

The Neutral View

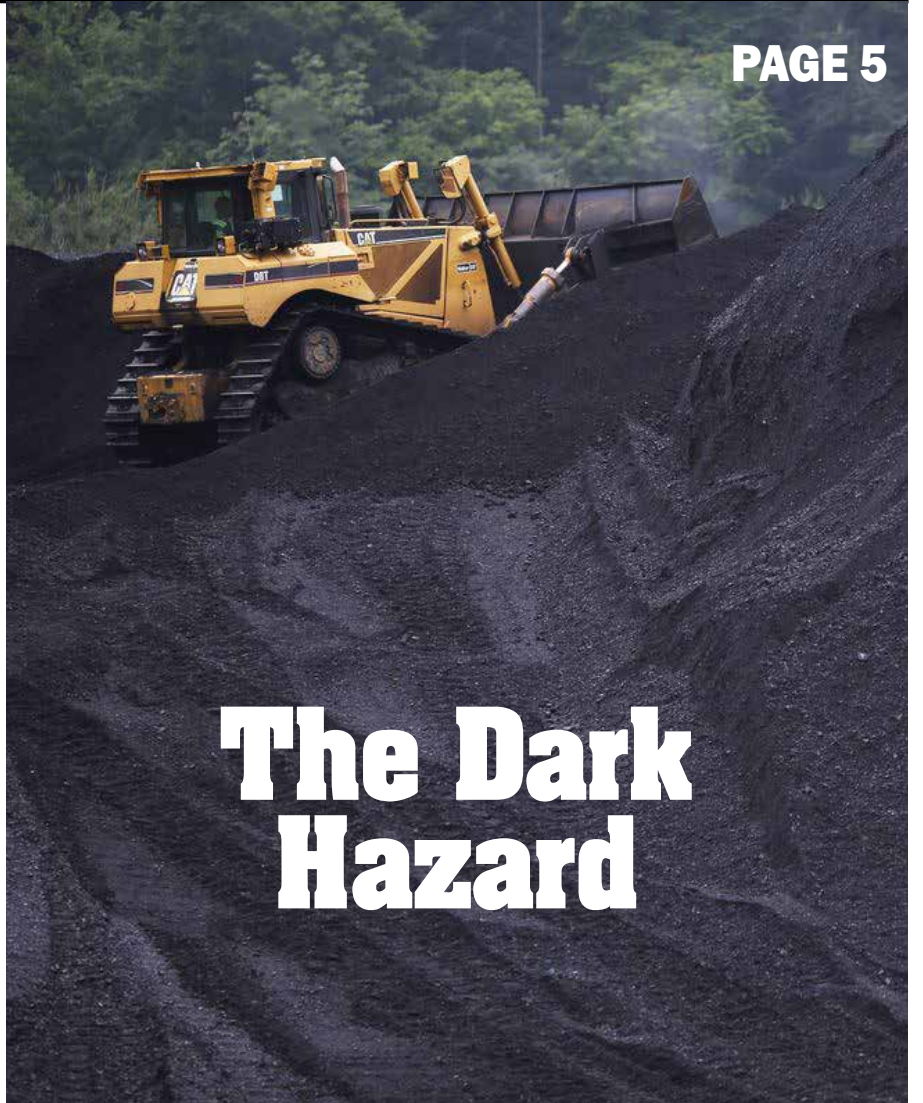
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When Investment Eats Environment

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The Dark Hazard

SIDDHARTH



PARRIKAR

It was not much unexpected when Siddharth Kuncolienkar walked into the chamber of Speaker Pramod Sawant and placed his resignation before him. The BJP legislator was seemingly not so convinced about his move which he meticulously managed to hide behind the tag of “being loyal worker.” But the body language indicated that Siddharth wanted to rule for longer.

BEST PHOTO EDITING APPS



Adobe Photoshop Express

Adobe Photoshop Express has many advanced editing tools and filters built into its photo editing app. Photoshop Express has control tools like crop, straighten, rotate, flip, color, red eye removal, hue, brightness and white balance. And Photoshop Express also has filters like Vibrant, Superpunch and Glow. Plus you can add borders and frames to the photos. Adobe Photoshop Express also has add-on packs like the Adobe Looks Pack and the Adobe Advanced Pack. The Advanced Pack has options like noise reduction and DeFog (Windows Phone 8 and iOS only). And there is a Photoshop Mix feature that allows you to combine multiple photos into one single image. Raw photos are supported so you can import and edit photos in raw formats.

PRITESH NAIK

Every day more than 400 million facebook and instagram photos are shared. When we share photos with our family and friends, we want them to look good. This is why apps that allow you to edit photos have become very popular. There are many choices of apps that have photo editing tools such as filters, brightness, vignette and cropping, but it can be a challenge deciding which ones are the best. Here are some of the best photo editing apps that you should consider downloading.



photoEffects Pro

Photo Effects Pro is definitely an editor for those who like to play with filters, effects, stickers, and things like that. It boasts more than 40 filters and effects as well as the ability to add text, stickers, and frames as well. An unusual feature Photo Effects Pro has is the ability to finger paint on your photo to make it something unique that you make. There is a small selection of photo editing tools, but you're definitely getting this one for the effects. It's free to download and use which makes it great for those on a budget.



trending

Photo Director

PhotoDirector is a newer entrant (comparatively speaking) into the photo editing space on Android and this one is pretty good. Like Fotor, this one focuses a lot more on manual enhancements rather than filters and you have access to HSL sliders, RGB color channels, white balance, and more to properly edit your photos. There are also sliders for tone, brightness, darkness, exposure, and contrast for more in-depth editing. It's more powerful than most and should be good for those who want something other than filters.



Cupslice photo editor

Cupslice is another photo editor that relies heavily on things like filters to deliver a good experience. On top of filters, the app features a ton of stickers and the developers try hard to keep up with the latest trends so your stickers are usually up to date. The filters can also be customized to give the look you want. There are also some basic photo editing tools such as crop, frames, hue and saturation adjustment, black and white, collages, and brightness and contrast settings. It's not one of the more complex photo editor apps, but it's one of a few that are completely free to use. About the only issue are some bugs here and there.



Aviary

Aviary is another long time popular photo editor with a good set of features and reliability. Like most, it features a one-touch enhance mode in case you're feeling lazy today but it also comes with a variety of manual adjustments to let you do things like adjust the color, brightness, temperature, contrast, saturation, and more. This one also comes with stickers, filters, and cosmetic tools such as red eye fixing, blemish remover, and teeth whitener.



Photo editor Pro

Photo Editor Pro is a very popular option that has garnered more than 50 million downloads and well over one million reviews to date. It's a good mix between a modern "filter editor" and a regular editor and has plenty of features that support both types of editing. You'll find stuff like sharpen and blur modes, temperature control, as well as saturation, hue, contrast, and brightness controls. You'll also find stickers, frames, filters, and you can even add text to images to create your own memes. It's a good middle of the road option depending on what you need. It's also one of the totally free options.





A Reverie on a Global Platform

TEAM TNV

The Luxury League, a non-profit global foundation, is engaged in branding India globally, backed by diverse international members serving as a standard bearer to promote Indian styles and its values. The Luxury Symposium 2017, held in New Delhi, pledged to promote India as a global producer of luxury and not just as an outsourcing facility. The Luxury League represents a diverse group of global luxury brands and talented craftsmen being a global ambassador for Indian culture and identity, symbolising world acclaimed Indian art forms of fine living.

The Luxury League is led and run by the founder and global chairperson Ritu Beri, supported by office bearers comprising of global vice-chairs, country chairs representing their various countries, national chairs, chapter chairs of cities both urban and exotic and global chairs for specific segment commissions in the various dimensions of luxury be it fashion, wellness, luxury estates, automobiles, fitness, spirituality and lifestyle.

The motto of The Luxury League is to promote creativity, innovation, ethical practices, use of technology in the Luxury segment while preserving

the diversity of India's ancient heritage and cultural arts. The main goal of The Luxury League is to promote dynamism, creativity and innovation in the luxury industry. It aims at creating a consortium internationally by targeting decision makers, luxury brands, designers and the consumers.

All the arts and crafts that are represented by The Luxury League have a fine balance between historic legacy and modernity, thus creating the perfect representation of luxury.

One of the missions of The Luxury League is to make the world aware of the wealth of knowledge contained within the workshops of companies as well as create career opportunities for the youth of India, besides supporting and promoting creation.

After the enormous success of their previous event, The Global Design and Innovation Forum 2016 as a part of the Honorable Prime Minister's initiative of MAKE IN INDIA WEEK in Mumbai, The Luxury Symposium 2017 was held on 7th April at Taj Palace Hotel, New Delhi.

The event was organised with the

support of Department of the Industrial Policy and Promotions, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Ministry of Textiles, Kadhi India, Ministry of Medium, Small & Medium Enterprises, Indian Council for Cultural Relations and with support from NDTV, Yes Bank and DigiQom. The country partner this year was France and the symposium was inaugurated by The Hon. Commerce Minister of India Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman.

Under the encompassing spectrum of 'Luxury's Newest Frontiers', The Luxury League has gathered a very distinguished set of panelists who over the course of the day fostered an open and ongoing exchange of ideas. The event was attended by the global luminaries, decision makers, public intellectuals, pioneers of business excellence, key members of the Indian parliament and prominent media people. To name a few, the Hon. President of India, Pranab Mukherjee, HM Maharaja Gaj Singh II of Jodhpur, Pavan K. Varma, Catherine Baba's, Karan Ahluwalia, Paloma Castro Martinez, Serge Carreira, Shoba De, Vir

Sanghvi and James Collard. Amongst these global delegates attending was A Reverie, the only Goan culinary member on this prestigious platform.

Aakritee Singh, Chef de Cuisine and co-owner of A Reverie and winner of the first 'Chef of the Year - Goa' Times Food Awards 2017 - told us "It was a prestige to be a part of the Luxury League and Symposium and we are also delighted to be able to represent Goa on this global platform of luxury."

Since its inception in 2000, A Reverie, has won several acclamations for consecutive years including The Times Food Awards for World Cuisine. This one of a kind restaurant has continued to evolve with every season, nurtured by love from Chef de Cuisine Aakritee and Virendra Sinh's passion for food and beverage and everything related to it.

This power couple designed a menu inspired by their journey around the world, but ensured that it kept in touch with their regional roots. Together with their combined arsenal of around half a century of food and beverage experience, Chef de Cuisine Aakritee and Virendra have turned A Reverie into a nest for talented young chefs, sommeliers and food and beverage enthusiasts to promote Goa and India globally.



KEEP YOUR RED BEACONS BUT GIVE US WHAT WE RIGHTFULLY DESERVE

It came as a surprise for everyone when Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked red beacons on the cars to be removed. The move came unprecedented as the red beacon always symbolised very important persons (VIPs). The Prime Minister claimed his decision will be a blow to VIP culture and every Indian is VIP. It felt so nice to listen to such things. I am also a VIP. Wow!

Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar and his cabinet were amongst the first few people who removed red beacon from their cars. In fact Ministers like Vijai Sardesai, Rohan Khaunte and Sudin Dhavalikar who were with the Chief Minister when announcement was made went back to their home without red beacon on their cars.

The announcement was received well by the people. The social media was full of praise for the Prime Minister. The common man on the streets was so happy to have Narendra Modi to lead them. For a change everyone felt that they too are VIPs. Now, no more waiting aside to let the red beacon car pass by.

I still remember the day when a woman

driver who seemed to be new on the steering wheel was fired by police jeep providing security to then Chief Minister because she took time to give way to the CM convoy. This happened near Mandovi bridge, a narrow strip where riders or drivers always struggle. This was VIP culture.

Now with Prime Minister's announcement, I presumed, there won't be such scenes on the road as no one is VIP. But my expectation came crashing down soon when I went to cover convocation ceremony of Goa University at Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee stadium.

The entrance at the main gate welcomed with the board 'entry for VIPs/VVIPs only.' Police officer who was standing at the gate was not allowing anyone to enter that gate except for the cars of VIPs and VVIPs.

Rest of the people had to walk to another gate, which was a few metres away and was for non-VIPs. There was lot of rush there, especially of parents who had come there to witness the convocation ceremony of their child.

This was not the end. Further down when we reached the stadium building, there were separate entrances for VIPs and VVIPs. No one was frisked there and everyone was let in, giving them the complete honour of being VIP.

The parents on the other hand, had to stand in a queue, flash the invitation card which was given to them, after which they were frisked and let in.

I am not against frisking. It has to be done in the interest of security. But why only parents? Frisk all the so-called VIPs and VVIPs also. Our Prime Minister has told us that there is no VIP culture and every Indian is a VIP.

Why this discrimination at the gates? There should have been a common gate for everyone including President, Governor, Chief Minister and every other person who was well connected and came here as a VIP.

Merely getting away red beacon will not serve the purpose. VIPs will always remain VIPs and the commoners will always have to stand in a queue.

I have another thought to share- the function was convocation of students. For every parent, it is a proud moment when his child gets a degree or achieves the PhD certificate. It is a time when parents are VIPs. It is the moment for them to cherish.

I would have appreciated the organisers

if they had to treat the parents as VIPs. They are actually VIPs there for the event. They don't have red beacon but it was a proud and emotional moment for them.

Doing away with the red beacon is just a gesture. We need to weed out this VIP culture from everywhere. If Manohar Parrikar is frisked, the security personnel or policeman should not be punished as the Chief Minister is also a common man now.

But this won't happen. VIPs will always remain the same. The red beacon might have gone but the people who use the car are still the special ones. They are not common people or common man on the street won't get treatment as VIP.

We still have to stand in a queue at the airport while we see VIPs being escorted by airlines staff breaking all the security cordons, and they are taken to the aircraft.

This is as far as airport is concerned. Back to our own Ministerial chamber, common man is stopped at the door and not allowed to meet any Minister. These days even media persons cannot enter the Ministerial block without prior appointment.

'Goenkarwadi sarkar' is just a slogan for many as they still struggle to get their work done. It looks like we are still in the colonial era. VIPs will still remain VIPs and we will remain common man, who are pampered during elections and then left to face the same fate.

Let Manohar Parrikar and his government make common man feel VIP. Let there be no barriers between ministers and people. These are the same people who taught lesson to some arrogant leaders during recent election. That is why many of former Ministers have turned into common man after losing election.

It is not the symbolic gesture of removing red beacons from the cars but the elections that makes VIPs common man and during that time common man gets treated like VIP.

More than just doing away with the red beacon, more concrete steps are needed to be taken to ensure that we feel like VIPs. The people don't want anything but rulers to hear them with patience and solve their problem. We look for small pleasures. The demands are not so big. The politicians can keep their red beacon but just let us enjoy the tiny but significant privileges enshrined in the Indian constitution.





THE DARK HAZARD

TEAM TNV

Coal transportation is a major hazard that has been haunting the residents of Vasco city. The dark layer of dust on roadside houses explains much of the story. Being a port town, Vasco has been facing several pollution related problems right from the beginning.

Coal dust contains arsenic, mercury and other particulate matter. Transportation of coal/coke cargo through city roads and improper handling of this cargo inside the Mormugao Port are the two main reasons that are leading to coal dust pollution in port town of Vasco, leaving citizens to suffer.

Firstly there are two agencies at different berths inside the MPT. Both these agencies have been using different modes of transport to their destinations. It is being transported by road as well as railway. The Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB) has pulled up both these agencies by issuing show cause notices for operating in a manner that has been causing environmental pollution in the city. But inspite of preventive measures, coal dust pollution has not decreased in the city. Methods to prevent dust from coal storage piles are minimal; also the transportation process is not proper, causing spillage and dust in the surrounding areas.

Residential areas in close vicinity are facing problems due to coal transportation. The level

of coal pollution in and around Vasco town is high because coal is being dispatched by trucks through roads.

MMC in past had adopted unanimous resolution to stop coal transportation through the city and now I feel that if the companies cannot adhere to the pollution control norms then they should be banned from handling coal till the four-lane highway connecting Verna to MPT gets completed. Though the people of port town still believe that coal pollution has increased, MPT, however, has always claimed that coal pollution is already under control and they have implemented mitigation measures to control the same.

Coal is stacked in the open while transport trucks have a mere covering on their buckets while covering this causes dust to fly in the air, also speed breakers at regular intervals causes the coal to spill on the road. Coal handling and transportation should be carried out away from the residential areas as constant exposure to dust can cause severe lung diseases.

Coal dust particulates (tiny pieces of coal) are of particular concern because they contain heavy metals which are toxic at low concentrations. They include lead, mercury, nickel, tin, cadmium, mercury, antimony, and arsenic. Coal dust, especially fine coal dust, has been identified by health professionals and doctors around the world as causing a range of diseases and

health problems. Examples include increased incidences of heart and respiratory diseases like asthma and lung cancer. The health risks increase with the level and frequency of exposure. As fine coal dust accumulates in the lungs over time duration of exposure is also a risk factor. In fact, epidemiological research suggests that there is no threshold at which it is safe to breathe coal dust.

Governments from around the world are switching over to more cleaner and efficient fuels for energy to control pollution. By further expansions of coal facilities instead of minimising we are increasing the level of pollution. Rather than relying on traditional fuels which are causing irreversible harm to the environment as well as the health of the people. Time has come to switch over to more viable and cleaner forms of energy. Coal is the least efficient of the fossil fuels in terms of the amount of energy gained vs. CO2 released. Burning it also releases numerous toxic chemicals and particulates. Coal-fired power plants that sell electricity to the grid, produces more hazardous air pollution than any other industrial pollution sources.

The community has the right to know about the dangers to them from coal dust in the air. Not much is being done to protect the health of the public at large. The government should step in and ban the coal handling and transportation operations at the earliest before it is too late.

FEW LOYAL TAX-PAYERS HAVE TO PAY FOR EVERYBODY'S WASTE

SAVIO COUTINHO

The Margao Municipal Council is entirely responsible for this fiasco. They are displaying a total lack of will to resolve this issue, and the more it is delayed, the more complicated it will be. We are indeed shocked to learn thorough RTI information that the alliance of Goa Forward and BJP is not post assembly elections but it dates back to 3rd March 2016, the day when BJP Councilor seconded the resolution of sanitation fee rates, which was proposed by Goa Forward Chairperson.



TEAM TNV

Q What is the entire agitation about, against Margao Municipal Council?

The Margao Municipal Council has resolved to charge exorbitant sanitation/garbage collection fees. These fees have to be revised but since the fees are collected through the house tax, only the legally assessed premises and those having trade license are severely affected by this. The un-assessed, who are also waste generators, enjoy free services. In short, few loyal tax-payers have to pay for everybody's waste. If you go through the rates fixed by the Council you will learn that the rates are finalised without application of mind. Even premises like car porch are slapped with sanitation fees of Rs 600. Our demand is that, the Council should undertake data collection and list out all the waste generators for sanitation fees.

Q Who is leading this agitation and what is the response from Municipal Council?

The Shadow Council for Margao is representing the loyal taxpayers of Margao in this agitation. We are very disappointed with the behavior of the Council. Since March 2016, the time when the Council decided on the sanitation fees, we have been demanding that the Council should undertake data collection of all waste generators in the city so that the revenue base of the Council is widened thereby making it possible to apply justified charges. Initially the Chairperson had stated that data collection would be undertaken first. Last April, sanitation fees of Rs 600 and Rs 1800 were added in the house tax of assessed residential and commercial premises respectively. This April the Council opens up the sanitation fees that were decided by the Council on 3rd March 2016, and say that they were published last April.

When we had a meeting with the CO and CP on 18th April 2017, it was agreed that the new rates will be kept on hold until revision takes place, and the CP requested for 15 to 20 days time. Till today, nothing has progressed. Even the assurance of keeping the implementation of new rates on hold was not honored. It seems like the Council is playing a game of hide-and-seek with the loyal taxpayers.

Q Who is to be blamed for this entire fiasco?

The Margao Municipal Council is entirely responsible for this fiasco. They are displaying a total lack of will to resolve this issue, and the more it is delayed, the more complicated it will

be. We are indeed shocked to learn thorough RTI information that the alliance of Goa Forward and BJP is not post assembly elections but it dates back to 3rd March 2016, the day when BJP Councilor seconded the resolution of sanitation fee rates, which was proposed by Forward Chairperson.

Q Are you against paying the fee to collect garbage?

We are not against the fees to collect garbage, all we want is that it should be reasonable and the burden should not be imposed only on loyal taxpayers.

Even Panaji being a Corporation charges Rs 500 for collection of waste (that too from door step and in a segregated form). Small traders are charged Rs 100 to Rs 200 per month in Panaji, while in Margao it is much more. Here the Chairperson herself does not pay a single rupee towards sanitation fees, but expects and demands fees from loyal taxpayers.

Q What is the solution for garbage collection that you suggest?

The simple solution is that all waste generators should be listed by an exercise of data collection and nominal rates have to be fixed. The Council is dreaming of some GPS method of data collection which will further pinch the municipal treasury. Instead, the data collection could be completed through the dozen odd waste (mis)management supervisors who should be entrusted with the job in their respective areas.

Q Why this issue is not taken in the court?

Court will definitely be our final option, until than we will check out how sensitive the Council is to the taxpayers problems. Since the Goa Forward is ruling this Council, it was expected that they would guide the Council.

Q Why issue is not discussed with the Urban Development Minister?

We have submitted representations to the Urban Development Minister as well as the Chief Minister and DMA. This issue is not limited only to the payment of sanitation fees but also the criminal negligence in tapping the revenue sources which is resulting in revenue loss of about Rs 4 crore per annum.

Q What is your expectation from Margao Municipal Council?

The manner in which the loyal taxpayers have been subjected to humiliation by not honoring their own promises given on 18th April 2017, not much is expected from this Council.

Know Asthma

DR. JAGRUTI NADKARNI

Asthma is a lung condition characterised by symptoms of cough, wheezing and an abnormal sensation of breathing or heaviness in the chest. Wheezing occurs when air travels through narrowed airways. This presents as tightness and pressure in the chest and laborious breathing. The symptoms may range from mild to severe and even vary in the same person over a period of time. Waking up from sleep due to cough and wheezing may also signify poor control of asthma.

The reason for repeated wheezing in child can be because of asthma. This is accompanied by recurrent chest infections. However, other causes of wheezing such as heart problems, congenital problems, tumors and foreign bodies need to be ruled out before making a diagnosis of asthma.

Why are asthma cases increasing?

Asthma was initially thought to be present only in developed countries. However with the advent of industrialisation and westernisation, asthma is being recognised more in developing countries like India. The reasons include environmental factors, air pollutants and poor air quality in urban industrial areas. Smoking is another important risk factor. Infants whose parents/family members smoke have a higher chance of developing asthma. Due to earlier recognition and diagnosis, asthma is seen to be more common in our country.

What are the causes of asthma?

We don't know what exactly causes asthma, but what we do know is that there are complex interactions occurring at the genetic and the environmental levels which increase susceptibility to develop asthma. The latter includes infections with certain viruses, cigarette smoke, pets, pesticides and certain chemicals, painkiller medicines, wood smoke, dust mites, etc. Similarly, those with family history of allergy and asthma are more prone to develop asthma in life.

When do we suspect asthma?

Asthma has to be ruled out in any person whose cough lasts for more than 8 weeks. If wheezing is accompanied with cough and if there is a family history of asthma and allergy, then asthma diagnosis is much more likely. In a healthy young adult who is a non-smoker, intermittent cough, wheeze and chest discomfort especially after a

WHAT ARE THE TRIGGERS FOR ASTHMA?

Asthma triggers are exposures that precipitate or worsen a person's asthma. A person with asthma may have more than one trigger.

- Allergens

Common examples include pets (such as cats or dogs), foods (such as peanuts, tree nuts, shellfish), or aeroallergens (such as ragweed, grasses, or pollens).

- Cold
- Cigarette smoke
- Exercise
- Infections: viral or bacterial
- Bronchitis/chest colds
- Pneumonia
- Sinusitis
- Irritants
- Medications
- Stress
- Sulphites/food additives.

By correctly identifying asthma triggers and avoiding exposure to those triggers, one's asthma will be better controlled.

viral chest infection or after change in weather may be suggestive of asthma. Or if a child has a bout of cough every time after playing outdoor games and this is accompanied by chest tightness and breathing difficulty, asthma needs to be ruled out.

How a doctor will diagnose asthma?

A doctor will diagnose asthma based on one's symptoms and by physical examination. He may recommend tests like chest x-ray and a lung function test to confirm the diagnosis of asthma.

What are the medicines available to treat asthma?

Asthma medicines are best prescribed in a stepwise fashion. Treatment is started with one or two types of medicines and then depending on the response and the lung functions, medicines may be added or reduced. There are inhalers or "pumps" and oral medicines for asthma. Inhaler medicines deposit the drug directly into the lungs as opposed to the oral ones. The action is quick and lasts for several hours. The quick relievers help to give instant relief while the controllers are used daily to maintain asthma control. Oral medicines can also control asthma and allergy especially in children and in those with exercise induced asthma. If good asthma control is achieved for at

least 3 months, one may try to reduce the medicines.

Are the steroids used in asthma treatment harmful?

Asthma is characterised by ongoing lung inflammation. Steroids are good anti-inflammatory agents and when prescribed by your doctor especially as inhaled therapy, are safe and effective. They are not to be confused with anabolic steroids which are misused for weight gain. A poorly controlled asthma has a greater chance of affecting a child's growth apart from causing school absenteeism.

Role of diet and exercise in asthma:

Apart from medicines, a well balanced diet is also recommended for asthma control. Supplements should not replace good eating habits. Good intake of Vitamin D, calcium and omega 3 fatty acids have shown to help in achieving good asthma control. Also obese adults who lose weight have a better asthma control than their overweight counterparts. As long as asthma is well controlled, participation in sports and other aerobic activities is encouraged. Swimming, for example, is a very good aerobic exercise recommended in children. Similarly, Yoga and Pranayam with deep breathing exercises also help in achieving a good lung function.

Can we do something to prevent development of asthma?

There is evidence that reducing exposure to environmental tobacco smoke, house dust mites and cockroaches decrease the chances of developing asthma. Exclusive breast feeding for 4-6 months after birth and avoiding early introduction to solid

food in a child also delays development of allergies. Most of the food allergies in a child are secondary to ingestion of cow's milk, eggs, nuts and fish including shell fish. Hence delay in introduction of these substances in a child's diet may also help in delaying asthma. However, there is no known intervention at present that completely prevents development of asthma.

Will asthma disappear as the child grows?

As the child grows, symptoms of asthma may remain absent for months/years together giving the impression that asthma has disappeared. However, it is important to remember that asthma is a lifetime diagnosis. In general, a child may stop experiencing symptoms of asthma after the first decade if there is no family history of asthma or if the first trigger was a viral infection. However, since each person is different it is difficult to predict the course of asthma with certainty every time.

In managing asthma well, physicians and patients both play important roles. One should know the correct method of taking medicines and also adhere to the treatment plan. The main goal of asthma treatment is to allow a person to fully enjoy work, play and sports while adhering to his individualised treatment.

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SKYROCKETING REAL ESTATE

TEAM TNV

The people of Goa are facing an all-time spike in prices of real estate, making shelter unaffordable even though it is a basic need for humans. Various reasons have seen spiking real estate rates of flats and land in Goa to such an extent that a city dweller has been forced to get in interiors and migrants replacing him in towns.

The decreased FSI of constructions has worsened the situation for people and developers chopping off cost effective deals by constraining buildings from one more floor of the construction. Increase in FSI will reduce 25% of the cost on flats, which is now the will of the present government.

Today, an individual has to shell out over 40 to 60 lakh rupees to buy a shelter for himself. The real estate developers who charge this amount of money are always on the beneficial side and the client is always at loss.

Margao and suburbs are commercial hubs of Goa. Margao town attracts several professionals and skilled men from around Goa and India for employment. As commerce increases, so is the town and also the need for shelter in the form of lands, own houses and flats in buildings to a great extent. Margao town has now extended till Mandopa and Navelim

on south, Raia in north, Curtorim in east and coastal areas of Benaulim and Varca on west of the town. The scarcity of settlement land has always been there in Goa and mostly in Margao due to the tall coconut trees and also the green cultivated fields. This scarcity has now caused a cross elastic phenomenon where the land scarcity has increased demands for townships and the townships all over Margao are charging huge money for flats.

An average double bedroom flat even in a moderately distant area of the town may cost you over 65 lakh rupees after paying the sale deed and service taxes. The price tag of Rs 55 lakh is overwhelmingly high for a salaried person, may it be a Goan or a non Goan. As one tries to get in closer proximity of the town, the price increases manifold. Recently 2 flats ready for possession in Housing board area of Margao were sold for a whopping 84 lakh rupees and 1 crore 6 lakh rupees each for a large flat.

Team TNV contacted several builders and developers from Navelim, Margao and other surrounding areas. They said, "The cost of construction has gone really high nowadays. Adding to that the land costs have touched all-time high. The cost of labour has increased. To add to the odds the government in the year 2013 reduced the FSI ratio

of buildings reducing construction of one more floor and the cost of which is pushed on to the client." All builders informed that the cost of a flat which is 55 thousand rupees per sq.mt at present will come down and the consumer will be able to get the flat for 38 to 40 lakh rupees only if the FSI is boosted. "Until the present arrangement is in force the cost will be 55 thousand per sq.mt which we all know isn't affordable to common man," they told.

Willy Fernandes who has been trying to buy a flat in Navelim area had to shell out over half a crore of rupees for it. "The prices have increased to an impossible limit now. The developers have nothing to lose as the need for shelter is ever increasing and never stopping. The people are the worst hit in this bargain" he said.

Devraj Faldessai from Cuncolim got a banking job in Verna and to avoid travelling every day he decided to go for a residence in Margao so that he has a house when he is married. To his surprise the offers and deals Devraj got in areas like Ravanfond and Davorlim itself were so high that he has to now travel

all the way from Cuncolim to Verna and back. "I am a middleclass man who has just started a career. I was planning to borrow a loan and get a flat for myself. Sadly, the offer I got was Rs 75 lakh for a double bed spacious flat.

Presently there are over six major constructions and several other minor constructions going on in various parts of Margao out of which Aquem power house and Davorlim area is topping the list, closely followed by Vidyanagar and Gogol areas. Several developers have now devised price control methods by reducing the areas slightly and going into interiors of town.

The developers have shown readiness to reduce the cost of the flats if FSI is increased. Now the decision of the government can bring much needed relief to the people in need for a home.



MEET THE ACTIVIST PANCH DIOGO FRANCIS RODRIGUES



TEAM TNV

Q As a former Sarpanch and having served as a panch for three terms, what do you think are the limitations of a Panchayat?

The Panchayat should be given more powers, only then there will be development in villages for the very basic needs of the community such as roads, electricity, water, wells etc. There are times when most of the development activities are stalled due to NOC issues which has to be obtained from the 'bhatkars' or the major land owners. These are the times when a Panchayat's hands are tied.

Q Tell us about your work as a panch member?

Terekhol being a far flung village from mainland Goa has unfortunately been neglected and never saw any significant development. I am a social worker and have travelled extensively to educate people about the laws pertaining to tenant and mundkar Act. More than 80 percent of the people

are 'kul' or 'mundkars' but little do they know about their rights and the government as well as the land sharks are taking advantage. There have also been cases wherein some mundkar names have been deleted. The land sharks and the political nexus has taken advantage of the illiterate people. As a member of the Tenant-Mundkar Association, I take it as a responsibility to educate the people and help them in Court cases.

Q Keri-Terekhol Panchayat comes under Mandrem constituency, which was former CM Laxmikant Parsekar's seat. Was that of any help?

We had no help whatsoever from Mr Parsekar, in fact we had to fight against the government for the very existence of Terekhol during his tenure. The mouth of the Terekhol River which was being dredged to facilitate barges for coal transportation to the neighbouring village of Arondawas brought to a halt after a complaint to the National Green Tribunal. The government had also started work on a bridge to connect

Terekhol with Keri village. Though the bridge is a necessity and very much required, the dubious ways in which it was being pushed raised eyebrows. Neither the necessary permissions were taken nor were any notices served to the affected land owners. The bridge seemed to be more convenient for the proposed golf course and a hotel project. The hotel project and the golf course which was threatening the whole village of Terekhol were stopped after we approached the Court.

Q What are the problems faced by the village?

As I said, Terekhol village is far away from development. There is no piped water supply and the village is dependent on wells and springs which too dry up during the summer. We have to purchase water tankers from neighbouring State of Maharashtra, electricity also comes from Maharashtra and hence there is load

shedding and regular power cuts. More than 56 years have passed since Liberation, but the government is yet to provide proper electricity and water which are the basic needs of a citizen.

Q How do you see at the women's reservation in the Panchayat?

Women empowerment is of uttermost importance. Women should have equal rights in all walks of life, be it your home or the administration.

Q What is your advice to the newcomers who will be contesting in the upcoming Panchayat elections?

If you cannot give 100 percent dedication to the problems of the village, please do not contest the Panchayat polls. Being a panch comes with a responsibility of bringing the attention of the government to the grassroots level.

RIDE LIKE A PRO

AMEY JOSHI

Do you remember the days you spent as a kid riding your favourite bike down the street and felt the adrenaline rush as you picked up speed? Well, Probyk is here to help you relieve all those cherished memories. Some of you might not be familiar with the name Probyk. So let me make things simple.

Probyk is an established multi-brand bicycle speciality store, offering retail sales of bicycles, parts and accessories, apparel, maintenance and repair services. Probyk has several leading brands from all over the world such as Giant, Cervelo, Merida, Ghost, Lapierre, Michelin, Continental, Camelback, Kask and KED to name a few. Stores are stocked with several types of bikes from high-end road bikes and hybrids to beach cruisers and mountain bikes. In addition to bike sales, the shop provides excellent bike service and wash stations in store. Probyk is not just a retail outlet but also a brand which encourages individuals to start cycling

and continue to do so for many years in the future. This is done with regular events and workshops being held to help cyclists learn, grow and connect with a larger community of bike riding enthusiasts.

Now that you're familiar with the name 'Probyk', let's take a look at some of their favourite and successful events. If you live in Goa, you know that we pride ourselves for our Christmas celebrations. If there's anyone who knows to party and have a good time, it's us Goans. What's so cool about Probyk is that it takes advantage of all its opportunities including (yes you guessed it) Christmas!

Every year on the 23rd of December the Santa Ride event takes place in Goa and sees participants of all ages joining in with family and friends to ride across Panjim City singing carols and spreading the holiday spirit. Santa caps and refreshments are provided to all the riders who register. The event usually takes place over a course of two hours.

Another special event hosted is the annual 'Friendship Ride' which is held

on 6th August. Bikers ride across Goa on the day of friendship to spread the message of peace and harmony. This event has been considered a success in the past with riders travelling through any 5 Talukas of Goa. So if you have friends or if you are a people's person, I do recommend you take part in the next friendship ride.

The first ever 'Goa Duathlon' took place this past month. This event provided participants with a new fitness and sport experience as it kept runners and cyclists on the go from start to finish. The event took place at the SP Mukherjee Stadium in Bambolim and recorded a distance of 27.5 Km altogether- 5 Km on the run, 20 Km cycling and 2.5 Km again on the run. Sure seems like a lot of calories burned. Well, if you are up for it then you better have your running shoes on next time around.

Besides the three fun events we just spoke about, the 'Vagus' event seems to stand out to most people. This one is more for an adventurous person. You don't know where you are going until you get directions at the next checkpoint. I think this is what excites most riders. The suspense makes you

so anxious yet excited and ready to go at the same time.

The event starts with each rider receiving details of the first checkpoint. Riders then check the route and start at the appointed time. Riders have to then stop at each checkpoint to sign that they have reached and pick up instructions for the next checkpoint. Do not mistake it for a race, however, the rider needs to complete the route in the given time to qualify. You can say that it's more of a time trial rather. The 'Vagus' season starts on 1st October and ends on 30th September every year.

Other such events from Probyk include the weekly rides which include the 'Club Probyk Morning Ride Schedule', 'Tuesday Roadies Ride Out' to Zuari Bridge, 'Thursday Trials' to Pomburpa Bastora, 'Saturday Bhaji Ride' to Divar Island and many more.

These are all upcoming events and more details about Probyk and their events can be found at www.probyk.in

Probyk has inspired and encouraged many people to live their lives out of a box and if there's anything that would give you that same joy and happiness that you experienced as a kid, it has to be Probyk.





Legal Corner

Adv. Atreyee A. Kukalekar

Since we have reached to the maximum number of people through our widespread news and feature coverage, we are taking yet another step. The introduction of 'Legal Corner' is an initiative to advice people about matters related to judiciary. There are times when people are caught up in a mess and they want to have basic knowledge about their legal rights or the way to deal with the troubles. So here we are.

Our legal expert Atreyee Kukalekar is a practicing lawyer with the detailed knowledge of law books. She will give you practical solutions for your problems. What you have to do is just send us your queries on email address: features@theneutralview.com.

We will also feature the answers on our website on regular basis. Also, if you intend to get your name published we will do it, or if you don't want, we will maintain confidentiality.



1 My tenant has not been vacating my flat which he has been occupying since last almost five years. The agreement which I had entered with him has expired four years back and he has not renewed it. He has been paying me the rent on time but I want the flat to be vacated. How to go ahead legally in this matter?

Ans. First of all stop referring the person as a tenant. As his status is of a trespasser. Secondly file a complaint against him for illegal and unauthorised trespassing into your immovable property. Most importantly stop accepting his rent, as the moment you accept rent from him it implies that you have permitted him to continue his occupation of your flat. After refusing to accept rent you can file a suit for eviction against him before the competent Court of law.

2 I was employed at Dubai and had taken my wife along with me on family Visa to Dubai, however our first child was born in Dubai about 3 years ago and I have a valid certificate of birth of my child issued by the Hospital authority at Dubai. Now I have returned to India and I am informed that I need to get my child's birth to be registered in India. Kindly guide.

Answer: The registration of Births and Deaths Act provides for such registrations at the place of domicile of the parents. You will have to file an application under section 13 sub clause 3 read with section 20 sub clause 2 of the Registration of Births and Deaths Act 1969 in the Court of Judicial Magistrate of the place where you permanently reside in India along with the certificate of birth issued by the Dubai authorities and non-availability certificate issued by the local authority.

3 I am a working women with one child and seeking to file a divorce. What are the steps I should take when divorce becomes inevitable? Should I go to a therapist or divorce consultant alongside my lawyer? What sort of divorce do I need and which recent legal changes should I consider?

Answer: Before answering to the queries it would be necessary to know whether the marriage is registered in Goa. Secondly, presuming that it is registered in Goa or otherwise divorce is either mutual or contested and



if your husband is not inclined to jointly file petition for mutual divorce then you need to spell out your reason for seeking divorce. Law provides various grounds which include- adultery, cruelty, desertion, insanity, separation, change of religion, imprisonment etc. as various grounds among others. You need to firstly see a lawyer and explain your case so as to fit it in the available ground for filing petition for contested divorce.

4 I am living in a building from last 12 years which doesn't have any housing society. Now I wish to sell my flat but there is no sale deed done in my name. What should I do?

First of all you need to clarify as on the status of your occupation and how you came in occupation of the flat. Whether you have paid the consideration towards the flat to its previous owner or whether you have purchased it from the builder directly. You can either get a Title Deed registered in your name under the provisions of Specific Performance of Contract from its earlier owner or in case of builder you can approach the Consumer Court for seeking directions for registering a Sale Deed in your favour so as to give you complete title over the flat. In absence of title document you cannot get the status of an owner of any immovable property and in such a case you will not have a clear and marketable title to sell the same.

5 I Sold my 4 wheeler to a person but it's not transferred on his (buyer) name. Now the person is not available to initiate formalities to transfer it to buyer's name. What should I do?

As a first step, report the fact to the police station of your jurisdiction in order to avoid any unfortunate claim or complain with respect to said vehicle. For all purpose as it stands you are still the registered owner of the vehicle in records of transport authorities and being so you should be diligent in tracing your vehicle and should take its custody unless at least a sale agreement is executed between you and the other person. In absence of valid contract of sale or transfer of ownership you are liable for all the penalties under the provisions of the Motor Vehicle Act.

WHEN INVESTMENT

The much hyped 'Goa investment promotion' concept, launched way back in November 2014 by the then BJP-led government, with a promise to bring in Rs 25,000 crore investment in five years might have managed to attract the investors to invest in Goa (though not to the extent it promised) - but on a larger front it drew flak from the people over various controversial projects like distillery and brewery, that they approved to be set up in this small state.

Under former Chief Minister Laxmikant Parsekar, the government had enacted Goa Investment Promotion Act 2014 for facilitating single window clearance for the investors to invest in the State. Pursuant to this Act, the 'Goa Investment Promotion and Facilitation Board (IPFB), a statutory body was constituted for speedy clearance of investment proposals above Rs 5 crore. The Board was marred in controversies, with demand for its scrapping coming right from political front to the NGOs and green activists.

As the term of the Board ended in December, last year, just before the State Assembly elections, all eyes were set on Manohar Parrikar-led coalition government on whether it will go ahead with IPFB or scrap it. The hopes were high considering that the coalition government had Ministers like Vijay Sardesai and Rohan Khaunte, who were most vocal against the IPFB.

But whatever said and done, the BJP-led coalition government on May 5 re-constituted the IPFB under chairmanship of Parrikar. But what was interesting is, appointment of Khaunte as vice chairman, being the Minister for Information and

Technology.

"We are not surprised at all with the decision to re-constitute the Board. We have been saying it right from the beginning that IPFB is money making tool for the BJP and now to its coalition partners. The first u-turn of the BJP led coalition government has come and there are many more to come," Congress chief spokesperson Sunil Kawthankar told TNV.

"We have not done any u-turn. We never said that the Board should be scrapped, we were talking about certain models like red category industries introduced through IPFB in the name of investment. We are not going to allow anything that is not in the interest of Goa and its people. The newly formed Board will keep all the aspects like pollution, employment, land, into mind while granting permissions," Revenue Minister and vice chairman of IPFB Rohan Khaunte said.

The IPFB has been criticized on two grounds - for allowing projects in agriculture, orchards and other green areas, and for bypassing all other forms of governance, including village institutions.

TAKE A LOOK BACK AT IPFB FORMATION, PROPOSALS, CONTROVERSIES

While Prime Minister Narendra Modi chanted slogan that the environment and development should go hand in hand ensuring complete protection of green resources, the Bharatiya Janata Party in Goa, was on a different mode altogether. The biggest challenge to Goa and its ecology, had appeared to be from IPFB.

The Investment Promotion Act 2014, which

governs the functioning of IPFB, overrules all the state laws like the Regional Plan, the Outline Development Plan, all other Acts of local bodies, the TCP Acts and the land revenue code to facilitate industries. "Notwithstanding anything contained in any other State law for the time being in force, the Board shall, for the purpose of promoting and facilitating investments, exercise the powers of any statutory authority, Board or agency under the government," the Act stated.

The NGO's, environmentalists and activists have been catalysts in the growing public opinion that this Act was introduced to remove impediments in the way of hotels, resorts and factories, in Goa's race against time to get investments pouring into the state. "IPFB is nothing but a destruction tool. In the name of investments, the government has bulldozed upon the green areas. All the norms and regulations are thrown to wind. How can government allow projects in the village areas without consulting the locals and the village bodies there? The Act is nothing but murder of democracy," Goa Bachao Abhiyan (GBA) convener Sabina Martins said.

Even the Parliamentary Standing Committee, which was on Goa visit last year, called the IPB Act as a "destructive law" and "against the environment".

And yes it was a destructive law- Not one but as many as three red category industries in form of liquor and brewery were granted permissions to set up in the State that planned to invest nearly Rs 200 crore. For facilitating the project by Delhi based Vani Agro Pvt Ltd, the government in a

EATS ENVIRONMENT

surprising move, amended the Tree Preservation Act, declassifying the coconut as tree, thereby granting permissions to cut as many as 1000 coconut trees in Amdai village of Sanguem.

Moreover, it also allowed Rs 700 crore Marina project in biodiversity hot spot areas. Also a 500 room hotel project of M/s Ozone Leisure and Resorts Pvt Ltd, promoters of the Vanxim resort-were granted permission in No Development Zone (NDZ). The project is almost Rs 750 crore.

Some of these controversial projects dragged government to the High Court. During a recent submission before the Court, the State said that IPFB is not the final authority for granting permissions but the project proponent will have to seek individual permission from concerned authorities including village bodies.

Since its inception in November 2014 till December 2016, the Board held eleven meetings granting in-principle approvals to 152 projects with total proposed investment of Rs 11,759.41 crore with employment potential of 26,600 persons. The interesting part to note was, for facilitating these projects, it allowed land conversion of over 3 lakh sq mtrs of area from non-settlement/commercial to settlement/commercial.

As per the information available with the TNV, of the total 152 projects approved by the previous Board, 26 percent of the projects consists of hospitality which has brought in a total investment of Rs 4500 crore. This includes five-star resorts, shopping malls, eco-tourism projects, etc. Also, there are another 45 percent expansion projects while the balance are new projects. A very little

focus has been on introducing manufacturing or IT or institutional projects. All these comprises of only 29 percent of the total projects sanctioned for the State.

Interestingly, of these, not even 10 percent of the projects have commenced its operation. "Hardly five percent, which are expansions and small hotel projects have started operation. The major projects that can generate employment in hundreds, is yet to begin any ground works," IPFB sources said.

MAJOR PROJECTS APPROVED BY PREVIOUS BOARD

Vedanta Resources Rs 1225 crore pig iron plant expansion, Rs 700 crore two marina projects, Rs 750 crore five-star project by M/s Ozone Leisure and Resort Pvt Ltd, Alcohol unit by Vani Agro at a cost of Rs 111.37 crore, Health Drinks by M/s Barmalt Malting (India) Pvt Ltd, with an investment of Rs 250 crore, MRF Limited expansion for production from six lakh tyres to 13 lakh tyres per year, (hospitality 500 crore), Rs 100 crore rope way project from Panaji to Reis Magos, Rs 500 crore hotel project at Porvorim, Mini India Project and Aquaculture Farm

PROJECTS THAT SPARKED CONTROVERSIES

A- Vani Agro Pvt Ltd Alcohol unit at Amdai in Sanguem

The IPFB is notorious for giving clearances where the land is not designated to have industries or hotels. This is often forested land. So, a piece of land with over thousand coconut trees and cashew trees was changed overnight

from agricultural to industrial land. This happened in the widely reported case in Sanguem, where Vani Agro's distillery was allowed to come up by clearing 1,000 coconut and 500 cashew trees. That the permission to clear then for the distillery was given before the coconut palm was reclassified shows how powerful the IPB was. The project was strongly opposed by the locals as well as political parties like Congress and Goa Forward, who all together demanded scrapping the same.

B- M/S OZONE LEISURE AND RESORT PVT LTD

The project approved by IPB, in 2015, was held up since 2010 following protest from the Vanxim islanders. The land belongs to the Archdioceses of Goa and Daman and the same was sold out to the private player for setting up resort. The eco resort in Vanxim has an island, rich in biodiversity. Surrounded by the Mandovi river, the land mostly comprises of paddy fields, khazan lands, water bodies and mangroves. The project also came close to Neturlim wildlife sanctuary. The project approvals are currently challenged before the High Court.

C- MARINA PROJECTS AT SACOALE AND NAUXI

Both the projects were strongly opposed by then local MLAs and the fishermen folk, who claimed that the project will destroy their livelihood. Both the projects are currently kept on hold, after opposition and the Goa Biodiversity Board declared the Sacoale area as biodiversity hot spot and said no to the projects. It saw agitations from the local fishing communities.

WHY AREN'T HORROR FILMS SCARY ANYMORE?

PALASH VOLVOIKAR

Horror has always been a very exciting genre, and more so when it comes to films. The film medium has succeeded in doing justice to the horror stories we have all read and heard of, because when it comes to this particular genre, seeing is better than reading. While horror films have successfully spooked the public for years, the genre isn't doing so well anymore. Now, you could disagree with me on this by putting forth a few points that I am sure you're thinking about, but I am talking about the ability of a film to scare you in a way that will stick to you. How many of us can really say that we have been that scared by a film which came out in the last fifteen years? Not many, I suppose. It seems like there are a couple of reasons which are responsible for the steady decline in the quality of horror in films.

Even after accounting for the fact that genres often tend to overlap, I still can't think of many movies in the recent years that scared me as much as the classics like *The Exorcist*. The last good horror movie of this millennium was *The Exorcism of Emily Rose*, which came out in 2005, over a decade ago. The 2014 psychological horror, *The Babadook*, was really terrifying as well, but I am counting that as a bit of an exception to the fact that recent years haven't done much for the horror genre.

Definitely, the problem isn't with the number of horror films that have been coming out, either. Horror is a sensationalist genre, and we all know how well sensationalism sells. If anything, the recent years have seen more horror films hit the screens than before, and with them being surrounded with a lot of hype too. The sad truth is, over-marketing is one of the reasons for the decline in quality. Recent horror films have been over-marketed to their capacity, and one of the worst mistakes the producers are making is giving away the best bits of the movie in the trailer. Trailers are supposed to create hype, no doubt, but if you're presenting the best of your work in a short clip intended to create hype, and leaving not much of a surprise to the audience, it's obvious that the public will walk out disappointed.

Surprises bring me to the next big pitfall of the horror genre: jump scares. If you pay attention, the jump scares used in modern horror movies tend to be more and more reliant on making a really loud noise, rather than the horror being portrayed in the actual scene taking place on the screen. Jump scares don't scare the audiences anymore, they just startle them. Now, one can argue that jump scares in general, are quite played out, but that still doesn't negate the fact that just loud noises aren't what we watch horror films for. Good jump scares can still be achieved, but their overuse just defuses the public's suspense, and results in the film not building up to an end that is scary enough to make an impact.

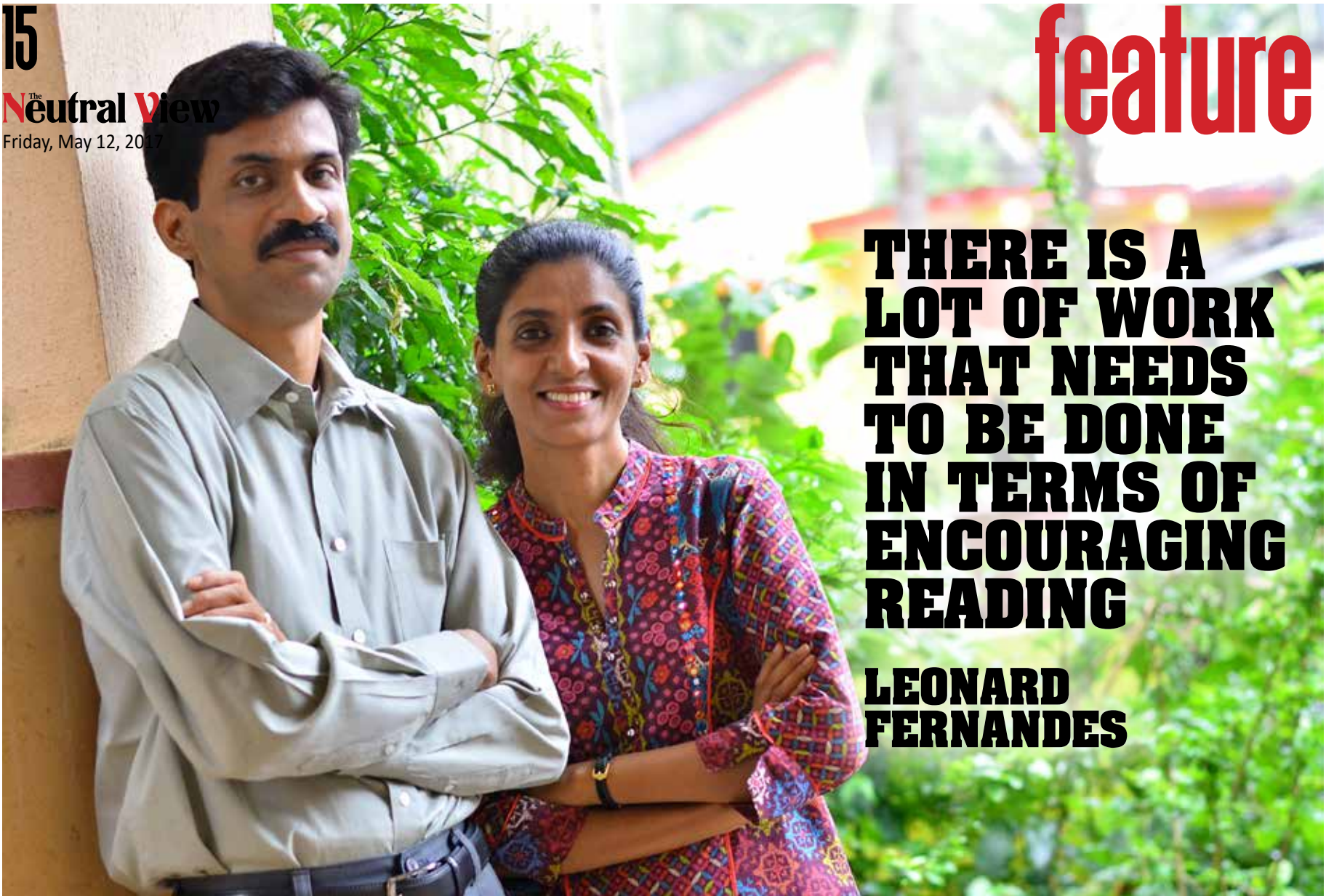
There are a lot of ways to argue with the logic that I am putting forward here. For one, horror movies rack up a lot of cash at the box office, so what really gives me the right to say that they are not good enough? Well, that's just the curse of sensationalism again. Film industries are constantly chasing projects which will sell, rather than those which will be received well. We are seeing absolutely tasteless remakes of classics, in Hollywood. Money is trumping quality.

One can also argue that a few recent films like, *The Conjuring*, weren't too bad. I personally enjoyed the first installment and the second one too, albeit to a lesser extent, but there was a noticeable decline in the quality. The second film relied too much on jump scares, and despite the fact that both the films were well made, the second one had a lot less impact than the first one did.

In all fairness, I can't really put the blame on the filmmakers and producers. We, the audience have to accept that we are partly at fault for the ongoing downfall of horror. We love the jump scares, we fall for the marketing, and we pay to watch films that we hardly ever end up liking. It seems like all of these factors have come together to change the definition of horror in the recent times. It's a shame, because the decline in quality has led the genre to be perceived as a not so serious one.

So what can we do? We can maybe revisit the old time classic horror films, and roll ourselves back to the actual definition of horror. Good cinema is all around, so we know that this is a genre specific issue, so maybe we can rise above the sensationalism and not let one of the best genres of film die out.





THERE IS A LOT OF WORK THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE IN TERMS OF ENCOURAGING READING

LEONARD FERNANDES



⇒ TNV's Anwasha Singbal in conversation with Leonard Fernandes and Queenie Fernandes, co-founders of 'The Dogears Bookshop', Margao who have managed to script a new chapter in the Goan book publishing and marketing industry.

Q Tell us about your journey into the world of books? When did publishing begin?

Our journey began in 2006 when we launched dogearsetc.com, an online store for books. The following year, in October 2007 we published our first set of books, and thus began our journey in publishing.

Q Did you always want to start a book store?

We did, although we were also aware that book selling is often a loss making business. But the idea of having a bookstore and being surrounded by books all the time was an experience we did not wish to miss. So when someone told us that there was a vacant place, we grabbed the opportunity to start a bookshop.

Q Do you feel people still read the same way as before? Is there a decline?

Going by book sales alone, I believe there is a lull in reading habits. There are a few people, many regulars who come by and purchase books. But there are many more who just pass by without even looking at the bookstore. I believe there is a book for everyone only if they just bothered to look.

Q How do you view allegations on today's generation that they are moving away from books?

I think it is too general a statement

because there are some teenagers who are extremely passionate about certain genres and authors. I am sure there could be more of them but there are too many things vying for their attention. Here, I feel the education system which places a premium on rote learning and not reading for leisure is also to blame.

Q How do you see the future of books in regional languages?

If you are asking me about Konkani books, I think there is much that can be done. In this I am only looking to the book industry in states like Maharashtra, Kerala and West Bengal and the tremendous premium on reading and knowledge acquisition that they place. It pains me when I notice that there are very few who read Konkani, even after having such wonderful Konkani authors who write so beautifully. I think we are not able to reach out to the readers and that should be something that the literary community takes upon itself.

Q Do you think enough is being done in the field of children's literature? Are the writers moving with time?

In the last couple of years, I think KBM has done a wonderful job of producing some incredible children's literature. I am not sure if children's literature in Goa is moving with time because, for instance, none of the social concerns that occupy Goan minds are reflected in the books that are published

here. No wonder that children remain insensitive to these issues. Having said that, I think it cannot be left to one or two organisations to address the needs of children's literature.

More people need to be involved in making books that attract children's attention. There is also a big gap in the area of study and vocabulary building. Books on grammar and vocabulary are few and not easily accessible. There is an urgent need to develop such books. Economically too, it presents a good opportunity for enterprising publishers.

Q What types of books get sold on your bookstore?

We sell both, secondhand as-well-as new books. Among the new books, we have concentrated on- a) books on Goa, b) books for children and c) books in Konkani. We probably have one of the largest collection of books in Konkani but it pains us that we have few buyers for them. Among the secondhand books, we have books in all genres, primarily in popular fiction.

Q How do you see the overall reading scenario in Goa?

I think there is a lot of work that needs to be done - in terms of encouraging reading, making good books accessible to readers and making them aware of the rich literary traditions of our state. This needs to be a collective, sustained effort. It cannot be a problem that only a few attempt to address.

NOT BEING ABLE TO FORM GOVT WAS NOT A CONGRESS FAILURE: CHANDRAKANT KAVLEKAR

TEAM TNV

Q If I am not wrong, you're the youngest CLP leader or Leader of opposition, the Congress party has seen. Is it going to be easier for you, considering that party has got four ex-CM legislators working under you?

First, I would like to thank all my 16 MLAs for showing faith in me and electing me as their leader. Our party Vice President Rahul Gandhi has always been speaking about promoting young leaders to lead the party and my selection as CLP leader is one such step, I would say.

Having four such senior leaders, who have headed the State in the past, is a great honour for me to work with. They are not going to work under me, but we all are going to work together. Their political experience, especially of Pratapsingh Rane, is equal to my age and hence, his guidance is must for me to lead the party forward.

Q Considering the fact that just before the February Assembly polls, party faced jolt in form of two of its legislators quitting and joining BJP and lot of talks about internal rifts, it still managed to emerge as single largest party. Was it because of anti-BJP waves?

Let us not consider resignation of Mauvin Godinho and Pandurang Madkaikar as jolt to the party. As you all know, Godinho was never with Congress and Madkaikar's switch over was predicted much in advance by us and we were prepared for that. Yes, if they were in Congress, we would have won two more seats, taking over tally to 19 (including Vishwajit).

But I would say that their move to go to BJP helped Congress in big way, as people finally realised what BJP is. After accusing both Mauvin and Madkaikar of being scamsters, BJP not only inducted them into party but also gave them ticket and now Ministerial berth. This move, itself went against BJP.

Yes, just before the election there was a strong anti-BJP wave and people saw how Congress was making attempts to change itself and ensure it does not repeat its mistakes. Our party workers, worked day and night to ensure our win. It was their hard work and anti BJP wave that gave us 17 seats.

Q But despite people's mandate, you failed to form the government. Rather than blaming BJP of 'robbing people's mandate', why does Congress not accept that it was their failure?

No, it was not Congress failure. As we told you, we had support from one independent and three Goa Forward MLAs. But then, Manohar Parrikar, who was waiting for an opportunity to come back to Goa, began 'shopping of MLAs'. They struck deals, made compromises and ensured that they formed government in coalition with GFP, MGP and independents.

Even today I would say that BJP robbed the people's mandate, which was given to us. The Governor (Goa) also helped BJP to form the government. She (Mridula Sinha) never invited us to form the government, despite us informing her that we have the majority.

Q But then you failed to prove the majority on the Floor of the House. Your own MLA Vishwajit Rane, restrained himself from voting. How you justify that?

Initially, I was shocked with what happened on the Floor of the House, I could not understand what went wrong. Rane had even signed the whip. Yes, he expressed his happiness, after BJP submitted letter to form government. We all assumed we were united, but we were not.

But now when I introspect, I feel whatever happens, it happens for good. Rane left the party and I feel it was good decision for the party. I don't see any implications on party. We 16 are united and will continue our fight for government formation.

Q Can you elaborate 'whatever happens, happens for good'?

In our earlier tenure as well as now, several MLAs had raised doubts on Rane and his closeness with BJP. But we ignored. But now, circumstances are such, that their doubts are confirmed.

Our failure to form the government was only because our strategies were getting leaked to BJP. Every step that we took towards government formation was leaked. Vishwajit was their spy. We are happy that he left the party. But now it is threat to BJP, as there is every possibility that he will leak their strategies to us.

Q So, it was Vishwajit, who indirectly made sure that Congress doesn't form the government. This is what you mean

to say?

Not indirectly, but directly. He played major role in BJP-led coalition government formation. That is the reason, why he is today in Manohar Parrikar cabinet holding such crucial portfolio like Health. It was a deal...you help us and then be part of it.

Q But even today, there are strong rumors that more three MLAs of Congress are set to quit the party and join BJP. How far is this true?

You yourself said these are rumors. And these rumors are spread by BJP. We all are united and ready to work as constructive opposition.

In fact, there is resentment within BJP and soon one may see the rebellion. There are few MLAs including some senior who are not happy the way Parrikar is falling to pressure of the coalition partners. Parrikar has sidelined his own MLAs and has given all weightage to coalition partners and those imported from other parties. You may soon see some action within BJP this time.

Q So, you foresee early Assembly elections in 2019?

That I can't say now but BJP-led coalition government is not going to last long. It is not stable. Cracks would be developed soon. Ego of some leaders will play crucial role in dividing the government.

Q Your reaction to the recent reshuffle, wherein Digvijay Singh is removed and replaced by AICC Secretary Dr Chella Kumar as Goa desk in-charge. Is this because of fiasco that Singh created over government formation?

I would not like to comment on that. But I think Digvijayji left no stone unturned to ensure that party gets majority and forms next government. The current reshuffle is a routine exercise I suppose.

Q So now the party is gearing up for by-polls in Panjim and Valpoi?

Yes, we are getting ready for by-polls. We have a strong base in Valpoi and will ensure that we retain that seat. As far as Panaji is concern, there is no clarity as from where Parrikar will contest. But from wherever he may, Congress will field its candidate and win too.



MORMUGAO HERITAGE TRIP BY HISTORY LOVERS GROUP

TEAM TNV

Goa has a rich and diverse heritage in the form of archeological sites, temples and churches. Since times immemorable, Goa has been attracting dynasties, seafarers, merchants, traders, missionaries etc. and this has left behind a rich historical heritage. Unfortunately the new generation have less knowledge of our history.

To educate the people of Goa, we have a group of youngsters who have come together and formed the "History Lovers Group" and have been organising trips to archeological sites and historical monuments to educate the society.

A group of young & dynamic history enthusiasts from "History Lovers Group" (HLG) in association with JCI, Vasco organised "Mormugao Heritage Trip" for general public on Sunday 30th April in order to create awareness about the rich history and heritage of Vasco da Gama.

Rohan Bandekar an energetic youth from Vasco who is also an active member of HLG gave out an



informative historical detail on the trip.

The trip start point was at Desterro Fort where the participants witnessed the 393 years old fort wall still standing rock solid. Desterro chapel was also the main attraction at Desterro fort. Further, the trip moved at Mormugao Fort which was built in 1624.

The construction of the historic Mormugao fort commenced in 1624 when king Dom Filipe ruled Portugal and Dom Fransisco da Gama, the great grandson of Vasco da Gama the famous Portuguese explorer, was the Viceroy of Portuguese India for the second time. The fort was about 9km in circumference, it contained

towering bulwarks, three magazines, five prisons, a chapel quarter for guards, 53 guns and a garrison with four officers. The Viceroy's palace which is currently with the MPT was later converted into hotel Palacio, later given to British shipping agents for their offices.

In 1683 when Maratha king Sambhaji reached St. Esteve also known as "Juve", due to the fear of Sambhaji's attack, the Viceroy of Portuguese India then Dom Fransisco de Tavora who was given the title of Cond de Alvor by the Portuguese king shifted his capital from Old Goa to Mormugao.

Today we can see the fort with cross and chapel of Nossa Senhora de Piedade, remains of the fort wall can be seen from the Japanese garden, garbage treatment plant Sada and NCAOR complex. A bastion like structure can also be seen along with

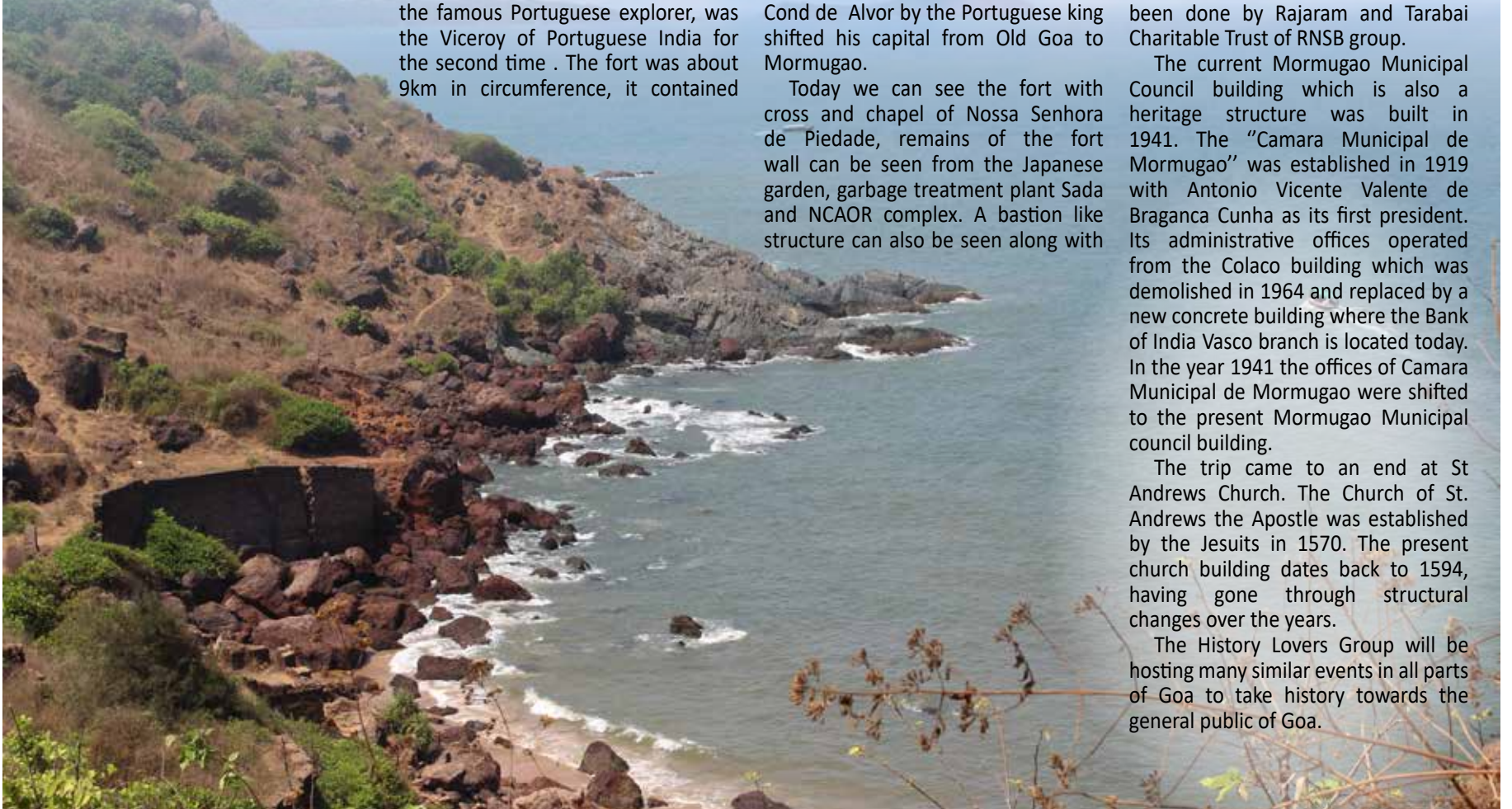
some remains of the fort at Baina beach. The Desterro fort wall extends from where the Desterro church stands near the Baina beach at one end and towards the El- Monte theatre from the other end. The historic Desterro fort wall needs urgent attention as the vegetation grown on it needs to be cleared.

The market building which has a clock tower was built in 1938 and was known as "Mercado municipal," which means municipal market. The restoration of the clock tower has been done by Rajaram and Tarabai Charitable Trust of RNSB group.

The current Mormugao Municipal Council building which is also a heritage structure was built in 1941. The "Camara Municipal de Mormugao" was established in 1919 with Antonio Vicente Valente de Braganca Cunha as its first president. Its administrative offices operated from the Colaco building which was demolished in 1964 and replaced by a new concrete building where the Bank of India Vasco branch is located today. In the year 1941 the offices of Camara Municipal de Mormugao were shifted to the present Mormugao Municipal council building.

The trip came to an end at St Andrews Church. The Church of St. Andrews the Apostle was established by the Jesuits in 1570. The present church building dates back to 1594, having gone through structural changes over the years.

The History Lovers Group will be hosting many similar events in all parts of Goa to take history towards the general public of Goa.





Instant Drama

VINAYA WALAVALKAR MANTRI

I have not only been active in the field of theatre but also been interested in watching dramas and movies. A few months ago, I happened to watch a drama in Mumbai by the name of Mughal-E-Azam, inspired by the famous movie having the same name. The drama is produced by (NCPA) National Centre for Performing Arts – a very reputed institute. Just like the movie, the drama also had grandeur. Everything about the drama was worth a watch. The lights, sound, costumes, music were mindblowing. Added to this was the live singing by the artists. I count myself as the ‘chosen one’ to have watched the spectacular extravaganza, and I say so because I was lucky to get a pass for this drama, as the ticket cost for the same runs in thousands. The interesting part is that most of the shows of Mughal-E-Azam run houseful. Charging high ticket rates for the drama is absolutely justified because the production cost for this runs into crores of rupees. To manage the economics, such a price can be termed as fair, because if the economics of ‘returns’ fail, then even an extraordinary performance goes into dark. There have been examples where some good dramas had to be discontinued due to the shortage of funds.

And this is what made me think of the overall structure of the drama-theatre culture. I feel that winds of change are blowing even here. Even the lookout of an artist towards ‘drama’ has changed and the change in the era seems to be responsible for all this. Long years ago, there were hardly any mediums of entertainment but now they are in plenty. Moreover, times are changing and everyone seems to be in some haste. Everyone is following a ‘two minutes’ or ‘instant’ culture. The same holds true for artists. Artists are also part of the same society that is on a lookout for instant fame and money and they get this from television or cinema. Also, a drama consumes lot of time. Readings, rehearsals etc seem to consume a lot of time. Added to it are the tours of the drama. Not many performers seem to be interested in wasting time behind all this. Just for a performance of two-three hours, the efforts don’t seem to be justified. But is this a real waste of time? Because after spending so many hours in rehearsals, an actor gets into the skin of the character he has to play. An actor gets

developed. But again the question is ‘at what cost?’. Are the earnings from a drama sufficient. So again our sympathies lay with the artists.

As against this, time isn’t wasted when it comes to a movie or television. A couple of ‘takes’ and the shot is ok. Also, there is no live audience to monitor your performance, so there is always an option of a retake just in case the scene is not ok. And more importantly, the ‘per day’ remuneration takes care of the artists. So, there is no reason, why he or she should not deviate from a drama.

Years ago, many artists took up theatre and after years of performing there, they took up television or cinema. But of late, the trend has reversed. Moreover, there is competition among television channels. They require fresh faces everyday. They don’t have time to wait for people to get seasoned and then accept them. So, most of the ‘picks’ are from inter-collegiate competitions. They are more than happy to play a lead role in a soap or a movie. Then these so called ‘hero-heroines’ get busy with earing fame and money from television or movies and are hardly able to devote time to theatre. They get back to stage only when they have some filler time gap between serials or cinemas. Of late, many artists are returning back to drama as a status symbol.

But for all this the blame doesn’t entirely fall on the artists. Even the viewers and the audience are to be blamed for the same. They want entertainment without spending much time and money. Watching a movie sitting home is more convenient. A few months after release, a movie is shown on some or the other movie channel. For the impatient ones, there is always a pirated version. Dependency on TV has also reduced with mobile apps replacing them.

You need not watch a cinema restricting yourself to a particular place. Also the pause button gives you the liberty to watch it whenever you want to. But the same doesn’t hold true for a drama. There is no way in which the audience can start, pause or stop a drama. And hence this culture seems to be fading away. Is there any instant solution to stop all this. Till the time we get one, lets keep watching drama and uphold this culture.

FICCI MAKES REPRESENTATION ON BEHALF OF SMALL HOTEL

As summer heats up, there is another topic that is gaining momentum. The critical discussion on GST recommendations is planned in the 3rd week of May and the government is inviting representations to hear concerns and feedback from the industry.

In this regard, FICCI presented the demands of small-hotel owners from Goa to Shri Manohar Parrikar, honourable Chief Minister and Finance Minister of the State. Excerpt from the representation by FICCI, "FICCI believes that GST can be the single-biggest game-changer for the hospitality sector, especially in the budget category which comprises 80% of the market. The budget hotel sector believes that contribution to the growth of the economy is vital but also equally important is that the services remain within the reach of the people of this country. Any substantial increase in the taxes will leave no choice for these hotels but to pass on the burden to the end-customer. Accordingly FICCI requests that hotel-accommodation with less than Rs 2000 per night room tariff should be put under the 5% GST rate structure."

Budget category hotels which earn less than Rs. 2,000 per room night comprise 80% of the market. These are the preferred options for the "common man", primarily since they are the only ones within their means and reach. The hotel industry currently receives an exemption in service tax if the room tariff is less than Rs. 1,000 vide notification no. 25/2012 dated 20-06-2012. This exemption was provided in the year 2012 and has remained unchanged despite the price rise due to inflation. There is also an added component of luxury tax. In Goa, there are two different luxury tax slabs depending on the time of the year. Between June 1 and September 30, there is no luxury tax for hotels charging up to Rs. 750 per room-night. For tariff ranging from Rs. 750-3000 the luxury tax is 4.5%, from Rs. 3,000-5,000 it is 6.75%, while for anything higher, there is a 9% luxury tax. For the remaining period, there is no luxury tax for hotels charging up to Rs. 750 per room-night, 6% luxury tax for

IMPACT ON TRAVEL GDP, EMPLOYMENT & INDUSTRY GROWTH

- Tourism in India accounts for 7.5 % of the GDP (US\$ 136.2 billion in 2016)
- Hotel accommodation category is the single biggest contributor to the tourism industry.
- Tourism supports 38.4 million jobs (8.7% of total employment) in the Indian economy
- It is the third largest foreign exchange earner for the country.
- The sector is expected to grow at more than 7% CAGR during 2015-25 and contribute \$280 bn to GDP by 2026.

room tariff between Rs. 750-3000, 9% for tariff between Rs. 3,000-5000 and 12% on anything higher than that. In contrast, there is no luxury tax levied in states such as Jammu & Kashmir, Sikkim, Orissa and Arunachal Pradesh. Many other states either have a low rate of luxury tax or the threshold limit is pegged at higher slab, such as in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, for relief to Budget Hotels.

A low tax rate on budget hotels is equally important even in the GST regime, to ensure that the cost burden is not passed on to the lower and middle strata of the society who are the biggest customers for these budget hotels. Currently, there are 160 countries in the world that have implemented VAT/GST and the average rate of tax on budget category hotels is 5%. Tariff with low tax rates will also significantly increase foreign and domestic travel in India leading to a positive impact on tourism-induced employment and revenue collections.

Mr. Randhir Thakur, owner of Hotel Soddors Renton Manor said, "We are grateful for FICCI to provide us a platform to share our concerns with the government. We want to be a part of one nation-one tax regime. We just don't want it to happen at the cost



of our business – there is no way the budget hotel industry will be able to sustain a high GST slab."

Mr. John Lopes, owner of Hotel V Palm, added, "We are not looking for exemptions. This is a sincere request

that the government looks into the impact that a high tax slab can have on small businesses, customers and the travel & tourism industry as a whole, which supports many semi-skilled and unskilled workers."

Budget hotels are a source of gainful employment for thousands of people across cities and semi-rural areas. The government has been responsive to similar concerns of small business owners such as dhabas and restaurants who are a major component of tourism promotion and source of employment of unskilled population. Hence, logic of low tax rate without any exemptions should also extend to the budget hotel sector.

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The Neutral View

I WAS FIGHTING WITHIN THE PARTY: TROJANO D'MELLO

TEAM TNV

Q Just before the elections you distanced yourself from the Congress Party. What were the reasons?

It is not true, in fact I was fighting within the party to make corrections to enable the party to form the government. The reason was that the Party President's selected weak candidates to help the BJP and the results proved so. In 2012, an anti-Congress wave, four Congress candidates lost their deposits whereas in an anti-BJP wave twelve Congress candidates lost their deposits and another five lost by 5000 votes.

Q There have been allegations against you of anti-party works. Party says you worked against their candidates in Aldona and Saligao. What do you have to say?

It is not true to say that I did not work for the reluctant candidate in Saligao. As far as the Aldona candidate is concerned, I definitely did not work for him but I did not work against him. The reason for not working was that the candidate was moving about with a leader who is an alleged molester, involved in the ticket gate scam and who was also a BJP agent who contested against the Congress candidate in the 2014 Parliamentary elections. I refuse to be a party to such scamsters leading the campaign.

Every candidate in the fray has written to the Party President about certain workers working against them. One of the Spokespersons attacked the Rane's publicly for match fixing in the Mayem seat. He also filed a case against Ravi Naik. The Party President immediately promoted him as the Chief Spokesperson. In 2012 a person who was in the guise of the Regional



Plan castigated the then Chief Minister Digambar Kamat is today made Chairman of Media Cell. Shri Luizinho Faleiro as Party President did not campaign for a single candidate. Have you heard of such non-action of a Party President? Is this not setting? These few incidents are an indication that the Party President is himself in a mode of anti-party activities.

Q You joined Congress leaving NCP. You never cited reasons for taking such a decision.

I left NCP to join the Congress on the appeal of Luizinho Faleiro [who at that point of time I believed was honest] that all secular people should come under the banner of the Congress to defeat regressive forces.

Q Recently you have been quite vocal against your former party state leadership. Where, according to you, did the Congress fail to form the government?

The Congress President's behaviour and utterances are clear that he torpedoed a Congress government to be formed because he would not be the choice for the Chief Ministership. On March 9th, Congress President stated clearly that he would form a government with the help of MGP and RSS keeping GF out. Some points are already answered in Q2.

Q Do you feel Party President Luizinho Faleiro had pre-poll ties with BJP? If so, elaborate.

It has become common knowledge

interview

The Congress President's behaviour and utterances are clear that he torpedoed a Congress government to be formed because he would not be the choice for the Chief Ministership. On March 9th, Congress President stated clearly that he would form a government with the help of MGP and RSS keeping GF out. Some points are already answered in Q2.

that Luizinho Faleiro had a 'setting' with the BJP as I have stated above; Dr Francis Colaco publicly expressed the setting of Luizinho with the BJP, how the weak candidates were put and their fate sealed. The voting figures of every candidate speaks "has Luizinho Faleiro built the organization or ruined it"?

Q Recently, Goa Forward party has offered you to join. Are you willing to?

I am seriously thinking and weighing the options before me. My choice at this juncture will be to choose the lesser evil.

Q How do you intend to take the Serula Comunidade land scam to its logical conclusion?

The present Revenue Minister who was making a big noise on the floor of the house on the Serula Comunidade land scam has not uttered a word nor exposed what action he intends to take against Dilip Parulekar's involvement in the land scam as per the High Court judgement and confirmed by the Supreme Court, that I succeeded in obtaining by a writ petition.

The Revenue Minister is confusing people by saying that Shri Kotwale has been appointed to inquire into Serula Comunidade land dealings. The Minister should know that Kotwale's appointment is for an inquiry on all land dealings in the Serula Comunidade whereas in Dilip Parulekar's land grab case there is no inquiry left as the matter has been decided by the High Court and confirmed by the Supreme Court.

DEMONETISATION: THE ODD RABBIT OUT OF THE HAT

PRITHVIRAJ THALI

With the global fraternity and international economic bodies such as IMF forecasting a huge growth potential for India, we seem to be well past the point where we can still be biased about our views on demonetisation. The voices for and against the move have died down, and one can only hear some whispered misgivings slowly and inevitably giving way to fresh shoots of optimism on the subject.

Vested interests have tried to demonise the whole issue. There were different groups of people that reacted differently to the historic announcement. Modi shell-shocked us with the rabbit he pulled out of his policy-hat on November 8, 2016, even timing the announcement with mathematical precision well after the business hours on that day.

With respect to demonetisation, the Indian populace can be divided arguably into precisely four groups as below:

1. The entire cash-specific businesses or parts thereof that were carried out by varied assortment of consumers, retailers, real estate firms and agents, its colour ranging right from 'white' to 'not-so-white' all the way to deepest shades of 'despondent black'.
2. The media which divided itself over the issue into those who praised the move as courageous, those that actively showed it as having inherent flaws and bad for the economy, and many others that found their voice somewhere in between these extremes.
3. The Opposition which, true to its nature and led by habit, criticised the move, as they have been doing with everything else.
4. The Banking system as a whole, consisting of the PSU Banks, the Private players and the cooperative banking segments, which swung into frenzied action the same day. The top brass had just a few hours to assess and design the 'actionables' that were to be circulated down below for implementation. Board Room meetings were conducted till the wee hours of early morning of 9th November.

Being a banker, I belong to No. 1 and No. 4 of the above categories. I remember doing nothing the next day



and eagerly waiting for some cascade of what had been decided at our Head Office. I plead guilty of biased sentiments about the whole issue in as much as I witnessed the demonetisation drive from either side of the banking counter only: as a behind-the-desk banker at my own bank branch and then as a customer in some other bank queuing for notes exchange.

To begin with, the immediate fallouts of the gamble were somewhat a mixed bag:

1. A large chunk of economic transactions, if not all of it, has been brought within the scope of the banking channel, thereby reducing the possibility of tax evasion. Though there still are and will be attempts at evasion, a clear message has been sent to those nefarious elements that enough is enough!!
2. Increase in accounted money in the economy has led to increase in tax revenue for the government.
3. Price correction in real estate prices, which were highly exaggerated because of the 30-40 % cash component received from the buyer, which conveniently circumvented taxation norms.
4. The super-rich which had

stashed away large sums in high denominations of Rs. 1000/- and Rs. 500/- suddenly found that some remote 'ex-chaiwala' had the power to turn their cash hoards overnight into nothing but paper.

5. The Enforcement Directorate, the CBI and such monitoring authorities got a lot of god-sent fodder to chew upon. What surfaced was a long list of questionable bulk cash deposits by squiggly squishy 'worms' which had hitherto stayed snugly out of their reach.

6. The dissent-fuelling divisive elements in Kashmir suddenly were left high and dry with no money to pay the eager stone-pelters in Kashmir. Resultantly, peace has visited the valley after a long stretch, notwithstanding a few scattered flickering acts of dissent.

Probably for the first time in Independent India's history, such a move was by and large whole-heartedly welcomed by most of the directly affected electorate. Interestingly, the demonetisation drive triumphed especially in the remote modernisation-starved pockets of UP, Bihar and Jharkhand, where there are still no bank branches within a radius of 4-5 kms. Probably, it worked because it came

from a man, who had the courage of his conviction and possessed the political will to carry the movement to its rightful conclusion.

On the downside, banks are still charging penal charges for payments made through debit and credit cards at Point-Of-Sale (POS) terminals and understandably so. Everything comes at a price and so does plastic money. The government might as well divert the additional revenue that has resulted from this exercise to the banking channels, and the third party POS machine companies for sale of these machines at minimal or no cost, so that the burden neither falls on the paying customer nor on the banks

Payments Banks, like Paytm and Freecharge for instance, have a greater role to play in educating the general public to go cashless rather chasing profit as the sole goal.

There are many who hold that the BJP-led govt. is snooping on the financial transaction of the voters. But, such sentiments are generally echoed by those who have some self-serving purpose and absolutely no concern for the well-being of the common man.

While experts from around the world praised Mr. Modi for this courageous step, a few of our own people back home were pouring all their strength and vigour in opposing him and trying to whip up a storm in the public mind. Fortunately for India, that did not work.

What makes Modi's step seem rather harsh and hard on his Indian brothers and sisters, is the long spell of post-Independence years marked by a virtually unending list of scams.

The recent poll results in UP is a clear harbinger of progressive winds and a sign of an electorate swayed solely by the promise of development. How Yogi Adityanath fares is anyone's guess right now. But, all in all, India shows great promise and potential to emerge as a giant especially under the likes of dedicated leaders who don't hesitate to take decisions in the larger interest.

Admittedly, lacunae still do exist, as they always would even in a near-Utopian society. But, to quote a cliché, well-begun is half-done. May Mother India reclaim its ancient glory in the years to come, and may we – both me and the reader – still be living then to witness its majestic rise.

Jai Hind !!!



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Std V, K. B. Hedewar Vidyamandir School, Sakhalim



SHREYA PRASHANT GAD,
Std IX, Shri - Shantadurga High School, Bicholim



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PARNIKA SHIRWAIKAR,
Std VI, Ravindra Kelekar Dnyanmandir

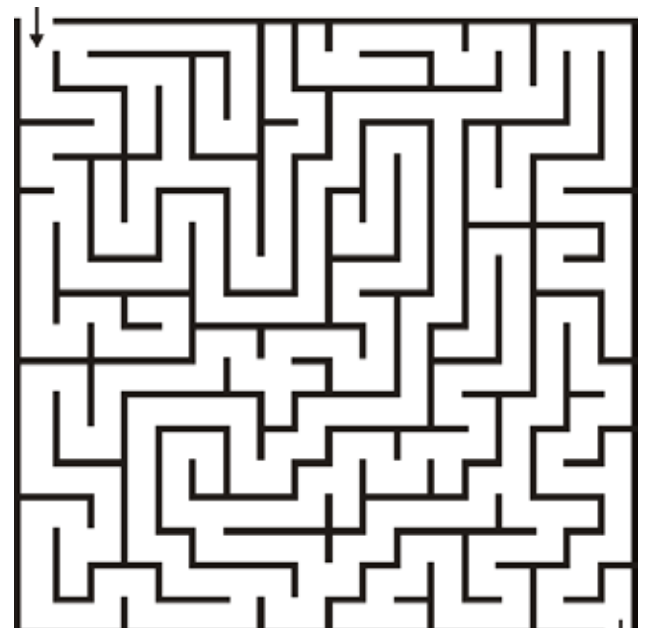
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RICHA NAIK,
Std. VI, Ravindra Kelekar Dnyanmandir

PUZZLE



VIJAI, SUDIN TO DECIDE FOR PARRIKAR IN PANAJI AS CONSTITUENCY GOES FOR POLLING AGAIN

TEAM TNV

It was not much unexpected when Siddharth Kuncolienkar walked into the chamber of Speaker Pramod Sawant and placed his resignation before him. The BJP legislator was seemingly not so convinced about his move which he meticulously managed to hide behind the tag of "being loyal worker." But the body language indicated that Siddharth wanted to rule for longer.

When Manohar Parrikar took over as the Chief Minister of the State, it was understood that the State would be forced into by-election. Majority of the people expected it to be in Panaji as politically this seat is more comfortable for him.

Siddharth was inheriting the seat of Parrikar. The MLA-ship came as luck for him when he was working as under secretary to the Chief Minister. Parrikar was elevated to the post of Union Defence Minister, and Siddharth became Panaji MLA.

It was very difficult for Siddharth to fit into the shoes of Parrikar. Immediately, there were parallels drawn between his functioning and that of his mentor. Naturally, Siddharth's working style was not matching to that of Parrikar, though he managed to carve a niche for himself during the tenure.

The real challenge came during the 2017 election when Babush Monserratte made Panaji seat as his prestige issue. While Goa saw BJP going down on its popularity during 2017 election, Siddharth managed to save Panaji seat against Monserratte. The winning margin had reduced but it was important that he won and Monserratte lost.

The happenings that were witnessed by the people after March 11 result saw Parrikar emerging as a major figure. His return to Goa after resigning as Defence Minister and alliance partners like Goa Forward Party insisting to get led by him made it ample clear that Parrikar will have to get elected within six months.

BJP had a tough task ahead. First, the party was struggling to recover from the humiliating defeat in the elections and then the leaders had their confidence depreciating after the polls.



The real drama will begin. Babush Monserratte has already shown inclinations to contest again from Panaji constituency. He is in talks with the Congress. If Babush contests on Congress ticket, then the script which BJP has penned might go haywire.

This is history and what we expected happened. Everything looked like perfectly scripted political moves. Right from the time, Nitin Gadkari announcing that Goa may be headed by a leader from Delhi to Siddharth putting down his papers, the script was ready.

The only twist in it was BJP's humiliating defeat and sudden revelation by BJP that Parrikar might contest from Curchohem. There is another addition that happened for the script, that is, Vishwajit Rane resigning.

After all, BJP which expected to win the elections also had their plan B ready in case of defeat. And the script for plan B worked. When Siddharth resigned, it is the intermission period.

Now the real drama will begin. Babush Monserratte has already shown inclinations to contest again from Panaji constituency. He is in talks with the Congress. If Babush contests on Congress ticket, then the script which BJP has penned might go haywire.

Since the time Parrikar has contested last assembly election in 2012, lots of things have changed here. The reduced margin of Siddharth and increasing interest of Monserratte in Panaji is

something that should worry BJP. Also, the overall situation in the state is not favorable for BJP, at least, after what we saw during the recently held polls.

BJP will depend on their alliance partners – Goa Forward Party and MGP – during Panaji by-poll. MGP had joined hands with Goa Suraksha Manch during recently held election in Panaji constituency. What role GSM plays in this election is also important.

Also what is important is whether Subhash Velingkar still feels Parrikar should be defeated and will put his entire soul in fighting Panaji by-election. Will Raju Sukerkar still remain away from politics?

There is another factor. GFP leader Vijai Sardesai is close to Monserratte, but is duty bound to support Parrikar. Will he go by his alliance dharma or long time friendship with Monserratte. Moreover, whether Vijai will work full time for Parrikar.

All these questions will decide the fate of upcoming Panaji by-election. It might sound little anti-Parrikar, but the Chief Minister certainly cannot think that he has a cake walk in Panaji constituency this time.

INTERNATIONAL FASHION WEEK GOA

Goa is all set for the international fashion week (IFW season which will be held between May 12 and May 14 at Taj Vivanta Panaji. IFW season 2 will be a extravagant event with fashion, singing, comedy and business.

IFW Goa will serve as a unique platform for brand launches through shows. Designers from India and abroad will be participating, also our very own Goan designers namely Harold Andrade, Mary Fernandes and Elaine, Karishma Mehta and Ninoshka will exhibit their designs on the ramp.

This is a platform for the established as well as the new budding talent.

The show will be held twice a year, one during the summer and another during the winter. The theme for this edition is the summer and monsoon collection and the show which will be held in December this year will feature winter as well as bridal collection. The objective of organising this fashion week is that it is not for fun and entertainment but for some serious business. This event will be purely business of fashion, where we will provide a stage to many talented fashion designers.

The speciality about this event is that it is economically viable for every stakeholder and will benefit the designers, retailers, models and even the organisers. Even our audience will

get to witness different types of trends, designs and collection.

"We will be having 24 fashion designers who will be coming to participate in this event. From Goa there will be around three to four designers along with designers from Mumbai, Bangalore, Kochi, Kolkata and Delhi. There are a few designers from Nagpur and there are around three designers who will be coming from Hyderabad also. There are International fashion designers from Mexico, Dubai, Bangladesh and Myanmar as well". William Xavier MD and founder of the event told the TNV.

"During these three days, we are having a Master class of fashion designers, there will be a workshop on fashion, we will be organising seminars and there will be a talk show on how to establish a successful business in fashion industry".

This Fashion Week is more than a show it will also be a platform for organising business to business meeting so that the designers can meet the retailers, they can interact with the prospective clients and the manufacturers, around 200 boutique owners who are really looking forward to the designer's clothes to sell in their retail outlets have been invited. The purpose is that, these boutique or showroom owners can take a look at



Gaurav Hans and William Xavier, Director and MD, IFW Goa

their collections and can have a business to business meeting with the designers.

Nick Roshan, Mohan Gowda both are from South Indian film industry, designer duo Naveen and Pradeep, Ruby Sayyed from Mumbai, Kapil Bhandia, Satish Gupta, all of them are celebrity designers, they have worked for the Bollywood stars and for the movies as well. All these designers are trend setters.

Goa has not seen a big fashion culture, though there is a fashion trend in Goa where people look for different kind of collections but business activities are not happening over here the way it should happen. There are shows being hosted, but they are not able to have a professional touch and business activities are not happening where discussions can take place between two people. But the International Fashion Week will bring all the serious people from Goa. After a few years we will witness that only serious fashion shows

are taking place in Goa.

"We are supporting the "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" initiative of the Government of India we also support the Blind and the old age homes through this event", Gaurav Hans MD & cofounder of IFW told TNV. Around ten under-privileged girls whose dress/clothes will be sponsored by one of the designers will walk the ramp. "Our aim is to try in whatever possible way to provide a platform to support these under-privileged girls so that they too can have a dream either to be a model, actress or a fashion designer. Our target is not just to make money and go home but also give back something to the society".

Fashion is no more a craze of the rich and elite anymore, fashion has now sipped in to the conscience of the common man. Today you see the public at large following new fashion trends which is a very prospective sign for the emerging talents.

Show Itinerary

Date	Time	Program
12/5/17	5.30 pm	Inauguration
	6 pm - 11 pm	Fashion Show by Designers Fashion Rush & Entertainment
13/5/17	11 am - 1 pm	Workshop & Audition
	3 pm - 5 pm	B2B networking & Media interaction
14/5/17	6 pm - 11 pm	Fashion Show by Designers Fashion Rush & Entertainment
	11 am - 1 pm	Master Class & Talk Show
	3 pm - 5 pm	B2B networking & Media interaction
	6 pm - 11 pm	Fashion Show by Designers Fashion Rush & Entertainment

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WILD ORCHID	Media	GOA	Shangri-la JUNGLE RESORT	92.7 big fm	ORION PREMIERE	Swirea BEACH RESORT	SPEED BIRD TRAVELS	NEE
Jewellery Partner	Outdoor Advertising Partner	Magazine Partner	Online Shopping Partner	Beverages Partner	NGO Partner	Hair & Makeup	Security Partners	Fitness Partners
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