

GOA'S ONLY SOCIETY MAGAZINE

₹100

VOL 3 ISSUE 8 PANAJI GOA, RNI: GOAENG/2017/66434

MAY 2018

POSTAL LICENSE NO : G-2/RNP/GOA/28/2016-18

INCREDIBLE GOA

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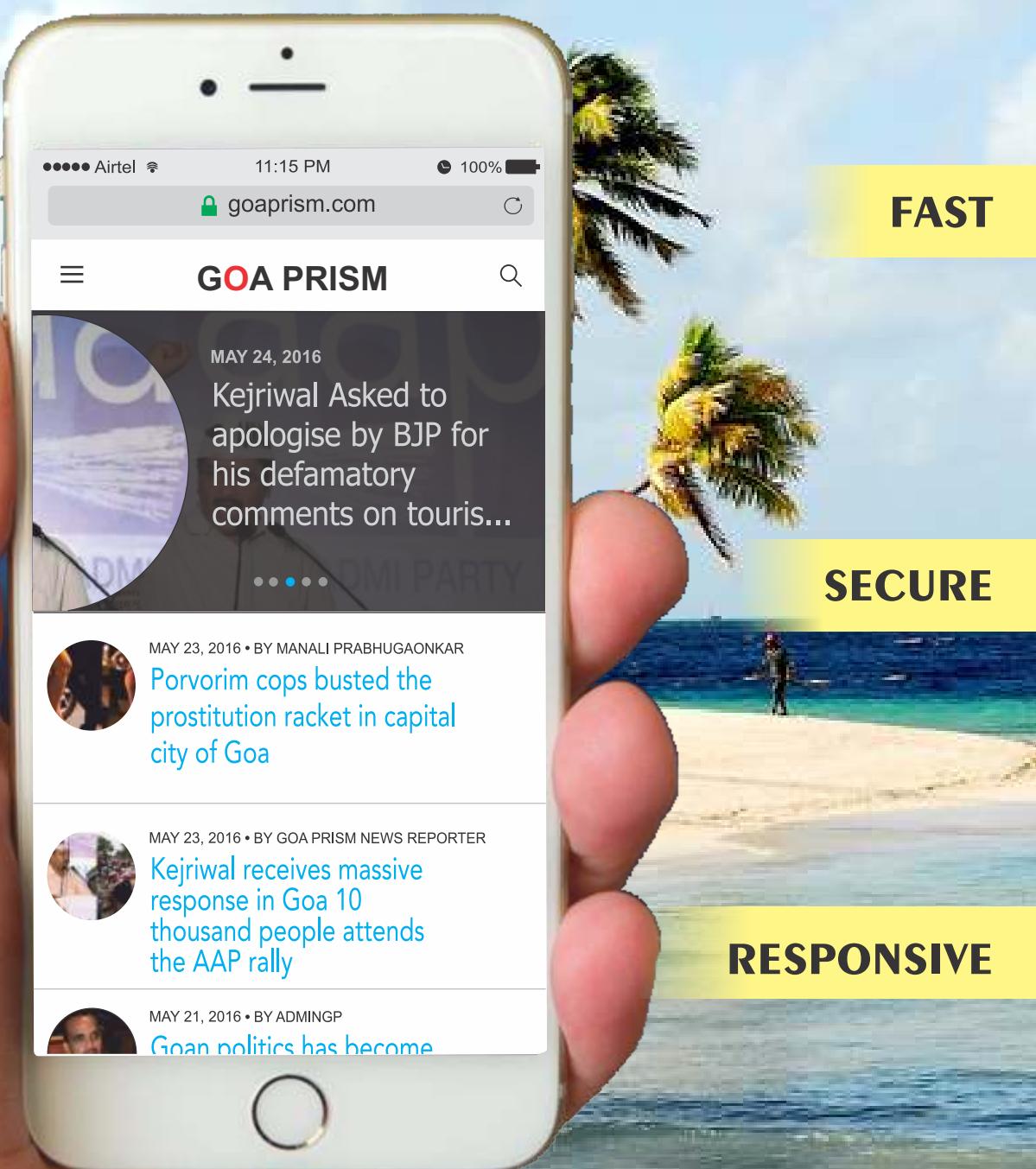
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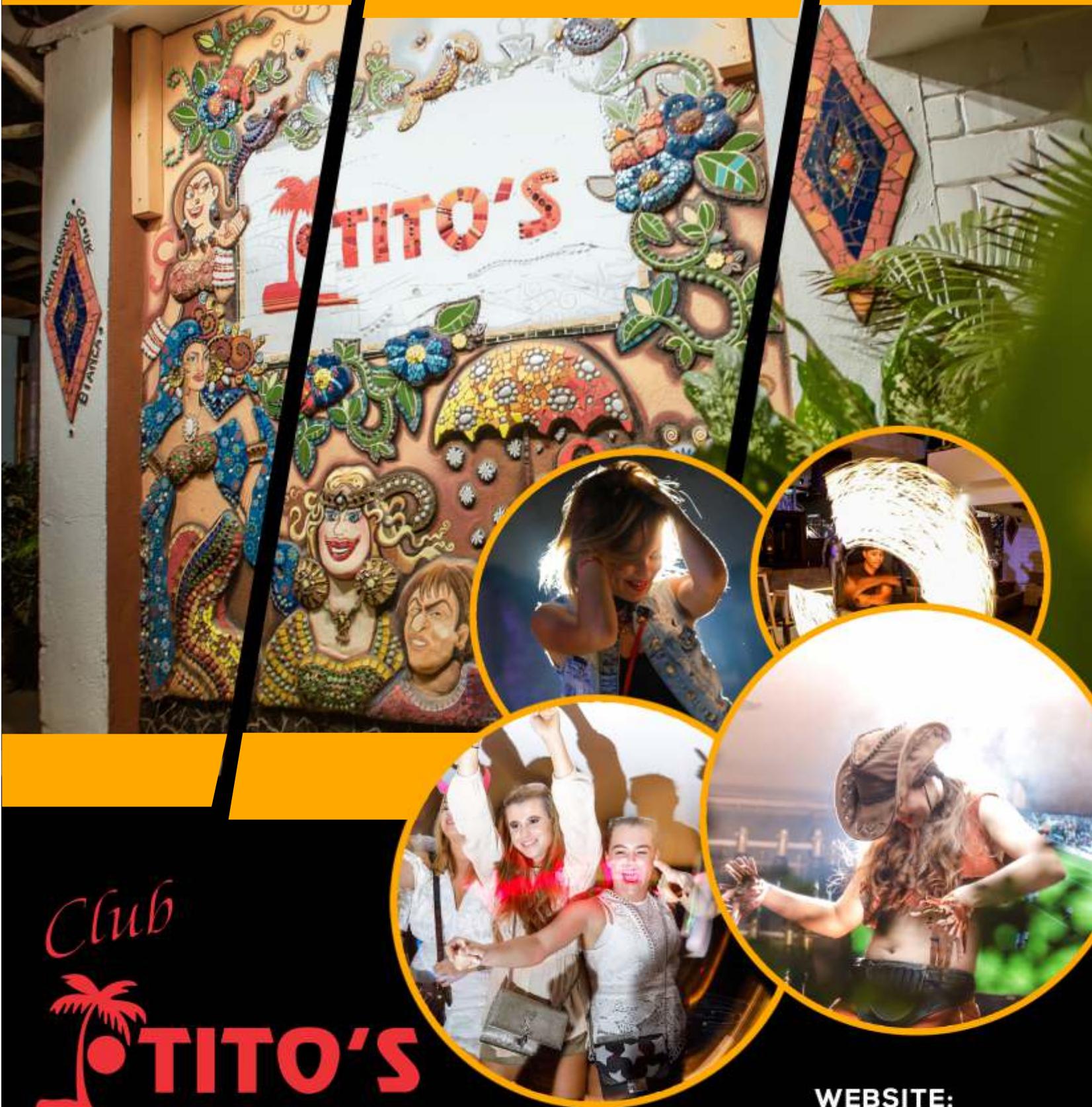
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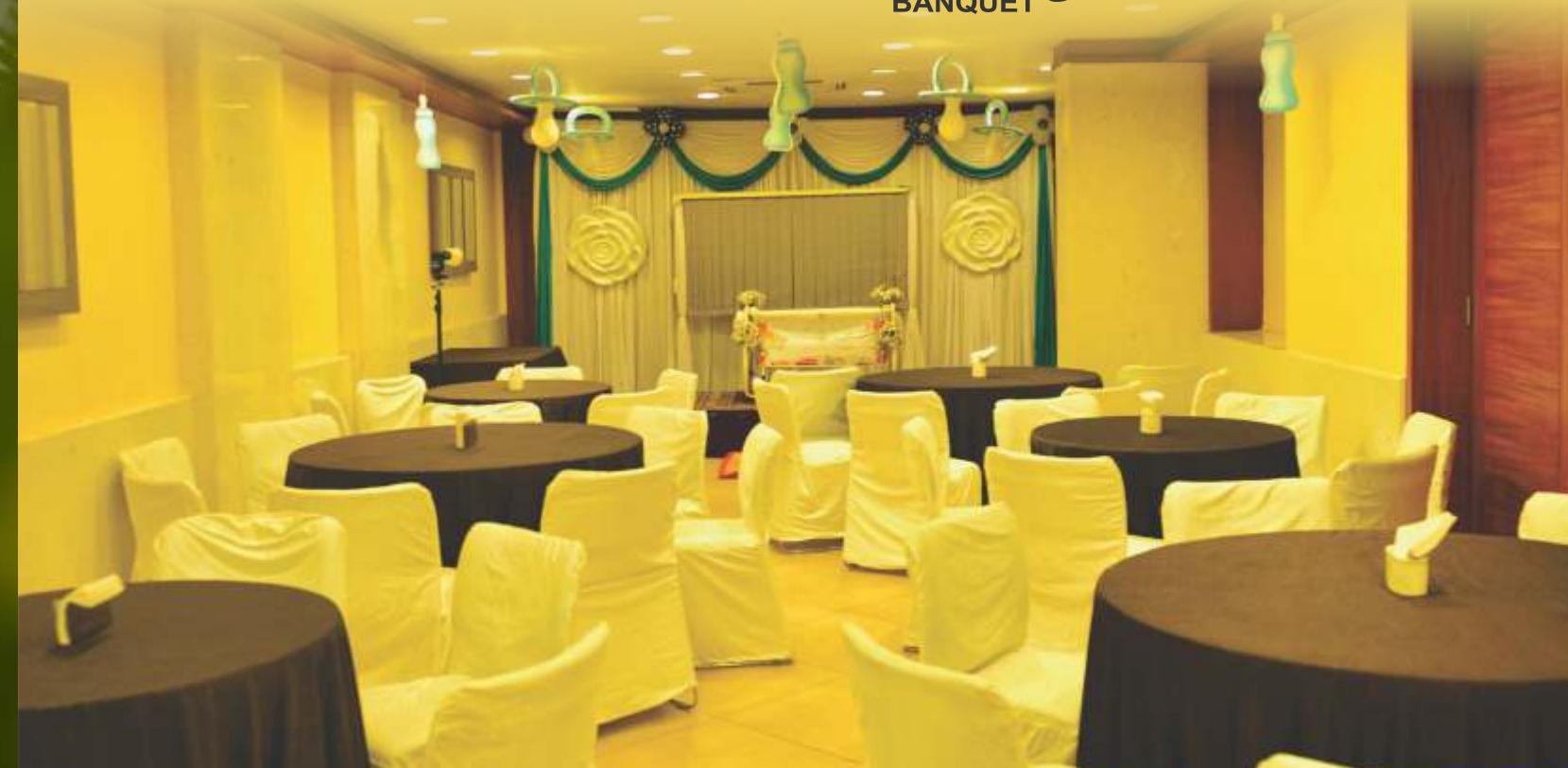
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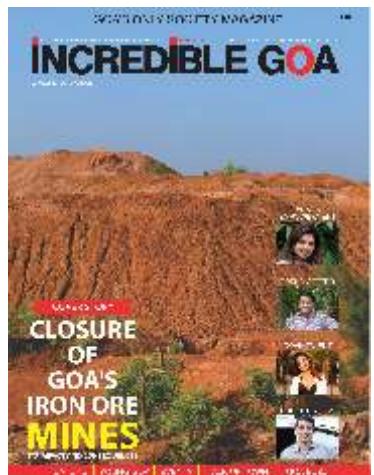
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Printed, Published & Owned by Rajesh Ghadge. Printed at Printek Printers, and published at L-5, Alfran Plaza, M G Road, Panaji – Goa. 403001 India. Editor & Publisher: Rajesh Ghadge



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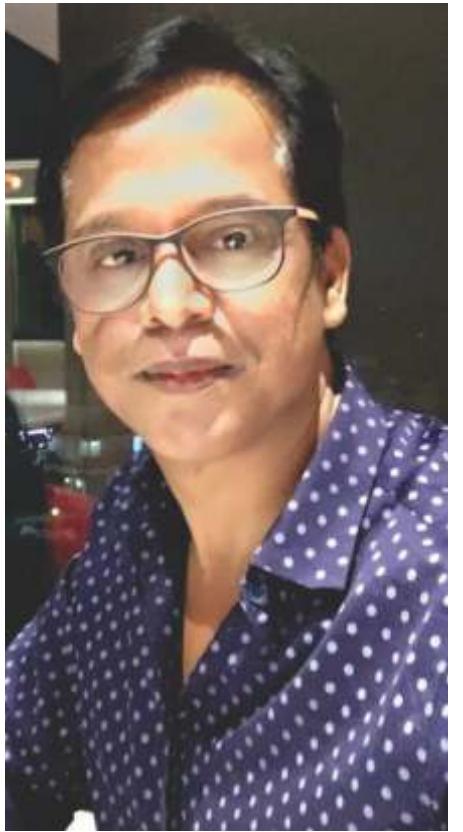
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It's Time To Recognize The Incredible People of Goa



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Incredible Goa has finally reached a point where people have started believing in its content and credibility. We have decided to take this publication to the next level by honouring the incredible people of Goa. The Incredible Goa Awards which will take place this month is one such initiative of the Incredible Goa Magazine to recognize these achievers.

Incredible Goa's journey began in the October 2015 as Goa's first and only society magazine and brought out many jewels from different parts of the State. Being a lone society magazine of Goa, its focus has always been on bringing out talent and giving it the best media platform - this was and is the magazine's first motto and we have tried to uphold it as best as we can. Today we have decided to have an award show for the incredible people of Goa, it is because we have had enough jewels in our basket whom we wanted to showcase on this platform.

In the two and a half years of its journey the Incredible Goa had recognized and showcased talents and people from various fields of the specialization that no other magazine has done before. The glittering ceremony was planned in the month of February is now about to come to reality. The event is about to take shape and go viral on social media in the next few days and of course, the next issue will have the complete story on the award show happening at one of the most recognised party spots in Goa.

I am sure that this awards night will become the talk of the town as prominent personalities of Goa will be in attendance and the ceremony will be hosted by the Femina Miss India Goa 2017 in the presence of honourable signatories and the heroes of the evening - the awardees.

The preparation of the list of the people whom we are going to honour was the most difficult task as we had a task of finalising the names of 22 people from the hundreds we have already featured in our magazine. But the help from above (God) and support from our team members who spent day in and out to finally bring the 22 most deserved winners.

This will be our first awards ceremony and I am sure that there will be scope for improvement in the future but one thing I can surely quote here is, Incredible Goa will be honouring the people who deserve the recognition, and most of them have not yet received it. Let us hope for the best as I am keeping my fingers crossed.

Do wait for the next issue which will bring out the heroes, the incredible people of Goa.

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BARBEQUE AND SIZZLER FESTIVAL AT HOTEL FIDALGO



Fidalgo is the only hotel in the heart of the city Panjim that has around five amazing lip-smacking restaurants. During different seasons of the year, this grand hotel comes up with different food festivals and delicious recipes for the people.

This Monsoon 8th June onwards, you can grab a hot sizzling meal during the monsoon barbecue festival at Fidalgo. Senior Chef Executive Pawan Kumar says that Barbecue is a good feeling when you have it during the rains. Chilly drizzles from above while hot spicy, tangy, sweet and cheesy veggies and meat in your hand will create the perfect ambience for you. Unlike the last times chaat street theme, this time is going to be awesome where not only Indian, but European, Oriental, and even Goan will be on hot sizzlers and plates. The Chef also mentioned that for people who have a sweet-tooth will witness desserts like the delicious hot sizzling brownies (with cooling black current ice-cream or dripping chocolate sauce) and the moist tasty Turos.

The dishes will include yummy Pork ribs, Tiger prawns, the Indonesian spiced and glazed fish and some of the Indonesians' yummy homemade pickle. There will also be an Indian grilled section specially called as 'Dawate Mass' by the Chef. The Dawate Mass will have different meat combinations like lamb, tongue roast, chicken, fish with the component of flavored rice and premium salad (so that people can complete their diet). What's more? There a special Goan pork chilly fry that will stand out among the Goan delicacies along with Veg-chop and Goan salad.

The Barbecue is just not for the meat lovers because the chef has a lot of savories in store for the vegetarians as well, to be a part of the barbecue journey. Items like the smoked fruit platter with nuts and honey, the oriental date pancakes with an exotic serving style and the chilly coriander ice-cream. Everything sounds spectacular from the starters to the main-course and the desserts. So get out of your homes and get ready to dig in the O Goa season of Barbecue.

The famous quote 'Old is Gold' is proved true by Audiophile – Goa's first experience and retail center for audiophiles that is bringing back the glorious sound of the 60's into the 21st century. Audiophile aims to get people into recognizing the value of the old vinyl records, analog speakers and turn tables. These equipments date back to the 60's, but advent of technology these equipment started to disappear and everything shifted

AUDIOPHILE – BACK TO THE 'ANALOG' SOUND OF MUSIC



to a nanotechnology. Audiophile has brought back the charisma that got almost lost with the growing use of technology. People tend to throw away old things and get fascinated by new subjects until they realize that the previous ones were better and regret losing it.

The man behind this beautiful musical startup – Audiophile – is Buland Shukla, an immensely dedicated musician who likes paying attention to every detail related to sound and

music. Buland has powerfully maintained the rule for audiophile as being a place for people to enjoy the sound of music. "The concept of profit-making venture was never in my mind", says Shukla. The belief that goes along with this place is – 'high fidelity musical experience'.

The store

contains hundreds of records that go back to 60's and 70's along with the acoustic effect of recorded music with live experience. Imagining originality of the music being played through digital platforms doesn't do any justice to the artists. Hence, the analog devices creates music on an entirely different prospect. 'Listening sessions' are hosted every Monday to Friday for friends and people with special interest in this type of music and devices. Audiophile looks forward to spreading awareness on the value of these products, where one can even spend hours in the store listening music or even purchase a desired system.

INCREDIBLE GOA AWARDS 2018

Recognizing the Incredible People of Goa



Presents

INCREDIBLE GOA

GOA'S ONLY SOCIETY MAGAZINE

AWARDS

2018



Incredible Goa Magazine - Goa's very own society magazine captures the essence of Goa. We at Incredible Goa diligently work towards bringing into the spotlight the true spirit of Goa and its people. Incredible Goa magazine found the opportunity to organise an exclusive Awards Night on April 21st, 2018 at the Golden Mile of Goa - The Tito's. The main aim of the awards was to acknowledge the work of Goans in various fields of specialisation, especially the ones who have been silently contributing to the society without being recognised for it.

The Gala Night

The evening was absolutely mesmerising. It began with a big bang, at one of the most upbeat venues in Goa – The Tito's. Being the Golden Mile of Goa, it was buzzing with music and light and people thronged to the venue to get a glimpse of their favourite celebrities who were present there, like singer/actor Ester Norohna, Goa's star actor Kevin D'mello and Femina Miss India-Goa Audrey D'silva, to name a few. We had the honour of having Mr. Shekhar Mital, Chairman and Managing Director of Goa Shipyard Ltd., as the Chief Guest for the night. He inaugurated the event with the lighting of the candles, which was followed by 'Ganesh Vandana' performed by a group of Bharatanatyam dancers.

COVER STORY

THE AWARD CEREMONY

The Incredible Goa Awards 2018 was organised on a grand scale to provide a significant platform to the achievers of Goa. The "who's who" of the Goan high-society – from prominent celebrities who have given a big name to Goa; to distinguished people from the field of business, fashion, films, and well-known faces from the performing arts industry were present.

The awards categories and the

nomination were prepared in close consultation with an esteemed panel of judges. These categories highlighted the core potential of the talent involved and the promising future of the participants. The main award categories for the event were - Women Empowerment, Business, Goan Talent, Young Goa, Trendsetters, Excellence in Fashion, Excellence in Fitness, Excellence in Hospitality, and Lifetime Achievement(Business).

THE CHAMPIONS OF THE EVENING

The award winners were a selected group of people who have worked against all odds and made their dream a reality. These people have not only made a place for themselves in their field of specialisation, but have contributed generously towards the benefit of the society in their own way.

HERE IS A SNEAK PEAK OF THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS AND JOURNEY TO GLORY

Tara
Kerkar



Tara Kerkar awarded Excellence in Social Services by Mr. Rajesh Ghadge, Editor & Publisher of Incredible Goa, for her incredible efforts in uplifting the women of Goa. Tara, known as wonder woman has been working tirelessly towards women empowerment in the state of Goa. The unsurmountable struggle she faced as a woman was the main reason why she join the women empowering social services bandwagon. She stands for just one mission – to fight for the justice for women. Her work has been recognized by the government and is supported by them too. Tara runs an NGO by the name of 'Savera' which was instituted to support sex workers and help them in dealing with vulnerability and injustice. She is also called as the 'messiah' of women in Baina, bringing awareness and educating women in the red light area. Her efforts to bring justice to women in Goa speak volumes about her diligence and fighting spirit towards empowerment of women.

Piyali Chatterjee awarded Excellence in Pet Care Services by Mr. Rajesh Ghadge, Editor & Publisher of Incredible Goa for her dedication and selfless services towards animals. Piyali has dedicated her life towards grooming, healthcare and welfare of animals in Goa. Being in pet grooming profession for over a decade, she has aced in this area. Quitting the comforts of life and a high paying corporate job, Piyali decided to commit to a new mission in life – providing quality and compassionate care to animals. A certified pet groomer and an animal lover, she opened Glam Petz - a unique standalone Pet Care and Pet Grooming Studio, 4 years ago. Her aim is to bridge the demand-supply gap in grooming services existing in Goa, making people aware of essentials of pet care, and attend to needs of all pet parents and their pets in Goa.



Piyali
Chatterjee

Morzenia
Coutinho



Morzenia Almeida Coutinho awarded Excellence in Hospitality by Mr. Rajesh Ghadge, Editor & Publisher of Incredible Goa for her dedication toward Hospitality services in Goa. Morzenia is recognised in the hospitality arena of Goa and who has taken her family legacy forward. Her family are also well-recognised in the hospitality industry. With proficiency in Hotel Management and an MBA, she took on the responsibility of Longuinhos Beach Resort in Colva as the Director. Morzenia has been persistently working to add stars to the property, along with her sister Marsha, and brother Marzinho Almeida Coutinho. She firmly believes that hard work, dedication and perseverance is the only road to success. She has experienced her share of the struggles as a young entrepreneur and surpassed them all. She is ambitious and dreams of excelling further.

COVER STORY

Mahesh Pai was awarded Excellence in Financial Services Business by Mr. Shekhar Mital, CMD of Goa Shipyard Ltd.

A financial advisor professional for over 23 years, Mr. Mahesh Pai has been creating waves in the financial world. He is a member of the 'Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT) USA', having achieved highest label called 'Top of the Table (TOT)' in the financial business. He has been acknowledged as a top performer by LIC of India and received a certificate in Financial Planning & Financial Services. He is also a Corporate Club Member, considered as the highest recognition by LIC of India. Mr. Pai was recently awarded 'The Rising Leader of the Year (Financial Consultant)' at the APS Research ceremony held at Hard Rock Hotel in Goa, for his outstanding efforts towards achieving the business and financial goals of his clients. He is also the recipient of the 'Outstanding Achievement Award for the Year 2017', for his company's noted contribution towards the mortgage business.



Mahesh
Pai

Rajesh Dempo



Rajesh Dempo was awarded the Rising Star in Business by Mr. Shekhar Mital for his incredible contribution to the business world. Rajesh, a remarkable businessman, is the third generation entrepreneur from his well-known industrial family. A thorough gentleman and an eminent personality in his area of business, this entrepreneur has climbed the ladder of success through self-ignited determination and hard work. He started working as a management trainee position and worked his way up to become Head Business Development Corporate Affairs at a firm of high repute in Goa. In 2006, he dived into his flagship venture called Vision Dempo Real Estate Developers. Under his leadership, the Vision Dempo Group scaled great heights through a high level of quality standards and services par excellence. He has to his credit a number of accolades and recognitions like - Entrepreneurship Excellence Awards 2012 - Entrepreneur of the Year from Big Research, Business & Service Excellence Awards 2012 for Most Affordable Luxury Hotel in Goa from Big Research, and Most Promising Entrepreneur for Corporate Excellence 2012.

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COVER STORY

Suraj Morajkar was awarded the First Generation Businessman by Mr. Shekhar Mital, CMD of Goa Shipyard Ltd.

Suraj is the first generation entrepreneur who dived into realty business in 1995 and changed the definition of luxury homes in Goa. Today, his dream venture Sun Estates is more than a decade old and has received tremendous acclaim from its niche clientele that comprises of industrialists from across India, NRIs, Bollywood celebrities, fashion designers, athletes, investors and many more. He made their vision of modern, stylish homes into harmonised contemporary habitats with natural landscapes. His high profile clients include celebrities like Tarun Tahiliani, Raja Dhody, Jackie Shroff, Neha Dhupia, Pooja Bhatt and Ranvir Shorey, among others. He also owns the luxury boutique hotel, The Sol – an upmarket hotel known for its typical Goan ambience. The Sol - is also recognised as one of the top 5 'Hot List Hotels 2011' in Asia and Conde Nast Traveller.



Suraj Morajkar

Rajiv Shinde, awarded Excellence in Art – Director by Ester Noronha for his contribution to Konkani Cinema. This stalwart of the Konkani Cinema, Rajiv Shinde is recognised for his directorial excellence. His films have set a benchmark in the Konkani film industry. He is one of the pioneers who started the trend of producing quality films in Goa. His first Konkani feature film in the year 1997 won several national awards including the award for the Best Direction, Best Actor and Actress. His directorial movie "Dekhani Durai" earned him a lot of praises and accolades, and was the first movie to be aired on national channels as the best regional film. He has to his credit, creations like K Sera Sera, Gela Madhav Kunikade, Thodasa Logic Thodasa Magic, and continues to contribute to theatre and cinema in a big way. Rajiv is known for his creative thinking and works as a professor of the Arts College. Teaching is his first passion, and will always remain his priority.



Rajiv Shinde

Ricardo D'souza



Ricardo D'souza awarded Excellence in CSR by Nurallah Veljee for his selfless contribution in improving the life state of the Goan society.

After achieving enormous success with Tito's Club, Ricardo D'souza was determined to enhance and recreate value in the lives of Goans. He always urged to improve the conditions of this beautiful paradise, and also the lives of the simple and warm people of Goa. He shifted his focus to CSR activities working diligently towards various social awareness campaigns that benefited the people of Goa.

John D'silva



John D'silva awarded for Excellence in Art – Tiatr by Ester Norohna for his immense talent in acting, writing, directing and producing.

In a short span of time, John achieved a landmark in the tiatr arena. He, in fact, is the first tiatrist to enter the "Limca Book of Records 2010" for acting, writing, directing and producing 25 tiatrs. John is known for taking tiatr to great heights and propagating it globally. He made his debut in the Konkani theatre and did serious roles and characters with negative shades. In 1999, he switched to comedy adding yet another feather to his actor hat. His first role as a comedian was in his Tiatr "Umannem", which went on to become a huge success. He is the first one to have released his 25th tiatr "Nattok" in countries like London & Germany. John has been awarded the first Yuva Srujan Puraskar award for Art and Culture by the Government of Goa for his commendable contribution to Konkani theatre.

COVER STORY

Aryan Khedekar awarded Excellence in Art – Actor by Ester Norohna for his talent in acting

Aryan started his career with BIG FM radio as an RJ (Radio Jockey) in 2007 and gradually excelled to become a TV artist and Goan film star. With his attractive looks, charming personality and a powerful voice, this artist became the choice for many Goan filmmakers. Talent runs in his blood. Realizing his talent for singing, he even started his band along with renowned vocalist Ashwini Jambavlekar in 1997. Later he took up acting, and his first real break came in 2005 where he managed to bag a role in a feature film called "Sakshi". Then followed a series of films like Jagor, O' Maria, Suring, Prem, at first sight, Rainy Day and two Konkani block buster's – Home Sweet Home – I" and Home Sweet Home – II". His recent release was the movie "Martin" in 2016 where he played the lead role.



Aryan
Khedekar

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Anura Prabhudesai awarded Pride of Goa – Sports by Ester Noronha for making Goa proud in the sports arena. Anura, a super-energised 19-year-old, is rocking the sports arena in the badminton sport. She reached the No. 1 position in both the women's singles and doubles categories in 2017. In the latest rankings on the Badminton Association of India website, Anura took the top spot in the women's singles and doubles categories. She now aims at breaking into the world top 100 rankings as well. She has won a bronze medal in the senior women's singles and silver in senior women's doubles competitions at the All-India Senior Ranking Badminton Tournament in Bangalore in 2017. Trained at one of the most prestigious institute Tata-Padukone Academy in Bangalore, Anura was selected to represent India in the Asia Junior Badminton Championship at Bangkok, Thailand in the U-17 age group. This young talent is currently ranking at sixth position in singles senior level and fifth in the doubles senior level in India.



Anura Prabhudesai

Ujjwal Tripathi awarded Young Chef by Ester Noronha for acing in culinary art. Ujjwal, a young vibrant personality and a go-getter, graduated as an engineer. But his passion for the culinary art made him take a U-turn and switch his field of specialisation. To grow and excel in this field and make his dream a reality, Ujjwal is downright focused and dedicated towards polishing his skills as a chef from a reputed institute in Goa. His future plan involves opening a restaurant that reflects his passion for food and skills towards conjoining flavours to create out of the box gourmet cuisines.



Ujjwal Tripathi

Akshada Bandekar



Akshada Bandekar awarded Pride of Goa – Music by Ester Noronha for creating waves in the Goa Music fraternity. Being one of the youth icons and a musical prodigy, this bundle of talent began singing as early as 2 years of age. By the time she was 4, Akshada was performing on stage, adding numerous accolades to her portfolio. She made her way up the ladder in the field of vocal music by rigorously training herself and dedicating herself entirely to the art of music. Not only is Akshada a fabulous singer, but she also writes songs and composes her music herself. She is using her talent to send strong social awareness messages using her voice for social campaigns like 'Save the Girl Child' and 'Stopping Female Foeticides' and 'Female Infanticides'. She also contributed, through music, to help the Tsunami victims by organising a solo musical concert at the Goa Kala Academy. At such a young age, Akshada has also received the "National Child Award" for Exceptional Achievement in 2014, from the earlier President of India Shri. Pranab Mukherjee at the Rashtrapati Bhavan at New Delhi.

Sanjay Harmalkar



Sanjay Harmalkar awarded Trendsetter – Sketch by Ester Noronha for his master strokes and contribution to Art. An artist and art connoisseur, the fraternity is besotted by Sanjay Harmalkar's skills. His work of art is raw and rustic, and his passion is evident in his paintings. Sanjay has specialised in Applied Art from a premier art college – Goa College of Arts – and later embarked his journey into the commercial art business. He has been a successful advertising guru and managed an Ad agency that handled several well-known brands and business houses as its client. Portraits painted by him have found a respectable place in some of the prestigious institutes and private chambers of the business magnets. He has created some masterly strokes of a few noted personalities like Lata Mangeshkar, Business Tycoon Ratan Tata, Sena Supremo Late Balasaheb Thackeray, and Freedom Fighter Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak. His paintings have crossed international borders and reached virtually in every country with art heritage, be it Germany, England, or Canada.

COVER STORY

Varad Karmali awarded Trendsetter – Drone Shooting by Nurallah Veljee for an exemplary show of technology merging with photography. This young techie cum photographer is one of the few photographers in Goa who is using drone technology for capturing the most astonishing footages for videos and films. Varad's fetish for this new age gizmos has earned him assignments from all over India. Ranging from music videos and EDM festivals to big-ticket Bollywood films, he plays phenomenally with the visuals and gives the movie an edge with respect to the photography. He has taken some striking aerial shots of the action sequences for the recently launched movie 'Baaghi 2' featuring Tiger Shroff and Disha Patani. Apart from big Bollywood films, the young artist also bagged accolades for his work in few South Indian blockbusters and advertisements. Experimenting with the drones for capturing footages some mesmerising imageries, he is the man behind the brand 'Droneacharya'. Varad is all set to charge on and take the lead for being the pioneer in Goa for drone photography.



**Varad
Karmali**

Rajeev Kumar awarded Excellence in Hospitality by Nurallah Veljee for his achievements and contribution in the field of hospitality. Claiming phenomenal success for the past 18 years in the hospitality industry, Rajeev is currently adding stars to luxury hotels like The Fern Group of Hotels and holds the position of General Manager at The Fern Kadamba Hotel & Spa. In the past, he worked with some elite brand of hotels like Intercontinental Hotel Group, Concept Hospitality, Mahindra Holidays, Wyndham Hotel Worldwide & so on. He utilises his vast experience and in-depth knowledge of hospitality in improving service quality standards and driving performance and growth in hotel operations. His proficiency is guest relations giving exceptional experience to guests arriving at the hotel. This gentleman endeavours to bring in a revolutionary change in the field of hospitality.



**RAJEEV
KUMAR**

**Alirio
Saldhana**



Alirio Saldhana awarded Excellence in Photography by Nurallah K. Veljee, for his pioneering contribution in commercial & academia photography. Alirio is a master of photography and is well-known in the photography fraternity of Goa and around the world. He has to his credit a membership of many prestigious Indian and International creative and commercial photography institutions that make him a celebrated personality. A qualified commercial photographer with an honorary degree of excellence from The American Image Press, Shari Academy of Professional Photography, Mumbai and the Light & Life Academy, Ooty, India. His institution – Stenodac Institute for Career Training and Professional Education has won the Best International Standards Institute in India at the International Excellence awards in January 2018 and the International Quality Award 2016 for International standards in Education. He was also honoured as the "ICON OF THE YEAR 2015" by Rajya Sabha MP Shri. Amar Singh and Goa's Dy. Chief Minister Mr. Francis D'Souza in the presence of the legendary athlete Mr. Milkha Singh, and the Education Excellence Award 2013 by the Advertising Guru - Mr. Prahad Kakkar.

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COVER STORY

Ritu Puri awarded Excellence in Fashion by Ester Noronha for her immense creative talent and setting trends in Goa's fashion arena
Ritu, a gifted fashion designer, has received tremendous recognition and appreciation for her contribution to Goa's fashion fraternity. An immensely talented and dedicated designer stepped foot in Goa 2007 after acquiring a degree in fashion and textile designing from Delhi. She struggled her way up in Goa working as a freelance designer and eventually setting up her fashion label and studio. She worked on various projects along with the well-known photographers and fashion houses in Goa and came into the spotlight with her unique fashion show titled 'Curves & Beauty'. In her career journey in Goa, she got the opportunity to work with some well-known photographers and fashion houses in Goa like Prasad Pankar and Pragya Samore.



Ritu Puri

David D'souza awarded Excellence in Nightlife and Entertainment by Ester Noronha for making Goa memorable party hub
David D'souza along with his brother Ricardo D'souza owns the most prominent hotspot for all parties in Goa – The Tito's. The lane where Tito located has become 'the party place' in Goa. Since his take-over, David changed the face of the place from a shack to an elite club in Goa, establishing himself as the pioneer of nightlife in Goa. Once a tiny bar, today, has turned out to be the most successful and most desirable party-hub and the 'Golden Mile' of Goa. More than 1,000 people make their way to Tito's lane every day during the tourist season. And on special days Christmas and New Years' Eve, this number multiplies to four or five fold. He is very particular that nothing spoils the reputation of this beautiful paradise. David has bigger dreams to make the party scene in Goa not only enjoyable but safe and memorable.



David D'souza

Norbert D'souza



Norbert D'souza awarded Excellence in Fitness World by Ester Noronha for his contribution in making the Goan people fit
Norbert is a well-known name in the field of fitness in Goa and is a proud owner of India's largest fitness studio chain in Goa and largest facility in spread across the 36000 sqft area in the Ocean Park. He holds a Personal Trainer Certification and a Specialist in Exercise Therapy Certification from the USA-based ISSA (International Sports Sciences Association). Norbert has trained himself at the Fitness Management and Exercise Techniques at the acclaimed Leena Mogre's Fitness Academy, Mumbai. He has won many gold medals at Inter-College and State-level Bodybuilding and Power-lifting Competitions and also represented Goa at the National Bodybuilding Championships across the country over a period of 3 years. He is today considered a pioneer of gym culture in Goa and has been making the Goans, of every age, become fit.

Narayan Bandekar



Narayan Bandekar awarded Lifetime Achievement Award in Business by Nurallah Veljee for his legendary contribution to growth businesses in Goa
Chairman and Managing Director of NRB Group of Companies, Mr. Narayan Bandekar has contributed significantly towards various projects and activities for the betterment of the quality of life in Goa. Being the most admired man in the business world, Mr. Bandekar is praised for his entrepreneurial success and readiness of extending help to his fellow industrialists in times of need. He was also elected, twice consecutively, as President of Goa Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Recently he was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award instituted by the Goa Bizfest at the hands of the state Chief Minister Mr. Manohar Parrikar in February 2018. Besides being a highly successful businessman with interests in mining, pharma, light engineering, construction and hospitality, he is also known to be a philanthropist and a lover of art and culture.

COVER STORY

THE CHIEF GUEST

We had the pleasure of having Mr. Shekhar Mital, Chairman and Managing Director of Goa Shipyard Ltd. as the chief guest for the evening. He inaugurated the event by the auspicious lighting of the Candles. He gave away the awards to the achievers in the category of Business. A down to earth and a thorough gentleman, Mr Shekhar Mital has changed the face and destiny of the shipping industry in Goa. His leadership skills and years of experience has helped in making GSL the most profitable and successfully run organisation in Goa, serving the Indian Navy and the shipping industry of India with utmost superior services. With a lineage of gallantry achievements in many facets of shipbuilding, practical ground realities of seafaring, and on-sea experience, Mr. Mital garnered his expertise by working with highly plausible and reputed organisations such as the India Navy, and also served as CSO (Tech) of the Eastern Naval Command. Mr. Mital is the recipient of the Nausena Medal (NM), which was awarded by the President of India, for his distinguished service in the Indian Navy.

Ganesh Vandana

The evening opened with 'Ganesh Vandana' elegantly performed by Bharatanatyam dancers – Manjushri

THE PERFORMANCES

Mate, Aditi Naik and Sweenchya Gadkar. The beautiful performance gave the event a graceful and an auspicious start. The performance was choreographed by Mandira, who trained under the guidance of a recognised Bharatanatyam scholar performer Guru Dr. Sandhya V. Purecha. Mandira started her career 22 years ago in the field of classical dance after receiving professional qualification from Bharat College of Fine Arts and Culture. She is associated with the Goa Kala Academy as a lecturer/teacher. Dance performance by children of DFDA Academy

Another performance that was the highlight of the evening was group dance performance by kids from the DFDA Academy. The kids from the academy danced on some foot tapping numbers, giving the audience a chance to jump from their seats and participate. It included a surprise performance by Goa's star actor Kevin D'mello. The entire ensemble was put together by David Furtado who runs the DFDA Academy. Many known and hit shows and events, including movies, were choreographed by him like – the Splitsville Season 8 on MTV, Captain Shack on MTV, Stage Show for renowned singer Shaan in 2006, Stage Show for Akshay Kumar in

2005, Marathi movie - Prem at First Sight, and was the winner of Boogie Woogie in 2001 aired on Sony TV.

Fashion Show by Ritu Puri

The Fashion Show by Ritu Puri was the showstopper of the event. The ramp walk by the models on the posing on the theme – Curves & Beauty – marvelled the beauty of women regardless of the shape of the body and colour of the skin. The clothing line from Ritu Puri was based on "Royal and Elegance" that brought out the beauty of the curves of a woman. It was an inspiring, stylish, and elegant show.

Ritu Puri is known for creating her style and follows this mantra to the core – "Style is what you cannot buy. It's within you." She has been creating a lot of buzz in the fashion arena of Goa and gained many accolades in a short span of time. She has been regularly featuring in many fashion shows, fashion shoots and launching newly designed couture from her high-end label – Ritu Puri.

The event ended on a high note with all the celebrities and personalities getting together and networking. A photo session followed by some scrumptious dinner and drinks. Incredible Goa will be back with a bang with more names of the wondrous people and achievers of Goa. See you next year!



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STARTUPS TO BECOME THE BACKBONE OF GOA BUSINESS'S ECOSYSTEM



It is a misconception that Goa only offers people with the sun, sand, siestas and sundowners. No siree! You will be amazed by the number of startups that are springing up in this coastal paradise, completely overhauling the business sector and taking it to the digital age. Fortunately, Goa offers an ideal work-life balance and the perfect environment for innovation. With the rapidly improving connectivity and infrastructure and a supportive state government, Goa is slowly becoming a 'Startup Paradise'.

The state has always favoured the champions of the business world and entrepreneurship. Infact, Goa was among the first four states in India to implement the startup policy. And today, with a fresh Startup Policy in place, the state is looking to foster new age entrepreneurs with an array of incentives. The Government of Goa has taken on this sentiment with vigour and is supporting startups with the essential infrastructure, platforms, and products and services.

The State Government Patronage
The Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar,

has set aside \$ 25 million to promote the IT sector in the State for the financial year 2018-2019. The amount is almost double compared to the previous year. This indicates a budget hike for startups and the IT companies.

To promote and foster a friendly and innovative startup ecosystem in Goa, the Government organised "Goa Startup Day" on April 27 and 28, 2018. The two-day summit saw a confluence of the key stakeholders of different sectors from the startup ecosystem in India to discuss and

debate the way forward for boosting the local ecosystem of Goa and bringing business ideas to the forefront. The Minister for Revenue, IT & Labour for Goa Mr. Rohan Khaunte, shared the intention behind the strategic framework for startups in Goa, the government support plan, the Goa startup policy and the overall aim for The Goa Startup Day at the summit. He mentioned that since Goa will always remain the most preferred destination for tourism, the state needs to create a separate economic backbone to resolve the

unemployment issue in this segment. The State's vision is to be in the top 25 destinations in Asia for startups by 2025. With a vision to create a vibrant ecosystem for startups, the various frameworks and policies are designed to maximise the support to the startups in the state.

Launch of Goa Startup Policy

Goa Government launched the 'Startup Policy and Portal' on Goa startup Day on April 28th 2018. The Startup Policy envisions Goa as one of the most preferred startup destinations of India and featuring in the top 25 startup destinations in Asia by 2025.

The policy was launched by Union Minister of Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation Suresh Prabhu. Goa, with its strategic location has the potential to be the entrepreneurship hub. This event will work as a catalyst in building a robust ecosystem of stakeholders, as mentioned by Mr. Prabhu. The aim is to make Goa an aspirational geographical and human resource base for startups. The new policy incorporates various attractively packaged incentive schemes for startups. For entrepreneurs to avail the benefits of these incentives, the policy also includes various schemes by the Government. The Ministry has joined hands with the Invest India team, to propel Goa as the "national capital for startups". Invest India will also be providing support by extending call centre facilities for all the aspiring and existing Goan entrepreneurs to understand the policy.

The policy's endeavour is to create at least 100 successful startups in Goa in the next five years, targeting generations of employment for at least 5,000 Goans. It also aims to develop a minimum two lakh square feet area for technology innovation and incubation centres in the next five

KEY ADVANTAGES OF THE GOA STARTUP POLICY FOR NEW ENTREPRENEURS

years. The startup policy aims to support startups by setting up Startup Promotion Cell under the Department of IT (Goa), Government Developed Incubators and Privately Run Incubators amongst others.

IT Infrastructure reimbursements of Rs 1,00,000 per quarter

The startups operating from self-owned premises or on-rent premises (not using the Government developed facilities), their cost towards internet connectivity, software license fees, and cloud services fee, will be reimbursed subject to a maximum limit of Rs. 1,00,000 per quarter.

The aim to feature among Asia's top 25 startup destinations:- The aim of the state government is to make Goa one of the most preferred startup destinations in India and Asia at large. It is empowering entrepreneurs through its Startup Policy and striving to achieve 100 early-stage ventures to succeed in the next five years.

Making business processes convenient:- Goa now has an Internet-based single-window portal exclusively for startups. It will enable new firms to register and get access to a repository of information on a state-level as well as national regulatory compliances.

Well-connected and centrally located:- Goa location is an advantage for incubation of these startups. It gives easy access to all the major metros of the country. Being perfectly located, Goa is a hotspot for people from all around the world. So you can find all the human resources you'll need right here.

Capital incentives from the government:- The Government of Goa will reimburse 50% of R&D expenses, including the salary of PhD holders for a period of two years, subject to a cap of Rs 5 lakhs per

annum. For registered startups hiring local talent, 50% of the salary for a fresher will be reimbursed, subject to a cap of Rs 10,000 per recruit, per month. Furthermore, 25% of the salary of the local workforce will be reimbursed, for registered startups with 60% of local workforce.

World-class infrastructure, subsidised:- The state is building state-of-the-art, fully-equipped plug-and-play innovation and incubation centres with high-speed internet connectivity and shared IT infrastructure at subsidised rates.

A talent pool at your doorstep:- Goa hosts several premier institutes including IIT, NIT, BITS Pilani, Goa Institute of Management and several other private engineering colleges that provide access to market-ready talent. There's also a strong Industry-Academia connect that fosters innovation and entrepreneurship.

Digital skilling plans for the state:- One of the key objectives of the Startup Policy is to build an ecosystem where every Goan student can easily acquire technical skills and grow professionally in the startup space. This means every startup will have abundant amount of fresh talent that is ready to work efficiently and effectively.

With the country and various states recognising the scalability and potential of startups, including Goa, the continued startup policy innovations in states or union territories are a huge boost for entrepreneurship in the country. More than 20,000 startups in India have created a total market value of \$50 billion, making India the second largest startup ecosystem in the world. There is a huge potential and now is the time for seeking entrepreneurs to grab this opportunity.



Namita Tripathi, an amiable and strong woman entrepreneur of today, is a name you will immediately associate with the White Cloud Laundry service in Goa. She is running this proprietorship across the state all by herself, with meticulousness and diligence. Namita comes across as a confident, courageous and determined woman who is ready to conquer the world. She sets a perfect example of a businesswoman, a daughter, a wife, and a mother combined into one person. With support from her family and friends, she started her venture with a simple idea of quality laundry service 18 years ago and has come a long way since. Today we share her empowering and inspiring journey from a simple housewife to an enterprise brand.

RIDING THE WHITE CLOUD OF QUALITY AND SERVICE EXCELLENCE

Namita, originally from Mumbai, moved to Goa with her husband 2 kids, 26 years ago. At that time, Goa painted a drastically different picture of what people see today. When she moved here, her focus was primarily on taking care of her family with her newborn grasping most of her attention. Belonging to a simple Marathi family, and a graduate from Mumbai University, she was taught that a woman should never limit herself to just taking care of the family. She has been brought up with the belief that a woman is capable of doing much more than she's framed into doing. Hence moving with life in a new city, Namita always knew that she would not remain behind closed doors and step out to conquer greater heights. Her husband Deepak Tripathi supported her at every step, and she was able to attend to her two growing-up sons - Chirag Tripathi and Ujjwal Tripathi. Namita's entire family encouraged her all the way in fulfilling her entrepreneur mission. Bringing White Cloud into the world

While scouting for various services like a cleaner, laundry, and others, she observed that there were hardly any service or even locals providing these laundry cleaning at discretion like in the metro cities. Considering this as a significant hurdle in completing her many household chores, she happened to get the idea of starting a laundry service, something which was completely missing in the Goan market. So after much planning and support from her husband, she opened the flagship store of White Cloud Laundry in Panjim in the year 2000. Overcoming most of the challenges while setting up the business, Namita started with one vision in mind – to provide timely, trustful and quality service to people. Since then there has been no stopping.

With this intention, White Cloud gained momentum and Namita was able to open a second store in Porvorim within a span of one year. Continuing the same vision and aim in mind and increasing demand for laundry services, Namita gradually opened her third store in Mapusa in the year 2002. Today she is a proud owner of total 6 White Cloud laundry service outlets, running successfully at Calangute, Vasco, and Margao. Apart from catering to individuals, the store also provides its services to many premium hotels in Goa. Namita adds, "Serving hotels require more proficiency as the order is large, and has to be an on-time delivery. I have a skilled and dedicated staff that works around the clock for such orders and delivers every day in the morning at the promised time. Considering the criticality of the job and the client of such high repute, we ensure that nothing goes out to them unfinished." The retail also tends to the guests staying in these hotels who request for special laundry services. For them, the delivery time is same day, without fail.

Kissing success with a 'clean' heart White Cloud laundry provides services which include washing, dry cleaning, ironing, and roll-press of all clothing and fabrics. Namita shared

with profound happiness that most of the White Cloud customers are a repeat and loyal customers, as they have been using the services for many years. It is Namita's great positivity and enthusiasm and inclination towards excellent customer service that she has been able to create a niche brand for herself. White Cloud has been able to establish itself as a quality-led service brand because of the transparency and superior services it renders to its clientele. Namita ensures that her entire staff at all outlets give the best customer service, by understanding their requirements clearly and abiding by delivery time. Namita believes that customer satisfaction and happiness is the key to success.

She shared, "I have been blessed with a great family and circle of friends who have always stood by me. My husband is a pillar of support and helped me manage and set-up my business. My staff too, who have been with me for many years; they are the real reason behind my success. It is because of this self-sustaining and healthy ecosystem that real reason for a steady and stable growth year on year." She also added, "It has not always been smooth sailing. There were many high tides and low-tides in this journey that have been a catalyst in making me the person I am today." With the determination and the vision in focus, Namita works with a single aim – to help the people with clean and crisp laundry, pulling them out of daily rigour of cleaning and ironing clothes. The brand and the logo itself stands synonymous to a white, clean laundry against the sunny-blue sky. And she aims to continue to maintain the quality standards all throughout. Empowering the way to 'brighter' future

As a businesswoman, Namita never restricted herself with just minting money. That is not at all her agenda. Her beliefs in societal benefits also hold firmly in her determination. She has employed many locals in her retail and has trained them from scratch. She has hired many local women as staff and coached them with

customer management skills. Namita sets an example of a self-believing and an enduring woman who had the vision to make her life meaningful and also reciprocate the same to the society. Today she is an inspiration to many women in the state, encouraging to come out of their cocoons and growing wings to fly because they can. She says, "Women are excellent at multitasking and management. Just see them handle their homes, and you will learn for free for what many pay lakhs as training in MBA courses. The only thing a woman need is encouragement and support from her family. So they can achieve anything they dream of becoming." Namita has employed many locals, mainly women as they are good with customer management and some of the behind the curtain services. For handling heavy machinery, she has a staff of dedicated men who do a perfect time-bound work for clean laundry to be ready for delivery. She has also helped many of her staff, who have succeeded so well at the White Cloud that they moved ahead and set up their cleaning service.

White Cloud Laundry Service today is a household name. Ask your family, they would tell you from where your clean laundry came. The ease and effort of getting clean clothes to wear every morning while getting ready for work is all courtesy White Cloud. So tomorrow, when you are visiting any of the White Cloud stores, you will know the real face behind it, the hard work and struggle that has gone into setting it up and giving quality cleaning services every day. Namita does have plans to expand to outer boundaries of Goa as well. But right now she is completely focused on the existing business and would start her expansion plans soon.

GOAN PONSACHI BHAKRI (JACKFRUIT BREAD)

By Rajeshree Ghadge

INGREDIENTS:-

2 cups Jackfruit
 1 cup Brown Rice
 1 cup Dessicated Coconut
 1/2 cup Jaggery
 8-10 cashews
 2 tsp ghee
 4 cardamoms

PROCEDURE:-

STEP 1:- Soak rice for 3 hours . Drain water and dry on muslin cloth for 30 mins.

STEP 2:- Grind rice to a coarse powder.

STEP 3:- Grind jackfruit to a paste in a mixer.

STEP 4:- Take an aluminium bowl and grease it with ghee.

STEP 5:- Add jackfruit paste into the greased bowl and then add ground rice and mix.

STEP 6:- Then add jaggery, dessicated coconut, cashews and

cardamom and mix well.

STEP 7:- Now take the bowl and

place it into a idli cooker for 15 mins until cooked. Place a Banana leaf over it and burn coal and place it over the bhakri for 10 mins. Your yummy jackfruit bhakri is ready!



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DAVID FURTADO STEPPING INTO THE MASTER OF FOOTWORK'S DANCING SHOES

A state-level hockey player, selected in top 16 for Goa's football team, this master of footwork has come a long way. David Furtado is a household name in Goa whenever one mentions dancing or choreography. The kids adore him, the youth look up to him, and the seniors wish they could follow their dreams the way David has. He has an array of accolades to his credit, and his long line of experiences working with Bollywood stars and prominent institutions like Jindal and Tata Steel has earned him lot of respect. Despite all the fame and success, David prefers to keep a low profile. A thorough disciplinary artist and gentleman, he is focused to do bigger and better. His dedication and determination towards his art is inspiring. Here, David opens his heart to us and shares his journey from a sportsman to a dancer and choreographer.

All about the Footwork

Since his school days, David actively participated in extracurricular activities and joined his school dance group. He has won many awards for his school in inter-school dancing competitions. This multi-talented man never limited himself to just dancing, he also took part in sports like football and used to practice regularly. Seeing his hard work and interest in football, his coach encouraged him to become part of the school team. As the key player, David won many inter-school competitions. At college level too, he played hockey and was chosen as the captain. David was also selected in the top 16 football players at the state level.

After a distressing knee injury, David had to give up sports and all activities involving high-level workout and had to undergo surgery and intense physiotherapy thereafter. It was a huge setback for such an active individual. It was after overcoming his injury and therapy that he got the opportunity to connect to dancing, holistically. "Dancing, in a way, rehabilitated me after being bedridden for almost a year," David shared. He started working at Hotel Taj Vivanta in Goa as Coordinator – Entertainment Activities, where he planned and choreographed activities for corporates, weddings and even high profile events involving celebrities.

Gradually, his interest in dancing grew into a passion, and David eventually took up choreography as his career after seeking success at his workplace. People started putting forward their preference for David to choreograph their events. He became the choice of many big brands and celebrities for composing and choreographing their shows.

Tapping his way up

Goa is widely known for tourism; a paradise people come to for a break, away from the monotony of life. What everyone misses out on, is that Goa is also home to a number of talent and

budding artists. David is considered as the pioneer in the field of performing arts. No one before him had gained such admiration and popularity in the field of choreography. He is one of a kind – a trendsetter – in dancing. He is the perfect example of courage and determination, where he used his injury as a springboard to jumpstart a new mission in his life. And that is how David Furtado the choreographer was born.

In early 2000, David became well known in Goa and in Mumbai as well. He visited Mumbai to enter many contests where producers and TV shows called him. Boogie Woogie was one of the most hit and popular TV reality shows based on dance at that time, where David participated and came out as a winner of the show. After his win, he was noticed by many big names in the industry and later was called to conduct other reality shows and films. He later choreographed TV shows like Splitsville - Season 8 and Captain Shack for MTV. He has choreographed large-scale Bollywood shows in Goa with Suniel Shetty, Akshay Kumar and Shaan. He has choreographed many TV advertisements for brands like Big Bazaar. David conquered the movie biz too by choreographing for Marathi movies like 'Prem at First Sight' featuring Kevin D'Mello.

Apart from orchestrating big shows, David has also directed and choreographed many music videos in Goa. He started teaching dance in renowned schools of Goa with a team of trained instructors.

David Furtado Dance Academy

After achieving success in films and the entertainment industry, David decided to direct his focus on training and coaching aspiring dance performers. He opened an academy for dance and aerobics - The David Furtado Dance Academy – in the year 2007. He believes that to keep the heart and soul alive and in rhythm, it is

necessary to dance and exercise your mind. He has helped many youngsters fulfill their dreams by training them into becoming skilled instructors and performers. Today, many dance schools teachers and instructors in Goa who got trained under him some point in time, have become successful. "It only makes me proud," said David with a big smile. He conducts classes not only in Goa but also arranges training workshops in different cities of India. Most of the elite schools and colleges in Goa and other cities now have regular dance classes conducted by instructors trained by him around the year.

In a unique show organised by Goa Kala Academy, David Furtado's academy students performed for 100 minutes on various genres of music over a mix of 30 songs. There were 200 dancers of varying ages who shook a leg to Salsa, Jive and swayed to Bollywood and English numbers. In the same event, three of David's students were awarded, while some parents were honoured for the support they provided to their children. The highlight of the evening was the final performance by David's trainers. Both his students and trainers gave astounding performances, which were a treat to watch.

Today, for any large scale event by big corporates or world-famous celebrities that happen in Goa, David Furtado is one name that is called-in every time. That is the respect David has gained for himself, after rigorous hard work and many sacrifices he made to reach where he is today. David continues to aim for helping and improving training methodology for performing arts in Goa. Being a disciplined and dedicated person himself, he educates his student on the same. He says, "I truly believe that if one needs to be successful, they need to respect two things - time and the artist. Rest everything will follow, whether its money, fame or success." And till date, it holds true in David's case.



Goans know him for his awe-inspiring motivational speeches and support to people who work with him, even to the ones who use his firm's services. Rajesh Tarkar is well known as a trendsetter and a strong competitor in the real estate world. A self-made man, extremely ambitious and a devoted spiritual person, Rajesh has come a long way walking the path of glory and success that he built from his sweat and blood. A workaholic but still a family man, Rajesh has made a mark for himself in real estate sector in Goa. His firm – Rajdeep Builders – provides exclusive luxury homes with A-class infrastructure and amenities at a price, which no other builder offers. His mantra of quality and care, converge where his services begin. Rajesh Tarkar shares his struggle-ridden but successful story of how he made it big in this tough world.

A FIRST GENERATION BUSINESSMAN CHANGING THE FACE OF REAL ESTATE

Belonging to a simple middle-class family, Rajesh has always been a people's person. He was passionate about music and singing, and used to perform at many cultural events at the temples in his village, and also during festivals and occasions. He was fond of doing the décor for the homes of his family and friends. Seeing his skills and how he had done up his own

house, neighbours took his help for doing the interiors of their homes as well. He was getting recognised for his work and soon began taking orders as a consultant, right after finishing his schooling. He got acknowledged and recognition for his work and contribution towards his town and its people, and became a sort-of a celebrity in his locality. Soon,

he started flourishing in the area of interiors and construction at a small scale.

The Origin of the First Generation Entrepreneur

After a family discord, Rajesh moved to the city with literally nothing in

hand and started working as a banker in Goa. He worked his way up through rigour, determined to succeed. In his entire career as a banker, he worked at renowned banks like the State Bank of India and Bajaj Finance as Branch Manager. With multiple skill sets like business management, motivational speaking and customer engagement ability, Rajesh was able to move up the hierarchy through diligence and determination. After reaching the top, Rajesh wanted to pursue his passion for interior design which he missed dearly. Soon enough, he got the opportunity to do-up an apartment for a close friend which turned out to be a successful project. The apartment became an example of an impressive and fine design. One thing led to another, and soon he started getting orders for doing interiors for more places.

Many well-wishers and friends, seeing his work, started advising Rajesh to move his focus to a different field – interiors and construction. After exiting a long and successful banking career, he started a small real estate consultancy firm where he initiated construction of residential apartments. The first apartment complex he sold became the talk of town primarily because of quality of material used and above all – selling each flat with a 5-year maintenance warranty. This proposition shook the entire ecosystem of real estate in Goa because no builder, even today, has ever given such an advantageous scheme.

After fighting many controversies, Rajesh accomplished a trustworthy name in the market, and that is how Rajdeep Builders came into existence.

The Builders Who Build with the Heart and Soul – Rajdeep Builders

Being a people's person, it was quite easy for Rajesh to understand what people desire in a home. His firm creates homes that are an epitome of

comfort, innovation and great experience. Rajesh says, "People buy a home for themselves that should last a lifetime, using their hard-earned money. If I can't even serve them with quality amenities that can last a lifetime than what's the point. It is unfair, and I believe that buyers deserve everything that gives them value for their money."

Rajdeep Builders have designed residences that offer contemporary-themed, ready-to-move-in, fully furnished homes. They offer a 5-year warranty on the facilities provided, with replacement/repair guarantee in 48 hrs. It is an unmatched scheme with no other competition in the realty space. The projects proposed by Rajesh's construction firm have created a niche and are a symbol of trust, transparency, and distinguished service in the real estate sector of Goa.

Rajesh adds, "People are the most valuable asset and are the bedrock of growth and success of my firm. They are the pillars of strength that makes us who we are. We have a highly efficient team to cater to the services in the shortest possible time, and we are proud to have a satisfied customer base dwelling in our projects."

Rajesh has always maintained his willingness to work towards the betterment of people, enhancing lives and providing the best. He has offered employment to the locals, and takes care of each of them as his own family. He says, "The moral values inherited from my family are embedded deep in me and I have filtered it into our company's culture as well. I have been taught to be fair and just to my people and be committed to what I believe in. If I have promised something to my customer, I ensure that they get it. If not, I dig deep as to why such a situation has risen and see to it that their requirements are fulfilled at the earliest."

Rajdeep Builders has offered many successful projects to the Goa state like - Rajdeep Residency, Dona Paula, Rajdeep Kenkre Residency, Rajdeep

Bhavan – Socorro, Rajdeep Molacar Residency – Merces, Rajdeep Residency – Merces, Rajdeep Greenfield – Santa Cruz, Rajdeep Residency-Chimbel, Rajdeep Ideal Residency Taleigao, and Rajdeep Residency Mapusa. These residential complexes are standing examples of Rajesh's contemporary thinking and ideology. They set an example of value for money and luxury homes in one frame.

A Promising Future – Passing His Legacy

Being a self-made man, with no support whatsoever from his family, Rajesh has worked hard to reach where he is today. He intends to pass on his legacy to his two daughters and have taught them the importance of hard-earned success and being financially independent. Rajesh is a man who has never given up even when he had hit rock bottom. Being loved by his people, has in a way, helped him succeed every milestone. That is why he values his people so much. The respect for people and money reflects in his work and services that he provides to them. He says, "My firm's growth and respectability in the market is built on the adherence of quality, vision, fairness, forthrightness and accountability. We value every customer and build them their dream homes, not houses. I will keep walking the path of righteousness and giving people of my state, my country what they deserve; no matter what others say."

Rajesh Tarkar is the first generation businessman that has changed the way the real estate has been functioning in Goa. He takes on the challenges head-on, and continues his endeavour to provide quality and extended services to the people in every way possible.

MEENA GOES PURSUING HER DREAM CAREER



Despite the digital and celluloid revolution across the globe, Goans have remained loyal to the stage and Tiatr (Drama). Tiatr is still an integral part of Goan families, especially in South Goa. The drama industry is on the verge of decline from the country, but Tiatr is still going strong in Goa, all because of its loyal supporters. Following this trend, the younger generation is also turning towards stage performances. This story of the Goan Talent Meena Goes is an excellent example of a young woman taking the Tiatr legacy forward.

Meena decided to start her career in theatre at a young age but could not pursue it due to the lack of guidance from the theatre field because no connection or family reference in the area. When she finished her schooling she decided to venture into the field she was so passionate about. "After completing my 12th from Carmel College, I decided to pursue my dream career in the drama industry, especially Tiatr. But I had no family background, and so I decided to start working till the time I get the right opportunity," she said. Adding to her, "While working, I joined the Institute of Theatre Art, run by famous Tiatrist Sharon Mozerello and did a 3-month

course on stage and performing arts."

Meena decided to join the Tiatr, and her association with Sharon gave her the opportunity to start working with various theatre production companies in Goa. She had always dreamt of becoming a Tiatrist right from a young age. "When I was young, I used to go to watch Tiatr with my family. It had a strong impact on me, and I decided that I will join the Tiatr Industry one day." Her dream finally came true, as was able to successfully establish herself in the industry.

Meena's journey reached its pinnacle in 2009 when she joined the Theatre Performing Art. "My first opportunity with renowned Tiatrist Milagres De Chandor kick-started my journey into this industry," Meena shared. Although she had received her first big opportunity in Tiatr, the road ahead wasn't easy, as she faced many challenges. One of the major problems was the lack of any connections or a god father/mother in the Tiatr industry. "It was the first time for me, and everything was completely new. There was no friend circle or guide, but I was fortunate enough to have a very supportive colleague and director who became my mentor. He taught me the techniques to perform various characters with finesse and precision," she narrated.

Another challenge Meena had to face when she entered the Tiatr Industry was singing. As Tiatr is a musical drama, one must know how to sing. Most youngsters who join this industry come from families of Tiatrist; but for Meena, this was an entirely a new world. She was the first generation in her family to enter Tiatr. "Singing was the main challenge before me without which I could not continue," Meena said. She had to undergo intense training and practice in the art of singing, and with time she started improved. Presently Meena has reached a stage where she can do any role and sing relentlessly on the stage. To her, singing is more difficult than acting. According to her many

people may be able to act but singing is an entirely different ball-game. One needs a lot of practice and dedication to learning the art of singing.

Unlike others, Meena has not received any professional training. It is her hard work and consistent practice that made her a good singer she is today. She is also working on a few films by local producers, as most Tiatrist do. Everyone eventually looks up to people who join the film industry. Meena gives a lot of the credit for her success to the famous Tiatrist and well-known personality in Goa – Mr. John D'Silva who helped her get roles in regional films. "I do not have any such aspirations to go into films as I am quite happy doing Tiatr." She mentions that there are not many opportunities in regional films and hence she accepts whatever comes her way. She does not go searching for roles.

Presently Meena is doing two plays, and as the season begins, she will have at least three different plays running across theatres. This means lots of practice and focus in preparing for all 3 plays. Working in Tiatr does not give enough financial stability, at least not to newcomers. Having an alternate source of income, hence, is very important. Meena also works as a beautician when she is not acting. "The major challenge before us is to maintain a good balance between work and Tiatr. There are shows and practices, and due to that I need to get away from work, but my boss is very co-operative and supportive of this," says Meena.

Meena has not yet penned-down any future plans, and she takes up things as they come. "I have support from my parents, and they are never against me working. But, they do not like me going out of Goa to learn new things. They are protective of me that way," she confessed. Meena has recently featured in many leading publications of Goa including some mainline newspapers.

According to Meena, it is easier for people with a family background in the Tiatr industry for a smooth climb up the ladder in this field, as

compared to a person like her who has none. "The level of difficulty is more compared to the people who have their parents working in this industry for a long time. The best way is to consistently learn and improve work and meet senior artists for guidance and direction," says Meena. Another issue that a female Tiatrist faces is criticism and badmouthing from locals. Being a Tiatrist, the work involves late nights and even outdoor shoots. And because this schedule she hears lot of criticism from the locals. But Meena doesn't allow such things to affect her. According to her, as long as her family is supporting, she doesn't have to worry about anything else. "After all my parents are the only one who will stand by me in the good and bad times and hence any level of badmouthing and criticism doesn't matter to me," said Meena.

She plays more negative roles as she has always been offered such characters. She is not worried about getting labelled by the industry as she enjoys those negative roles. "I am comfortable in all sorts of roles, even if I get negative ones, I do them with full dedication and enjoyment," says Meena. She has now started doing comedy and serious roles which can be seen in her forthcoming dramas. Meena feels that doing justice to the character is more important than selecting a particular type of role.

Meena is among the very few youngsters who chose drama as a career especially since she is quite aware that it does not generate much revenue for Tiatrist. The Tiatrist are not paid well, and sometimes they have to put in money for stage shows from their own pockets. According to Meena, it all depends on the success of Tiatr, if it becomes successful it is good. Otherwise, there are no regular or high paychecks. Maybe because of this, many people don't join this industry, since they have an only money-making mind. But if you love what you do then perhaps many will join the league where Meena has already made an impact.

URBAN TURBAN

PUNJABI-MUGHLAI DELICACIES IN THE LAND OF KONKANI FOOD

Just as you turn left from O Coqueiro Junction in Porvorim, to the road leading to most visited beaches of Goa – Calangute and Baga – 500 metres down the road stands Urban Turban. A Punjabi themed restaurant, serving authentic and delectable Punjabi-Mughlai cuisines, is a hidden gem on the busy road. Owned and managed by a lovely couple – Balvinder Latwal (Ballu as she is lovingly called and known as) and Vijay Latwal – the restaurant is their dream child. Along with their friend-cum-partner Mr. Kamal Kohli, Ballu and Vijay opened doors to their restaurant 1.5 years back. Ballu is the Chef, with forte in Punjabi-Mughlai cuisines, designing the speciality menu and managing the entire kitchen. Vijay is a businessman and handles mainly the management and marketing of the restaurant.



Urban Turban offers a fusion of flavours that complement each other, but with a consistent theme – quality, from scratch, and ethnic food made with passion. Their menu is exquisite which includes authentic Punjabi-Mughlai cuisines like Nihari with Khamiri Roti, Butter Chicken, Chicken Mughlai Tikka and Dal Makhni and Dum Biryani, to name a few. The Nihari, Butter Chicken and Dal Makhni along with the classic Punjabi Lassi are few menu items which are high in demand and are a sell-out. They also serve Amritsari fish, Angara Kebab, Prawn Biryani, Sarson Ka Saag with Makke Ki Roti (available during the season), to add to the list of items demanded by customers. When asked about the availability of ingredients like spices, vegetables and meat, Ballu said, "We prefer getting few of the spices from Delhi, but most of them are available in Goa. So there is no problem. But the real flavour comes from a combination of ground spices that are prepared in

our kitchen. We are fortunate enough to find good vendors for our supply of fresh vegetables and meat. That makes all the difference in serving quality food to our customers." The restaurant opens for lunch at 12 noon to 3 pm and then opens again for dinner at 7.30pm in the evening till midnight. Vijay says, "Most of our customers, Punjabi food lovers, arrive between 9 pm and 12 am. People returning from parties from the beach would stop by to have a meal or a drink too." Tourists visiting from North India or other countries always look out for a change in flavour and go in search for the famous tandoori chicken and chicken tikka after they reach a saturation point with seafood. Urban Turban satisfies that craving with the right touch of spice and flavour.

The ambience will remind you of a real Punjabi Dhaba. From Phulkari work dupattas adorning the walls to multi-coloured satin hang-downs covering the ceiling, to a wall fully covered with tall bamboos, and small and large-sized typical Martaban and Chai kettles placed near windowsills. The complete interiors were done-up by Ballu and Vijay themselves, giving it a feel of a mini Punjab in Goa. You can see framed posters of Bollywood old movies done on one side of the wall, reminding you of the era of legendary bolly-actors like Dharmendra, Vinod Khanna and Amitabh Bachchan, loved tremendously in the region of Punjab.

On one of their vacations in Goa, both Ballu and Vijay fell in love with this beautiful paradise and decided to move to the serene and peaceful locales in the year 2000 in December. Urban Turban also has another branch in the beautiful Himalayan region of Dharamsala, managed by their close friend.

In case you are from the North and get a craving for some mouth-watering Mughlai cuisines, or, you are a Goan wanting to try the world-famous Tandoori Chicken and Chicken Tikka or Dal Makhni – Urban Turban is the place for you. With excellent reviews from tourists on TripAdvisor and Zomato; it is the restaurant that you must pay a visit.

LOSING LOWER ABDOMINAL FAT

The lower abdominal region is a very tough area to develop and remove excess fat from. I see many clients dropping their overall body fat levels way down only to be disappointed by that little extra fold of fat on their lower abs. losing fat in this region comes down to really focusing on three main areas:

1. Eating clean diet: You need to really focus on eliminating all of the empty calories from your nutritional plan. Stick with lean protein like egg whites, fish and fibrous, non-starchy carbohydrates throughout the day. Starches can be eaten before your workout and early to mid-morning but should be cut by 5 pm. Fibrous carbohydrates should contain mostly vegetables.

2. Switch up your cardio: Try cardio cross training to

add a shock to your body and to start burning more fat. Make sure to mix in low-intensity with high-intensity sessions. The best cardio exercise is simply the one you will do day in and day out consistently. Choose one which you enjoy doing and don't be afraid to mix the exercises up. Perform Interval cardio which consists of moving from one exercise to another in set of time intervals. For example, you could do the elliptical trainer for 15 minutes, then switch to the

stationary bike for another 15 minutes and finish off on the treadmill for the last 15 minutes. Interval training is a great way of burning maximum fat. Below are the top five cardio exercises which burn the most calories in 30 minutes and that will provide amazing results! All this exercises can be used for High Intensity Interval Training.

Swimming - is an excellent cardio exercises as it is a full body exercise. Swimming is a great cross-training for



Norbert D'souza

EXERCISE BENEFITS

- strengthens your heart and lungs
- can strengthen your bones, slowing down the process of osteoporosis
- helps you move about more easily by keeping joints, tendons, and ligaments more flexible
- can help you lose weight (when combined with good eating habits) or maintain ideal weight by burning excess calories
- promotes a sense of well-being



other cardio activities also. Doing the breast stroke can burn approx. 400 calories in 30 minutes

Running - Running is an excellent cardio exercises because all you need is a pair of quality running shoes. Running burns serious calories. A 70 kg individual can easily burn 300 calories in 30 minutes.

Elliptical Trainer - is an excellent cardio exercises and a great way to build endurance. A 70 kg person can burn about 300 calories in 30 minutes.

Jumping Rope - This is one of the simplest, yet most effective exercises one can do. In just 15 to 20 minutes, jumping rope will give you an unparalleled total body workout. Jumping rope is ideal for cardiovascular endurance and enhances performance in virtually any sport. This simple exercise is also great for eye-hand coordination, foot and hand speed and agility.

Sprinting - Sprinting not only burns HUGE amounts of calories, it also keeps your metabolism flying for days

after. Sprinting combined with running / jogging can bring amazing results. And finally

3. Abs exercises that will provide an intense workout for your stomach. Focus on these abs exercises below for working the lower area of your abdominal region:

Hanging Leg Raises: This is a relatively new abdominal exercise that is rapidly gaining popularity in gyms hanging leg raises place intense stress on the entire rectus abdominis especially the lower part.

Seated Flat Bench Leg Pull Ins: Lie on a flat bench with your legs



extending off the end. Place your hands under your buttocks with your palms down and extend your legs straight out. Bend your knees and pull your upper thighs into your midsection. Return to the starting position.

Exercise Ball Crunches: The exercise ball crunches is an excellent tool to strengthen the abs and comes out number three for working the rectus abdominis.

By combining all three factors above, you should start seeing results in your lower abs!

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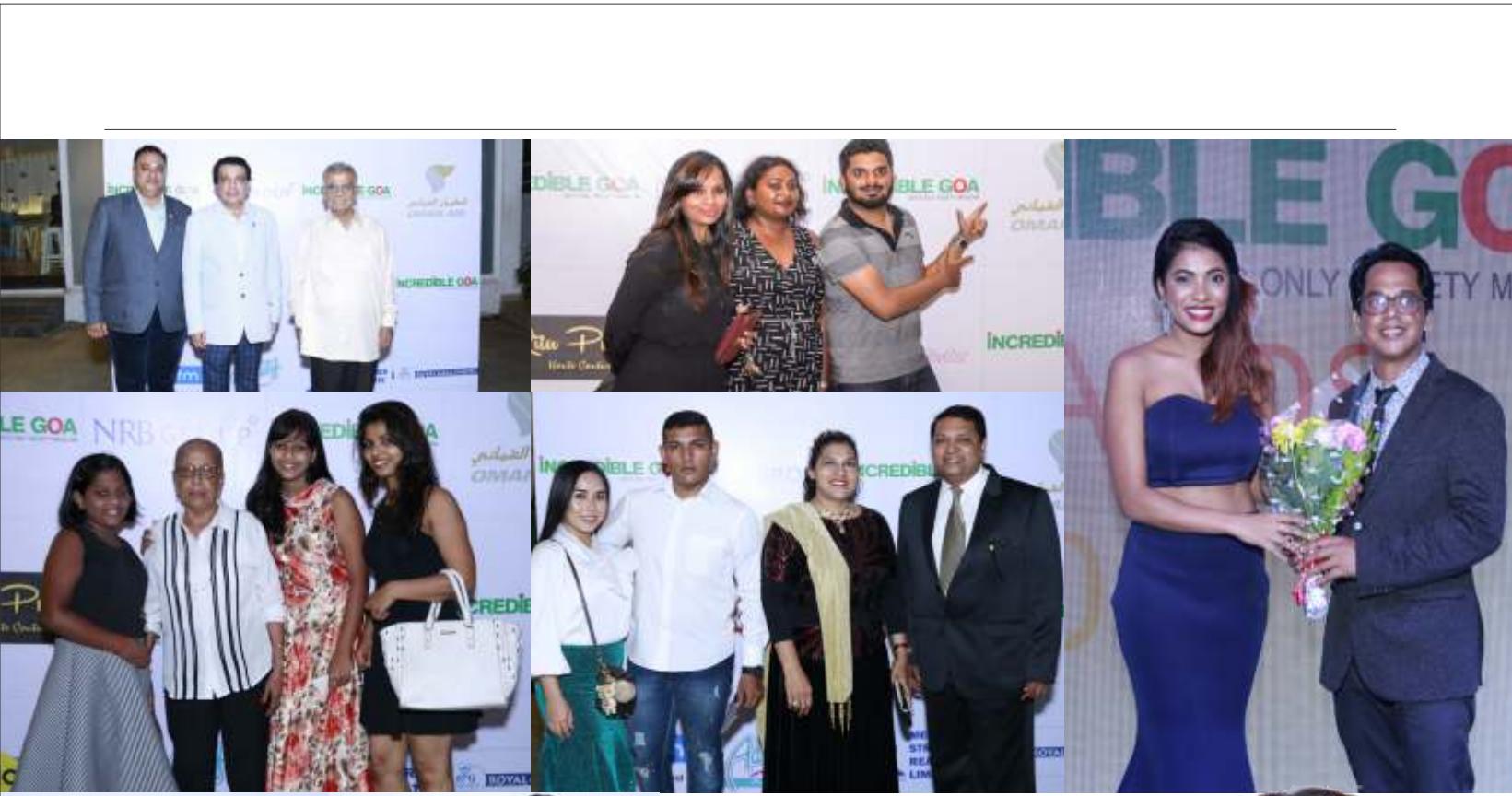
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THE INCREDIBLE GOA AWARDS 2018

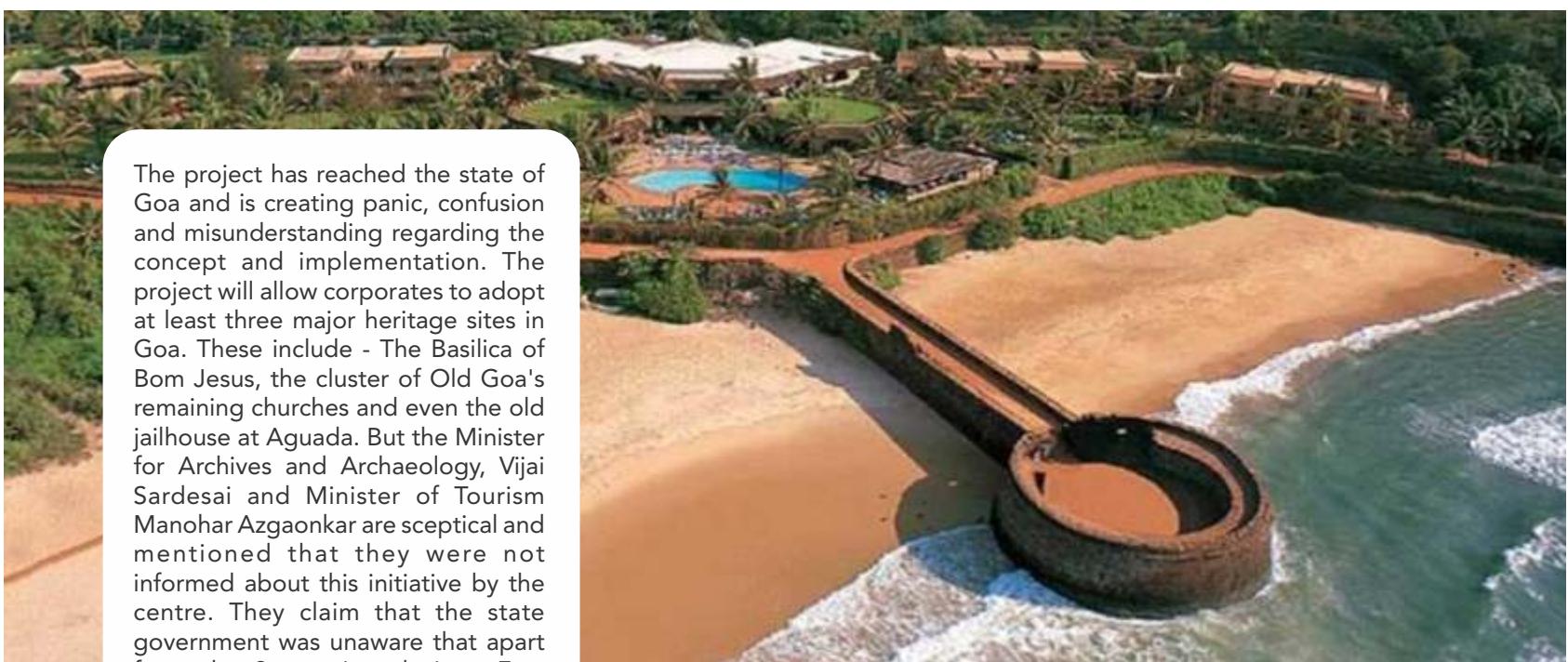
Recognizing The Incredible People of Goa

The evening of April 21st, saw stars ascend to ground at the Incredible Goa Awards 2018. The Golden Mile of Goa – Tito's, was the venue to the glitterati of the business, sports and arts fraternity. A high-voltage awards night set the stage to acknowledge, honour, and reward the Incredible Goans who have made a mark in their respective area of work. The awards have created a benchmark with guests that included highly respectable and notable dignitaries like Mr. Shekhar Mital, CMD of Goa Shipyard Ltd, Mr. Narayan Bandekar, Mr. Nurallah Veljee, Mr. Mahesh Pai, Mr. Rajesh Dempo, and John D'silva. Mr. Shekhar Mital inaugurated the awards ceremony and also honoured the winners. The awards night was a glorious celebration of achievements, organised by the incredible team of Incredible Goa magazine, along with its Editor in Chief – Rajesh Ghadge, who worked relentlessly to make this award night meaningful and prolific.



ADOPT A HERITAGE' LOSING OR WINNING THE HERITAGE TREASURES OF GOA

The concept of 'Adopt a Heritage' was introduced by the central government to involve private and public firms with archaeological maintenance capabilities to take over heritage sites all over India. The purpose is to revive, maintain and develop tourism amenities and promote them as heritage tourism. To resolve the issue of maintaining such grand monuments, the government introduced the 'Adopt a Heritage' project. The official website (www.adoptaheritage.in) mentions that the project plans to entrust heritage sites, monuments and other tourist sites to private sector companies, public sector companies and individuals for the development of tourist amenities. They would become 'Monument Mitras' and adopt the sites. The government scheme has already registered nearly 400 such participants. They would be responsible for operations and maintenance of not just the monuments but the amenities too.



The project has reached the state of Goa and is creating panic, confusion and misunderstanding regarding the concept and implementation. The project will allow corporates to adopt at least three major heritage sites in Goa. These include - The Basilica of Bom Jesus, the cluster of Old Goa's remaining churches and even the old jailhouse at Aguada. But the Minister for Archives and Archaeology, Vijai Sardesai and Minister of Tourism Manohar Azgaonkar are sceptical and mentioned that they were not informed about this initiative by the centre. They claim that the state government was unaware that apart from the 3 mentioned sites, Fort Aguada, Cabo de Rama, Chapora Forts, and ecologically sensitive Morjim beach were also up for grabs. Now, there's a fierce backtracking being done.

The Pros and Cons of the Initiative
Every story has two aspects. There could be a negative or a positive outcome of this initiative. It is only a matter of time when citizens will know

whether 'Adopt a Heritage' will be for the better or for worse. Meanwhile, we discuss the pros and cons of giving up our century-old heritage into the hands of million dollar firms to resurrect them and bring them to life.

The Cons

A similar initiative was conducted earlier by the union government

where a heritage monument was taken over or leased out to large corporate groups for its upkeep. There is a long list of heritage structures that were converted into hotels, museums and adapted for various uses - they became revenue generators for them. The fact that has ignited this debate is why the

government is unable to fund the maintenance of these heritage sites and has taken a drastic measure such as leasing out or rather 'auctioning' (the word that is in use in this regard) the monument to private firms. Another point of worry is that nowhere does the new scheme mentions maintaining a stringent check on the selection of the bidder. What is worse, in Goa's case, is that the two highly dubious partners are shortlisted as 'Monument Mitras' for the five proposed sites. This concern is an outcome of previous experiences by the state. In Goa, there are a few examples of heritage sites resurrection that turned bad — the Tiracol Fort and a riverfront property in Panaji granted on a long-term private lease. Today the visitors are devoid of entry into both these places for reasons unknown.

According to the Union ministry, Drishti Lifesaving Pvt. Ltd has expressed an interest in adopting the Old Goa churches. However, it's not clear how many churches are included in the proposed sites. The Old Goa cluster of churches and Aguada jail have been listed for adoption in phase II, while the Bom Jesu Church will be taken up in phase III.

The Pros

Private parties, styled as 'Monument Mitras', are expected to adopt listed heritage monuments to upgrade basic amenities to international standards at the site. The project will primarily focus on building and maintaining amenities and facilities such as drinking water, lavatories, cleanliness, signage, surveillance, accessibility, ticketing, illumination and even museums and an interpretation centre. The intention is to make it a good experience for the tourists, as stated by archaeologist and former regional director (north) ASI, K. K. Muhammed said. Goa does have models of private players contributing to conservation of ruined monuments. The restoration of the Reis Magos Fort was through Lady Helen Hamlyn Trust, and now a committee of civil society members is maintaining it.

In fact, Travel and Tourism Association of Goa (TTAG) has welcomed the Centre's move to permit the adoption of five Goan monuments under the 'Adopt a Heritage' scheme. They have emphasised on the fact that the project will ensure full access to the citizens to these historical sites. Although the chosen firm will not target any revenue benefits from this initiative, the scheme can become part of their CSR initiative, and in return they will be acknowledged within the monument premises as well as on the 'Incredible India' website. There are examples of some successful resurrection of the heritage sites and palaces like the Oberoi Villas of Udaipur, the Lake Palace of Udaipur, the City Palace of Jaipur, Mysore Palace, Neemrana Forts, and the Taj Mahal in Agra, to name a few. It is a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture and Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), and State/UTs governments to maintain and revive these heritage treasures.

The Politicization of the Initiative
The state government of Goa has expressed concerns over the decision by the union ministry on this project. Minister for Archives and Archaeology, Vijai Sardesai, shared that the experience has shown that proposals implemented by the centre often have broader implications than stated in the initial scheme of plans. He also said that the central government would come with a small thing and then take over the entire asset. For the state, the entire Old Goa sites are an asset. Furthermore, he shared that Basilica is a monument of religious importance and also houses the relics of St. Francis Xavier, which makes it a delicate matter.

Mr. Sardesai mentioned that he would conduct a meeting of concerned members over this issue with ASI to get clarity on the situation. The members will include Minister of Tourism, the local MLA, parish priest of the cathedral, rector of Bom Jesus Basilica, bishop of the diocese and the chief secretary and himself

(Minister for Archaeology). The talks are doing the rounds that few of the social activists along with political leaders, priests and the Archbishop are trying to create malignancy amongst the citizens by giving it a political angle. They are trying to make this initiative a religious matter, pointing fingers at the ruling party, BJP which is a dominant Hindu party, who are trying to infringe onto the heritage sites of Christian origin. They are also blaming them for misleading, making the 'adopt a heritage' scheme as a cover-up for their profound political intentions. The priest and the archbishop are upset as no one from the government had taken their consent over this subject.

The monuments that are mentioned under the scheme are heritage legacy handed over by our ancestors to the people and government of India. They are not a private property of any political party or any religious sect. The unnecessary politicisation of this initiative is not required. It is the responsibility of the government and the people to respect and care for these heritage treasures.

Many debates are doing the rounds on whether the centre's decision on implementing this initiative has dire consequences. We could either entirely lose or win our heritage treasure. Regardless of this, it is the government's duty to maintain its national treasures. Roping in private companies and corporates specialised services for heritage site maintenance may be acceptable, but placing an entire monument into the hands of a corporate entity is still questionable. The collective goal of the government and the tourism department is to develop the tourism sector in India, sustainably and responsibly. The policies and actions must aim to strengthen the benefits and reduce the costs of tourism. The government has to ensure that such a move does not lead to any fatal results like privatisation of the monument for personal gain, and depriving citizens of their rights to explore them.

ENTERTAINMENT

2ND GOA ANTI-TOBACCO FILM FESTIVAL TO BE HELD ON 31ST MAY



The Entertainment Society of Goa in association with the Department of Public Health Dentistry, Goa Dental College and Hospital is organizing the 2nd Goa Anti-Tobacco Film Festival on 31st May 2018.

The aim of this festival is to select Ad Films and Short films to spread the message of harmful or ill effects of tobacco use and also to decrease the occurrence of Oral Cancer and heart disease and to promote film art through non-profit screening of these films. The ultimate objective being to render Goa smoke free.

BUCKET LIST RELEASE MAY 25TH 2018

The story of a woman trapped in the confines of her own choices, Bucket List chronicles the life of a 40-year-old housewife, Madhura Sane, who takes off on a journey to self-discovery when she stumbles upon a choice that could change her life forever.

Director, Writer, Screen Play, dialogue writer: Tejas Vijay



GOA-MARATHI FILM FESTIVAL



The 11th Goa-Marathi Film Festival opens on June 8th, 2018 organised by Vinsan World. The inauguration of this 3-day long festival will be done by famous Bollywood actress Madhuri Dixit Nene. The festival will screen 16 Marathi movies, 1 Konkani Movie – Juze and one documentary Satyajit Ray – Life and Work. The festival will also mark the premier of Sumitra Bhave and Sunil Sukhatankar directed movie – Welcome Home – and would lift the curtains to the festival.

All the films will be screened at the Kala Academy Inox multiplex, Maqueniz Palace auditoriums, and Vasco movie theatre 1930. During the festival, popular Goan Diva Lorna will receive the prestigious Krutadnyata Puraskar, Lifetime Achievement Award.

"KHUSHFEHMIYAAN" TAKING OVER THE WORLD OF WEB



Khushfehmiyan is a Hindi-English web series directed by Vishal Kumar Patil in association with Avishek Majumdar. The series has been shot in famous locales of Goa like Panaji, Taligaon Church, Reis Magos Fort Road, Parra, Saligao, and at the beaches of Arambol and Keri.

It is a story of a chef – Peter – who runs a cafe by the beach in North Goa. The 3 cooks working under him are adopted by Peter and help him run Peter's Cafe. And gradually due to ailing Peter health and arrival of his biological daughter, the story takes a mysterious turn and making the relationships bitter. This series is a journey of 3 buddies who rediscover their identity as Peter's chef.

The use of Hindi and English languages was a wise move to cater to audience of Goa. The series has distinct characters who represent Goan culture but the cast is not Goan. The team has completed 6 episodes of 15minutes each.

The web series will be available on the Gimplex (an OTP platform like Hotstar) and YouTube from mid-July.

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NATASHA PALHA

'SERVING' THE BEST SHOT ON THE 'COURT'



There are just a handful of sportspersons in Goa, who have made a name at the national and international level. Natasha Palha, is one of them and her name echoes in the Indian Tennis arena, as she gradually progresses towards reaching heights of success at such a young age. Her dedication and passion towards the sport is to watch out for. Being focused and determined to reach the 300 WTA ranking, she is currently training herself in one of India's leading institutes in Pune. Natasha has made a name not only for herself but also for the state of Goa at both national and international platform. At 580 in the WTA rankings (as of April 14, 2017), she is the sixth best amongst the Indian women's singles player. Natasha is called Goa's Serena Williams in the making, and has won doubles title in Cairo and Gwalior last year. Here is Natasha's story, of her journey from a simple town Goan girl to a National Tennis champion.

Natasha started playing Tennis at an age as young as 8 years old. Her aspirational tennis-loving parents, always wanted that both their daughters should play some sport and excel in it. Goa, being a football-frenzy state, Natasha audaciously chose a highly competitive and skilled sport as Tennis. She received her basics training, at that time, from her father - Brian Palha. Although, he is not a professional player, but his love for the sport made him study it to its very depths. That is how he coached Natasha by merely watching the game and reading about it. Natasha had always been athletic since childhood and would regularly participate in games at inter-school level. She says, "I was never into Tennis specifically. In fact, I was a football fanatic. Since there were hardly any girls playing this sport, I was apprehensive about playing with the all-boys team. My parents would often encourage me to go for it but somehow, and with time, I saw my interest deviating towards Tennis. My

parents love for sports is tremendous. Since they had no one to encourage them at their young age as their parents pressured them to concentrate only on studies, they are living their dream by training me. My father has supported and inspired me throughout, and has pushed me encouragingly into Tennis. He is my mentor, my coach, and guardian at every tournament."

THE BIRTH OF A CHAMPION

Natasha shares, "Goa lacks a proper academy that could support, sponsor and coach aspiring tennis players. All the training that I have received until now was from my father until recently," says the 20 year old champ. Earlier, she got some level of training and guidance from Valentino D'silva, a known tennis coach in the sports academy of Goa. But for the past two years, she is being coached by Hemant Bendrey at Pune's PYC Gymkhana. Her participation in tournaments all over the country has raised lot of eye brows, drawing queries like - "Goa? Do they have tennis courts there? What about coaches? How on earth did she start playing tennis there?" The baffled spectators, despite these questions, were no short of admiration for this young tennis pro. Especially, when they knew the ground realities and the challenges facing this tennis playing aspirant.

Tennis isn't something you readily associate with Goa. Natasha came up to become a sort-of a trendsetter of the game in the State. But with no support from any institution, this young go-getter reached national level on her own efforts. Natasha played her first tournament at the age of 10 years, in Mumbai. But, in 2005, she made it to the final of an under-12 tournament at the Khar Gymkhana. She has been participating at national and international games on her expenses, bringing in laurels for the state and the entire country. She shared, "I would usually reach the tournament city five days before the games, to prepare. Here in Goa, someone would voluntarily help me with feeding the balls at the Panjim

Gymkhana. But it's difficult to do things without a coach. Also, nothing beats actual hitting practice with another players."

The struggle for a players like Natasha in Goa is real. If the sports academy of Goa can provide the much needed support to them, they can do wonders by winning bigger games at a global level.

THE PROGRESS OF THE CHAMPION

Tennis is considered as one of the expensive sports primarily due to consistent participation that is needed in national and international games to get to higher rankings (at least 20-25 wins to reach the next higher level), and constant travel to the destinations for the games. Hence, for any tennis player at this level, sponsorship plays a vital role. The first time Natasha experienced a financial crunch was when she had to travel abroad to perform at Junior ITF tournaments. "I was fortunate I didn't have to go to looking for sponsors. I got the much needed sponsorship from the House of Dempo, and they have been supporting me since then. They have been very encouraging," she shared.

Natasha won the number one position in India at the under-14 level, at the year-ending ranking tournament in Bahrain in 2008. In one of the events where the top two or three from each country had to play with their counterparts from Asian countries in two tournaments. Natasha reached the finals in one match, and made it to the quarterfinals in the other. She stood at the top three position at the end of both the tournaments."

Seeing the success, Natasha was chosen to play in the European Junior Circuit. The five-week tour encompassed tournaments in France, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Germany. This exposure was critical for her development. She said, "I couldn't reach even the quarterfinals in any event. I realised the girls in Europe were much taller and stronger. The European court ground was different, and I had to get the high balls in. It was a learning for me, and it helped me train myself mentally."

Natasha trains and practices for

around five hours daily. Four hours in the morning of tennis and one or two hours of fitness training in the evening. She feels that the game has now evolved tremendously and has become more physically challenging as compared to before. She says, "Everyone puts in so many hours in the gym and sometimes when we see ourselves lifting more weight than the boys it makes us feel proud. I think tennis is very physical now and we have to be very strong both physically and mentally to reach our targets."

THE FUTURE THAT BEHOLDS

Natasha has made us proud by winning the Cairo and Gwalior tournaments last year. She says, "It's an achievement considering that I have been accomplishing my goals on my own, without any professional coaching. Winning in Egypt, an international tournament, always gives you a sense of accomplishment. There were only two Indians compared to multiple players from other countries. Bringing home the title is a different kind of high altogether. I feel privileged that I could do something for the country and put it on the world map. The Gwalior title was also a great achievement for me. Even in the recent games in Thailand, I reached the semi-finals in the doubles, with my partner Lorraine Guillermo from the USA. Unfortunately, we couldn't qualify for the finals. Now I am putting all my focus in getting trained for the upcoming ITF tournament in Uzbekistan."

Natasha has her eyes fixed on her goal to reach the top 300 ranking at the WTA. At present, she is standing at 776 (singles) and 681 (doubles). "In India, the No. 1 ranking is 278 in doubles. I have achieved my highest ranking of no.2 in India and 497 international" she shared with a profound winner smile. An admirer of Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal, Natasha is aiming for the sky and wishes to accomplish her dream goal of top 300 WTA rankings real soon. She will be playing for the \$25,000 ITF tournament in Uzbekistan, next month, which will bring her a step closer to her goal. We at Incredible Goa wish her all the very best.

24 GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOLS SHUT IN 2017-18 ACADEMIC SESSION

As per the directorate of education's (DoE) report on the academic session that ended on April 30 2018, 24 government schools have been shut down so far in the state. Out of these 24 government primary schools, 22 are Marathi-medium and one each of Konkani and Hindi medium schools. Educationists have pointed out that as per the survey data that revealed ongoing migration of students to aided institutes is one of the reasons of the shut down along with the growing perception in people's mind that privately-managed institutes offer better quality of education and infrastructure. For this reason, many parents have pulled their children out of government schools and sent them to government aided or private institutes.

The academic year 2017-18 had opened with 781 existing

government primary schools from 757 stated at the end of 11 months. There appear to be no takers for government primary schools even though the enrolment across all schools in Goa for Class I increased by around 300 students as against the previous academic session 2016-17. Considering these critical factors, the government stepped up to improve the conditions of government schools by instating a spent of over Rs. 58 crore for the repair and upgradation of the school buildings, along with carrying out plumbing and electrical works. But, according to state documents, government schools are given priority for repair, maintenance and upgradation work, based on the student strength, urgency of repairs required, and condition of schools provided by the directorate of education.

The story unfolds a completely different picture in the talukas. These are largely rural areas and the enrolments have actually seen an upward trend in 2017-18. Meghana Shetgaonkar, Deputy Director of Education, said that due to the amalgamation of the students and teachers at the schools with neighbourhood ones, several low enrolment government primary schools have been saved from being shut down. She further adds, "This year, we have a proposal from three government primary schools, which had earlier shut due to low enrolment, to be reopened as they see sufficient students now in the neighbourhood to enrol in them."

Government primary schools are finding a preference mainly in remote areas, where privately-managed schools hardly exist.

TALEIGAO'S PDA EXCLUSION OPPOSED, GREENS FIGHT FOR PROTECTION OF FIELDS

The Panchayat body and the Gram Sabha stood up against the decision of excluding areas of Taleigao from the Planning and Development Authority's (PDA) jurisdiction. In a meeting chaired by Sarpanch Janu Rosario aroused a heated debate on the subject and on the statement made by Anand Madgavkar, a gram sabha member, who demanded inclusion of Taleigao in the regional plan. Anand cited several areas that were to be converted to eco-sensitive zones (ESZ) and also demanded marking of ESZ areas to protect them. Rosario -Zilla Panchayat (ZP) member, Sidney Barreto and some others also justified the village's inclusion in PDA. They stated that panchayat areas have been part of outline development plan (ODP) for many years. Another member - Pundalik Raikar, pointed out that under section 238 of Goa Panchayati Raj Act, panchayats had the right to prepare annual development plans. PDA is a statutory body at best and it



can assist the panchayat, he said. In the end, the gram sabha resolved for villagers' participation in the planning process.

While the issue of a big project near the church figured at the meeting, Xavier Almeida, a member expressed regret that unlike Taleigao, the villagers of St Cruz had not fought to protect their eco-fragile land. He proposed a hunger strike even in front of elected representatives' houses if cultivable land was misused.

Many more issues related to maintenance and development of the Taleigao area came up like, illegal filling up of a water body for construction activity in Vainguinim valley, sewage release in fields by

some housing complexes, and open defecation and lack of toilets in many areas like Odxel and Caranzalem. Infact, a three-member committee is being formed to address these issues and come up with solutions like the quantum of fine to be imposed on offenders.

MONSOON LIKELY TO ARRIVE IN GOA BY JUNE 6

India Meteorological Department (IMD) announced on Friday last week that the onset of southwest monsoon over Goa may occur by June 6 on schedule, as it is likely to hit Kerala coast, three days in advance on May 29 this season. Normally, June 1 is the scheduled date for the advance of the monsoon over the southern state. Although, Goa does receive the first monsoon rain by July 6, but it's too early to confirm. Incase the monsoon current is strong, then it may reach the goa shores on time. But if it is weak, then there would be a delay by couple of days. In 2017, the southwest monsoon had advanced over entire Goa only two days behind schedule, but quicker than the three to four days forecast by the Panaji centre. In 2016, the monsoon had arrived 13 days late. The northern limit of monsoon (NLM) had remained stuck in Karwar for some time, as the weak current stalled its further onset over Goa. The light to



moderate rainfall in Goa continued during the last 24 hours ending on Friday morning, as Margao recorded the highest rainfall of 102.0mm, Sanguem 9.8mm, Dabolim 3.9mm, Sakhali 2.0 and Ela 02.0mm. Light to moderate rain or thunder showers are very likely to occur at a few places over north Goa and south Goa districts till late Friday and at isolated places during subsequent four days. A thunderstorm associated with gusty winds speed reaching 30 knots is likely at isolated places over north Goa and south Goa districts.

GOA'S DABOLIM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT UPGRADED

The upgradation and expansion plans of the Dabolim International Airport, an Rs 400 crore of investment has been projected by the Airports Authority of India (AAI). The plan will also include extension of the existing passenger terminal building and construction of more parking bays amongst many other proposed. A press release by AAI stated that, last year, Dabolim International Airport, which is a civil enclave, handled over 7.5 million passengers. As part of the expansion work, the terminal building will be extended, more parking bays will be created and construction of parallel taxiway. This will overall assist in easing the traffic and help the airport operator handle more passenger and aircraft movements. For enhancing the capacity and passenger throughput, the international airport will get in-line x-ray baggage system apart from a host of self-service kiosks and additional

common user terminal equipment (CUTE). The Goa airport has also become the 12th airport to have an airport operations control centre (AOCC), as per the AAI press release. By providing real-time information of flights, the AOCC will improve overall efficiency of the aerodrome operations. AAI also shared their future plans. The



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