



# AAMI GOENKAR



Issue No 36

*For Goans, Of Goans, By Goans*

July 2016



{ From President's Desk }

Our Institution, Aami Goenkar, has just stepped out of adolescence and we felt it appropriate to look back and ponder over playful activities of this unique institute during its teens and positive impact it has made on community in its formative years. It is amazing to recall the years gone by and we all have good memories of the period and we wish to express our gratitude to all those who stood by us during this journey.

For the benefit of those have joined journey midway, it would be appropriate to give a perspective which led to formation of Aami Goenkar. Over last decades, we have seen a gradual erosion in Goan family traditions. This has had adverse impact on our core values. The primary reason for this is migration of Goans in search of education and livelihood initially to nearby places like Mumbai and then at the Global level. Over the period, their links to our beloved motherland have gradually diminished. Though this was inevitable to an extent but we felt a need of creating of an institution to bring about better interaction amongst diaspora and, so we engaged like minded people in discussion on ways and means to strengthen economic, cultural, educational, emotional and intellectual bonds of residents in Goa and their new adopted home states.

This urge led us to the outline of "Aami Goenkar" and in the year 2003, we formalized constitution and structure of our organization. On 12th Oct. 2003, at a function held at Kohinoor Hospitality Centre, Mumbai attended by over 750 Goans , Aami Goenkar was formally inaugurated

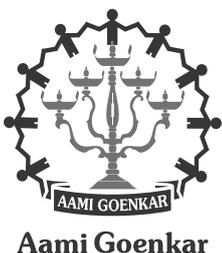
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"Aami Goenkar" is planning to release a book **'FESTIVALS OF GOA'**, a compilation of information of festivals, (Hindu, Christian and other) celebrated in Goa. We urge you to contribute to this by sharing information, photographs of the various festivals 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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### Aami Goenkar

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## BOOK POST

## ...from President's Desk

(Cont. from page 1)

as a not for profit entity of Goans, a common platform of all Goans residing in Goa and spread across the world. The aim was to promote two-way communication exchange and to implement initiatives of common good. Many Goans joined hands in this journey of bringing about integration and contributed their valuable time, services, acumen, expertise, experience in various fields and also part of their wealth.

Our flagship initiative is annual event "Goa Festival" which is organised with a lot of fanfare with variety of music, cultural programs, competitions, exhibition and stalls to retail Goa theme products and delicacies. We felicitate three Seniors from Goa for their significant contribution to our mother state. "Goa Festival" has created many opportunities to network, built platform for Goans to meet, communicate, share and grow and has given an opportunity to budding entrepreneurs and start-up businesses to showcase their products and talents.

Our institution regularly organizes quality programs which are well attended. We celebrate Goa Liberation day to remember selfless contribution of freedom fighters. We organise health care workshops, knowledge management programs, elocution competitions, career counseling sessions, legal discourses and personality development programs to quote a few.

We are conscious of the fact our institution needs adequate funding to achieve our mission and pursuing its objectives on a sustained basis. We need to augment our resources to enhance quality of our service offerings. Unfortunately, institutions like us do not find favour with the corporate donor community who prefer to channelise their funding to areas covered under corporate social responsibility spectrum and prefer social welfare programmes that have a more immediate and visible impact to the detriment of institutions like us which work on issues and solutions which have long term favorable impact.

We have identified three focus areas for the coming decade viz. education, health and making next generation participate in national building process. In coming months and years, we wish to organize seminars and roundtables with thinkers, academicians, researchers and policy makers to bring about sustained changes in these crucial areas.

We cannot work in isolation and must connect to other like minded institutions like The Goa Hindu Association, Seva Sahayog Foundation and many others institutions which are engaged in awareness programs and assisting government in bringing about public policy changes.

We appeal to all Goan brothers and sisters for membership, donations and count on their active support and co-operation in the building and nurturing this movement. We would be grateful if you could take help by sending us a cheque in the name " Aami Goenkar" at the above mentioned address. Donations to "Aami Goenkar" are exempt u/s 80G of I.T. Act. You can reach us at [www.aamigoenkar.org](http://www.aamigoenkar.org)

Once again, we wish to thank our patrons, life, annual members for their contribution which has encouraged us to pursue our mission relentlessly. We wish to express our gratitude to people who have supported us during past decade. We have traveled quite a distance but still have a long way to go to achieve our objective – to be in service of our motherland and its people

## Aami Goenkar Welcomes New Members: Since February 2016



### LIFE MEMBERS

1. Miss Pradnya Umesh Bhatikar, Mumbai
2. Adv. Jayesh Kashiram Desai, Mumbai
3. Mr. Vivek Keshav Naik, Mumbai
4. Mrs. Sujata Mukund Jambaulikar, Mumbai
5. Mrs. Maya Sanjiv Kerkar, Mumbai
6. Mrs. Yojana Shrihari Desai, Mumbai
7. Miss Sneha Shrihari Desai, Mumbai

### ORDINARY MEMBERS

1. Mr. Shankar N. Sawaikar, Mumbai
2. Mr. Subhash Jagannath Kerkar, Mumbai
3. Mr. Ashish B. Rangnekar, Mumbai

**Sanjay Hegde**  
President - Aami Goenkar



## 6th Goa Festival

Aami Goenkar organized 6th Goa Festival on March 12 and 13th, 2016 at Swatantryaveer Savarkar Smarak Sabhagriha, Shivaji park which received an encouraging response.

Mumbaikars from all walks of life enjoyed variety of music, cultural programs, competitions, exhibition and patronized stalls of Goa theme products and delicacies. A feedback from artists and entrepreneurs gives us an immense satisfaction about fulfilment of the primary objective viz. to encourage Goan talent, craftsmanship, entrepreneurs, micro and small units to expand their outreach to create market for their art and products.

**We felicitated three Seniors from Goa PADMASHRI TULSIDAS BORKAR, SHRI. RAMKRISHNA NAIK and SHRI ASHAK DESAI for their significant contribution to our mother state.**

Like each year, the organizers received active co-operation of members, well wishers and committee thanks all those who were instrumental in making the event a great success.



Join us in our movement and support a good cause

# “A view into Goa's heritage through philately”

By Milind Kamat



## 1. What is your personal background and links with Goa?

I was born and brought up in Mumbai where I continue to work and live with my family. My family originates from Anjuna (Mazalwaddo) and Mapusa. My grandfather Dr. Venkatesh Kamat migrated to Mumbai in early 1900's to study medicine and later co-founded the Goa Hindu Association. Although I haven't lived in Goa, the adage "You can take a Goan out of Goa but not Goa out of a Goan" truly fits me.

## 2. How did you take up philately as your hobby? How do you sustain it with your regular job?

Many philatelists start as schoolboy stamps collectors and I was no exception. My mother encouraged me to nurture this hobby. A packed album from my cousin Satish followed as a gift. Studies and career put the collecting interest on the back burner until about 12 years back I re-discovered my old collection from the attic and found some postal covers sent from Goa. I then resolved to focus on "Portuguese India", a politically 'extinct' country, for two prime reasons: Firstly, no need to track "new" stamp issues. Secondly, opportunity to link the hobby with my keen interest in Goa's history.

It is hard to find spare time due to busy lifestyle. However, I consciously grab time especially on weekends to nurture the collection.

## 3. How do you see the importance of philately as an expression of Goa's historical and cultural heritage?

In 1871, the Portuguese (in India) followed their colonial cousins, the British by issuing adhesive postage stamps. The engraving of the first set of "NATIVES" stamps was done by a Goan smith named "Govinda Zo" on the design of Jose F d'assa Castel Branco. The first

set of stamps was unique as none of the other Portuguese colonies had their stamps designed, engraved and printed locally! Unfortunately, the stamp themes do not reflect the local culture since local flora; fauna, festivals etc. were ignored.

One can also notice a reflection of important changes in the Goan economy with impacts of world events. The stamps reflected "change of currency", first, to equate with British India's currency system and then adoption of Portugal's Escudo. The stamps are also testimony to the hard state of Goan economy during the 2 World Wars and resultant "stamps famine" disrupted supplies from Lisbon and resulted in "recycled" stamps issues with surcharges, re-surcharges and vertical perforations, perhaps unique in the whole world. The airmail letters of 1950's are often found inscribed "via Karachi", reflecting the Indian economic blockade against the Portuguese. In summary, historical impressions are more evident than the cultural impressions.

## 4. What have been the difficulties and challenges of your philatelic pursuit?

The most challenging aspects are accessing literature on Indo Portuguese philately and inability to find like-minded collectors for mutual exchanges. I must acknowledge the help from time to time from Dr. Teotonio de Souza, Xavier Cota and Vitthal Navelkar in my pursuit. Another challenge is our tropical climate which tends to degrade the fragile paper. I struggled to learn preservation of old stamps aging 145+ years!

## 5. Anything else you may like to add.

I would be happy to assist anyone interested genuinely in stamps collecting and connect with other Goan philatelists. I am reachable on my email: [kamat\\_milind@yahoo.com](mailto:kamat_milind@yahoo.com).



# DEFEXO INDIA 2016

**LAND, NAVAL & INTERNAL HOME LAND SECURITY SYSTEMS EXHIBITION 28-30 MARCH 2016, QUITOL, SOUTH GOA, INDIA**

The 9th edition of Defexpo India, a biennial exhibition on Land, Naval and Internal Homeland Security Systems was inaugurated on March 28th 2016 by the Defence Minister, Shri Manohar Parrikar at Naqeri Quitol, Quepem Taluka, South Goa, Goa. The four-day event was organised by the Defence Exhibition Organisation of Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence.

The four-day event was attended by 950 delegations, including 204 official delegations from 44 countries. In all, 47 countries are participating in the show, including the U.S, the U.K, Israel, Russia, France, Germany, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, and Republic of Korea.

This event is expected to provide a push to the 'Make in India' campaign and stimulate the local economy. The inaugural ceremony saw live demonstrations of military equipment including Main Battle Tank Arjun Mk I and II, various types of heavy bridging equipment, Wheeled Armoured Vehicle, Sarang Aerobatic team and Naval LCA. MBT Arjun Mk II and Wheeled Armoured Vehicle were being displayed for the first time in any exhibition.

On the sidelines of the exhibition, Seminars were held to showcase developments and opportunities in the defence sector.



## REQUEST FOR CONTRIBUTION OF ARTICLES IN AAMI GOENKAR BULLETIN

**AAMI GOENKAR - BULLETIN IS PUBLISHED EACH QUARTER AND HAS NOVEL FEATURES AND COVERS SUBJECTS OF TOPICAL INTEREST AND HAS A SUBSCRIBER BASE OF 1000 IN INDIA.**

The focus of our bulletin is to enhance the knowledge base of its readers and to keep them updated of the latest developments in about Goa, all about its people and their life, their talents, achievements and other different themes and features. Bulletin is used in conjunction with website and face book page as an outreach medium of our institution.

Editorial Board requests our members and readers to contribute articles, poems, cross word puzzles, news items and other interesting pieces which could be of interest to community. Insertions received from the authors will be reviewed by Editorial Board to evaluate quality of contents and areas of improvements/ changes, if any, in the article. Final decision about its publication will be taken by Editorial Board.

Your contribution should be original, i.e. not published / broadcasted / hosted elsewhere including on any website. The language should be simple and grammatically correct, with short sentences. In case it is adopted from any other source, references should be provided. The author must provide the list of references at the end of article, along with no objection of the author to publish it in our bulletin.

Your contribution should be relevant to a significant number of our members and readers and raise the issues confronting the Goan community, improve knowledge, have practical value, have a direction, raise an issue, expose a problem, explain a situation, of current interest, with the potential to stimulate a healthy debate among readers.

The length of the article should be about 600 ~ 800 words. The main headline of the article should be clear, short, catchy and interesting, written with the purpose of drawing attention of the readers. The sub-headlines should preferably not cross the limit of 20 words. Soft copies of the articles should be submitted through email. The soft copy should be in word (\*.doc format) format. A brief profile of the author, e-mail ID, postal address and contact numbers along with his passport size photograph (scanned for e-mail) and declaration regarding the originality of the article as mentioned above should be enclosed along with the article.

The decision about publication of the article will be taken by the Editorial Board, which is headed by President – Aami Goenkar. Editorial Board may consider to give honorarium to exceptional article / entries which are original in all respects.

**The article can be sent to by e-mail at: [aamigoenkar@yahoo.in](mailto:aamigoenkar@yahoo.in) or by post to the attention**

**The Editor – Aami Goenkar Bulletin, 1, Malan Mension, Baburao Parulekar Marg Off Gokhale Road South, Opp. Dr. Desai's Hospital, Dadar (West) Mumbai 400028. Tel. 24316277 and 9920516016.**

# Bhakti Kulkarni

**Women Grandmaster Bhakti Kulkarni won the prestigious Asian Women and Open Chess Championship in Tashkent, Uzbekistan and booked herself a seat at the World championship .**

Bhakti was seeded 16th from among 34 top Asian chess players when the championship started in Tashkent. She played aggressively. Her scintillating win over top seeded Sarasadat (Iran) in the fourth round was a turning point. Since then, she never looked back. Bhakti was unbeaten in the star-studded championship and picked up \$5,000 as prize money.

The Goan chess queen credited her coach and mentor Dronacharya Raghunandan Gokhale for the title triumph in Tashkent.

Bhakti Kulkarni





**Atamaram Nadkarni**, Senior counsel and Goa's Advocate General since 2012, has been appointed as Additional Solicitor General in the Supreme Court of India for a period of three years.

After completing his masters in law from Bombay, Nadkarni worked in the chambers of a retired High Court judge, before moving back to Goa in 1996.

Additional Solicitor General acts as a law officer to advise the central government on various legal matters. The Solicitor General and Additional Solicitor Generals also assist the government's top legal advisor Attorney General.

Nadkarni was appointed as the state's Advocate General on November 29, 1999. He was the youngest Advocate General in India, appointed at the age of 36 years. He was reappointed in October 2000. He was once again reappointed as the Advocate General from March 9, 2012, till November 8, 2014, and from November 8, 2014, till date.

Nadkarni was designated as a senior advocate in 2008 and recently he was also appointed to the post of chairman of the Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa.

## Topper & Four Gold Medalist from NADT Ms. Priyanka Mashelkar



The 68th batch of Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officers passed out from National Academy of Direct Taxes (NADT) in April, 2016. Ms. Priyanka Uday Mashelkar secured first rank and bagged four gold medals. An engineer by qualification, Priyanka passed civil services exam in 2nd attempt with a national rank of 300. She was selected for revenue services and underwent a prolonged training at NADT. She received the gold medals for getting highest marks in Finance, Accounting and business law and also for her extra curricular interests including sports.

Her father Dr. Uday Mashelkar is ex principal of Patkar College, Goregaon. Priyanka has also worked as an assistant in defence ministry before achieving this success.

## A Leap of Faith

### An inspiring story

Once a man got lost in a desert. The water in his flask had run out two days ago, and he was on his last legs. He knew that if he didn't get some water soon, he would surely die. The man saw a small hut ahead of him. He thought it would be a mirage or maybe a hallucination, but having no other option, he moved toward it. As he got closer he realized it was quite real. So he dragged his tired body to the door with the last of his strength.

The hut was not occupied and seemed like it had been abandoned for quite some time. The man entered into it, hoping against hope that he might find water inside. His heart skipped a beat when he saw what was in the hut: a water hand pump. It had a pipe going down through the floor, perhaps tapping a source of water deep underground.

He began working the hand pump, but no water came out. He kept at it and still nothing happened. Finally he gave up from exhaustion and frustration. He threw up his hands in despair. It looked as if he was going to die after all. Then the man noticed a bottle in one corner of the hut. It was filled with water and corked up to prevent evaporation.

He uncorked the bottle and was about to gulp down the sweet life-giving water when he noticed a piece of paper attached to it. Handwriting on the paper read: "Use this water to start the pump. Don't forget to fill the bottle when you're done."

He had a dilemma. He could follow the instruction and pour the water into the pump, or he could ignore it and just drink the water.

What to do? If he let the water go into the pump, what assurance did he have that it would work? What if the pump malfunctioned? What if the pipe had a leak? What if the underground reservoir had long dried up?

But then... maybe the instruction was correct. Should he risk it? If it turned out to be false, he would be throwing away the last water he would ever see.

Hands trembling, he poured the water into the pump. Then he closed his eyes, said a prayer, and started working the pump. He heard a gurgling sound, and then water came gushing out, more than he could possibly use. He luxuriated in the cool and refreshing stream. He was going to live!

After drinking his fill and feeling much better, he looked around the hut. He found a pencil and a map of the region. The map showed that he was still far away from civilization, but at least now he knew where he was and which direction to go.

He filled his flask for the journey ahead. He also filled the bottle and put the cork back in. Before leaving the hut, he added his own writing below the instruction: "Believe me, it works!"

This story is all about life. It teaches us that we must give before we can receive abundantly. More importantly, it also teaches that faith plays an important role in giving. The man did not know if his action would be rewarded, but he proceeded regardless. Without knowing what to expect, he made a leap of faith.

Water in this story represents the good things in life. Something that brings a smile to your face. It can be intangible knowledge or it can represent money, love, family, friendship, happiness, respect, or any number of other things you value. Whatever it is that you would like to get out of life, that's water.

The water pump represents the workings of the karmic mechanism. Give it some water to work with, and it will return far more than you put in.

## Who invented Idli?

It seems to be a funny question but relevant now. The World Health Organization listed Idli as one of the most hygienic and nutritious food. It is the favorite breakfast of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. Along with Sambar, Idli nourishes us.

Then how it originated? Very interesting to note that, "Idli" is the modified form of "Kedli" of Indonesia. The story goes like this... Fermented food especially Kedli is the most favorite food of Indonesia. Once a Hindu King of Indonesia visited South India during 8th century looking for Bride. The cooks accompanied the King

prepared Kedli to serve him. The Indian cooks studied the preparation of Kedli and modified according to their imagination. Originally, the Idli was a preparation of fermented Blackgram pulp but later rice also added to fasten the fermentation process.

In India, Idli originated in Karnataka according to the writing Vaddaradhane of SivakotyAcharya of 920 AD. It describes Idli as one of the 18 items served to a Brahmachari visited in homes. In Tamil Nadu, the "Ittali" originated around 17th century AD.

Whether imported from Indonesia or invented in India, it's worth noting that Idli fulfills the needs of a fasting stomach. It gives carbohydrates for energy and protein for growth. Its good bacteria generate lot of Vitamin B. An interesting thing is that a person consuming Idli daily will not have head ache because the black gram has the property to inhibit head ache. The side dish Sambar is one of the nutritious vegetable soup that contains many vegetables, spices, tamarind, Asafoetida etc which keeps the stomach healthy and prevents acidity and indigestion.