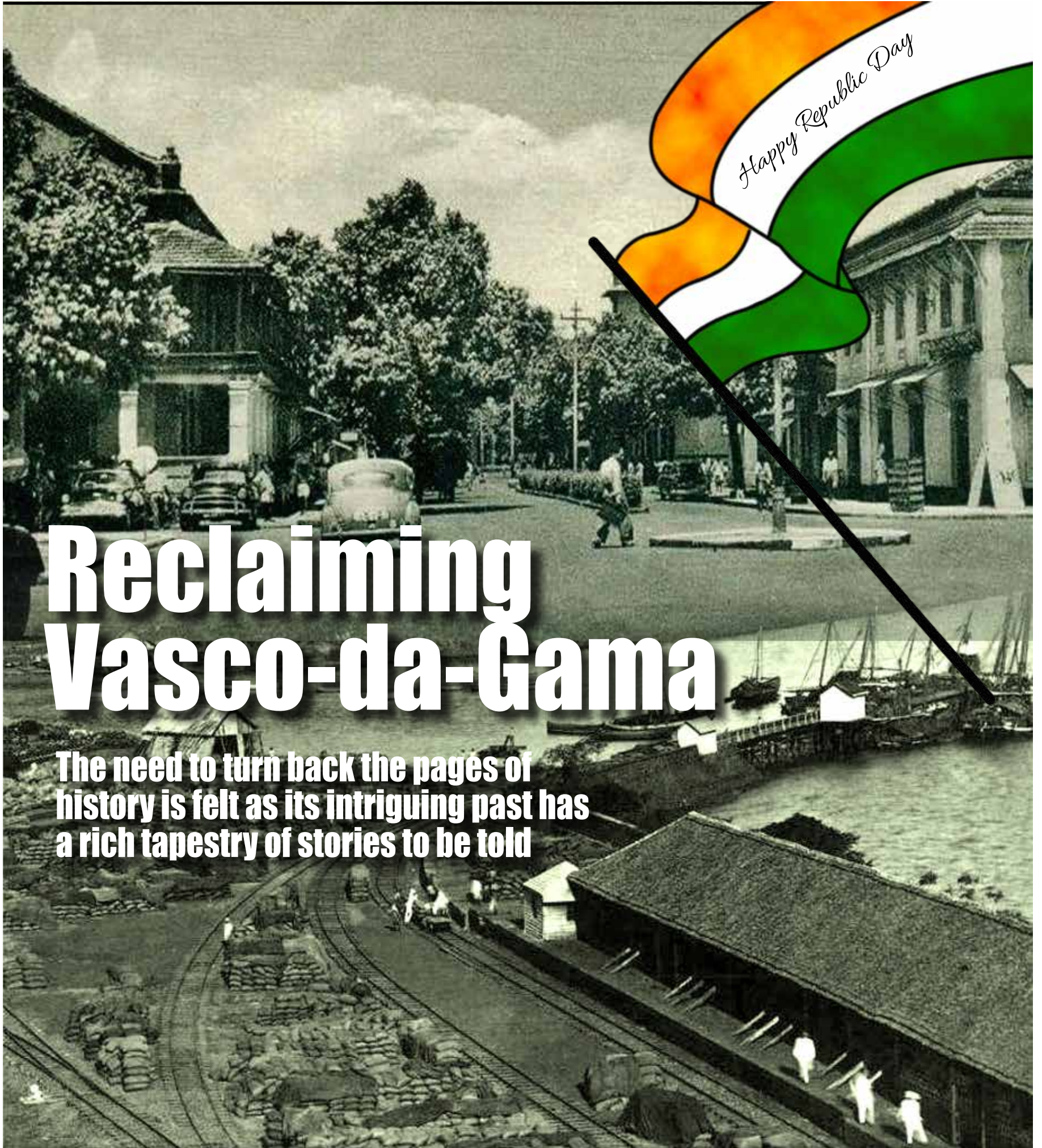


The Neutral View

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Reclaiming Vasco-da-Gama

The need to turn back the pages of history is felt as its intriguing past has a rich tapestry of stories to be told

Do Aliens Exist?

CHRISTON RIEN

Have you ever thought about life outside our planet? I'm sure you did. This concept has fascinated millions of people over the past few decades and still to this day does. When we think of the word 'Alien' we quickly resemble it to words like UFO, extra-terrestrial and so on. UFO is merely the acronym the Air Force uses for any unidentified flying object, but it becomes synonymous with alien spacecraft. There are tons of UFO sightings on record dating all the way back to Rome in 214 B.C.E. When there reports of phantom ships gleaming in the sky. The most famous UFO sighting is the Roswell UFO incident in 1947, when an airborne object crashed on a ranch in New Mexico. Even though there are tons of theories about that object being extra-terrestrial, the armed forces say that it was debris

from a crashed weather balloon. Most UFO's turn out to be something along those lines: weather balloons, airplane lights, meteors, and so on. About 5-10% of them never get identified, so are they alien spacecrafts? The universe is a big place with around 900 exoplanets. Some people around the world find it quite hard to believe that there isn't something else out there. Now this doesn't mean that they have to look like the typical alien we all envision it to be but they might probably look a different way. By no means do I believe in science but that doesn't mean I completely disregard it as a whole. Science is fun and lets you in on some pretty cool stuff. However the question of Whether 'Aliens' exist or not is something beyond science. It is a matter of whether humans and all creatures on earth were created alone. There are so many more planets in

the universe which means that there is a possibility that other beings exist. Out of those 900 exoplanets, I mentioned earlier, 12 of those are potentially habitable. But what are the odds that one of those planets not only has life on it, but also advanced civilization capable of space travel? The government in the United States go back and forth on the subject about extra-terrestrial life as well. In 1948 a division of the Air Material Command called Project Sign was tasked with figuring out how likely it was that all these UFO sightings were alien spacecraft. Their conclusion was the phenomenon reported is something real and not

visionary or fictitious. They even filed a detailed report of a UFO flying past an eastern airlines flight in view of the pilot and co-pilot as well as the ground crew. The Air Force chief of the staff at the time rejected the report for not having enough proof and later the Air Force shut down Project Sign and spent the next decade debunking UFO's entirely. So, what's the answer? Are we alone in the universe? The honest answer is that we don't know for sure. We know that planets that could support liquid water are common. But we don't know much about the origin of life and the probability that it will evolve as it did on Earth. From what we have

seen on Earth, it seems that the creation of life is relatively easy, but the evolution of intelligence is hard. Taken into aggregate, extra-terrestrial life should exist and there may be planets where our cosmic friends also look into the sky and dream. Nobody can tell you for sure what those Navy pilots saw. But it's a big universe and it seems that life could very well be larger than what we know. There may come a day when Aliens and humans meet just like in a movie then we would know once and for all, that we are not alone.

The writer is a mass media students



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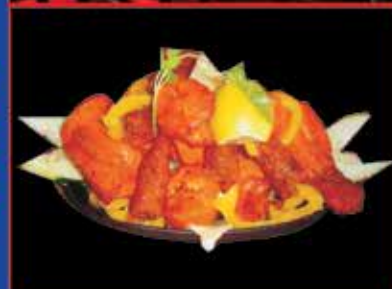
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DESTROY THE STATUES OF DR JACK SEQUEIRA, LET HIS IDEOLOGY FILL UP OUR MINDS

The New Year is certainly not a good time that the Goa Forward Party has been going through. Their honest attempt to draw attention to the fifty year old event of the Opinion Poll and then get the statue of Dr Jack Sequeira installed at assembly complex seems to have run them down. BJP's adverse reaction to the demand will certainly poke a hole in the Common Minimum Program that the State government was supposed to work on.

The enthusiasm around Opinion Poll Day will never go in vain. The event is of such importance to the State of Goa that it needs to be discussed about, analysed about, taught about, and also recalled about. It was a day which made us what we are today.

While all this time around, the Opinion Poll Day and Dr. Sequeira remained in oblivion, the attempt to speak about it has brought it into limelight that it rightly deserves. If any single political party wants to derive political mileage out of it, I feel there is nothing wrong in it. Congress and BJP over the years have failed to admire and celebrate this day, so the party that has took up the cudgels deserved to be given the credit.



Very few people in Goa knew what exactly happened during the Opinion Poll movement. Several myths were being circulated about this day while there was no knowledge of how we were saved from being merged into Maharashtra by a margin of just four per cent votes. If that marginal vote bank had to shift, then today, I would have been sitting in some Panaji town of Maharashtra and waiting for years to see the real development.

Renowned Journalist Uday Bhembre recalls how on the first day, pro-mergers were celebrating their victory, while 'two-leaves' symbol was trailing. It was Benaolim constituency that turned the tables, and then the results started showing in favour of anti-merger.

The minute details of Opinion Poll are documented in various books including the one written by Konkani writer Sadanand Kanekar, but they have to be passed on to the next generations. The history has to be taught in its real sense.

Back to the State politics, the way BJP has been reacting to the installation of the statue is an unwanted gesture. Their opposition to installation of statue of Dr. Jack Sequeira comes with the excuse that we already have a statue of Goa's First Chief Minister Dayanand Bhandarkar and we don't require any statues. They also have come up with the excuse that there were so many leaders who contributed for the Goa's liberation, Opinion poll and other movements, and there would be a demand for installation of their statues too in the assembly complex.

This excuse is bizarre. And even if one admits that their contention is right, there is nothing wrong in having statues of great personalities around. It is much better than having many of our elected corrupt representatives who had and have donned the chairs in ministerial chambers.

The rejection of a statue symbolizes BJP's take on Goa's socio-political history. Dr Jack Sequeira was not just another leader. He was also the First Leader of Opposition of Goa.

It is utter shameful that Goa have been divided on the issue of installing the statue. I remember the famous dialogue from Rajkumar Hirani's movie 'Lage Raho Munnabhai' where he says that if people want they can destroy all the statues of Mahatma Gandhi, but they should always

keep his preaching in their heart. The movie was hilarious but the message it gave through some of its dialogues is touching and worth reflecting upon.

Installation of Dr Jack Sequeira's statue may be just a gesture to pay homage to this person who was having larger than life charisma. But the biggest tribute to him would be to take ahead his strong pro-Goa sentiments and his vision.

The vision of Sequeira and others including Ulhas Buyao, Purushottam Kakodkar, Shabu Desai needs to be turned into reality by the current crop of politicians. We would be lucky if someone draws maximum political mileage from the Opinion Poll movement and works towards fulfillment of their vision.

Goa has been losing its identity over the years. While we saved Goa from being merged into Maharashtra, we have invited everyone here indirectly merging our ethnicity, culture and language. No serious attempts were made by our politicians including those who are in the opposition to ensure that Goa does not lose its identity. We are at the mercy of strong Delhi lobby who are dictating terms to us.

The recent resurgence of Mhadei issue is one such example of how Delhi is controlling our powers. We want our regional parties to be really emerging as our torch bearers, not surrendering themselves to the national politics.

Merely speaking about Regionalistic politics won't serve the purpose till you demonstrate to the people, the power of being a regional party. It is a challenge that Vijai Sardesai and his team is facing. MGP is enjoying the fruits of its glory of yesteryears and has ceased to be a regional party in the real sense. They are still holding up to their past. In these circumstances, there is no sign of any new regional party coming up in the forefront. The miniscule political parties which mushroom in the run up for the election, hibernate during the rest of the time.

Dr Jack Sequeira does not only symbolizes the opinion poll movement. He symbolizes how the Goan leadership should be. I would not be wrong, if I say that Bhandarkar and Sequeira were perfect example of how Goan leaders should be.

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An event with featherly friends

The recently concluded Bird Festival of Goa at Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary was a memorable event with an overwhelming participation of people interested in bird watching, as well as students. The three-day event had different activities as well as lectures and workshops conducted by renowned ornithologists, and expert bird photographers. Discussions on interesting legends, myths and superstitions related to different bird species were the highlight of the event. The event also had participation of international bird experts. The participants also had the opportunity to go on the bird watching trail inside the Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary with the experts.



photograph by AMEY JOSHI

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SINI FERNANDES

I had just finished making a project plan for the week to come and as it was a Saturday, I was happy to complete my half day and head back to my home. I was closing the back door of my office before I left and 'bam!'

I jammed my right foot into the door, Painful? Yes! The pain rushed to my brain and I was numb for a moment but what made me more shocked and hurt was my male colleague's reaction 'oh! Oh! Such a cry baby! If you can't handle this pain, how will handle your husband's pain?'

Yes, we are talking about sexual harassment at workplace and above mentioned is one form of it. Our minds have been conditioned to relate sexuality mainly to physical form. But let's loosen up from that conditioning and face the reality. Sexual harassment can be any kind of unwanted sexual advancement, be it physical, verbal, emotional, mental and don't forget those lewd looks which make your entire being coil up with disgust.

Sexual harassment at workplace has to be voiced out because not only do the women have right to equality in the Indian constitution but they also have right of living with dignity. The word dignity itself equals to respect. Instead of contributing positively in a women's life, there are people who are all set to degrade it.

WOMEN ARE NOT BABY DOLLS AT YOUR WORKPLACE

'Bhavaridevi' does that name ring a bell? Bhavaridevi was a Rajasthan state government's employee who was gang raped during the course of her work all because she was trying to prevent child marriage in a higher caste family. She did not get justice for a very long time and her case bought about the Vishakha guidelines against sexual harassment. A women's organisation named Vishakha had filed public interest litigation against the state itself to seek justice. Sadly, the law against the sexual harassment at workplace was passed very recently i.e. in the year 2012. Imagine the amount of torments women had to go and without any law to support them till then.

How shall we deal with sexual harassment at workplace? As per the rule, there should be a committee appointed in each office to deal with such issues but how many offices can claim to have such committees? First thing that needs to be done is strict enforcement of such laws to safeguard women and create a safe environment for them to work.

Many times I have been sexually harassed in the bus while I was on the way to my office and many will be gladly surprised to know that this is also considered as sexual harassment at workplace. What really needs to happen is people having complete knowledge about all this and learning to speak about it. There should be awareness programs conducted through the government itself in every institution.

Lastly, the most important thing that needs to be changed is people's mindset about women. They aren't dolls fooling around into their workplace. Every women right from a maid to a HR manager has a right to her own personal space and sexuality and nobody has a right to violate that.

The writer is a social worker

Fifty years after opinion poll, the event still stirs hornest's nest

TEAM TNV

The simmering political alterations within the alliance partners over installation of statue of Father of Opinion Poll- Dr. Jack Sequeira in the Goa State Legislative Assembly Complex can be posed as a trigger for possible divide in the Manohar Parrikar led coalition government, which is all set to complete one year of power in March. Not just the alliance partners, but even BJP MLAs stand divided on the issue- the revolt if continued can harm the saffron party during the forthcoming Lok Sabha polls.

After initial compromises on the issues like River Nationalization, Coal pollution, Investment

Promotion Board and crucial portfolios- BJP and Goa Forward party (GFP) seems to have now taken different path; with on one side saffron party cadres finding too much under pressure of the coalition members, the GFP, on the other hand is making attempts to return back to the minority heartland in a bid to strengthen its base.

In just ten and half months after forming a surprising coalition government consisting of a national party, two regional outfits and independents, under the leadership of BJP stalwart Manohar Parrikar, difference of opinion have cropped up amongst the partners, with

political parties- both ruling as well as opposition foreseeing early elections.

While everything was on track until the end of 2017, the buzz towards celebration of 51st Opinion Poll Day in South Goa- with specific focus on Fatorda constituency followed by demand for installation of Dr. Jack Sequeira statue took unexpected turn in the so called 'ALL IS WELL IN THE GOVERNMENT'.

While GFP leaders have publicly threatened to withdraw support to the Parrikar-led government if it fails to respect the sentiments of the people by installing Dr. Jack Sequeira statue,

adopted by BJP during its special meeting chaired by Parrikar himself, reads.

However, BJP's own MLA and deputy Speaker Michael Lobo, expressing complete displeasure over his party's decision said that he would continue to fight the battle for the statue. "My battle will continue till Dr. Sequeira and his colleagues who worked relentlessly to protect Goa's identity, get the place they deserve in our society," he said.

"The day will come surely, when people of Goa will give me the opportunity to install the statue of Dr. Sequeira," Lobo said. The statement has apparently led to many questions like whether the leader is looking for an alternative keeping in mind the early elections.

Another senior BJP catholic Minister and former Deputy Chief Minister Francis D'Souza also raised voice against the party decision. "The statue of Dr. Sequeira should have been installed long back along with Bahusaheb Bandodkar. We are very late in granting recognition to Father of Opinion Poll. I stand by the demand of Goa Forward," he stated.

Minister Mauvin Godinho, MLA Alina Saldanha, MLA Carlos Almeida and MLA Glenn Ticlo found not happy with their party's decision.

With Lok Sabha elections coming nearer, the political turmoil with the party, specially the revolt by minority MLAs, may cause BJP very badly.

Minister Vijay Sardessai and his colleague Minister Jayesh Salgaonkar during Asmitai Zagor celebration held on January 16 at Lohia Maidan sent a strong signal to BJP that it will not be part of the coalition government if their party's resolutions to keep up with 'Goenkarpon' are not met. This has obviously raised many eyebrows including

many thinking about what will be an alternative before GFP, or is the demand for statue an attempt by the regional outfit to win back the credibility and confidence of the minorities.

GFP leaders thundered from the Lohia Maidan that BJP president Amit Shah is not the boss of the regional party and that central leaders (an obvious reference to Nitin Gadkari) cannot dictate terms to Goans, is something that has seriously upset Parrikar and the party cadres.

"There is no politics here. The person who fought to maintain this unique identity was Dr. Jack Sequeira. Hence, there is a strong demand to install his statue in the Assembly complex and I am pressing for it. It is part of Goenkarpon, if it is not met I am ready to come out of the Government and be just as MLA or not even an MLA," Sardessai said adding that he will try to convince the Big Brother BJP on the issue.

"Just the way I have expressed my view, BJP party also has the right to express its view. But finally the decision has to be of the government. And the government is not just of BJP. It includes GFP and independents," Sardessai said.

The Minister said that he would definitely move a resolution for installation of statue during the forthcoming budget session of the State Assembly and let then everyone come out and say what they want to.

One has to wait and see how long these differences last for or will GFP compromise on their 'Goenkarpon' in order to continue in power, which they are now use to. Or will BJP bow down once again to the demands of their alliance, to ensure smooth sailing for BJP during the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections- as the waves are not very much in favour of BJP.

While everything was on track until the end of 2017, the buzz towards celebration of 51st Opinion Poll Day in South Goa- with specific focus on Fatorda constituency followed by demand for installation of Dr. Jack Sequeira statue took unexpected turn in the so called 'ALL IS WELL IN THE GOVERNMENT'.

the BJP and MGP together have resolved against the installation of statue, even as within BJP catholic MLAs have pleaded support to GFP's demand.

"A large number of people have participated in the freedom movement, opinion poll and the all-round development of Goa. Due to this, the request for installing their statues in Vidhan sabha complex are likely to come up in near future and therefore, the BJP does not support the demand of installing any other statue in the complex and appeal all to support the developmental agenda of the government," the resolution



Upcoming Adventure Bikes of 2018

TEAM TNV

The year 2018 will serve a treat for the adventure junkies who also have a passion towards adventure bikes. Here's a look at a few adventure bikes which are likely to make their way to India in 2018.

KTM 390 Adventure

KTM is also expected to introduce the much-awaited adventure bike based on the KTM 390 Duke, the KTM 390 Adventure, sometime in 2018. With KTM's expertise in manufacturing dual-sport and off-road bikes, the 390 Adventure is expected to be quite well-specified in terms of off-road equipment. The engine will be the same 373 cc, single-cylinder unit of the 390 Duke which makes around 43 bhp of power at 9000 rpm and 37 Nm of peak torque at 7000 rpm. But expect the 390 Adventure to have a slightly different state of tune to have more torque lower in the rev range as well as different gear ratios suited for riding in the rough. Price is expected to be around ₹ 2.75 lakh (ex-showroom).

BMW G 310 GS

BMW Motorrad's baby GS will also hit the Indian roads this year, along with the BMW G 310 R, the bike jointly developed with TVS Motor Company. BMW Motorrad India will launch both the G 310 R as well as the G 310 GS, the adventure sibling of the G 310 R, also



referred to as the 'baby GS'. The BMW G 310 GS will be powered by the same 313 cc, single-cylinder, water-cooled engine which makes 34 bhp at 9500 rpm, and 28 Nm of peak torque at 7,500 rpm. The G 310 GS will have styling inspired by BMW's bigger GS models, and will have a 19-inch front wheel with long-travel suspension. The G 310 GS will have a maximum speed of around 140 kmph and is expected to be priced around ₹ 2.75-2.8 lakh (ex-showroom).



bikes



2018 Triumph Tiger 800

One of the most popular adventure bikes in India right now, the Triumph Tiger 800, will get a host of updates for 2018. The 2018 Triumph Tiger 800 range is expected to be launched in mid-2018. Updates to the Tiger 800 include sharper styling, all-LED lighting, a full-colour TFT instrument panel and with a choice of six riding modes. Also new will be an adjustable windscreen, new seat compound and high-spec Brembo brakes and Showa suspension. The new Tiger 800 will have a shorter-ratio first gear and a new Off-Road Pro riding mode in the off-road biased XC versions. The engine largely remains the same, but is expected to have more performance and will feature a lighter, and freer flowing exhaust. Expect prices ranging from around ₹ 13-16 lakh (ex-showroom).

Hero XPulse

Hero MotoCorp will introduce the successor to the Hero Impulse this year, called the Hero XPulse, which was unveiled at the 2017 EICMA show in Milan in November 2017. The Hero XPulse will be powered by a 200 cc, single-cylinder engine making around 20 bhp of maximum power, and the motorcycle will be lightweight, with a kerb weight of around 140 kg. The XPulse is expected to be launched in mid-2018 and will have a price tag of around ₹ 1-1.2 lakh (ex-showroom). Hero is expected to introduce the XPulse in two variants - a road-oriented variant and an off-road oriented version.



Benelli TRK 502

DSK Benelli will be launching its middleweight adventure bike, the Benelli TRK 502. The bike is powered by a 500 cc liquid-cooled, parallel-twin engine tuned for 47 bhp of power and 45 Nm of torque. The motor will be paired to a 6-speed gearbox, and will come with studded tyres and spoked wheels. Expect the Benelli TRK 502 to be priced between ₹ 6-6.5 lakh (ex-showroom).



The Cryptic Truth

PRITHVIRAJ THALI

Blockchain, and more particularly, Cryptocurrency is the new Rubik's Cube that governments across the world are struggling to solve. A cube that is already viciously twisted and turned so many times that the solution does not seem close at hand. For India, 2017 was truly the year of cryptocurrencies, especially the fag end of it. While there is a huge amount of literature on the net explaining what blockchain and its by-products are, we shall primarily focus on those aspects of it that are as yet, not well understood and hence largely feared.

Since November 2017, Indians were introduced to a new source of investment that promised manifold returns, namely, Bitcoins. As we all know, Bitcoin is a virtual currency, which does not have any physical presence. In that, it is not Fiat money like Indian Rupees or US Dollar, which are backed by their respective governments. Investing in Bitcoins is equivalent to investing in an avenue, which is beyond the ambit of the Indian govt. as well as the RBI and the Tax authorities.

Many Indian Cryptocurrency Exchanges have mushroomed, fuelled by the immense success of their counterparts abroad. As of now, it is estimated that there are about 1400+ virtual currencies that are traded on a few or many of these exchanges. The returns on other legally accepted channels of investments such as Mutual Funds, Fixed Deposits or Govt bonds are paltry as compared to profits made by investors through crypto trading. Naturally, Asians and more recently Indians have been lured by the prospects of such huge returns. Consequently, considerable Indian wealth – both legitimate and ill gotten -- has already been invested in Bitcoins and other Altcoins



(as the other lesser known crypto-currencies).

The Indian Govt. has, since 2013, been warning its public that the risks of such investments in virtual tokens far outweigh the end gains. It is not ruling out the possibility of such investments facilitating Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing. The fact that Bitcoins are already being accepted in payment by governments and entities in some countries could lead to movement of value across borders in the virtual form, thereby providing anti-social elements with a far more efficient conduit and a better alternative over the Hawala channels.

Regulatory control is another area where the government finds itself clueless as far as this virtual space is concerned. The big dilemma it is facing is this: should it legalize crypto-currency investment and tax the returns or should it ban it for good? While the first alternative could help earn the govt. huge rewards in terms of tax revenue, it is easier said than done. The problem is that a considerable chunk of Indian wealth in all its shades (which includes black money as well) has already been converted to Bitcoins and Altcoins. Legalising it could mean lending validity to that part of

black money which is already invested. Spurred by this, more black money could be pumped into this avenue. The second alternative of banning would be restricted more to banning Indian crypto-currency exchanges and not crypto-currencies per se.

In view of the recent statements by the Finance Ministry likening cryptocurrency investments to "Ponzi Schemes" and anticipating crippling restrictions by the governmental apparatus, Indian Banks have already started withdrawing their support and placing restrictions on the accounts of these Indian exchanges through which Indian Rupees moves from banking system to the exchanges. What the governments the world over has not been able to control or regulate, they are rejecting with fantastic disdain. We cannot overlook the possibility that it could serve a larger purpose to understand the Blockchain – the core technology which claims to be the next revolution after

the Internet. The Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) and Blockchain Foundation of India (BFI) have been working relentlessly to bring about a paradigm shift in government's outlook on the virtual space, trying to impress upon them the benefits that blockchain could offer to India Inc.

What the Indian Govt. and RBI fail to understand is that though Crypto-currency markets are marked with high volatility – one of the grounds on which it is vehemently being rejected – it is also subject to the same factors as those that rule the other speculative markets in India. SEBI has been refreshingly silent on the matter, which leaves some room for positive negotiations for these pro-Crypto lobbies. The reaction to blockchain by governments and corporates is the same as it was for Internet when it was first being introduced in the commercial and domestic space.

I still remember the scenario when I had started my banking career. It

was the early 2000s and apart from the private sector banks, which were already computerised, the nationalized and cooperative banks had a hard time trying to integrate the Internet technology with their highly knowledgeable yet extremely tech-averse human capital. But, after much fanfare, eventually they too had to give in to the innovation.

It is imperative that the Indian govt., RBI, Tax authorities and SEBI collaborate mutually as well as with Blockchain tech players in not only embracing the potential that crypto avenues have to offer, but also adapting to the technology to suit the Indian financial system and diverse domains without compromising on controls and regulatory framework. How and when they would do it remains to be seen. But, all in all, these are exciting times to be living in and we could well claim the privilege someday of telling our grandchildren a few decades hence how we rode the wave of revolution that first brought blockchain to India.

India Inc, we are waiting with bated breath and high hopes!! Don't let us down.

The writer is a bank operations manager.

Controversies in Indian Cinema: CBFC v State

RAJSANKAR JAYAKUMAR

Films in India are regulated by being examined, certified and licensed before being exhibited in public by the appropriate authorities under the concerned statutes. The Constitution of India has empowered the Central Government under List I (Union List) of its 7th schedule to make rules in the matters of giving sanction to cinematographic films for their exhibition. The State Government has the power to make rules with regards to the screening of cinematographic films in a particular state subject to the Centre's powers under List I of the Constitution. In furtherance of these constitutional provisions, the Indian Cinematograph Act, 1952 was enacted. This central legislation led to the formation of the central body known as the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) for the purpose of sanctioning films for public exhibition.

In India the daunting question today is who prevails—the Supreme Court, CBFC or the State? Sanjay Leela Bhansali's *Padmavati* is yet to hit the screens, but it has stoked controversies leading to violence, disputes in the Supreme Court and banning of the film in several states across India. Therefore, the law in this regard needs to be analysed as to whether a film, after being given a certificate by the CBFC, can still be blocked from being released in a particular state by the State Government.

The Constitution of India, in its seventh schedule, contains 3 lists— List I (Union List), List II (State List) and List III (Concurrent List). List I and List II give exclusive powers

to the Centre and the States respectively to legislate on the entries laid down under the respective lists. Entry 60 of the Union List empowers the Centre to legislate on the subject of "sanctioning of cinematograph films for exhibition." This entry must be read along with Entry 33 of the State List which allows the states to legislate on the subject of "theatres, dramatic performances and cinemas subject to the provisions of Entry 60 of List I". However, List III does not at all talk about cinematographic films. Therefore, it is clearly evident that the framers of the Constitution intended to give power of certification of films exclusively to the Centre. If they had any intention of giving both the states and the centre this power, it would have reflected accordingly in the Concurrent List.

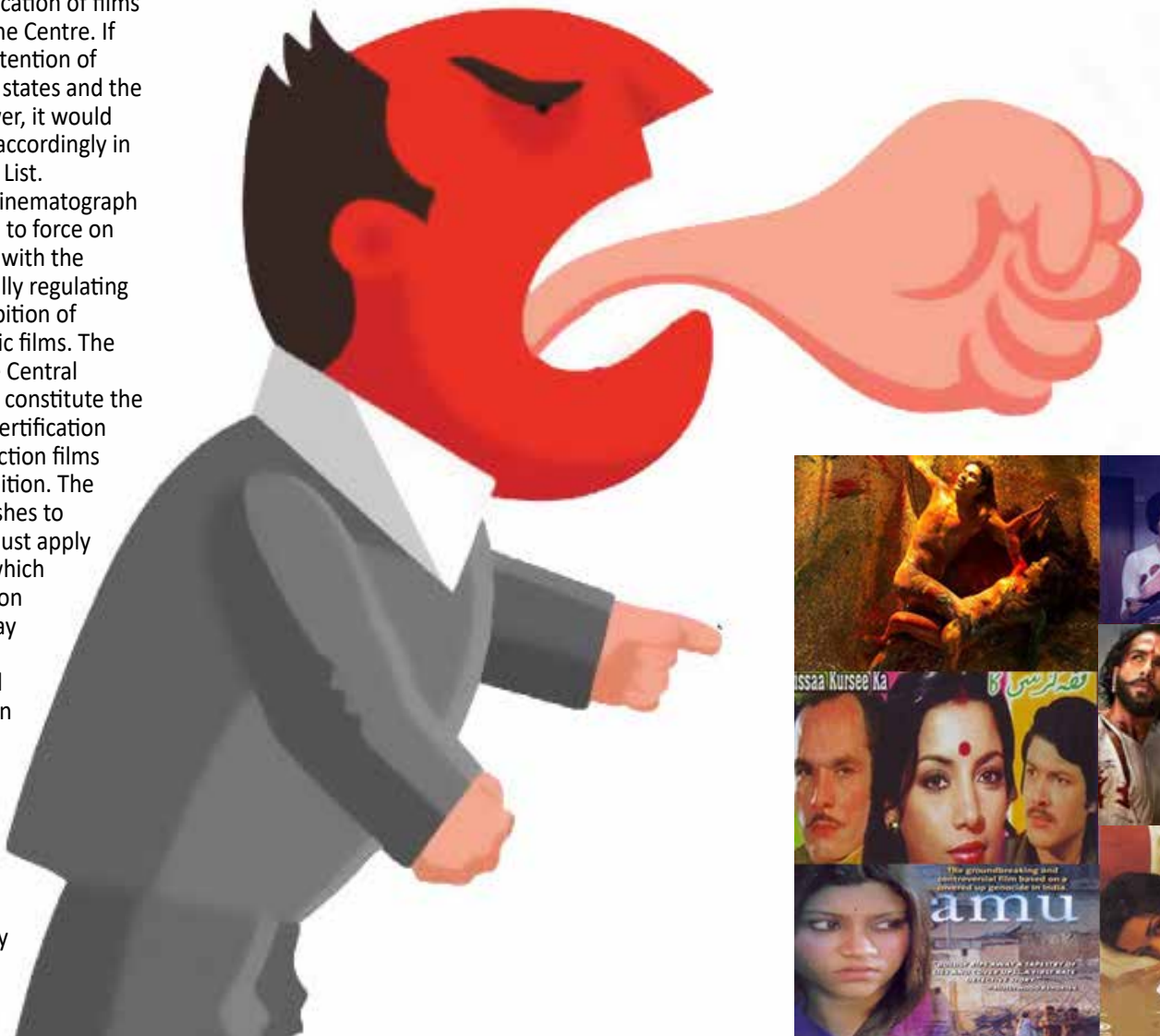
The Indian Cinematograph Act, 1952 came to force on 28th July, 1952 with the purpose of legally regulating the public exhibition of cinematographic films. The Act permits the Central Government to constitute the Board of Film Certification which shall sanction films for public exhibition. The person who wishes to exhibit a film must apply to this board, which after examination of such film, may grant sanction for unrestricted public exhibition or, for public exhibition restricted to adults or, for public exhibition restricted to members of any profession or any class of people based

on the nature and content of the film. The film is then given certificates of "U", "U/A", "A" or "S" accordingly. The Board may even direct the applicant to make some excisions or modifications in the film as it thinks fit or it may just reject the application altogether. The Act empowers the Central Government to establish advisory panels in regional centres as it thinks fit whose recommendations would be taken by the Board regarding any film that has been given a certificate. The Act requires the Board to follow the guidelines laid

down under it while certifying a film. Therefore, the Board cannot certify a film as per its whims and fancies. It is also pertinent to note that if the Lieutenant-Governor, or the Chief Commissioner, or the District Magistrate, feel that the public exhibition of a particular film is likely to cause a breach of peace in a Union Territory (UT), State or a District respectively, they may by order, suspend the exhibition of such film in that particular UT, State or District. Such suspension order would be valid for two months from the date of its issuance and can be extended if necessary if the concerned

authority is directed to do so by the Central Government. Maintenance of peace and public order is the State Government's concern and hence, it can always request the District Magistrate of a district within the state or the Chief Commissioner of that particular state over which it has jurisdiction, to pass the suspension order when it anticipates breach of public peace in that particular district or the whole of the state due to the public exhibition of such film.

The freedom of expression, as contemplated by Article 19 (1) (a) of the Indian



Constitution, which in many respects overlaps and coincides with freedom of speech has manifold meanings. It need not and ought not to be confined to expressing something in words orally or in writing. Expressing one's ideas through cinema also falls within the ambit of Article 19 (1) (a). Controversies arise when the State lock horns with filmmakers by imposing restrictions on their films, which in a way, violate their fundamental freedom of expression guaranteed under the Constitution.

In 2005, the movie Black Friday's release was blocked as it was based on the 1993 Bombay bomb-blasts by the petitions of the persons who were under trial for the bomb-blast case which were filed in the Bombay High Court. The Supreme Court had upheld the High Court's order and finally it was released in 2007. In 2005, a Mahesh Bhatt film was banned from exhibition due to depiction of smoking and drinking scenes without proper health disclaimers. Even though the Delhi High



Court lifted the ban, in 2009, the Supreme Court suspended the order of the High Court. In 2016, Uda Punjab had to be released with several cuts due to the reason that it portrayed the State of Punjab in a very humiliating and false way. Finally, the movie Padmavati, which is yet to be released, has been facing several threats of violence and objections by the Rajput community due to the reason that it desecrates Rani Padmavati, who is a revered figure among the Rajput community, and in turn insults the whole Rajput community by showing incorrect history in the name

of artistic freedom. The Supreme Court had dismissed petitions seeking ban of the film on the ground that the petitions were premature and nothing can be done until and unless the CBFC grants a certificate to the film. Recently, the Supreme Court granted an interim stay on the Gujarat and Rajasthan state notifications and the decisions of the states of Madhya Pradesh and Haryana prohibiting the public exhibition of the film 'Padmaavat' and refused to hear the PIL filed by Advocate

M.L. Sharma seeking the quashing of the certificate issued by the CBFC in respect of the film under S.5A of the Indian Cinematograph Act, 1952.

In conclusion, it is clearly evident that as per the law the Central Government has the sole power of certifying films. The State Government can merely get the screening of a film to be suspended if breach of public peace is anticipated. However, it has no lawful authority to completely ban a film from being screened in a particular state. Hence, it would be wrong on the part of the states which are seeking to ban the film "Padmaavat" from being screened. Moreover, if the government goes ahead with the ban merely because of threats of violence by fringe elements like the karni sena it would indicate that it supports violence and hooliganism. Such fringe elements would rise to power and would simply use violence as a weapon to stop any movie as they wish at any time and this would lead to the fall of the cinema industry and the decline of cinema as a form of art.

Cinema is protected as a form of expression under Article 19 (1) (a) of the Indian Constitution.

However, no right is absolute; right to freedom of expression is subject to reasonable restrictions. State is the better custodian of public interest, decency and morality than the film

industry. Making of a film is definitely an art but it cannot be equated with other forms of art and expression. It stirs up emotions more deeply and effectively than any other product of art. Entertainment is one of the important underlying objects but it is mainly meant to make the viewers mentally relaxed and joyful and not to render them heavy-hearted, sensually aroused and mentally disturbed which may lead them to indulge in frivolities, perversions and dangerous addictions. Therefore, some amount of regulation is definitely required on films. The Board also must use its powers reasonably and responsibly. The screening of a film can only be suspended in a particular area because of the law and order situation in that area and it cannot be completely banned in the whole state. Such a ban would be illegal. The Board must also bear in mind that it should step in firmly and insist that the film being released has a message meant to improve the values of life and should see that the film contains only such scenes which do not affect the values of life.

The courts, on the other hand, should be cautious and extremely slow in passing any kind of restraint or order stopping a creative man from writing drama, a book, philosophy or projecting his thoughts in a film or theatre art.

The current law on cinematographic films contains certain general principles which are merely meant to make films more socially responsible. They are moreover very much consistent with the permissible restrictions as stated within Article 19(2) of the Constitution. In a complex society, in which we live today, no one can claim absolute freedom without incurring any obligation whatsoever for the general well being. Social responsibility and the greater good for the greater masses is the key that both filmmakers and the State should never forget.

The writer is a law student.



We share the road with someone as well...

LAKSHMI BUDKE

Vehicles have become such an important aspect of our lives that we almost feel incomplete without them. One day without our vehicles and we are handicapped with our whole schedule thrown off balance!!

So we can come to a conclusion that without the transport, we are lost. However, we are aware and know about being cautious while driving or riding so as to not cause any accidents or damage to any property as we know we share the roads with other people too; but did it ever occur to us that we not only share the roads with humans but animals as well?

It is such a terrifying sight to look at an animal lying in the middle of the road or sometimes on the sides and dead, hit by a vehicle. I can't begin to explain the sorrow that I feel passing



needs to be taken of these accidents not only for the lives of the poor animals but this also shows how traffic rules violations are at a rise! (Because apparently animals' getting killed isn't a sufficient reason enough!)

Now some may also point that the animals just appear on the roads out of nowhere and the driver has only two choices that is either to save himself or the animal or it just gets run over.

But my question here is, isn't it possible to apply brakes at the legally prescribed speed limit on any road and save a disaster?

I reckon so, it is! But it is not happening because the speed limit is not being followed and there is over speeding and because of which it becomes completely impossible to stop the vehicle in case an animal jumps out of the blue and there is no option left with the driver to kill it!

Now in such a scenario the driver either kills the animal or in an attempt to save the animal, crashes himself or if he is lucky he just misses the animal and moves ahead!

Would it hurt us to drive or ride at a reasonable speed and show a little amount of empathy towards other living creatures that we share our space instead of just being such self-centric species that ignores all the other life forms! There are no words that can express the sorrow of seeing an animal lying dead on the road in such a mutilated manner... if human beings deserve to die with respect then so do the animals... the agony of seeing puppies or kitten that you were playing with and feeding just some days back, lying on the road murdered brutally ... a tender puppy whose life comes to an end even before he has began living it...has become living horror we continue to create everyday... hence through this article it is a humble request to all the citizens to be a little responsible on the roads and understand that life is life after all, be it of an animal or a human being and it is equally treacherous to see it being taken away in horrible ways like roadkills... God has made us sensible species on earth. So let's use that and make this place a better one for all life forms, helping it to grow and prosper.

by such accidents along the road!

Every single day I pass by at least one roadkill, tears just begin to flow down my eyes when I see these poor animals crushed to death by such brutality and for mere the reason being that they weren't quite quick enough to tackle a vehicle at high speed!

Why can't we just for once wait and understand that animals also have an equal right over the land as we do and essentially we have no right to just run them over with our vehicles so savagely!

People need to understand that sometimes the animals they crush have babies to feed and by killing one animal they have actually taken so many other lives that depended on that poor animal!

How can people not feel companionate towards these speechless creatures and start being a little responsible while they drive or ride! How can we become so heartless that we don't feel any grief over animals that fall prey to roadkills? God forbid were it for humans to die at such a rate due to accidents, the whole human rights community would have launched an attack on the population that use roads for driving or riding! But since they are animals that it isn't much of a bother!! But some notice

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ARIES

(Mar. 21- April 20)

Mingle with those who can further your goals. You can make a difference if you're willing to stand up and be counted. Make plans to do something special with the one you love. Unexpected visitors will be a welcome surprise.



TAURUS

(Apr. 21- may 21)

Use your better judgment before you sign up for a costly venture. Sports, physical fitness programs, exercise in general will make you feel better and show some pretty quick results. Problems with female members of your family may play on your emotions.



GEMINI

(May 22-June 21)

Your health may have suffered due to neglect or abuse. You will be highly entertaining when in contact with your lover. You need time to rejuvenate. Travel should be on your agenda.



CANCER

(June 22-July 22)

Investments that deal with property will pay off but could cause conflict with some family members. Your knowledge and good sense will help more than you think. A change of attitude has probably disrupted your home environment. Reciprocate by offering helpful hints.

LEO

(July 23-Aug 22)

You will have no problem getting your point across to those in a position to help you. Take care of any paperwork concerning institutional or governmental agencies. You will easily blow situations out of proportion. Don't bother trying to make someone you live with see your point of view.

VIRGO

(Aug. 23 -Sept. 23)

Don't ignore any emotional issues that could be causing problems. Your generous nature could be taken advantage of. You will be a real chatterbox this week. Friendships could be terminated quickly if disappointments occur.



LIBRA

(Sept. 24 -Oct. 23)

Abrupt action will cause difficulties with relatives. Your ability to deal with others will help you accomplish your goals. Money can be made if you use your ingenuity. You may have difficulties with in-laws or family members.

SCORPIO

(Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

Take the day to relax and pamper yourself. Your mate is going to want and need some attention. You may want to put your creative thinking cap on. If you put your mind to it, you could entertain or host a multitude of social events.

CAPRICORN

(Dec 22.- Jan. 20)

Be careful that you don't spend too much time with a person belonging to someone else. Your determination and stamina will make your work look flaw less and effortless. Expect some flak. Refuse to let others make unrealistic demands of you.



SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 23 -Dec. 21)

You will do best to entertain those you wish to close deals with. Uncertainties about your personal life are probable. Offer consolation, but don't give them any direction. If you can, try to work out of your home this

AQUARIUS

(Jan. 21 -Feb. 19)

Get on with your life. You could be cornered, so be prepared to tell the truth. Your disciplined attention to jobs will enhance your position. Don't donate more than you can afford in order to impress others.

PISCES

(Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

Try to stay calm and do the best you can. Hidden matters are likely to surface. You can make personal changes that will enhance your appearance and bring you greater popularity. Don't let your emotional partner upset you this week.



Bal Shree Vaishnavi Joshi


Born and brought up in the tiny village of Morjim Vaishnavi Joshi has made the state proud by winning the prestigious Bal Shree award. A versatile child excelling in academics as well as extracurricular activities, Vaishnavi has to her credit more than 200 awards ranging from fancy dress, dance, monologue, elocution, storytelling etc.

was online. He checked the site and was delighted and woke me with the surprise. I refused to get up thinking they were joking. But there were tunes ringing of congratulations. I jumped out with a heart overwhelmed with joy. Indeed, one of the most beautiful day it was.

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What is the selection criterion and how did you get in to the race?

While selecting children, the process and product are assessed on the basis of:

Originality, Innovative approach, Fluency, Flexibility, Divergent thinking, Elaboration of ideas, Creative process culminating into meaningful product, Effective functioning in the group, Analytical and Critical approach. The age limit is 9 to 16 yrs.

There are two types of tools used for selection of children

Activity related tools and Psychological tests

The selection of creative children in four areas is done at three levels:

State, Zonal and National Level

I just came to know previous day of state level round. I tried my best and was able to get through. While preparing for the next rounds, it was all the hardwork of my parents, Ravindra Amonkar, Madhukar Joshi, Ms. Sangita Mapari, Sanjay Mapari, Kevin Dmello and Eknath Gaonkar and of course Kharbe sir that made the goal realistic. It was the result of blessings of all these people as well my well-wishers. Above all, it was the guiding light of God that made it possible to get through the race.

How did you feel when you were first selected?

It was early 4 am when dad received his friend's call that the award news

What did you enjoy the most at the National round meet?

There were 5 rounds in total at Nationals and each with on the spot tasks. It wasn't like any other competition where in we could prepare earlier.

At 3rd round we were to do an IMPROVISATION. After each judges gave their opinion but mine was the only one which had no comments. It was an intense end and I was on stage longing for some reaction from the crew. But one of the judges just came and gave me a hug. He was all in tears. They gave us 5 min break after my performance. But the feeling was amazing.

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Shree award?

In Hindi the word 'Bal' means a child and 'shree' denotes fame and also used as an aura of glory. Shree also stands for Goddess of Wealth and Goddess of Knowledge. Therefore, the epithet 'Bal Shree' was considered to be the most appropriate for defining the attributes of those very creative young ones, who possess unmatched qualities, unique approach and innovative ways and thereby they not only enrich

What was your area of expression for which you received the award?

Under the main stream of Creative Performance I chose the sub stream of Theatre And Puppetry.

the society but also cover themselves with glory. Such children are an asset to the society and therefore, it was considered to honour them as Bal Shree.

The National Bal Shree Honour is awarded to creative children in the age group of 9-16 years. National Bal Shree

Honour given by National Bal Bhawan, an autonomous body of Ministry of Human Resource Development (India). The Honour includes a plaque, a certificate, educational resources and a cash prize. National Bal Shree Honour is usually given by President of India in Rashtrapati Bhavan at New Delhi. National Bal Shree Honour lies among 3 President's Award of India, ranking 1st, followed by National Child Award for Exceptional Achievement and thus Bal Shree is one of the highest child award of the nation.

For me it signifies as a memento love of all my friends, well-wishers and their motivation, support, confidence and above all

their prayers.

What is your ambition?

I wish to pursue masters in science stream apart from being a successful bharatnatyam dancer and a theatre artist.

What was the significance of the Bal

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'Reclaiming Vasco-da-Gama, the Port Town'

SANGITA SHARMA

Vasco-da-Gama or simply Vasco, the port town of Goa is named after the illustrious explorer and navigator Vasco-da-Gama, the 1st Count of Vidigueira, who was also the first European to reach India by sea. He was largely responsible for discovering the maritime routes from Western Europe to the East in 1498. The Portuguese got hold of this area in the 16th century and the 'Sada Fort' was built in 1543. Within a span of a few years this area was converted into one of the most sought after ports of India. The fort was constructed to monitor the movement of ships into the Zuari river. Soon after its construction, the fort was abandoned and today one can see some remnants of the ramparts.

However, in spite of being abandoned, the area continued to be of political and economic interest to the Portuguese. In 1624, they built the formidable Mormugao Fort and had major plans for it. But later they abandoned it and the fortress served as a military base. The importance of its port grew with the coming of the railways. Mormugao was created in 1917 for administrative purposes from a part of Salcete and the new town Vasco-da-Gama was built. The

port area continued to be called Mormugao and Vasco was built on one of the sites of the three villages that were originally part of this area. It was known to be a colourful city of officials, traders and migrant labourers and had its Portuguese academies and British club life for several decades.

The present day Vasco is a bit of a reflection of the port town that existed during the Portuguese rule. The remains of monuments, forts, heritage buildings and structures are a testimony of its past and echo the ethos of the Goan way of living. It is home to some of the wealthiest industrialist and business families of Goa – the Salgoankars, the Chowgules, the Bandekars, the Joshis, the Lotlikars and the Mainkars who have contributed to the city's growth and economic opportunities. The fisher folk, hawkers, small-time traders, fruit and vegetable vendors create a bustling market and are the soul of the town.

As Vasco moves ahead with time, the need to turn back the pages of history is felt as its intriguing past has a rich tapestry of stories to be told. Vasco is repository of some of the historical gems of the Portuguese rule and Hindu culture – the Fort of Mormugao, the Church of St. Andrews,

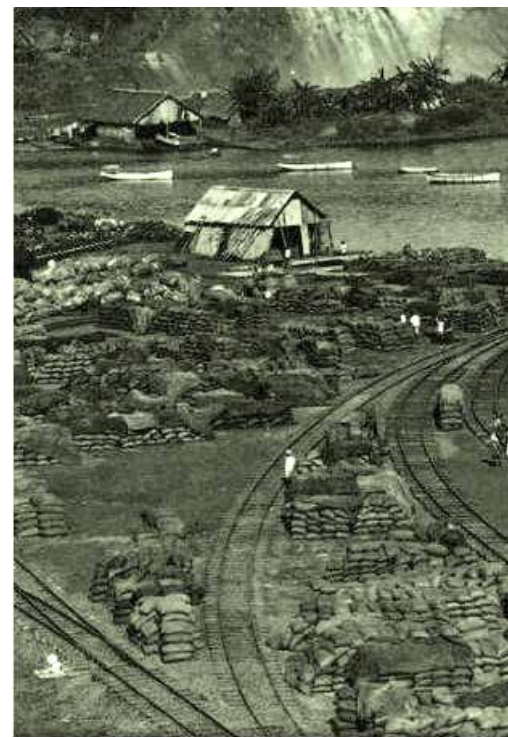
the Damodar Temple, the Clock Tower and others. While some of them stand tall in all their glory even today, there are some that have gathered the dust of time. Nevertheless once polished, these rare gems can be the pride of Vasco attracting tourists, history buffs and others. Besides, Vasco is also the recipient of some interesting historical anecdotes that needs to be relished.

Unraveling and preserving the treasures of history are the essence of a truly civilised and progressive society.

To do so, it is essential to delve into the past and understand the dynamics of Portuguese rule in Goa. The present Vasco was like any other coastal village of Goa when the Portuguese arrived on the Western coast. In the initial years of their arrival, they had no major plans for Goa but later realised its potential for trade and the fulfillment of their policy against Islam. Goa had been under the jurisdiction of the Sultans of Bijapur. They followed a policy of extortion and religious oppression because of which the people of Goa were dissatisfied by their rule and hoped for some kind of political intervention to end the Muslim rule.

The Portuguese too were waiting for an opportunity to conquer Goa. They got this opportunity when

Thimmaya informed them that the Sultan of Bijapur was unwell and that there were no lords but only guards of the local administration to protect Goa. The prospective heirs were in Bijapur, preoccupied by the uncertainty of the Sultan's succession. The Portuguese entry into Goa was met with no resistance, as the people





of Goa were only too glad to get rid of the rule of the Muslims.

This did not last for long and the Portuguese had to retreat as the furious Sultan sent an army to oust them. But the Portuguese returned with a reinforced force led by Albuquerque and defeated the Muslims, establishing their rule over Goa on 25 Nov 1510, changing the course of its history forever.

The Portuguese pursued a policy of expansion in the years to come. They enforced their political, economic and religious policy with ferocity in the early years but became tolerant and inclusive in the later years. Due to political changes in Portugal, Goa lost its vibrancy and steadily declined in the years before they left. The rest of India freed from the British rule forged ahead but Goa under

the Portuguese rule seemed to have frozen in time with its distinct way of life. It had evolved its own culture and an essentially rural, easy paced and insular way of living. The exit of the Portuguese disoriented the people of Goa as they had aligned themselves to their rulers. At the same time, the Portuguese rule left Goa distinctly different from the rest of the country.

The Portuguese rule came to an end on 19 Dec 1961, 19:30 hrs. at Vasco-da-Gama, with the combined efforts of the Indian Army & Navy. The Instrument of Surrender was signed at the Alparqueiros Hill, under a mango tree, near the erstwhile Portuguese barracks. That their exit was formalised at Vasco-da-Gama gives the city its moment of eternal glory. And it is from this point that the threads of the past have to be picked up to recreate the

magic of Vasco.

Vasco is the quintessential example of a town with huge potentials to be tapped and explored. This town's future lies in its historical legacy and in its promising present. Both need to be harnessed for a brighter tomorrow. It has contributed to the economic wealth and trade over the years and still holds the key to Goa's burgeoning financial growth. But it is sad to see that not so much has been done to project the historical significance of the city of Vasco.

The Mormugao Fort was built in 1624 under the aegis of King Dom Phillip of Portugal & Dom Francisco-da-Gama, the Viceroy of Portuguese India and the grandson of Vasco-da-Gama. Its significance at that point of time lay mainly in guarding the mouth of the harbour and to safeguard against the attacks by the Marathas. The then Viceroy was disturbed by the repeated forays of the Marathas and decided to construct a fortified town in this area. In 1683, fearing the Maratha King Sambhaji's attack, the Viceroy shifted his capital from Old Goa to Mormugao's formidable fortress. However, it was later felt that Mormugao was not central enough for the Portuguese empire and they shifted back to Old Goa. In a way it was a sensible move as the Marathas conquered the fort in the 17th century and it remained under them for some years before it was recaptured by the Portuguese.

The Mormugao fort spanned over 9 km in circumference. It contained towering bulwarks, 3 magazines (armament storage), 5 prisons, a Chapel, quarters for the guards, 53 guns and a Garrison with 4 officers. The Viceroy's palace was later converted into Hotel Palacio and it is currently with Mormugao Port Trust. The fort's bulwarks and bastions are intact and fortify the area even today.

St. Andrews Church or 'Igreja dos Santo Andre', built in 1570 by the Jesuit priests, is a prominent feature of the city and a heritage monument. The Neo-Gothic stark white facade gives the Church a stately and gracious charm. In the early years after its construction, it was raised to the ground in 1578 by the armies of Adil Shah but in 1594 it was reconstructed in laterite stone and lime when the Portuguese regained their control. In 1950, the Church again saw the destruction of its facade. However, the original peak gable was rebuilt and Neo-Gothic features were added. The Church has a typical cruciform shape with a single aisle running the length of the Church. Antique chandeliers lend a golden glow to the interiors in

the evening. Galleries run on either side and the aisle and ceiling of the Church is rib vaulted. Behind the altar is a carved gilded ornamental screen. Besides, there are additional gilded altars on either side of the main one.

St. Andrew was one of the 12 apostles of Jesus and is considered the patron saint of fishermen and spinsters. The feast of St. Andrew is celebrated each year on 30th Nov with much fanfare.

Our Lady of Exile Church was a Chapel built in 1672 at Desterro, Vasco. It was initially dedicated to St. Thomas and later to Our Lady of Exile. The religious order of 'The Ursulines of the Mary Immaculate' is based at its Convent.

Damodar Temple is the venue for a weeklong celebration in the Hindu month of Sharavan (August) and coincides with the festivals associated with Lord Shiva – 'Nagapanchami'. It is on the Swatantra Path in Vasco and the yearly fair 'Saptha' revolves around it.

Legend has it that in 1896 when the area was plagued by an epidemic, the locals turned to the avatar of Shiva, Lord Damodar for help. Lord Damodar is the 'Gram Dev' of Margao and during the time of Inquisition, the deity was shifted to Zambolim which is 22 Km away from Margao. In 1899, a sacred coconut (Prasad) brought from the famous Damodar temple at Zambolim was installed as a divine symbol to be worshipped. Much to the relief of all, the epidemic abated. Lord Damodar's idol was installed in a Hall at the residence of the Joshi family. This hall is considered as one of the Sal's out of the three in Goa. Even now the small temple attached to the original house is the main venue during the celebrations. The previous year's coconut is taken out in a procession and immersed in the sea and a new coconut is anointed. The Joshi family continues to be the custodian of the temple and keeps the tradition alive.

Mormugao Port and the Railways – The Mormugao Harbour lying on the southern side of the mouth of river Zuari was accorded the status of a Major Port in 1963. It has contributed to the maritime trade in India and is the leading iron ore exporting port of India with an annual output of around 27.33 million tonnes.

Mormugao Port was devastated by an epidemic in the 18th century. But the coming together of the Portuguese and the British for tapping its maritime trade changed the destiny of Mormugao. Being one of the best natural harbours, the need to link Portuguese colony with British India



was felt by both the powers and this was done by laying the meter gauge railway. At the same time, modernising of the existing port seemed equally essential. The task to modernise the port as well as to lay the meter gauge was given to a British enterprise 'The Western Indian Portuguese Guaranteed Railway Company'. The company was formed in Britain, especially for this purpose and the Portuguese not only paid a princely sum for the project but also for the registration of this English Company in England. Work on the two started in 1878. The harbour became operational in 1885 and the railway line from Mormugao to Sarvodem in 1887 and later extended to Castle rock. The first ship to sail into Mormugao was 'SS Westbourne' in April 1885, bringing railway equipment.

Vasco-da-Gama was planned and built in the early years of 20th century. In 1881 it was a small fishermen's village. Out of 1451 inhabitants, 7 were Europeans and rest Goans. However, the work on the Mormugao Port and railway line led to the influx of labour from Goa and outside. These labourers of which 3 were women had the sky for their roof and they lived under the sun and rain for months. After independence of India, the Mormugao railway was nationalised and integrated with the Southern Railways. But the Mormugao Port Railway and the Station were kept with the Mormugao Port Administration.

The Port was witness to two interesting incidents during the World War II. Ships belonging to the Axis powers sought shelter in the Mormugao harbour and this was granted by Portugal as it was a neutral state. In 1939, three German ships 'Ehrenfels', 'Drachenfels', 'Braunfels' and a year later an Italian ship 'Anfora' docked in the Mormugao port. These were spy ships giving information via high frequency radio transmissions to the German submarines or the U Boat force. In 1942, the British launched 'Operation Creek' and the ships were sunk off the coast of Mormugao. The blame was laid on the crew of the ships and the real truth was made public in 1978. James Leasor wrote an account of the same and the film 'The Sea Wolves' based on the book was made in 1980, starring Gregory Peck and Roger Moore.

In keeping with the Neutral status of Portugal,



COVER STORY

Mormugao witnessed the exchange of 'Prisoners of War' and 'Repatriates' on its waterfront. The Japanese ship 'Tei Maru' departed from Japan in 1943 and sailed to different harbours across the Far East, collecting American and British citizens that were made prisoners by the Japanese. The ship arrived at Mormugao, Goa on 15 Oct 1943 and the exchange of prisoners took place here. MS Gripsholm, an ocean liner used by the US carried these exchanged prisoners from Mormugao to New York.

As Vasco-da-Gama gained significance, the first cinema theatre of Goa 'Cine Vasco' was made here. It had its own Club founded in 1921 called 'Gremio Literario de Mormugao'. It had a library, facilities for entertainment and lawn tennis. Today, this huge structure is in ruins and covered with vegetation. It is located near the fish market, on one side of 'T.B. Cunha' statue.

The 'Camara Municipal de Mormugao' was established in 1919 and its administrative offices operated



from Colaco building till 1941. These offices were shifted to the present Mormugao Municipal Council building that was constructed in the same year. Even now the Municipal Council offices function from here and this is also considered a heritage structure. The Colaco building was demolished in 1964 and replaced by a new concrete building that presently houses the Bank of India, Vasco Branch. Adding

to the charm of Vasco is the beautiful heritage house of the Bandekar family, on the Swatantra Path. Initially into exports, imports and contract work, the family has now diversified into mining also.

The Clock Tower at Vasco was built in 1938 and was known as 'Mercado Municipal', which means municipal market. The clock tower has recently been restored by Rajaram & Tarabai Charitable Trust.

Vasco has the Indian Oil Terminal, which was initially an oil terminal set up by the 'Burmah Shell Company', in 1916. The Goa Shipyard Ltd. roots lie with the 'Estaleros Navias de Goa' set up in 1957 to build and repair Barges and Warships. From Jun 1962, the Government of India leased it to Mazagaon Shipyard Ltd. It started functioning as 'Goa Shipyard Ltd.' from 01 Oct



1967. The port town can also boast of having an International Airport at Dabolim.

Today, Vasco seems to be more of a commercial rather than a historical proposition for most. However, recently the 'Roctract Club' of Vasco-da-Gama along with the 'History Lovers Group' organised a two day 'Port Town Heritage Festival' to make people aware of Vasco's rich history. The efforts of young Rohan Bandekar and his team, in this direction have to be lauded. At a time when the spectre of the 'Coal Hub' looms large over the city of Vasco, it is only the efforts of visionary citizens that can steer the city in the correct direction. Vasco could well be 'Reclaimed' as a heritage city rather than just a commercial hub.

Goemkarponn will live on...

PALASH VOLVOIKAR

Goa is a state that has been pushed as a hippie hub, a party state, a place where everybody goes to drink cheap liquor and piss off the edge of the world. However, for those of us that live here, things are quite different. Over the last year, every article I've written for The Neutral View that had anything to do with Goa, I have tried to make this point: Goa is much more than the sum of its (most noticeable) parts. However the cynics among us, myself often included, tend to believe that the very fact might be a truth that's quickly eroding. The buzzword that is being tossed around a lot these days in Goemkarponn, and it seems like the word now has some newfound power. Read on!

Let's talk about what has been happening in Goa lately. Starting off, there is a row over the nationalisation of rivers and its potential dangers to Mhadei. Secondly is the taxi owners strike, which is pretty much demanding that, the Government not criminalize extortion. Many other small issues bug the state, ranging from the divide over opinion poll among certain sections of the society, to the issue over coconuts. So why is it that I'm here with a positive spin on Goem, and Goemkarponn?

Starting off, let me clarify that when I say Goemkarponn, I'm referring to the politics-free originally intended meaning of the word. I recently attended the 23rd Goa Yuva Mahotsav, held at Mashem, Canacona, and I'm happy to report back that Goemkarponn is well and alive and on the rise. The purpose behind Goa Yuva Mahotsav has been to awaken the Goan youth to help this land keep its identity and for 23 years it has been doing the job perfectly well. In the recent years, despite the fact that we have been cynical about where our



little homeland is headed, we have had, what seems like, a reactionary rise in the spirit of Goemkarponn.

Let's get a perspective on how things have been working out in the last few years. The first thing to remember about change is that it begins with discourse. Goans might be divided over a lot of issues facing the state but as long as we're talking about them with each other, we're on the road to progress and the attention to discussions about all things, Goem has increased quite a lot in the recent years. Goa Yuva Mahotsav is a prime example of how young Goans get together, every year, and have a healthy discussion about Goa. Over the years, everything from Mhadei, to coconuts has been discussed and the youth have been quite vocal about their concerns.

The scope of such discussions has started to extend beyond just one festival in the recent times. Multiple new festivals have spawned off, thanks to efforts by youngsters that are products of the Goa Yuva Mahotsav itself. We now have festivals like Urba, Daayz etc. that do a great job at carrying forward the discourse that starts with Yuva Mahotsav. That's not all, the schools and organizations that take part in Yuva Mahotsav, spend the rest of the year on various other activities that ensure that the purpose of these large festivals doesn't get defeated.

I have experienced this happening first hand. I'm currently the vice-president of Antruz Ghudyo, an organisation that works along the



same lines and over the last seven years that I have been a part of this organization, I have seen the response that our activities get and the positive discussions that follow.

There is much more to this as well. Facebook groups like Goa Speaks are active forums where people come together to talk about these issues. Just to give one more example, there was a recent row over the inauguration of the Opinion Poll Square at Margao, which was done by a few citizens themselves ahead of the intended inauguration at the hand of officials. The fact that there is still such a

reaction from the Goan public is a testament that we are not so "sushegaad," after all.

So here's what I feel: As long as there is a Yuva Mahotsav every year, as long as those that love with all their heart, such an event and build their own events and activities to keep the Goenkar in us, wide awake, as long as we are still talking about the things that encircle and endanger us, as long as there is a dialogue about what being a Goenkar stands for, Goemkarponn, will live on...

...and if you disagree, let's talk about it.

Aspiring writer

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GOA GIVES BACK FLUTE TO DGP MUKTESH CHANDER

TEAM TNV

It was after being posted in Goa that state Director General of Police Muktesh Chander realised that he has been away from his hobby of playing flute for almost a decade. During an exclusive interview to TNV, the super cop was nostalgic about his love to play flute.

When did your 'flute journey' begin?

Chander: Since my childhood when I was about 12-13 years of age. I have played at events in my school, college and academy. I took part in inter college music festivals and many such programs but all this was as a hobby, until I realized to take forward this passion and participate on larger platforms.

How did you inculcate this interest?

Chander: This is an interesting story. I didn't choose flute but the flute chose me and the story goes like this. I must be 12-13 years of age when one of my father's friends came to our house and he had a transverse flute (side blown flute). He played flute as hobby and on this day when he came to our place, he played flute and children including me surrounded him. This flute was difficult. He told us whoever could play the flute, he would gift that flute to him/her. When I took it in my hand, I could produce the notes and that's how I won the gift. I think that is not a coincidence but a destiny. So after this, I would buy flutes from my pocket money. It used to happen like this that I could recognize the flute music from even a far distance away when others could not. It would attract me. I would see how a flute player (who would come to sell flutes/transverse) moves his fingers and then I would experiment with it. In the beginning, my father complained but one fine day it so happened that he recognized the song I was playing on flute. That came as a big compliment to me. I was getting a



hand on how to play the instrument without any formal training. My parents neither encouraged nor discouraged and as such, I had no access to formal teaching. I would refer to books on how to play notes but there is a saying, 'you can't learn to swim by reading a book.' I practiced and simultaneously took my academic studies too seriously.

Where have been your performances so far?

Chander: I played in my school, college, Academy, and at family gatherings. As I said, it was just a part of hobby until then, I enjoyed though. And then I joined the police force... I then played for Rafi Foundation that organizes musical concerts with a huge bunch of musicians, singers, etc. I have also played in Doordarshan Channel a couple of times. I was then selected to participate in a national contest where the judges included B-town's Mahesh Bhatt and Neha Dupia. I thought it would be a show but it turned out to be a contest. This did not deter me to go-ahead and I won two awards – second prize and audience choice.

Your favourite song(s) you like to

play on flute/transverse?

Chander: I love the old sings, particularly those sung by Mohd Rafi and Lata Mangueshkar.

How it has been performing in Goa? How many performances you had in Goa since your transfer here?

Chander: Goa plays a special role. After joining the police force, I did not touch the instrument for nearly a decade. One day, I realized that I am distancing my hobby. My inner voice said the artist in you is dying... This realization came to me when I was posted in Goa as the Deputy Inspector General of Police and incidentally people here love music. So I decided why not to refine my art. I went back to my flute/transverse. I did performances and thereafter began organizing my own shows with the first being at Goa Governor's Palace Raj Bhavan. Governor Dr. Mridula Sinha accepted my request to hold the event at the palace... Entire Goa was invited. First time in my life, I played 20 songs right from 1947-2016. That was dream come true.

How do you balance your hobby of playing flute and your duty being the

Chief of Goa police?

Chander: First of all the job of police is stressful... and any hobby is a stress buster. It unwinds your mind. So when I go back home after duty, I make time to play flute though it is not every day. There are days when I don't touch the instrument for a week. However, I enjoy my passion.

Can you share your work experience in Goa? What are the challenges here?

Chander: In Goa there is a very different kind of policing. Goa is a tourist state. More problems are tourism-related, the vices which come with tourism drugs, prostitution, gambling. Violent crime are less and occasional and this we get to manage. The important thing I realized is adopting scientific techniques of investigation. Cyber probe and cell phone analyses were missing and this shortcoming needed to be fixed. There was also traffic related issue. These were the challenges. We have now managed to crackdown on the traffic violations, identified more black spots whereas in drug related cases, the raids have increased and prosecution has been upped.

The True Path to Freedom

CHARLENE FARRELL

On the 26th of January 1950, India completed its transition from a colonised country to that of an independent, sovereign and secular nation. It was the day India's beautifully written and documented constitution came into force. On this day and in the years proceeding, the Preamble proclaimed the solemn resolution of the people of India to constitute India into a 'Sovereign socialist secular democratic republic'. When a nation takes it upon itself to proclaim all this and more, one can be sure that there has been a lot of thought put into the construction of the 'rule book' that it has. As our forefathers struggled to win us our freedom and took a whole two years and eleven months and eighteen days to draft one of the longest most detailed constitutions among all other sovereign countries, our reflection

is of great importance. The drafting committee, under the leadership of B.R. Ambedkar worked tirelessly to put down as much as they possible could to help the citizens of India to finally enjoy the freedom that they had been starved off for nearly 200 years. Are we grateful? Are we doing the constitution justice? Are we really a 'Sovereign socialist secular democratic republic'?

Our history books paint amazing pictures of our countrymen working shoulder to shoulder, side by side, with one goal in mind, creating a proud nation where everyone had a voice, a role, a reason and a choice. Fast forward sixty-eight years from



the day the architects of our amazing constitution launched their handiwork, and what do we get? The lack of freedom, suppression and oppression and yes, still, a huge divide between the ruling and common man. The only difference between then and now seems to be the colour of the skin of the man that used to oppress. Can we still call ourselves a democratic republic when as the common man, we have no freedom to eat what food we want to, when our freedom of speech is being curbed (which is so very clearly a constitutional right), when we are not allowed to watch the movies we want to and when we are not allowed an opinion? Are we a secular, democratic, republic when we our right to practice religion is also being questioned? Are we free, as women, if we have to watch our backs even when we walk around in our own neighbourhoods?

When those who make up the rules preach unconstitutionally, there is a lot to worry about. I would personally like answers about why we have drifted so widely from one of the best rule books ever written. As citizens, we continue to be blinded by false assurances and a few fulfilled pre-election manifesto promises. The constitution of our country has been constructed to be a directive of how to govern us, it states clearly what our rights and duties our but it also goes into detail about what those running the country need to do and how they need to do it.

Running a nation as beautiful and versatile as ours, calls for a lot of responsible governance. We are a rich, resourceful collective in both natural and human resources and yet we still lug around the tag of a developing nation. Crumbling under the weight of exorbitant expenses, the common middle-class man, who makes up

the bulk of the Indian population is struggling to make ends meet. When refuelling the cars, we have struggled to buy burns craters into our accounts when the rest of the world is enjoying the reduced fuel rates, it leaves one appalled and disgusted that we are being robbed blind. Are all these new fads of one nation one tax and other such 'innovatively' borrowed ideas just a hogwash of people pulling the wool over our eyes? The common man!!! It is him that the economy needs to give importance to, it is he who carries the nation from one step to the next.

Sixty-eight years ago, the rulers of our nation envisioned a flourishing nation, with high literacy and low crime. We certainly don't seem thankful to them for how much they did. We are instead taking what they did and turning it into something that suits the ever-increasing sizes of the pockets of a few. Not once did they think that after all their trouble of pulling down a mighty foe from outside would we have been left gasping for air under our own pressure. No, they fought so hard for much more than we are giving in today. They fought for freedom, they fought for progress and they fought for development. We need to pick up the same weapons and continue the fight. Novelist and playwright Edward Bulwer-Lytton in 1839, used the phrase 'The pen is mightier than the sword' for the first time. In these words, dating back almost two centuries, lies the answers we seek today. Educating the heart and mind together and using revised mentalities and revised logic is the way we can make our forefathers proud. For not violence but enlightenment is the true path to freedom.

The writer is a counsellor

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Resistance Bands



Front Squat

Stand on band with feet slightly wider than shoulder width. Holding a handle in each hand, bring the top of the band over each shoulder. (If it's too long, secure band in place by crossing your arms at your chest.) Sit straight down, chest up, abs firm, pressing knees out over your toes. Rise back up to start position and repeat for 8 to 12 reps.

Leg Extension

Kick it up a notch with this quad-builder. Anchor a loop band in a low position on a support (like an incline bench), looping the other end around your ankle with the band positioned behind you. Step away from the anchor to create tension on the band, and position feet hip-width apart. Shift your weight to the left foot, and lift the right leg from the floor. Extend



the knee until it straightens out in front of you. Slowly return to starting position and repeat for 8 to 12 reps before switching legs.

Prone (Lying) Leg Curl

Lie belly down and loop a band around your right ankle, anchoring the other end to a door or support. Scoot away from the anchor to create tension. Tighten your core and bend your leg at the knee, bringing your heel toward your glutes as far as you can comfortably go. Slowly return your leg to starting position and repeat for 10 to 15 reps, then switch sides.

Glute Bridge

Salute those glutes! Tie a band around your legs right above your knees. Lie on your back with your feet on the floor, bending your knees to 90 degrees. Rise up with your hips until your shoulders, hips and knees align, contracting your glutes through the entire movement. Do 15 to 20 reps.

Standing Adductor
Anchor a loop band at ankle height to a support and stand with your left side facing the support, wrapping the free end around your right (outer) ankle. Stand perpendicular to

the band and step away from the support to create some tension (the good kind, of course). From a wide stance, get into a quarter squat or an athletic stance, and then sweep your working ankle across your body past your standing leg, squeezing your thighs together. Slowly return to starting position and repeat for 12 to 15 reps before switching sides.

Supinated Clamshell

Loop a band around your legs just above your knees. Lie on your back with hips and knees flexed to 90 degrees. Pull the knees apart while contracting your glutes for 2 to 3 seconds. Slowly return to starting position and repeat, aiming for 10 to 12 total reps.

Plantar Flexion (Ankle Flexion)

Take a load off for this one. Secure a loop or therapy band around an anchor (like the leg of a coffee table or chair), and sit with one leg straight out, wrapping the other end of the loop around the top of your foot. Lean back, supporting your weight on your hands, and flex your

foot forward until you feel a good stretch in your shin. In a controlled movement, bring your toes back up, flexing them toward your knee as far as comfortable. Slowly return to starting position and go for 10 to 12 reps on each side.

Lateral Band Walk

Don't sidestep these side steps! Step into a loop band or tie a therapy band around the lower legs, just above both ankles. Place feet shoulder-width apart to create tension on the band. From a half-squat position, shift your weight to the left side, stepping sideways with the right leg. Move the standing leg slightly in, but keep the band taut. Take 8 to 10 steps before heading back the other way.

Standing Abduction

This one's a bit of a balancing act. Anchor your loop band at ankle height, and stand

with your left side toward the anchor. Attach the free end to your outside ankle and step out to create tension on the band. Move your supporting leg back so your foot is elevated from the floor, lift your working leg up, slowly bringing your looped foot out to the side, contracting your outer glutes. If you feel wobbly, grab a support (like the wall or the back of a chair). Lower back down to starting position and repeat for 15 to 20 reps on each side.

Seated Abduction

To really show those thighs who's boss, sit at the edge of a chair or bench and tie a loop band around both legs, just above the knees. Place your feet slightly wider than your shoulders. Slowly press your knees out, turning your feet in as your legs move apart. Hold for two seconds, and then bring your knees back together. Aim for 15 to 20 reps.



“The year of Economic Reforms- 1991”

BASMA YAKUB

68 years of successfully drafted and followed Constitution of India! Thanks to Dr. B.R Ambedkar and his team who drafted the Constitution that laid down the fundamental rights, like the Right to Equality, Right to Freedom of Religion and many more. But the debate here is do we follow those rules perfectly or do we keep judging them negatively. Well, I keep this for the readers to think over because today, I feel it is more important for us to know one of the significant things that have happened after the Republic Day and I would like to call this event as, “The Economic Republic Day of India”!

Post-Independence, India was completely distorted. A country that was known for its culture, art, jewelry, kings and business turned out to become a stagnant economy after the British Colonialism. In 1947, India got its freedom from the British but not from its financial problems. India faced heavy economic and financial crisis. At that stage, India followed a planned economic model called the “Socialist Approach” where the government governed most of the businesses (Public sector Undertakings). The Private sector was not really entertained as they felt that money would not be equally distributed between the rich and the poor. But the drawback here was slow growth rate as every business was under the governments control and the private firms had to restrict themselves. Hence, the next model Indian government opted for was the “Washington Consensus”. This model brought openness to India’s economic structure so Private sector was now given importance. The major ideology here was external borrowings from other countries and International



associations like International Monetary Funds. Now, for a stagnant economy, slow growth rate and very high population, India had no other alternative but to take more and more loans. As a result, India’s debt increased tremendously, fiscal Deficit increased, Inflation increased. There was then a time when our Forex reserves started decreasing. Here, we faced the problem of Balance of Payment. The situation of our Forex reserves in the 90’s was so adverse that we only had money to import goods for a mere period of 15 days for the whole nation!

Apart from this, India also faced many other problems in the year 1991. From the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, the downfall of the Soviet Union till the Gulf War, India could only see problems approaching. IMF and other countries landed us money but that was again not enough. State Bank of India tried its level best to generate short-term funds for the country. The government even delayed in presenting the budget that year. This act forced the World Bank and IMF to put a stop in funding India any further.

With financial and political unrest, India had no other option but to give away their gold reserves as a security for more loans. Gold was air-lifted and sent across that year. 47 tons of gold was deposited to the Bank of England and 20 tons to the Union Bank of Switzerland.

With all this happening, India elected the new government and had a hope on them to change this devastating situation. It was then under the guidance of Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao and Finance Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, when India experienced a groundbreaking economic reform known as “The LPG Model”. The objective of the LPG model was to develop the economy of our country and help it match up to the biggest economies of the world. LPG stands for Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization.

Liberalization: The motive of Liberalization was to free the economy of the country. Because of the License Raj, India’s overall performance in the world markets did not even touch 1% against others.

After liberalization, India relaxed the quota restrictions and eased license permits. Business was fully encouraged under this model. Private sector could now easily trade with fewer restrictions. Custom tariff was reduced significantly. Business giants across the world could now enter into the Indian markets with fewer trade restrictions.

Privatization: Under this reform, ownership for many Public sector businesses was now given in the hands of the Private players. The private sector then accelerated the business and made India’s overall goods and services more competitive in nature. This increased India’s rate of development.

Globalization: The motive here was to globalize India by integrating regional economies and forming a network of communication, transport and trade across the globe. India had to experience the “next world” that the other countries were already experiencing. Globalization led to the introduction of many MNC’s (Multinational Corporation) and global businesses to the Indian

markets. Science, technology, research and development also was integrated in India under this model.

Thus, the LPG model of 1991 was considered as one of the best milestones achieved in the history of India. The overall outcome of the LPG could be seen in the fact that India’s Overseas Investments that includes FDI, Equity capital and Portfolio Investments rose to USD \$5.3 billion in 1995-96 from USD \$132 million. India eliminated the License Raj and only kept 18 sectors that needed licensing. India’s growth rate rose to 6.78% when they kept a target was 5.6%. Job opportunities in the country increased due to which poverty decreased. Gross Domestic Product increased to 6.5%. Foreign Exchange reserves increased from \$39 billion in 2000 to \$180 billion in 2007. Service sector flourished. Our exports then financed 80% of our imports unlike before that was 60%. India, once again started getting recognized in the global markets. Because of the entry of foreign companies, India’s productivity increased. Indian companies started becoming more efficient and quality oriented.

The LPG model did not only save India during the 1991 economic crisis, but also developed the country’s economy later on. Although, this economic reform faced its share of criticism and negative reviews, the LPG reform still sustains itself in India till today. Presently, India’s economy is considered to be one of the fastest growing economies of the world. Truly said, to feel success, one also needs to feel failure. That is only when one realizes the worth of the success they achieve. Happy Republic Day readers!

Aspiring writer

"The real estate sector would see a turnaround in the foreseeable future"

Rohit Gera, the Managing Director at Gera Developments expects that the real estate sector would see a turnaround in the foreseeable future. An exclusive interview by TNV.

How do you foresee future of real estate industry in India for the next fiscal?

Many of the indicators across the real estate market across the country and now showing signs of the market having bottomed out. Over the last few years there has been a correction in prices this has been followed by continued lower levels of demand. As a result of the implementation of RERA the number of projects being launched has gone down consequently the total inventory for sale has reduced.

In terms of affordability when looking at the drop in prices in real terms and comparing people's affordability 3 years ago versus today after factoring in some amount of salary increases as well as the reduction in interest rate, the overall affordability equation looks extremely attractive.

In light of these factors it is expected that the real estate sector would see a turnaround in the foreseeable future.

Has there been any impact of GST on the real estate industry?

GST has certainly impacted the industry since it is in addition to stamp duty at a rate of 12% as compared to 5% plus 1% when it was service tax and VAT.

This additional 7% burden has certainly been dampener to home buying across the country.

Smaller service providers and vendors find the process of registration and updating of data cumbersome and as a result obtaining the pass through benefits is proving challenging.

How much the luxury real estate segment is growing in the country?

The luxury segment has been most affected out of all segments.

Most luxury home buyers already have an existing home and are amongst the savviest investors across the spectrum. There is no urgency for them to buy a home and when things look difficult in the market they are the first to take a decision to defer their purchases.

Can Goa be a next destination for premium apartments? If yes, then why?

Goa is already a destination for premium homes with a demand from across the country 4 days holiday homes. As mentioned earlier the luxury segment is highly cyclical and therefore once the sentiment in the customer segment for luxury homes changes we will see the demand return to this segment in Goa

What are Gera's plans for Goa?

At present we have 4 projects currently underway in Goa. While three of these are commercial one of them that was recently launched is our highly innovative child centric homes concept.

Over the years we have consistently delivered quality and retained the trust of our customers and as a result the respect for the Gera brand in the Goa market is extremely high.

We will therefore continue to deliver projects that provide value to our customers. We have already been in Goa for over 12 years and our intent is to have a permanent pipeline of projects underdevelopment in Goa.

Tell us about your new projects in Goa.

We have recently launched Goa first ever Child Centric Project in Kambada called - River of Joy. It is all about the holistic 360° approach to family living taking into account parents aspirations and needs with regards to their children. We believe it's a revolutionary concept and an innovative solution that has already created a new category in the residential real estate industry and established a benchmark in the product + services model.

Is real estate industry looking at tier II cities now as metros are getting saturated?

Homes and home buying is a direct correlation of economic activity and job creation. India continues to have an extremely high rate of urbanization and as such cities with good economic prospects will continue to attract people to move to their work and these people will need homes. The answer therefore is not the same that is applicable for all tier 2 cities but only those cities which have vibrant job creation will see good demand for homes

What are your plans to have affordable housing for the upper middle class families?

We have already launched projects in Pune and Goa with one and two bedroom compact apartments. These homes are all eligible for the PMAY scheme and as such cater to the affordable segment. We will continue to deliver projects for the segment based on the demand for specific products in specific locations



GRANDSLAM DOWN UNDER

KENNETH FERNANDES

The tennis world has many tournaments televised around the world: the ATP masters 250, ATP masters 500, ATP masters 1000 but none more popular than the Grand Slams. The four grand slams are The Australian Open, The French Open, Wimbledon and The US Open.

The Australian Open is held over the last fortnight of January in Melbourne Australia. It was first held in 1905, the tournament is chronologically the first of the four Grand Slams. It features men's and women's singles; men's, women's and mixed doubles; juniors Championship as well as wheelchair legends and exhibition tournaments. Prior to 1988 the playing surface was grass, but since then two types of hard court surfaces have been used, green Rebound Ace up to

2007 and blue Plexicushion since then.

With the finals of the Australian Open just around the corner let's take a look back at last year's men's final. Last years men's final featured Rafael Nadal and Rodger Federer. The rivalry is said to be one of the greatest rivalries of the open era.

One could ask what was so great about these two legends meeting in another Grand Slam final.

My answer this question, Federer was back playing professional tennis after missing the 2016 Summer Olympics and the remainder of the

2016 season to recover from his knee injury while Rafael Nadal was recovering from wrist injury.

Rodger Federer ranked number 17 Rafael Nadal rank number 9 would have to overcome rust in their game and also face top seeds in the early rounds. Their 2 biggest threats world number two Novak Djokovic and world number one Andy Murray.

But the fates smiled upon them as both the top seeds were eliminated in the early rounds.

Rodger Federer faced fellow countrymen Stanislas Wawrinka in the semi finals where Federer beat

Wawrinka in 5 sets to become the oldest player in a Grand Slam final since Ken Roswell in 1974.

Meanwhile Rafa faced Grigor Dimitrov in the second semi final which lasted for 5 hours in which Rafa prevailed in 5 sets.

Federer and Nadal faced off against each other for the first time since the 2009 Australian open final which Nadal won.

Federer and Nadal came at each other with everything they had and the first set remained on serve till the 7th game, where Federer broke Nadal to take a 4-3 lead and eventually winning the set 6-4.

In the second set the unforced errors began to mount for Roger. Nadal taking advantage of this

claimed the second set 3-6.

Federer found his mojo in the third set unfurling a series of forehand winners and taking the third set 6-1.

The fourth set saw an aggressive Rafa go at Federer with all the weapons in his arsenal and hit a fore hand winner down the line handing him 3 break points. Capitalising on this he claimed the fourth set 3-6.

The decider saw Rafa taken early lead against the 17 time, Grand Slam champion. Just as it seemed that Nadal would win his 15th Grand Slam Federer fought back and leveled things up at 3 all. Federer continued this momentum to win the fifth set 6-3 after Nadal unsuccessfully challenged a call. This was the first time Federer beat Nadal in a Grand slam final since Wimbledon 2007.

Federer claimed his 5 Australian Open title and 18 Grand slams, his first since Wimbledon 2012.

The 2 athlete's paid their respects to each other during the post match ceremony. Federer said that he didn't expect to win the finals in his first tournament back and would have gladly shared the trophy with Rafa but unfortunately they could only be one winner.

This was one of the most exhilarating finals in recent years. Hopefully this year's finals provide another classic which will be remembered for the years to come.

The writer is a graduate in engineering and a sports enthusiast



THE TRAVELLER WITHIN

TEAM TNV

Travelling has a different meaning for different people. For some it can be a way to take a time off from their routine, for others it can be a way to spend some quality time with family, for some it means exploring, while there are people for whom travelling means a way of living. Well, no matter how you look at it but travelling surely changes a person by giving him memorable experiences.

Whether you are travelling within India or abroad there are a few things that you need to keep in mind. Firstly, you need to decide a place where you need to go and also need to ask yourself the question, 'why do you want to visit that particular place?' Deciding the theme and doing a relevant research is the first step when you plan your trip. If the theme of your travel is wildlife then you cannot go to United Kingdom and expect to see lions and gorillas. Secondly, you need to understand what the requirements are. For instance, if you are travelling to any African or South American country you need get yellow fever vaccination. You will also need to understand the weather conditions about the place you want to visit. Seriously, you wouldn't want to spend an entire day in your hotel room, dormitory or hostel due to bad weather conditions. Talking to an expert or someone who has a good amount of experience is always a better idea.

In recent times, there are many travel websites which have made life easy by providing good deals on things like hotel booking, flight booking etc. There are many travel agencies as well who have designed travel packages and all you have to do is just select the package and you are saved from the trouble of booking flights, hotels and other necessary formalities.

Well, if you are a kind of person looking for a little bit excitement and adventure then backpacking is the right thing for you. Backpacking is a form of low-cost, independent travel which includes the use of a backpack which can be easily carried for long distances. Backpacking includes use of public transport, inexpensive lodging such as youth hostels, often a longer duration of the trip when compared with conventional vacations and an interest in meeting locals as well as seeing sights. Unlike a conventional package tour, backpacking enables a traveller to be a part of the local culture rather than just experiencing it.

Here are some of the tips if you consider backpacking as the right option for you

Pack Light

With backpacking, your mantra should always be pack light. You need to leave stuff behind and streamline what you're bringing with you. Bringing valuable or sentimental stuff with you is asking for a disaster. Only pack what you can replace and save money of overweight luggage fees when you fly.

Camp Out

If you can, you should really camp out for part of your backpacking trip. In a lot of countries, there are plenty of comfortable campgrounds that won't drain your monetary resources. This is a great option if you have some experience camping and you have the option of carrying your own tent. If you're ready and willing to embrace your inner Bear Grylls, you can make camping work just about anywhere. However, safety is always the priority especially if you are backpacking solo.

Or Stay in a Hostel

Camping isn't for everyone. You might not be able to bring all the gear you'd need, or you might just want the comfort of a bed. Try one of the hundreds of backpacker-friendly hostels across the world. The best ones have free breakfasts, or even a kitchen with access to cooking stuff. If you buy groceries and make a couple meals in the hostel, you can save a ton of money over a long trip. There are good chances that you will make friends with backpackers from other countries.

Carry Your Own Snacks

Being on an adventure and living out of your trusty backpack can really drain you. Snacks might seem like a silly addition to your gear but it can really help you keep energy levels high between meals and rests.

Prefer Walking

Don't let the convenience of a cab ride lure you in. There are mileage costs and tipping the driver. Also, sometimes cab drivers take you on the "scenic route" to hike your fare or just flat-out overcharge you. Meanwhile, walking will be good for your health and also for your budget while travelling. If you want to go somewhere and it's too far of a walk, look to public transit to get you there. Busses and trains are cheap and usually reliable.

Be Careful of Scam Artists

There are many cases of tourists or travelers being conned in the city where they travel. No matter where you're backpacking, every city will have different kinds of scam artists. They can spot a tourist from a mile away and will go out of their way to take advantage of you. It'd be heartbreaking to be staying on budget and then have that all ruined by a theft, so you need to keep your money close at hand.



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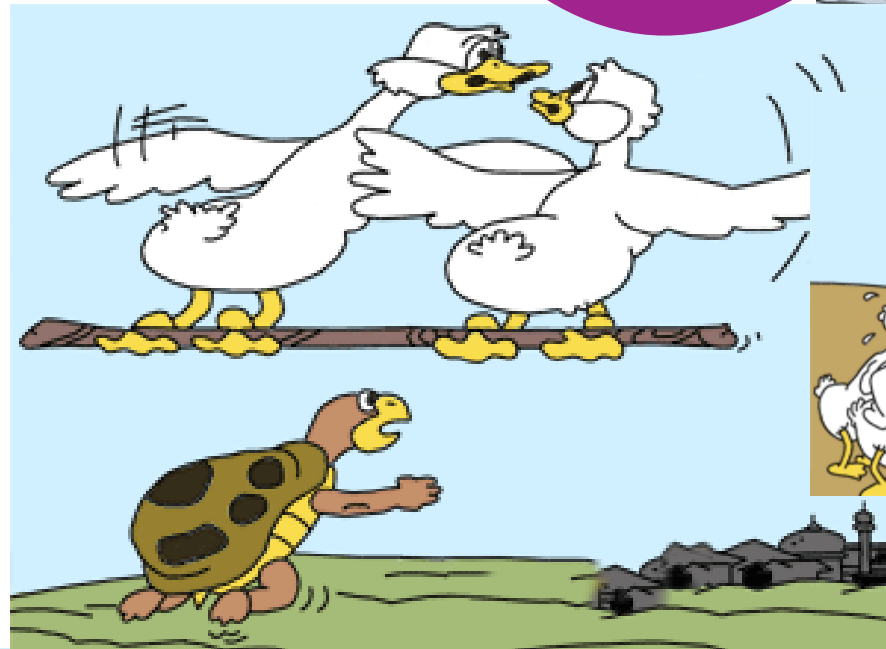
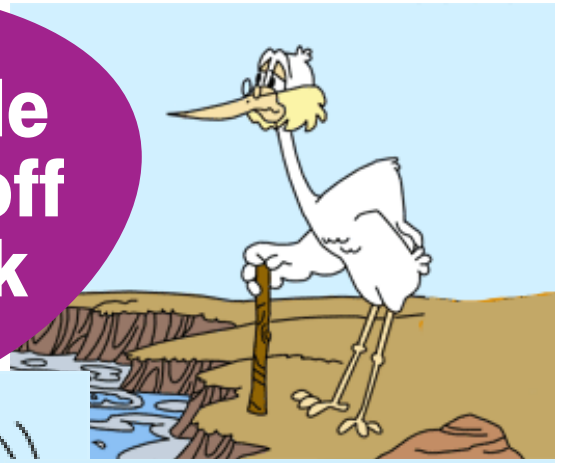
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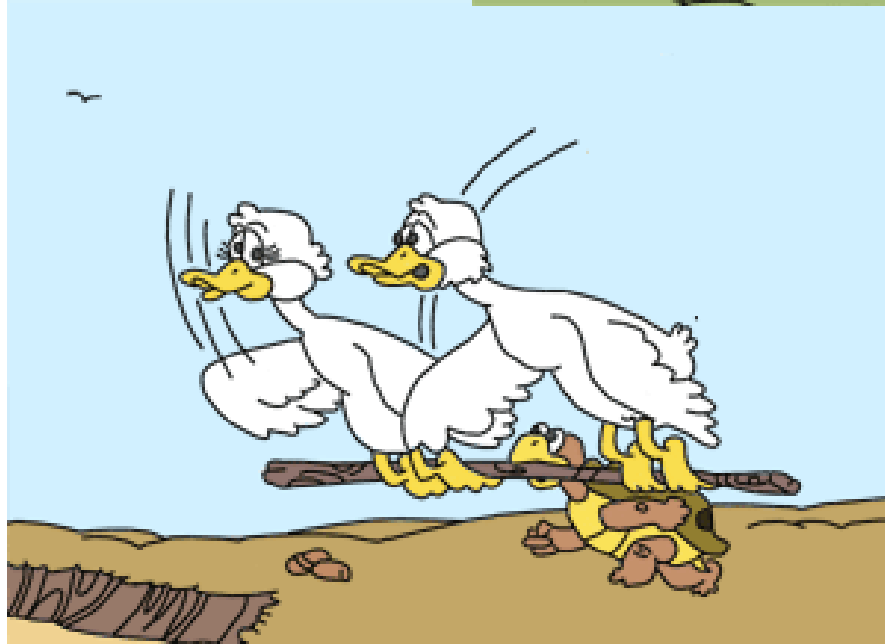
The Turtle that fell off the Stick



There lived a turtle called Kambugriva in a lake, who had two swans as her good friends. All three of them would meet on the banks of the lake every day, and exchanged stories, before returning at sunset. They enjoyed each other's company.

One year, there was no rain and lake started to dry. The swans got worried about the declining water level of the lake, and said to the turtle, "You will not be able to survive in this lake. All the water in the lake will soon dry up".

The turtle was aware of the problem, "It is indeed difficult to live here anymore. Dear friends, please look for an alternate lake which is full of



water. Then, find a strong stick from somewhere."

The turtle continued, "Once you find another lake, you can carry me to the lake with a stick. I can hold the stick tightly with my mouth, while both of you can hold the stick at either ends and fly".

As planned, the swans flew to distant places and after some time found a lake which had plenty of water in it. They returned to carry the turtle.

They prepared to hold the stick from both the ends, and suggested the turtle, "Dear friend, everything seems fine. But make sure to keep your mouth tightly shut all the time. You must not speak, or you will fall off."

Finally, they started flying. After some

time, they had flown some distance when the turtle saw a town below.

The people of the town were staring at the sight of two swans carrying a turtle in the sky. "Look at that! This is a rare sight that two birds are carrying a turtle with the help of a stick", they shouted in admiration.

On hearing all the commotion, the turtle opened her mouth, "What is all the commotion about?", she asked.

Needless to say, she went down the moment she opened her mouth, and the swans could do nothing to stop her from falling down to the earth.

As she fell down, the people of the town captured her to make a feast out of her.

The wise indeed say:
Never fail to listen to the advice of your friends

Republic Day thoughts: Are we getting enslaved to Nationalism?

SANDEEP HEBLE

Patriotism comes naturally to us as human beings.

When India plays any other Country in Sports, we cheer our Country. When Goa plays any other State, we root for our State. Whichever school or college we are studying in, we cheer that institution. We cheer our club or team whenever it plays another team. We say Sachin Tendulkar has been the best batsman in the World and Virat Kohli is now. That sense of being with our own fellow groups or community or those who we share a common bond with is inherent within us. When our Country wins medals on the World arena, we rejoice. When our athletes do well, we celebrate. When India wins the World cup, we hit the streets for road rallies. Sharing a sense of joy, patriotism and love which is a natural trait that gives us a sense of pride. So is the patriotic fervour nowadays taking a new pitch? Or is it getting more aggressive than what it should be otherwise?

If we look at the current state of affairs, I feel a definite yes. Our day to day lives are being dictated too much by this aggressive brand of nationalism. In the name of Nationalism and Patriotism, we get a heavy dose of hostility, be it on the Social media or on the TV channels with anchors screaming and telling us how and in what way we need to be patriotic. The space for an alternate thought or a more careful and objective analysis on any given issue is shrinking. Gone are the days of good discussions and debates where one could witness objective analysis, either for or against any particular given issue. Fairness and neutrality have gone missing in today's scheme of things.

Every now and then, I receive "patriotic" forwards



True nationalism means building a better Country. Providing a better quality of life to the citizens. Giving us good governance, good infrastructure as well as better laws and justice.

on my email and whatsapp. That our National Anthem has been voted as the best in the world. Our tri colour flag is the best designed flag. Vande Mataram is the most popular song. Taj Mahal is the best among the World wonders, etc. Most of these forwards appeal to my national pride and sentiments. Then, I as a patriotic Indian must forward these to others so that they remain continuously in the loop. This is a new sense of nationalism that has entered our system and many of us have fallen for it. Whenever a National feeling is invoked, we must accept everything at face value without an objective analysis and cross checking.

However, I normally ignore such posts. Though 'Jana Gana Mana' is good poetry and has been thoughtfully penned by Rabindranath Tagore, I do not consider it as the best in the world. Likewise, I feel there are many other flags which are more artistically designed and our flag pales in comparison. Similarly, I love listening to a variety of music, both Indian and western, also find many other songs better in tune than our National song. Am I being an unpatriotic Indian by saying this? Does patriotism mean we blindly accept things that are being told to use without applying our minds logically and rationally?

Time-to-time, many cash in on this Nationalistic fervour to make a fast buck. Some years back, New 7 Wonders Foundation, a little known Swiss non-profit group, came up with a world wide Poll to prepare a new list of the 7 Wonders of the World. The then Union Culture Minister, Ambika Soni cast her vote in favour of Taj Mahal- the monument of love, and

appealed to other Indians to do the same. This was the case in other Countries also with voting largely being based on nationalistic grounds. Taj Mahal incidentally came fourth in this poll with many of the original 7 wonders failing to make this list. So much for objectivity and fairness.

An Indian Company Patanjali has made rapid and unimaginable strides as a brand not so much for the quality of products it has on offer but on the Nationalistic sentiments it invokes. The subtle message being if we do not purchase their products the money will go into the hands of multi-national companies and lands outside our Country. Majority buy these products on the patriotic spiritual appeal, not on the quality.

At other times, patriotism also takes an ugly shape. People routinely get beaten up for not wearing their nationalism on their sleeves. A physically challenged person had to face this ire when he did not stand up during the

screening of the National anthem in a cinema. So many crimes nowadays are being committed in the name of patriotism and people getting away simply by chanting "Bharat Mata ki Jay", a scene so eloquently captured in a recent Bollywood movie, Anurag Kashyap's "Mukkabaaz".

If nationalism has acquired an ugly manifestation today, it is because we, the people, are losing our sense of reasoning. The State, to divert the attention of the public from its failures often invokes nationalism and we fall into this trap. Nationalism today is being reduced to crude jingoism. It goes against the spirit of all that our forefathers fought for. In the name of freedom, we are actually getting enslaved to political ideas.

Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore, in a near similar context had warned us against the ills of this form of nationalism when in a lecture, he said "Nationalism is a great menace. It is the particular thing which for years has been at the bottom of India's troubles." Let us learn from his wise words. There is a need to differentiate between true nationalism and its skewed version.

True nationalism means building a better Country. Providing a better quality of life to the citizens. Giving us good governance, good infrastructure as well as better laws and justice. As rational beings, freedom to think and reason out rationally and logically is what we must all crave for and pursue; not get enslaved by narrow ideas, whether in the name of religion or ideology or nationalism even otherwise. People need to rise and strive to achieve these objectives.

The writer is the Treasurer of Goa RTI Forum.

Be a Hand Maker: Simplify and Connect to your own life

CASSANDRA HARADA

On the 7am national news broadcast every morning in Japan, just after the weather and personal interest stories, there is a segment about “handy new tools” or “goods that make our quality of life better”. I cringe sharply, the moment the mother of the featured household shows up in her pink apron, showing off her flashy gadget, and tells us how it “changed everything”. I almost always twist internally, angering, while thinking about the wasted resources, and all of those dashed hopes and dreams that will result from this 3 minute segment. People who are desperate for extra time and happiness keep giving their hard earned salaries, piece by piece over to snake oil salesmen who promise “reduced stress” or “improved quality of life”. In truth, there is only one solution to all of this madness: we must succumb to the fact that life is hard. We need to reconnect to our humanity by finding joy in tasks that are joyless. Boiling that down even further, we need to slow down, and make our own lives.

While some new technology does add value and happiness to our every day, in the last two generations people have begun running away from some of the work of life that connects us to each other. The most concerning of these are the jobs of cooking our own food, cleaning our own living spaces and the job of dressing ourselves. Even if you lead a very busy life, with a demanding career, there is much satisfaction in taking control of even a small portion of these tasks. There is a revolution to be had in the concept of slowing down, and making something with your own two hands.

Make a sandwich, Make your bed, Make a plan,



make a new dress for your date on friday night, Make a promise (and fulfill it), Make a loaf of bread, it does not matter. Make something, stand back and marvel at the wonder of your own mind and hands working together, feel satisfied, rinse and repeat.

The humble sandwich:

There is something truly gratifying about creating something delicious to eat. The great thing about making something as simple as your own lunch, is that YOU get make all the decisions! How often in life do we get to control all the variables? Instead of looking at tasks such as feeding yourself as a nuisance you can simply farm out to someone working at a food stall, be the master

of your own universe. Make choices you're happy with and make the sandwich (or whatever you choose to eat!) in your own kitchen. There are so many options available in local markets, and while its certainly important to have comfort foods that we return to on special occasions, it is so gratifying to take control of your own health and well being by making the decisions about what you fuel your body with.

Find interest in a job you think you dislike. The culinary world is a wide one, and there are many, many ways to get the job done! Not everyone is a born chef, but food is essential to our lives. Go to the market. bury your nose in the fresh herbs, listen to the

sounds of people selling, ask questions about a fruit or a vegetable you've never eaten before, And even better, find a person who looks like they've been around the culinary block a few times, and ask them about their favorite recipe. Start simple, work with kitchen tools you love, and enjoy the process. There is romance in food, find that and revel in it.

A dirty job: The mundanity of cleaning my living space is something I struggle with day in, and day out. As a part time home maker, I become so overwhelmed with the never ending cycle of washing, scrubbing, dusting, putting away, and tidying. I scrub a spot on the floor and have an immediate flashback of

doing the same thing twenty four hours prior. It feels as though there is no hope in the constant repetition and never ending cycle of the work I do. Except there is. The solution to the problem of housework that feels like a bad dream on repeat? Simply zoom out. Take ownership in the idea that you are not only “scrubbing the floor”, but also creating the stage on which the play of your everyday life takes place. You are building and writing a story that no one else can via your every day rituals that your children will pass down to theirs. Don't clean the house because your husband/wife expects you to, “keep your house” in a way that suits you. Create a memorable atmosphere for your family and children that make you stand back and feel accomplished. The home maker is not only “cleaning up after their ungrateful, mess making children” They're building a powerful legacy of service and love, and there is nothing mundane about that.

Whistle while you work:

My absolute LEAST

favorite household chore is the folding of laundry. I never find difficulty in the washing or drying, but the folding and putting away of my own clothing is a task that is hard for me to stomach. My latest solution is to include other people in the work and play silly games while we complete it. My daughter and I play “who can find the matching socks the fastest” or “invent a new way to fold towels” while we work. We've made so many great memories and enjoyed time together while we tackle the job.

Stop shopping, Dress yourself in a different way.

Last night I walked through a 7 floor shopping mall in Yokohama Japan. People bustled around me, carrying bags, packages and boxes bursting with newly bought items. The atmosphere was

so frenzied, it was difficult to feel anything other than overwhelmed. In the same moment, I realized the temptation of the flashy 50% off signs displayed in many of the shop windows. The sirens of consumption call to all of us, especially the sirens of the fashion industry.

Fast fashion is an industry that is strangling society and our natural world at an alarming rate. In generations past, there were two to three seasons when "new merchandise" would be introduced and sold in retail stores. In 2018, we have now 52 seasons in which new styles are on display. We are over stimulated with new possibilities, drawn in by clever advertising, and lured into purchases via false, low pricing. The fabrics used in most major brand label garments are manufactured and dyed with little care for the environment, and the clothes are produced with absolutely no regard for the employees who are forced to work in sometimes unsafe and unsanitary conditions in developing nations. The items typically last 2 or 3 washing cycles and then lose shape and gloss. This prompts

the consumer to make another trip to the mall. This ugly circle has created an addiction to cheap, disposable clothing.

The solution to the whole problem: Take control of your own consumption and make the things you want to wear.

I know many people reading this will roll their eyes and say "I haven't time or the interest in taking up sewing as a hobby". I'll get to you in just a moment!

For the people reading this that ARE interested in such a hobby: I'm not a master seamstress, but have completed simple dress projects in less than a day's time. Even making one item of your own clothing on occasion, connects you to what you consume in a way that is very exciting! Learning a new skill like "attaching a button" or "inserting a zipper" is a powerful and revolutionary act. You're taking control of your own life, and shucking off the necessity for shopping malls and fashion brands. You're breaking down barriers for yourself and making it possible to accomplish the TRUE goal of fashion: expressing yourself.

While I was leaving the mall yesterday, I looked at the hoards of

people milling around a particular brand shop and thought to myself, "Why would I want to let that brand have a voice in my own self expression?" When I create something to wear, I can decide fabric quality, color, drape, fit, and design. Why would I allow someone else to control that piece of my life? Every time I learn a new skill or draw up a new pattern, I'm taking control of my own identity. It's a powerful feeling.

For the people who are reading this and thinking "I am not interested in making clothing, wasting time on failed projects or sitting in front of a sewing machine!" Look around you. There is probably someone within a stone's throw distance that is. Support that person, and keep it local. They will make you quality items that do not fall apart after the second wash. They will lovingly produce bags, sweaters, hats, trousers, etc. that fit you the way you want. Ask the crafts person to help you make a wardrobe of "favorites" and "trusty olds" that you can create attachment and happy memory to, and when those things are truly worn out, instead of rushing to the shopping mall to buy a new one, you'll want to mend

the one you already own.

When summing up all of my thoughts and feelings on this matter, the first noble truth of Buddhism rings and repeats itself slowly in my head. "To live is to suffer". Every day the human race wakes up, grinds their teeth and pushes a stone to the top of a very steep hill, only to have to do it again the next day, and the next. It's reasonable and expected for us to attempt to ease the suffering by creating short cuts and loop holes. While some of these advances in technology are absolutely essential and helpful in life, it's important then, to choose which of these "improvements" drive us further from a connection with each other and take away our control, and which ones actually enhance the quality of our existence. Advances in technology should be just "advancements".

Do yourself a favor. Go make something!

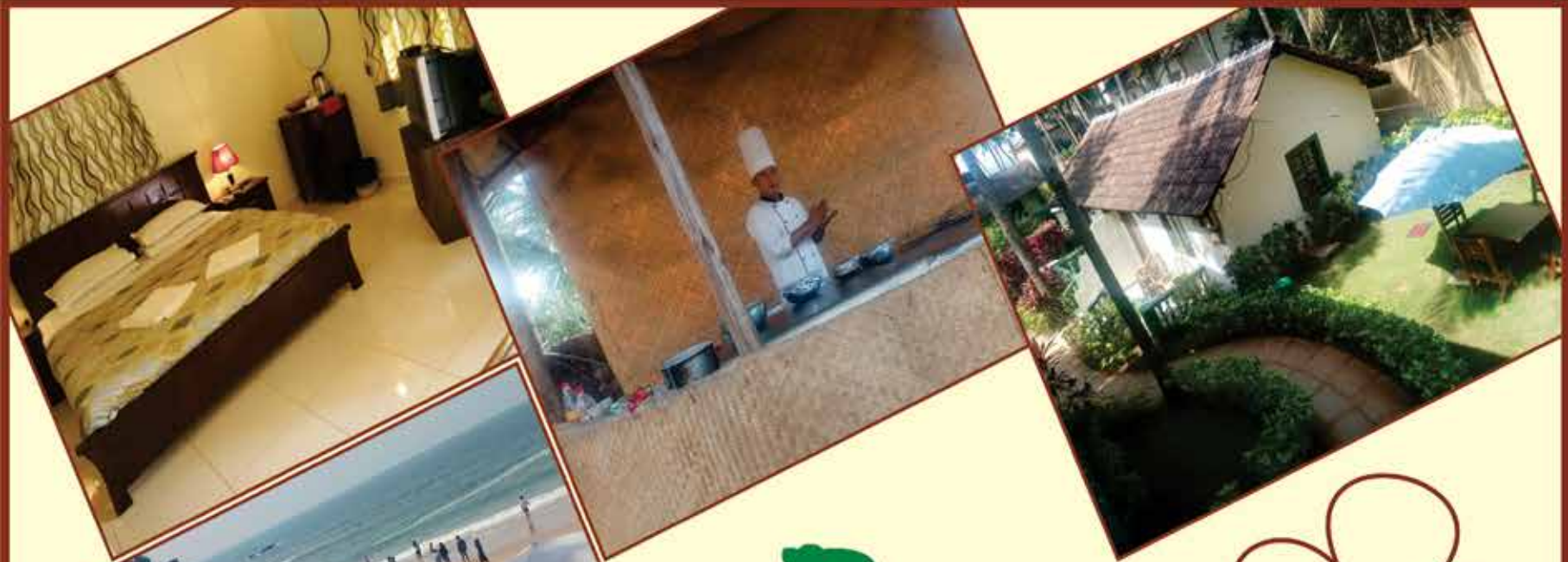
The writer is Tokyo based freelance writer and hand knitter. She enjoys triathlon, travelling the world and being the best mother and wife she knows how to be. She can be followed on @sassicassie7

*Wishing all my Goans
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