



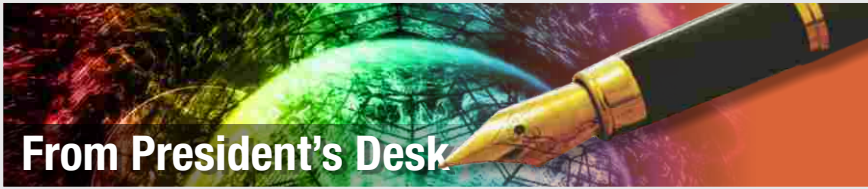
AAMI GOENKAR



Issue No 41

For Goans, Of Goans, By Goans

January 2018



From President's Desk

Welcome 2018!

I WISH YOU A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR AND APPEAL TO YOU FOR ENHANCED AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN VARIOUS INITIATIVES BEING IMPLEMENTED BY YOUR OWN INSTITUTION.

In my daily prayers, I profusely thank the almighty for giving me an opportunity to engage with children who grow up in adversity. It has been a great learning process for me to participate in some way as an enabler in the process of their overall education, development and through this, contribute to the nation building process.

I come across students at various stages who fight their way through difficulty, grow up in adversity and do odd jobs to survive. Naturally, they do not have perfect resume but they have

talents to be among the best staff members. We need to give them a chance, they are empowered with grit and determination to persist in ever changing life dynamics and have a best chance to succeed as their secret weapons are passions and purpose.

They deserve encouragement as their life is an inconsistent journey and so, is not perfect, may be lacking focus, is full of struggle, adversities, gaps in between, may be, due to death of a parent, learning disabilities, physical violence and many other reasons. They certainly deserve a chance.

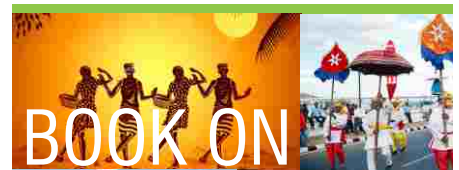
I have found that they are better listeners and pay attention to details, their commitment to education is unwavering, they are propelled by the belief that they have control over their own selves. when things don't turn out well for them they ask themselves what they can do differently to get better results but they don't give up.

Another attribute of such children I have noticed is that they build relationships, don't work alone but find people who will bring best in them and invest in their success, they focus on future and not dwell in the past, they look for people

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Festivals of GOA

"Aami Goenkar" is planning to release a book **'FESTIVALS OF GOA'**, a compilation of information of festivals, (Hindu, Christian and other) celebrated in Goa. We urge you to contribute to this by sharing information, photographs of the various festivals from your collection, which is not in the public domain and can be included in the book. Some valuable information about the festivals is also welcome.

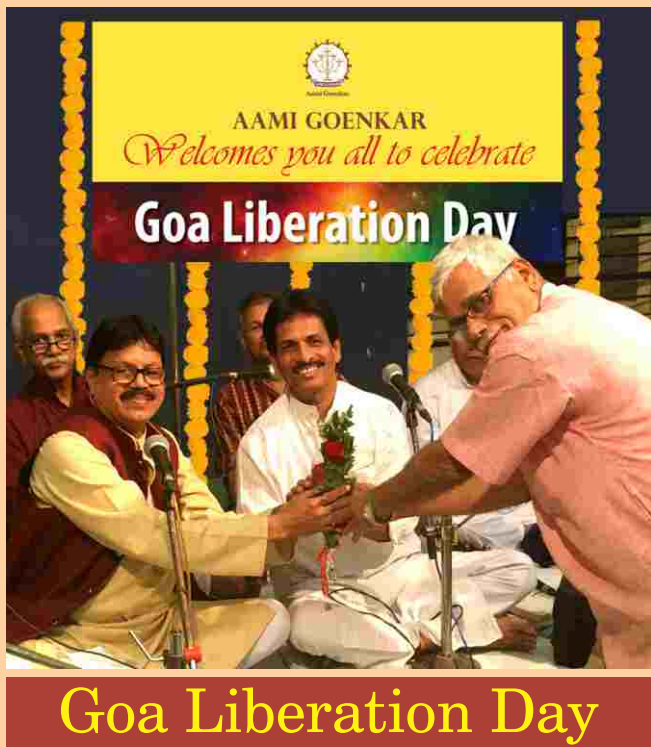


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BOOK POST



Goa Liberation day, 19th December, 1961, holds great significance in the history of Goa. It was on this day Goa was released from Portuguese dominance with active assistance from the Indian Navy. The liberation helped people of Goa from the exploitative rules of the Portuguese. The liberation also made the independence of India complete as after the British left India, Goa was the only part that remained under foreign rule.

Aami Goenkar celebrated 56th Goa liberation day on December 19th, 2017 by organizing a special program at Gomantak Hall, Vile Parle, Mumbai. The program was started by prayers to the Almighty and by remembering all freedom fighters who played direct and indirect role in the freedom struggle and in liberating Goa from foreign rule. The audience stood in silence as a respect to senior freedom fighter Shri Jagannath Pednekar, who is not amongst us now.

Toddlers from Social Service League, a 110 years old institutions regaled the audience by reciting Ganeshstotra and Atharvashirsha and received appreciation. Sanjay Hedge, welcomed members and felicitated Shri Ramdas Prabhugaonkar, a freedom fighter.

Shri Krishna Chari, Shri Kishor Desai and group presented a melodious bhajan program of Marathi and Konkani Abhangs. The audience was enthralled and enjoyed every moment of the program. The renowned violin player and music guide Shri Milind Raikar had organized this program.

Ms Jyoti Kurade was the convener and conducted the program in style and in the process, enlightened the audience about importance of Goa Liberation day and Goan culture.

(Cont. from page 1)

...From President's Desk

who will provide them feedback. In the process, they develop muscles and grip required to become successful.

They have a strong sense of purpose which prevents them from giving up and have a god given gift of humor which gets them through tough times.

People who go through adversity, do not work in isolation, along the way they find people who bring best in them and who will invest in their success, they look for someone they can count on, they focus on future and do not dwell on the past, they seek guidance of who provide them with feedback, advise and mentorship.

I can sight many cases where such children through their creative ideas and commitment have become entrepreneurs, they know how to get value from limited resources, what to do more with available resources, discover unexpected ways to succeed through creative ways. Clever solutions and inventions are born in adversity, they are not perfect, sophisticated but create more value in less cost.

These children are like alchemists who magically transform adversity into opportunity and turn something of low value into high value. The art of doing more with less is the essence of frugal innovation. They develop abilities to create more economic and social value using fewer resources making things better and in a cost-effective ways of delivering to people in who have low resources and high aspirations.

We at Aami Goenkar, and in other institutions like Seva Sahayog Foundation and Samatol Foundation where I am associated with, have made a commitment to support such students whose life is a battle between their difficult present in their journey of making smart choices for their future with their secret weapons - passion and purpose. I would urge you to join us in this movement.

I thank you, once again, for your continued support and look forward to an excellent and exciting year ahead.

I extend my heartfelt wishes to you and your families for the upcoming new year and request for your continued participation in the initiatives of our institution.

Sanjay Hegde
President





Like every year, we plan to have a variety of music, cultural programs, competitions, exhibition and stalls to retail Goa theme products and delicacies. We will continue our tradition of felicitating Seniors from Goa for their significant contribution to our mother state. With active co-operation of members and well-wishers, our institution has been successful in creating a platform for people of Mumbai to gather together over the week-end in a convenient venue.

Goa Festival has created many opportunities to network, share and grow. Our primary objective in holding such events is to encourage Goan talent, craftsmanship, entrepreneurs, micro and small units to expand their outreach to create market for their art and products.

Aami Goenkar is a not for profit entity. A common platform for all Goans residing in Goa and spread across the world with an aim of promoting a two-way exchange to implement initiatives of common good.

Donations to "Aami Goenkar" are exempt u/s 80G of I.T. Act. You can reach us at www.aamigoenkar.org



SAVE YOUR DATES

AN UNIQUE TRADITIONAL GOAN EXPERIENCE.
ENTERTAINMENT, MOUTH WATERING GOAN DELICACIES,
FELICITATIONS, COMPETITIONS, EXHIBITION CUM SALE OF
GOAN THEME PRODUCTS.

**Aami Goenkar plans to organize 8th Goa Festival
on February 10th and 11th 2018
at Dr, Antonio Da Silva Technical High School
Shivaji Park, Dadar, Mumbai**

FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

FEBRUARY 10, 2018

- 10.00 am **Inauguration Ceremony**
- 10.30 am **Ganesh Stotra and Atharvashirsha Recital Programme**
by Students from Social Service League
- 11.00 am **Talk with Mangala Wagle and Geeta Kapadia**
- 11.30 am **Scientific Cleaning of Fruit and Vegetables at home**
by Mrs. Pinky Khabia
- 03.00 pm **Konkani Speaking Competition**
- 04.00 pm **Konkani Sahityachyo Ugdas, Gajali ani Geeta**
by Shri Hardattbab Khandeparkar & Smt. Nisha Parasnis

FEBRUARY 11, 2018

- 10.00 am **Healthy Baby Competition**
- 11.00 am **Talent Show Contest**
- 02.30 pm **Recipe Contest**
- 05.00 pm **Felicitation**
- 05.30 pm **Musical Programme**

Special Attraction - Acupressure by Mrs. Bharati Danait



STALLS WILL BE OPEN 10AM - 10PM BOTH DAYS.

Join us in our movement and support a good cause



MANALI KAMAT
owner of Kamats Just Fry Eat!
M - 76666 66918

I always look back at the years gone by and thank God for being very kind to me and giving me a very conducive environment all along.

I completed my Graduation in commerce in first class from R. A. Podar college and later, got my Masters from a Premium college of Mumbai.

I started my career at a top ranking business process office of a global company but soon realized job was too monotonous with limited challenges. Nevertheless, I worked with sincerity and was adjudged as consistent top Performer and the best Employee during my tenure. I was like a Konkani saying "Vaasran Langdi Guy Shaani". I moved to a Bank where I learnt client relationship management. I had good time there and made a few life-long friends, learnt finer issues of finance, got a major social recognition and learnt dynamics of retail, familiarised myself with the thinking and needs of the people. I moved ahead in life for doing something different to one of the biggest corporate house in India and gained experience in areas like Customer Service, Marketing, Collections, IT Vendor Management, Administration, Finance and related areas.

Time had finally come to channelize energies in different areas by being an entrepreneur. I took a break and explored various possibilities and options and one fine day while having dinner at Konkani Café I suddenly shouted "Eureka Eureka" as an idea had struck my mind. I remembered an incidence which had happened in my Life and a carrier which I would love to design & pursue further...

In my quest, to do something innovative and unique, I participated in GOA FEST 2016 by putting a food stall. For most, it was a fun related activity but for me it was a serious occasion. I always strive for precision and perfection and though guests left my staff with licking their fingers saying "dev bare karu", I was not complacent and there was a hunger in me to perform even better.

Two days of Goa Festival had passed but left a whole new impact and an insatiable desire to go in this business in a structured way. The recall of happy faces of Goans after

tasting fried fish reaffirmed my belief that road of heart of a Goan is through his stomach. My Mother Asha Pai being a true Annapurna herself, motivated and encouraged me to take up this as a full time activity to feed people and get their Blessings.

Typical Goan dishes like Chonak fry, Tisrya masala, Karindi bhajji, Patolya, Kolambiche human, Tonak Paav are my speciality dishes and people remember me for those delicacies. Now, I supply fresh fish, both raw, cleaned, 30 different types of Marinations, Grilled for health conscious, fried fish, fish thalli and also operate a take away counter and have arrangement for home delivery.

My mother performed many roles including that of a venture capitalist. She had a confidence in me that I would do well in this was manifested in the title of "JUST FRY EAT". She did not live to see success of her daughters' venture. I am grateful to Sanjay sir and Sagar sir for being my guide and for giving me this opportunity to showcase my talent. They are my guiding lights.

My Father Devdatta Pai and my husband Mr Gauresh Mahamai Kamat are my great pillars of support. They never objected my waking up at 4.00 am to go to stinky fish markets when entire Mumbai has sweet dreams and for doing a labour oriented tasks by giving away white collar to do a blue collar jobs. Our area of operation is from Colaba to Andheri and my prized catch of celebrity clients are Mahesh Manjrekar, Meghana Erande, Raj Thackrey, Nitin Sardesai, Sandip Deshpande, Sunil Gavaskar, Sanjay Raut, ex DCP Y.C. Pawar, Padmaja Phenany, Kubal masalas owners Kubal, Phondaghat Pharmacy owners Prabhus, Nitin Shankar, Dr Vaze, Dr Yadav, Dr Khandeparkars.

I supply fish thallis to Corporates like Alkem, Saraswat Bank Board of Directors, HDFC Bank, Canara Bank, E&Y Ruby towers, Sena Bhavan office, we have our Fish in menu of Park Club Ltd.

I advertise and showcases in newspapers like Saamna, Naav Kal, Tarun Bharat, Goa News and get footage and spread. News channels covered Just Fry Eat on TV and You tube channel.

I look forward to serving you all at current Goa Fest 2018.



FASHION WORLD

Anisha Borkar

I came out of the Goa Festival held by **Aami Goenkar** with Flying Colors. Since then I am regular at Goa Festivals and it amazes me the kind of dedication and efforts members put in to make it a success. I admire the team and their passion to help!! They add personal touch, makes us feel home and this attitude makes Aami Goenkar stand out from other organisations.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to feature in your bulletin.

My Journey with Aami Goenkar started with when they first held the Goa Festival in 2011 and what a fruitful journey it has been!!

I am a creatively inclined person. I love fabrics and their colours.... mixing and matching and creating new silhouettes gives me a different high. I come from a middle class family and as such, I knew well that education was the only ladder to make it big in this world! Although my inclination has always been towards the Creative side..

Mom and Dad (Anjali and Pradeep Deorukhkar) imbibed it on us Sisters, that to make it big in this world, education and hard-work is the key to success. Thanks to this teaching they got me enrolled to MBA. Education changed a shy girl like me into a smart and confident person. After my Masters I joined Citigroup and all was going well. I routine was to start at 8 am and end at 11 pm. I was going with the flow but the creative side of me was not letting me sleep peacefully. Irony was, I had a degree, I worked in one of the best organisations with a decent pay but I was not happy!

Marriage happened and my husband, Swapnil and my In-laws, Shekhar and Visharanti Borkar encouraged me to pursue my passion. Fashion was my Passion!! Following your Passion can only happen if you get right opportunities and you have a set of people to back you. Nandini Rane has been the true angel to guide me all along through studies and introducing me to the amazing designer Vikram Phadnis.

Vikram Phadnis has been my mentor for over 6.5 years. He taught me designing and gave me a hands on experience on whatever project he was into.. I owe him a big thank you.

The First Goa Festival Happened in 2011 and again this other angel Dr Asmita Hegde who is one of the founder

members of Aami Goenkar, reposed her trust in me and gave me confidence.

I came out of the Goa Festival held by Aami Goenkar with Flying Colors. Since then I am regular at Goa Festivals and it amazes me the kind of dedication and efforts members put in to make it a success. I have to mention here that I totally love you the **Aami Goenkar team** as be it the smallest thing/help you want while your exhibiting, be it an extra table or a fan or tubelight or for that matter the courtesy to ask.. "Anisha, jevlis ka?" I admire the team and their passion to help !! They add personal touch, makes us feel home and this attitude makes Aami Goenkar stand out from other organisations...

A Big Salute to the organisers of Aami Goenkar! I got to learn, got to meet a lot of new people one of which were Rujuta and Raju Danait..they introduced me to the brand called DIVINA in Central Mall (Oberoi). Today it has been 5 years I supply to DIVINA and my clothes go to all the CENTRALS across India. They say, when you want Something, All the Universe converges in helping you to Achieve the same!! Aami Goenkar's Goa Festival indeed acted as the Universe for me to converge my Dreams into Reality.

Today I hold a brand in the name '**Anisha Borkar**' and have recently come up with a small studio in Vile Parle East for women's wear, design, tailoring, customisation needs, address is:-

Label Anisha Borkar

003, Anita Park

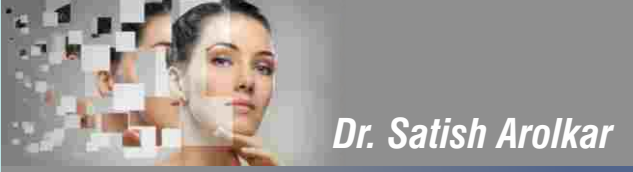
Sant Janabai Road.

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Mob +91 9819341664

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Instagram: @label_anisha_borkar



Dr. Satish Arolkar

**FEEL BETTER,
PERFORM BETTER,
DO BETTER**

CHANGING LIVES FOR THE POSITIVE

We were a small group of Goan's in Mumbai and would try to meet once a year at least for a picnic. This resulted in the formation of bonding between Goans living in Mumbai.

One fine day Asmita called upon all of us to assemble. 'Aami Goenkar' had arranged for a one to one meeting with Mr. Parrikar, the then CM of Goa for the first time. At that meeting we were 20 or so consultants from various fields of Medicine. Medical Tourism in Goa was our Goal and we were promised extensive support by the Ministry.

Dr. Ravi Chodankar who attended the meeting and Dr. S. Khope, paediatric surgeon, par excellence, offered OT facilities at Porvorim. Dr. Baban Parulekar (Vasco) and Dr. Digambar Naik (Mapuca) too were very forthcoming.

This helped me start once again as per my mother's dying wish to return to my birthplace. Dr Rohini Chougule, my erstwhile classmate and dear friend however remains the first to initiate my return viz. via Vasco Baina.

Subsequently we were instrumental in getting International conferences and Aesthetic Surgery courses to Goa. Manipal Hospital, Apollo Victor Hospital and GMC Plastic Surgery Dept. with Dr. Yuri Dias HOD have all extended their cooperation in organising National and International symposia.

Dr. M.T. Veiga, Dr. Elvino Barretto of Vasco and Dr. Vikas Panvalkar too have offered their services in making Goa an International hub for the latest in Cosmetic Medicine & Surgery treatment at affordable prices to Goan's , promote dissipation of knowledge via National and International conferences.

My dream is to advance state of the art Autologous Regenerative Medicine and Surgery in Goa.

All this journey of Homecoming would not have come to early fruition had it not been for the magnanimous efforts of 'Aami Goenkar', a group in Mumbai that strives untiringly to keep alive Goan ethos, culture and sensibilities.

My sincere best wishes to 'Aami Goenkar'.



RUCHIK Agencies

Sangeeta Satoskar



नमस्कार मंडळी, आपणा सर्वास नूतन वर्षाच्या हार्दिक शुभेच्छा !

'आमी गोयंकार' ही संस्था गेली १० ते १२ वर्षे कार्यरत आहे हे आपणा सर्वास ठाऊक आहेच. परंतु ह्या संस्थेच्या कार्यकारी मंडळातील सभासदांच्या पाठिंब्याने ज्या व्यक्ती आज मुंबईसारख्या शहरात स्वतःचा व्यवसाय सुरू करून त्यात यशाच्या दिशेने वाटचाल करणाऱ्यांपैकीच मी एक आहे.

'आमी गोयंकार' ह्या संस्थेच्या 'गोवा फेस्टिवल' ह्या प्रदर्शनाला आम्ही सातोस्कर कुटुंबीय दरवर्षी म्हणजे २०१६ सालापर्यंत दरवर्षी हजेरी लावत होतो. परंतु काही गोष्टी, चांगल्या गोष्टी सुरू होण्यासाठी योग यावा लागतो; तसेच कुणीतरी निमित्त मात्र व्हावे लागते. असेच काहीसे माझ्या बाबतीत घडले. आमच्या स्नेह्यांपैकीच श्री. सागर सावर्डेकर ह्यांच्याशी जेव्हा कधी भेट व्हायची तेव्हा तेव्हा ते काहीतरी उद्योग सुरू कर आणि तो उद्योग हा गोव्याशीच संबंधित असावा असा आग्रह धरायचे. २४ फेब्रुवारी २०१७ हा दिवस महाशिवरात्रीचा, त्या दिवशीच निग्रह करून मी माझ्या उद्योगाची मुहूर्तमेढ रोवली. देवगड, सिंधुदुर्ग येथील सुप्रसिद्ध 'श्रीधर ओगले प्रॉडक्ट्स' यांची अधिकृत एजन्सी घेऊन 'रुचिक' ह्या नावाने मी माझा हा छोटासा व्यवसाय सुरू केला. २५ आणि २६ फेब्रुवारी २०१७ ह्या दिवशी 'गोवा फेस्टिव्हल' पासूनच ह्या उद्योगाची सुरुवात झाली. आज काही ठराविक प्रदर्शनांमध्ये आम्ही भाग घेतो, तसेच दादर, माटुंगा, माहीम मधील काही ठराविक दुकानांमध्येही आम्ही कोंकणी उत्पादनांचा पुरवठा करतो. ह्या सर्व कोंकणी उत्पादनांची प्रसिद्धी कर्णोपकर्णी झाल्याने ग्राहक आमच्या घरी येऊन उत्पादने घेऊन जाऊ लागले आहेत.

ह्या सर्व यशाचे श्रेय आम्ही उभयता 'आमी गोयंकार' ह्या संस्थेस देतो. तसेच 'आमी गोयंकार' ह्या संस्थेने येणाऱ्या भावी काळात नवनवीन तरुण उद्योजक निर्माण करावेत हीच सदिच्छा !

'आमी गोयंकार' आयोजित उपक्रमांना उत्तरोत्तर सुयश मिळो आणि ह्या संस्थेची उत्तरोत्तर भरभराट होवो हीच त्या जगनियंत्याकडे प्रार्थना.

आपली कृपाभिलाषी
सौ. संगीता उदय कामत सातोस्कर
सारस्वत कॉलनी, माहीम



श्री जगन्नाथ पेडणेकर

०७/३/१९३२ - २५/११/२०१७

श्री जगन्नाथ पेडणेकर यांचा जन्म पेडणे तालुक्यात धारगळ येथे झाला. लहानपणीच वडिलांचे छत्र हरपले. घरची परिस्थितीही बेताचीच होती. तरीही काळाची गरज ओळखून त्यांनी स्वातंत्र्यलढ्यात उडी घेतली. त्यासाठी त्यांना वयाच्या १९ व्या वर्षी अटक झाली व ८ वर्षे सश्रम कारावासाची शिक्षा झाली. कारावासातून सुटका झाल्यावर १९५८ साली ते मुंबईत आले. दिवसा नोकरी व रात्री शाळेत जाऊन ते २६व्या वर्षी पदवीधर झाले. गरिबीची झळ सोसल्यामुळे नोकरी लागल्यावर धनसंचयाच्या मागे न लागता त्यांनी सदैव गरीब विद्यार्थ्यांना व इतर गरजूंना मदत केली. शिक्षण व्यवस्थापक म्हणून विद्यार्थी, पालक व शिक्षक सर्वांना ते प्रेरणादायी ठरले.

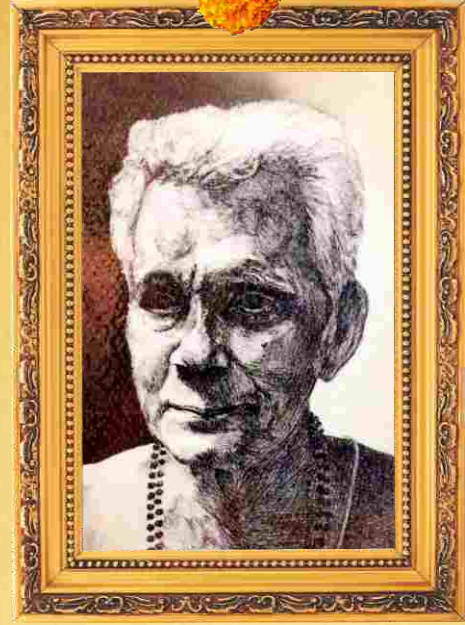
इंग्रजी, हिंदी, मराठी व संस्कृत भाषांवर त्यांचे प्रभुत्व होते. शिवाय, कोंकणी व पोर्तुगीज भाषाही त्यांना अवगत होत्या. कित्येक वर्षे त्यांच्या कविता व लेखांना वृत्तपत्रांतून उजाळा मिळाला. 'गोमंतकाचा उज्वल इतिहास' व 'धर्मांतर व प्रतिकार' हि त्यांचा पुस्तकेही प्रसिद्ध झाली.

माजी पंतप्रधान इंदिरा गांधी ह्यांनी त्यांना स्वातंत्र्यलढ्यातील योगदानाबद्दल ताम्रपत्र देऊन गौरविले तर २००२ साली गोवा राज्यशासनाने स्मृतिचिन्ह व शाल देऊन त्यांना सन्मानित केले.

गेली १५ वर्षे 'आमी गोंयकार' तर्फे १९ डिसेंबरला 'गोवा मुक्तिदिन' साजरा केला जातो. त्या दिवशी मुंबईतील स्वातंत्र्यसैनिकांचा संस्थेतर्फे सत्कार केला जातो. त्यांतील बहुतेक सर्व स्वातंत्र्य सैनिकांना संस्थेकडे जोडण्याचे काम पेडणेकरांनी केले. ते स्वतःही दर वर्षी आवर्जून हजर असत.

२५ नोव्हेंबर २०१७ रोजी अल्पशा आजारानंतर पेडणेकरांचे दुःखद निधन झाले. अत्यंत साधे पण चारित्र्यसंपन्न जीवन जगलेल्या या स्वातंत्र्यसैनिकास 'आमी गोंयकार'चा शेवटचा सलाम!

॥ गुरुमाऊली ॥



अलगद फुंकर घातल्यागत होता, यांचा प्रेमळ आवाज।
नयनांतून ओसंडूनी वाहणारा होता, प्रगल्भ ज्ञानाचा साज।
श्रीरामाप्रमाणे होती ज्यांची सदाचारी, सरल प्रवृत्ती।
सातत्याने स्मित करणारी होती, यांची कृष्णापरि आनंदी वृत्ती।
सहजतेने परदुःख निवारण करण्याची, त्यांची व्रतशक्ती॥

असे हे पूजनीय, सर्वांचेच लाडके, प्रेमळ श्री गुरुवर्य
श्री प. पू. पै मामा उर्फ पै. भावजी (श्री वासुदेव नृसिंह पै)
यांना दिनांक २४ डिसेंबर २०१७, रविवार पौष शु. षष्ठी,
सौर षिषिर ऋतुमासी, उत्तरायणात मोक्ष मिळाला.

भिन्न भिन्न गावातून, देशातील तसेच परदेशातील निरनिराळ्या स्वभावाच्या व्यक्तींना त्यांची कमतरता न भासविता, मेघापरि निरपेक्ष, समभाव राखून, मायेने साऱ्यांवर प्रेम वर्षाव करून, साऱ्यांनाचा धृतरताने एकत्रित गुंफणारे, आपले गुरुवर्य, जणू साक्षात एक कृपासागर, कल्पतरू, वात्सल्याची मायच नोहे तर एक अथांग आभाळमायाच होते आणि ईश्वराप्रती असलेल्या त्यांच्या उक्ती परत्वे, अंतीम क्षणापर्यंत स्वतःचा यत्किंचितही विचार न करता, केवळ अन् केवळ इतरांसाठीच आपली काया झिजवून,

मनी ठसू दे रूप तुझे
मुखी वसू दे नाम तुझे
काया झिजू दे त्वत् कार्याला
न राहो उणे तव कृपेला

हा आपल्या साऱ्यांसाठीच एक अनमोल संदेश ठेवून गेले

॥सच्चिदानंद॥ सच्चिदानंद॥ सच्चिदानंद॥

दत्तगुरू सेवा श्रमीय
मालाड पश्चिम, मुंबई





IN CONVERSATION WITH THE GREEN MAN OF GOA: DANIEL D'SOUZA

M - What is your personal background and links with Goa?

D - I was born and brought up in Goa where I completed my basic schooling. After first year in science from Dhempe college, Panaji, I shifted to Mumbai university to pursue Bachelors of Science (Bsc) in botany, horticulture and gardening in which I secured a first class. After securing Masters of Science (Msc) from Mumbai University, I returned to my roots - Goa. I live in Assagao and have my own consulting business of landscape designing called "Plant World" with an office in Caranzalem. I provide service to hotels, housing projects and residences. I pioneered and introduced Bonsai in Goa. Besides landscape designing, I have been an avid collector of Goan antiques, postage stamps, postal history and nurture variety of Bonsai plants.

M - How did you take up landscape designing as your occupation?

D - From childhood, I was inclined towards plant world. I have grown up in a village which provided perfect ambience to experiment with my crazy childhood ideas like over watering Cactus plant to help it 'quench its thirst' or pulling out plants from the pot every week to 'check the growth of its roots' or 'bathing' the Christmas tree and keeping it in dark 'to take extra care'. Though my parents wondered what their son was up to, they realised my potential and encouraged me to learn and pursue my dreams. Now, I am called upon to lecture on Bonsai, landscaping and floral arrangements at various institutions including at the Goa university. I have been a judge for various competitions in my field of expertise.

M - What is so special about the nature of Goa's bio-diversity? Do you see any connection with the historical and cultural heritage?

D - The state of Goa is a blessed land by the mother nature. Several plants are unique to Goa. Goa has a well-balanced climate which helps in plant growth. There are species of plants such as Cashew and Chillies which were brought to Goa by the Portuguese and in turn they took the Jackfruit plant from India to Brazil. There are also several rare trees like velvet apple - botanical name: Diospyros discolor, which are scattered in remote parts of Goa. We need to create an awareness of such natural treasure and need to work for preservation of nature's endowment.

M - What challenges have you faced to reach the level of expertise in your journey so far?

D - Green cover is my passion and I have pursued by dreams by seeking formal research education in the subject and have gathered insights during 20+ years of hands-on field work experience. I have my own firm in Goa called "Plant World" which was started in 1997. I worked as a horticulturist for the Panaji City Corporation and had a role in the beautification and greening of spaces throughout the city and so, I am being affectionately called as the "Green Man of Goa". Perhaps the primary challenge is to get both skilled and unskilled labour at the right cost.

In retrospect, I have chosen an unconventional career and my family has supported me all through. It really feels good to get appreciation for my work from dignitaries like the Governor of Goa, personalities like (late) Charles Correa, the legendary architect and Ritu Kumar, leading fashion designer, to mention a few. I would like to appeal the younger generation to be focused and dare to follow their chosen dreams. Very few are taking up the profession of landscaping which is a promising career, involves a lot of hard work and commitment. Visit my website:

<http://www.danielsouza.com/> or reach me at email : plantworldgoa@gmail.com.

- Contributed by Mr Milind Kamat