Portuguese is 'sossegado'.

In the recent election, Manohar Parrikar of the BJP, Sudin Dhavalikar of MGP, Vijai Sardesai of Goa Forward, Rohan Khaunte and Govind Gawde, independent MLAs, and their teams displayed their mastery over sossegado, quietly negotiating, making deals, adventure politicking, managing crisis, engineering unprecedented party and vote bank equations, pioneering and plunging their way through the depths of the polity; making total rubbish of a Wikipedia contributor's description of Goa as "steeped in a tropical lassitude and wedded to the sea"!

As an outsider recently settled in Goa, I'm amused by my friends in other parts of the world, describing Goa as laid back, their perspective and opinion derived from beach shacks, cold beer on the hot sand and gentrification of coastal villages. When they land in Goa, they are already in beach hats and bandannas (even if it's a night flight). I must keep reminding everyone that I'm not semi retired, getting massages on the sand, nor am I dancing every night until dawn (though I did fantasize about it once).

It's interesting to observe tourists who ride scooters and motorcycles to crisscross Goa. One can see their utter bewilderment and consternation in riding through urban Goa (clad for the beach), hemmed in by traffic jams, debris from road and bridge construction, noise, loudspeakers, dust, firecrackers, cows, dogs and other urban chaos and litter – everything they were trying to escape from by coming to Goa. And then to see their relief to step into the shadows and cool of their manicured hotels, salsa classes, bread making workshops, yoga classes, wine tastings, designer stores and laid back shacks. Aah, back to susegad (contentment), but not yet sussegado (quiet).

So where did our sussegado go?

Across Goa, loudspeakers and firecrackers rent the air for attention. Are worshippers afraid of being drowned out by the Others' din? Will their songs

and prayer be buried in the screaming reverse alarms of ignorant car owners who don't know their purpose (for handicapped drivers' use only) and two wheeler noisemaker tailpipes? Will road traffic noise and private music overwhelm traditions? And therefore the volumes get turned up even higher, each competing for the people's attention, but none succeeding to enthrall, entertain, worship, not even distract.

The art of 'public relations' and marketing has not spared the house of God; the timings for loudspeaker worship and firecrackers are tweaked for maximum impact, best consumed at night between 8pm and 2am and between 1 and 4 in the afternoon; so

right over the moonlit or sunlit coconut trees and fields, dance the crackling of microphone and snatches of a disc jockey priest's Almighty tryst. No sussegado for the wicked.

Thus Goa is in continuous election mode or un-susegad (discontentment) My Candidate, My Party, My Religion, My Worship, My Language, My People, My Village, My Water, Them and Me, I will show Them, – My Loudspeaker, My Firecrackers, My Reverse Alarm, My Voice, Me. I'm angry, I cannot sleep, cannot rest, headaches, rage, bile, irritable bowel, pain, dry eyes, cannot work, no praise or encouragement, I'm unemployed, underemployed,

unemployable.

Jobs.

Aah, the dream catcher, the catcher in the rye. Will the famous five, - Manohar Parrikar, Sudin Dhavalikar, Vijai Sardesai, Rohan Khaunte and Govind Gawde crack this case? They shall, with a little bit of help from us, their fellow Citizens, fellow travellers, story tellers, artists, teachers, nation builders, all.

Curing the us versus them epidemic

The common thread at every town hall meeting is the clear line that demarcates 'tourist infrastructure' and facilities for locals; this is so insidious a problem, that in some parts, tourists enjoy piped water supply and villagers must buy tanker water; an absurd statement, when the State receives rain enough for twenty five years of cultivation and consumption in just one monsoon.

This manufactured disparity in water distribution is almost unique to Goa, as decades ago, these villages (sans tourism) were self sufficient and self sustaining, out of the way of government, requiring a new infrastructure to be built just for tourists.

Unfortunately, in the gold rush for naked skin, the villages were cut off from the Potable Water Gods and thus began the Great War of The Us Versus Them.

Water.

The cure, of course, is Jobs and Water and the solution even more obvious – Inclusive Shared Infrastructure – the common agenda throughout the developed First World.

Let's re-imagine Chimbel if you will: Shared Infrastructure with the proposed information technology park would create sixteen categories of jobs, from digital literacy and conversion, to educators, teachers and trainers, to primary health care and telemedicine, to spoke-and-hub public transport, all the way to forestry. An astounding achievement for Chimbel's three thousand homes.

The return of Sussegado.



MAHABALESHWAR SAIL

A JOURNEY OF SELF DISCOVERY THROUGH LITERATURE

TANVI BAMBOLKAR

Konkani literature has always moved ahead as a part of the Konkani linguistic movement. Despite being busy with legal and political agitations, Konkani writers have been successful in producing some amazing works. And these works were written not just in Goa or by Goans per se, but everyone who spoke and wrote Konkani. One such man who was born in the serene village of Majale near Karwar on the border of Goa and Karnataka embarked on a journey from one language to another. And today Konkani people are proud of the accolades that he has received. Amongst many others, Mahabaleshwar Sail has recently been honoured with the prestigious Saraswati Samman.

Saraswati Samman, an honour named after the goddess of wisdom is an annual award for outstanding prose or poetry literary works in any of the 22 Indian languages listed in Schedule VIII of the Constitution of India. It was started by K. K. Birla Foundation in the year 1991. Since then various literary legends across the languages have received this award. Konkani has been a step behind in the national foray because of scarcity in translations of Konkani works. Fortunately Sail's original Konkani novel Hawthorn was translated by renowned translator Vidya Pai as Kiln.

Kiln is a tale of the slowly vanishing profession of pottery. It brings forth the life and travails of potters as they struggle with the outcomes of globalization. Since Sail was born in a village that was a hub of all traditional professions, his literature has always been a reflection of rural life. Having lived amid the villagers, Sail can describe these realities in a very practical yet emotional manner.

A short conversation with Sail on receiving this prestigious honour helped us in knowing the otherwise very silent and calm writer a little better. When asked about his views about the overall Konkani movement Sail said that according to him the Konkani movement began in the 70's in a real sense. He opines that most of the time got wasted in asserting the unique identity of Konkani. But he is very optimistic when he talks about the



development of Konkani movement as well as literature. He feels that no other language has developed so rapidly the way Konkani has and is still developing.

Yet, as a senior writer Sail feels that Konkani still needs to have better works of literature. "More national accolades should come to this language," he says. Mahabaleshwar Sail also feels that younger writers should dive into new genres. He feels that the new generation isn't very serious and dedicated, rather he calls them 'disillusioned'.

A writer's growth depends on criticism, which is not seen much in Konkani circles. When asked about it, Sail said that "Konkani writers have been busy in writing creative works more rather than doing critical works. And this needs to change."

Yet another aspect when it comes

to getting national recognition is translation of major works. Mahabaleshwar Sail proudly says that all his five books have been translated from Konkani to English, all by Vidya Pai. But he also feels that there is still more to be done. Especially in Goa he says there are very few individuals who take up translations, and this needs to increase significantly for Konkani literature to cross the boundaries of region.

Speaking passionately about Konkani, Sail also revealed that he actually began his literary career with Marathi writings. "I wanted to express my experiences. I did that in Marathi but I wasn't satisfied. I was constantly searching for my mother tongue," he said.

Fortunately Sail happened to meet



Damodar Mauzo, another noted writer of Konkani in Mauzo's village, Majorda. Through Mauzo Sail was exposed to the tremendous and passionate work that was going on for Konkani. That's when Sail says he realized that this was the language he was searching for all this while, this was the language in which he needed to write to feel satisfied in the truest sense.

"I have written more and have participated less in the on-the-street movement of Konkani," the writer says. Mahabaleshwar Sail was also in the military, and hence couldn't dedicate himself completely in the movement. He also says he entered quite late into the realms of the Konkani movement.

Despite all that, Sail has some of the best short story collections and novels to his credit. His works have reflected the angst of communities on the borders of Goa and Karnataka, the experiences of military life and overall human tendencies. Sail's previous novel based on the Inquisition Yug Savaar now translated as 'Age of Frenzy' was shortlisted twice for Saraswati Samman. But it was the Kiln that had the fortune of getting the dedicated writer this prestigious honour.

Coming from another state, Sail now resides in Goa – the land where he found an answer to his quest, where he discovered himself.

tbambolkar@gmail.com

The writer is an Asst. Professor in English and Freelance Journalist

SUMIT NAIK SPORTS AMBASSADOR OF TNV

TEAM TNV



After getting off to a great start in the media field, The Neutral View has also set another milestone by having its own sports ambassador, who will take our venture miles ahead. Ponda-based award winning bodybuilder Sumit Naik will be the sports ambassador of TNV for one year.

Neutral View Private Limited's Director Paresh Naik was a guest at the recently held bodybuilding event in Ponda, where the sports jersey of TNV was unveiled. Donning a light blue jersey with the TNV logo on it, Sumit is all set to conquer the world of bodybuilding.

Encouraging new talent has always been at the core of the journalism that TNV has been practicing. The TNV management has decided to take journalism out of the usual traditional boundaries where a news magazine only means news. Here we mean more than just the news. TNV wants to fulfill the aspiration of Goans.

While selecting Sumit as sports ambassador there was no second thinking. The kind of struggle that he has gone through to reach this level is unbelievable and inspirational. Sumit is an ideal sportsman for us to encourage thousands of youngsters to take up sports seriously and to take it up as their profession.

TNV is here to set new trends. We represent the real ethos of Goa. With your support, we will march forward successfully, taking everyone along.



BODYBUILDING IS AN EXPENSIVE PROFESSION SUMIT NAIK

TEAM TNV

Mr. Sumit Naik is one of the most promising bodybuilders in Goa, winning the Goa University Championship in 2010 and 2011, and bagging first place in the All Goa Bodybuilding Championship and West Zone winner in the year 2011 and 2015, and also having represented the State at National level competitions.

Q At what age did you start working out?

I started working out in the gym at the age of sixteen and it has become my passion ever since.

Q Who has been your inspiration in your journey of professional bodybuilding?

Philip Heath has always been my role model, he is the six time Mr. Olympia title holder.

Q In bodybuilding eating habits need strict monitoring too. What kind of diet is recommended for a pro bodybuilder?

My diet mainly consists of boiled chicken, egg white, green salads and dietary supplements suggested by a nutrition expert.

Q Along with training and healthy diet, are steroids recommended in any way?

Proper training, healthy diet and hard work are all that one requires to be a bodybuilder. I personally would strictly recommend against the use of steroids.



Q What is your advice for youngsters who want to take up bodybuilding as a profession?

If you are starting new, you need to find a good trainer and follow a routine, it takes dedication and self motivation. Eat healthy and avoid temptation of eating unhealthy.

Q How would you describe the current scenario of bodybuilding and its future as a sport in Goa?

Bodybuilding is an expensive profession, the present situation in Goa is not very favourable, as many promising young bodybuilders don't pursue it as a profession due to lack of funds. The government and the

corporates need to step in and identify such talent and support them.

Q What are your future plans?

My future plans are to compete in bigger competitions and bring glory to the state. I also wish to start my own gym so that I am able to train and mentor new upcoming talent.

Q Any message to the Goan youth?

My message to the Goan youth is to stay away from addictions and lead a healthy lifestyle. Your body is a temple, take good care of it.

Q How would you stress on the importance of regular exercise in modern times?

Exercise is a necessity, especially in the present times when work schedules are hectic and there is a lot of stress on an individual due to tensions in professional life and personal life as well. If one considers to make some time and involve in some kind of physical exercise, it will not only result in a fit body but also a healthy mind which in turn will help the individual to face the challenges of day-to-day life.

WHAT GOA BUDGET SPEAKS OF!

ASHWIN KAMAT



The recently elected BJP led coalition government has presented its budget for the financial year 2017-18 on the 24th of March 2017. Chief Minister Mr. Manohar Parrikar, who also holds the Finance portfolio, presented a revenue surplus budget which an aim of achieving an 11% growth in 2017-18.

Below are some of the highlights of the budget provisions and a 'neutral view' on how it would affect the mango people of Goa:

1. Administration: With a view to achieve Narendra Modi's motto of 'minimum government and maximum governance', the Goa (Right of Citizens to Time-Bound Delivery of Public Services) Act 2013 to be implemented to ensure time bound service to the citizens.
2. Land Administration: Digitization of all property transactions to be initiated – this will also be a huge booster for the hunt against the benami property initiated by the central government.
3. Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries: The government, with an aim of achieving a 6% growth in the sector has provided for several subsidies and benefits for commercial cultivation of mangoes, sugarcane, piggery business and poultry farming, dairy sector and fisheries.
4. Education: Rs.6 crores will be spent for additional grants to the primary and pre-primary schools imparting education in Konkani and Marathi. 50 more school counselors to be appointed to provide counseling to students to cope up with the stress. Rs.50 Crores to be spent for providing laptops under the Cyberage scheme.
5. Social, Women, Child and Tribal Welfare: The state's flagship social programs such as the Dayanand Social Security Scheme, GrihAadhar, Ladli Lakshmi to be linked to inflation. Goa to be made the first Beggar Free State of the Country by establishing a full-fledged Rehabilitation Centre for beggars. The government would undertake various projects for

- renovation of all the Old Age Homes run by Provedoria, setting up of Geriatric centres for the elderly, Autism complexes for the children, schemes and projects for the SC/ST and OBC communities, etc.
6. Health: Various programs and activities to be undertaken to commemorate 175 years of Goa Medical College. Also various infrastructural initiatives like establishing burns unit at GMC, College for Allied Health Science courses, hostels, Community Health Centre building, Cottage Hospital, Primary Health Centre to be undertaken. Strengthening and upgrading the AYUSH services, Dindayal Swast Seva Yojana to be emphasized.
7. Municipal Administration & Rural Development: Allocation of Rs.145 cores to Panaji City for implementation of Smart city and AMRUT project, completion of the work of Ribandar Bypass road by December 2017.
8. Sports: Creation of infrastructure required for under 17th FIFA World Cup Football Tournament and the 36th National Games.
9. Cooperation: Financial institutions in cooperative sector to be monitored by infusion of capital and other measures.
10. Civil Supplies: Goa to be made 'Kerosene-free' by providing LPG connections.
11. Environment: Goa to be made garbage-free by 2020, by setting up 3 more Solid Waste Treatment Plans and making Goa Waste Management Corporation fully functional by June 2017.
12. Tourism: The main tourist spots to be connected through regular city bus service. Insurance subsidy to be given to taxi owners.
13. Civil Aviation: Construction work of Mopa Airport to be started at the earliest. Parrikar assured that Dabolim Airport will still continue

- and will be upgraded from time to time to cope with traffic growth.
14. Power: All the street lights in the State to be converted to LED by December 2018.
15. Art & Culture: Celebration of the golden jubilee year of opinion poll to be undertaken. IFFI infrastructure to be upgraded and Journalist Welfare Scheme for providing a monthly pension to retired journalists to be implemented.
16. Official Language: Konkani Bhavan to be constructed under Konkani Academy.
17. Industries: Utmost thrust to bring environment friendly clean, green and locally sustainable industries which are ideally suited for Goa by emphasizing on ease of doing business.
18. Mining: One time settlement scheme for the affected people due to closure of mining to be revisited.

19. Information Technology: Goa IT Investment Policy 2015 to be implemented, IT park at Chimbel and Electronic city at Tuem to be established with an aim to create at least 4000 jobs per annum.
20. Housing: Local population to have 30% reservation in all the future housing schemes developed by the Goa Housing Board.
21. Regional Plan 2021 to be notified by 31st December 2017.

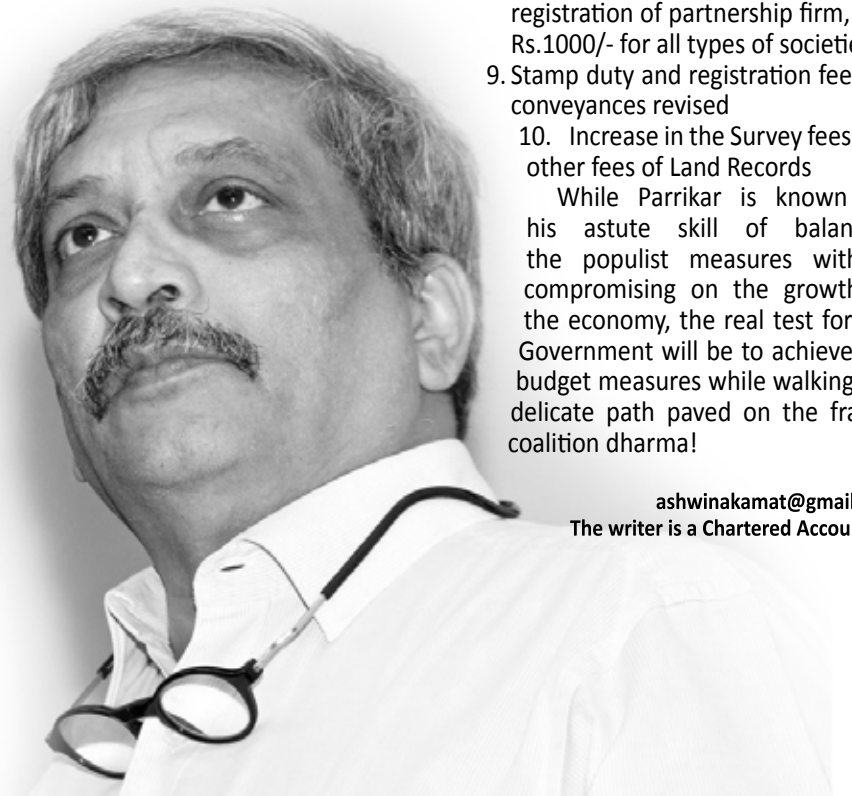
TAX PROVISIONS:

1. The State will implement GST from the expected date.
2. Collection of entry fee at the border points will be discontinued when GST is implemented.
3. VAT on Petrol increased to 15%
4. VAT and Motor Vehicle Tax on electric vehicles exempted
5. Excise Duty on Beer enhanced
6. Revision in the Motor Vehicle Tax
7. Revision in the Casino Fees
8. Processing fee of Rs.10,000/- for registration of partnership firm, and Rs.1000/- for all types of societies
9. Stamp duty and registration fees on conveyances revised
10. Increase in the Survey fees and other fees of Land Records

While Parrikar is known for his astute skill of balancing the populist measures without compromising on the growth of the economy, the real test for the Government will be to achieve the budget measures while walking the delicate path paved on the fragile coalition dharma!

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The writer is a Chartered Accountant



The Magical Tree



Once upon a time there lived two friends Rahul and Aditi. They were best friends. They were both nine years old. They were studying in the same school and they were also good neighbours. Near their house there was a beautiful garden. Aditi and Rahul would play over there. Rahul's duty was to water the plants and Aditi's duty was to pluck the rotten leaves of the plants.

Aditi used to do her duty well but Rahul would not do his duty. So Aditi would feel bad about the plants. But she never told this to Rahul and quietly, without telling Rahul, she would water the plants.

One day while Aditi was watering the plants, suddenly one tree started talking to her. Before Aditi

could say anything, the tree said, "I am a magical tree, if you water me one time, I will give you one fruit."

Rahul was hiding behind a tree on the other side and was watching Aditi while talking to the magical tree. Rahul thought, if I water the magical tree then I will get many fruits.

Rahul came near Aditi and said sorry for his mistake for not watering the plants and from that day Rahul started watering each plant and also the magical tree. So by watering the magical tree he got many fruits.

Aditi was surprised but also very happy. She was never jealous and hence they continued to be good friends forever.

ANUSHKA SANKORDEKAR

STD IV, St Joseph School, Sao Jose de Areal



SHIVAM PARAB

Std X

Progress High School, Sankhali



VRUSHABH ANIL MANDREKAR,

Std VI,

Shri Shantadurga High School, Bicholim

rainbow

Away From The Public Eye

It's alleged that an endowment,
Should be brought into the limelight
But what about those in obscurity?
Rainy or sunny,
The seasons change,
What about the strivers,
Who face the agitation

Trickles of blood
In the cashmere, the legion
That tussle for nation
Sudor dripping,
From brow of the constabulary,
Handling the abuzz accumulators
Facing all the impureness of nature
What about the dustman,
Famishing and athirst
Gathering the drivel
Maintaining the trait

listening to their stories,
a frisson strikes my mind,
think about these people
what if they didn't prevail?
Nation would be the worst nightmare
one could ever have.

VAISHNAVI RAIKAR,

Std VIII,

Ravindra Kelekar Dnyanmandir, Margao



ANNALIE JANE DIAS,

Std VIII, Sharada Mandir High School, Miramar



AVINASH VELINGKAR,

Std III,

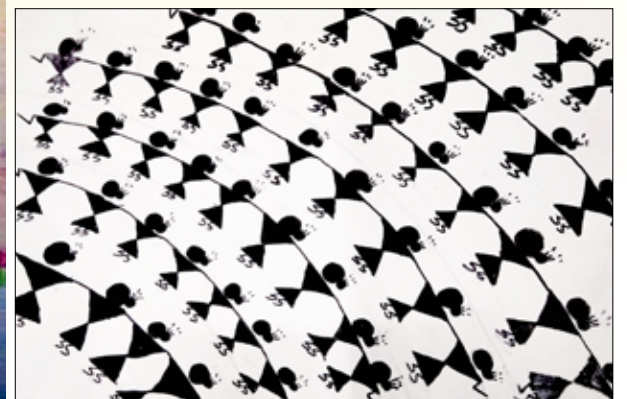
Manovikas English Medium School, Margao



PRATHAMESH SUKTHANKAR,

Std I,

People's Primary School, Panaji



SANKITA NAIK,

Pre-Vocational II,

Lokvishwas Pratishthan's Special School, Canacona

TEAM TNV

Miransha Naik is a young filmmaker whose short film 'Ram' won 3 Best Film awards, a Best Actor award for Rushikesh Naik and a Best Director award at various festivals. His new film 'Juze' will be premiered at the Hong Kong International Film Festival which is considered one of the top festivals in Asia. TNV caught up with Naik to know more about his journey and his thoughts on the Goan film industry.



KONKANI CINEMA NEEDS TO HAVE UNIVERSAL APPEAL: MIRANSHA

? Your short film 'Ram' travelled to several international film festivals. How was the response?

Whoever saw 'Ram' really liked the film. The response was such that a lot of people suggested it should be made into a feature. So I rewrote it into a feature and am planning to shoot later this year.

? Tell us about 'Juze', your movie. Where did the idea develop?

I wrote 'Juze' during my course at Whistling Woods Film School. It was written for an academic purpose but it came out so well that everyone was convinced it would make a good feature film. The film has a lot of real life characters and situations, a lot of which came from my personal experience and observations from the village where I was born and grew up – Quepem.

? 'Juze' has been selected at the NFDC's Film Bazaar. Tell us more about this process and how it will benefit your movie.

We had everything sorted with pre-production and the production of the film and a vague plan on how to go about festivals, marketing and distribution. Though we knew about the NFDC film bazaar, we didn't think much of it, but once we decided to send the film and were selected everything

changed for us. In fact, if it wasn't for Film Bazaar, I don't think we could have been in this situation today.

We not only got the mentor's suggestion but a senior editor coming on board, the two co-producers, the entire post-production happening in Europe all this was only possible because of NFDC Film Bazaar. It is a great platform for any film maker.

? Any other projects you have been working on now?

I've re-written 'Ram' into a feature which I'm planning to shoot right after the monsoon. I also have another script ready, 'Aarsh' which was part of the Three Rivers Residency Script Lab in Italy. If all goes according to plan I'll start the pre-production early next year.

? Do you think Konkani movies have a good future?

It depends. If you make a good film, the audience will come and watch, like Nachom-ia Kumpasar, but since the market is small for Konkani cinema it would help if your film has universal appeal and if it can do well overseas also or even in other parts of India outside Goa. The culture of watching films with subtitles is pretty big in Europe and it is getting bigger in India also, especially in big cities.

? Do you see Goa developing as a film industry? What more can be done?

There are a lot of promising film makers and passionate producers putting efforts to come up with quality cinema, but as I said before, if the recovery doesn't happen, any financier will hesitate to invest again. So again, in my opinion, if the film also does well outside Goa the chances of Konkani cinema surviving or developing are better.

One important factor which I was discussing with a few industry related people was the fact that we need more actors. Goa is doing well with theatre but some workshops or courses related to acting or facing the camera are a must.

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

Is there a film financing scheme? I am really not aware.

? Has hosting of IFFI helped Goa?

It is one of the top festivals of India. Whether people are making use of it I don't know, but it is definitely something to utilise in many aspects.



This Thursday, Antares rocked a good crowd of socialites, tourists and foodies for their Thursday Socials sponsored by Myra wines. The crowd was entertained with live music by Raagas 2 Riches who turned up the heat with some of their foot tapping tunes.

VIJAI, ROHAN BEST DRESSED, PARRIKAR CLASSY IN 'BANDHGALA'

monty sally



class? thy name is Shabana Azmi

Given a chance to stylise any film personality, Monty Sally selected Shabana Azmi. "She is intelligent, classy and elegant," he said.



TEAM TNV

If our ministers Vijai Sardesai and Rohan Khaunte have heard enough critical talk from the media and people following their decision to join the BJP-led government, here's something that could make this politician duo feel good about. Goa's own fashion designer Monty Sally finds them "the best dressed Goan politicians."

Last week Team TNV met Monty Sally at his house located in Defence Colony at Porvorim, to get to know more about this fashion designer who is currently busy cobbling a coalition of Goan fashion designers. This is quite different from the political coalition. But as our Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar has been saying, Monty Sally too has 'Goenkarponn' at heart.

"I want to bring all the fashion designers from Goa under one umbrella. We should create a platform for ourselves. Goa has taught fashion to the world," said Monty Sally who has been labeled as being the designer who brings a fresh perspective to the industry.

True to the word 'Goenkarponn', Monty Sally wants to generate synergy between the fashion designers in the State. From being a largely unorganised group, he wants these talented individuals to be organised. From novice to established, he wants everyone to be under one umbrella.

"I am working on something called as Fashion Designers' Guild. We want to create a body which can lobby. There are designers who are coming

from outside and doing mediocre events while Goan designers are buying their way into fashion weeks happening in Goa," Sally said.

The designer said that his ambition is to have Goan designers under one umbrella. "I want to get new as well as established ones. We can address the issues of the designers. It is about getting all the Goan fashion designers together, and we will compete amongst ourselves," he said. "We are creating our own platform. I am not into squeezing into some space or telling a Mumbai guy to come to Goa and give us a show. We will create our own space."

The whole idea as projected by Monty Sally is to start new events and bring together the energy so that everyone benefits. "We want to start new fashion weeks, create our own platform so that the Goan fashion designers can market our own talent. We want to get the Goan fashion industry organised. It is like creating a lobby which gives us leveraging ability in terms of numbers," he added.

Monty's take on bollywood

"I am disappointed with the Hindi film industry. Instead of promoting Indian fashion at Cannes they are going and buying fashion from outside. Fashion industries from other countries want their own actors promoting them," he said. "The whole Bollywood industry wants to be like Hollywood. They are not proud of their heritage and they don't want to wear Indian clothes. There are actresses like Nandita Das who look nice when they wear a saree, while there are some like Aishwarya Rai who wears a leather jacket and speaks in a foreign accent," he commented.

When asked why he didn't intend to touch Bollywood projects, Monty Sally said, "I didn't go to Mumbai because I am anti-Bollywood. Bollywood is all about nepotism, "It is not a place to breed talent. I am not a Bollywood fan. I rather prefer Goan films."

fashion for a cause

"I am planning something called Life. There are a lot of people who commit suicide. What we are trying to do is get fashion designers under one roof and each designer will have one of his collections that will showcase something which symbolises life. We want to create awareness against suicide," he said.

style in politics

TNV could not resist drawing this 'Goenkar' into politics and asked him - Who is the most stylish Goan politician? Monty Sally took no time to responding - "One is Vijai Sardesai and second is Rohan Khaunte. They are well dressed, spic-and-span. They got some flak recently, but I hope they do well," he said.

Monty Sally mentions his admiration for Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar. The fashion designer likes Parrikar for his simplicity. While offering fashion tips for Parrikar, he is a little reluctant but recalls seeing him on television during a Republic Day function.

"I was surprised when I saw him for the Republic Day parade. He was looking so smart with a Bandhgala. He looked very classy. Something like a Bandhgala and trousers will look nice on him."