

**8TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION**

# PRIME

**APRIL 2023 | VOLUME 04**



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**Prime Media Goa  
Completes 8 Years of Challenging, Engaging  
and Broadcasting of News and Programmes  
on 21st April 2023**

**With Our heads held high,  
We, the Management and Staff**

***Thank  
you!***

**to all our advertisers, sponsors, friends  
well wishers and viewers for your  
overwhelming encouragement, support and  
patronage in making this possible.**

**PRIME TEAM**

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# PRIME TEAM

**EDITOR & PUBLISHER**  
**SANDEEP KERKAR**

**TELEVISION PRODUCER**  
**ALISHA FERNANDES**

**ACCOUNTANT**  
**DIKSHIT KORGAONKAR**

**MARKETING EXECUTIVE**  
**NIKHIL NAIK**

**SUB EDITOR KONKANI/ VIDEO  
EDITOR**  
**SHAMBA GAONKAR**

**SUB EDITOR ENGLISH**  
**SURESH VADAVADEKAR**

**VIDEO EDITOR**  
**RAHUL AZGAONKAR**

**VIDEO JOURNALIST**  
**RENUKA TALGAONKAR**  
**PRADEEP NAIK**

**VISHWESH PRABHUDESAI**  
**SHANAWAZ MAYYADI**  
**AKSHAY SANWORDEKAR**

**DINESH KARPE**  
**UDAY PARAB**  
**AMIT NAIK**

**DEVENDRA GAWAS**  
**RAJU VENKETESH**

**REPORTER**  
**TUKARAM MARATHE**

**SOCIAL MEDIA EXECUTIVE**  
**LARISSA VAS**  
**ANIL MISHRA**

**EVENT EXECUTIVE**  
**NIKITA VOLVOIKAR**

**8<sup>th</sup>**  
**ANNIVERSARY**

**MAGAZINE COVER PHOTO BY**  
**SIMEON M FERNANDES**

**MAGAZINE DESIGNED BY**  
**ALISHA FERNANDES**



**PRIME TV GOA**

LA CAMPAL COLONY, BUNGALOW NO. 13/596/A, MIRAMAR PANJIM 403001  
MOB: 8446180808 / 09637969244 ; EMAIL: FEEDBACKPRIMETVGOA@GMAIL.COM  
WWW.PRIMETVGOA.COM



# PRIME MEDIA GOA

Prime Media Goa, began operations on the 21st April 2015 with a motive to promote Goa and Goan's talent and products to the world. A cable television scene in Goa is today oozing with creativity, talent and vast potential. From the days of Doordarshan as the one and only one, today cable television channels are bubbling with varied programmes, shows and news and views in large measure. With numerous channels on air at present, the scene is just hotting up in the state.

**SCAN TO THIS  
QR CODE TO  
WATCH VIDEOS  
OF PRIME MEDIA  
GOA CHANNEL  
ON YOUTUBE**



On 21st April 2015, Prime Media Goa, a television channel

began its first telecast. Most commonly referred to as Prime TV, within just a short span of time, it has already created it's own space and turbulence.

With the stated objective of being Goa's first top of the line channel, transmitted using the latest digital technology, Prime TV seeks to break new boundaries and improve viewer expectations in terms of content and production, presenting its vivid and vibrant threads of its art, culture and entertainment in its contemporary flavours.

Presently it has myriad programmes that have already cut ice with Goan television audiences. They include, Prime Newsroom, Gems of Goa Season 3, Food For Mood Season 3, Amcho Dotor and so on.

Keeping with its futuristic technology, outlook and reach, Prime has launched the **Prime App for the android users**. This android app will keep you in touch with the latest happenings on your favourite channel.



**File Photo : Year 2023 : Prime Media Goa Team**

Also this would help you watch Live TV on your handheld device. Additionally, Prime TV also has a website which can be reached by typing - **[www.primetvgoa.com](http://www.primetvgoa.com)**

Prime understands the importance of social media and is very active social media providing news updates on political or programmes instantly to our viewers on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Whatsapp, Telegram, and very recently on Spotify. The idea through this is to reach out to masses with help of advanced technology.

**PRIME EVENTS :** Prime organises events of different genres to reach out to masses across Goa, be it a painting competition or for that matter a dance competition, fishing competition and the list goes on and on

**PRIME SAHELI :** is a women's group, which is working towards the empowerment of women in the society by conducting various activities educating and providing a platform for the women community in the state. If Prime through this group can give back something to the society then, Prime would be content.

To sum up, Prime Media is dedicated to promote Goa and everything Goan.

**PRIME – YOUR VOICE, YOUR CHANNEL**



To mark the milestone of 8 years, Prime TV launched a two month long programme on 21st February 2023 with the launch of Prime Mahotsav - Prime TV's 8th Anniversary Celebration.

Through this event PRIME created multiple activities for people of various age groups right from health camps to events that brought about a social awareness to Say No to Plastic with Wealth out of waste to Poster Competition of how one can Be the Prime Change. Additionally PRIME TV launched Blood Bank Directory- to create authentic blood bank list and Job Directory - to create unemployment list to help people searching for jobs. An approximate of 5000+ people joined hands through this mahotsav.



**POSTER COMPETITION AT ST.THOMAS HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL,ALDONA GOA**



**WOMEN'S HEALTH CHECK UP AT DON BOSCO COLLEGE,PANJIM.GOA**



**WEALTH OUT OF WASTE COMPETITION AT JYAN VIKAS SCHOOL, PORVORIM GOA**



**KIDS HEALTH CHECKUP IN ASSOCIATION WITH VICTOR HOSPITAL AT DAMODAR SCHOOL, MARGAO**



**KIDS HEALTH CHECKUP IN ASSOCIATION WITH WISDOM HOSPITAL AT SUNANDBAI SCHOOL, POVORIM**



**P S Sreedharan Pillai**  
Governor of Goa



**Raj Bhavan**  
Goa-403004

**MESSAGE**

I am happy to know that Prime Media – Goa, a TV Channel, is celebrating its 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2023, and that a special magazine edition is being published to mark the occasion.

It is given to understand that Prime Media – Goa, within a short span since 2015, has already created its own space in the Media of the State, thus carrying the sensitive and important news to the people of Goa. I also learn that Prime TV, as it is commonly known in Goa, has a wide coverage in North and South districts of Goa.

I extend my good wishes to all the Members of Prime Media - Goa for the success of the event and all the very best for future endeavours too.



**(P.S. Sreedharan Pillai)**  
Governor of Goa

18<sup>th</sup> April, 2023.



Goa and the people who live in this beautiful place has a unique identity, culture and way of life. Launched in April 2015, Prime TV not only seeks to promote Goa and everything that is Goan but engage with programmes which empowers families, youth, businesses functioning out of Goa and Goans in general, to make a difference and act as an agent of desired social change. We not only telecast to all parts of Goa but are the first Goan channel to broadcast to Maharashtra and New Delhi, Parts of Karnataka.

With its hard hitting news and our bouquet of features which include Goa famed cuisine, unique culture, history, society and personalities, we seek to constantly innovate to make Prime the people's channel. Therefore, after the huge success of Prime Saheli, now Prime is all set to engage the Young Women to empower them to face the world during the building stage of Life through **PRIME YUVA SAHELI**.

Prime Yuva Saheli seeks to bring together young women with the aim to provide a platform for voicing their concerns and helping them to fulfill their aspirations, through the powerful medium of television.

Women almost at every stage of life are constantly challenged on both the domestic and professional front, with intense responsibility. Prime TV is there to help her at the building stage of her life to support and help her face upcoming challenges of life.

Prime offers young girls the freedom to come forward and showcase their talents and media is the best way to give them publicity as well as identity and so Prime Yuva Saheli is exactly doing the same function.

If Prime Saheli caters to the Women - Prime Yuva Saheli is catering to Youth. Through this group young ladies will be able to be a member of the Prime Yuva Saheli. Every walk of life irrespective of caste and creed will be members of Prime Yuva Saheli family. Those who choose to be part of the family are given an Identity card. So that they can participate in any events organized by Prime.

#### Scope of Activities:

- Organizing activities so that young women get opportunities and a platform to participate in different activities.
- Organizing such activities that will upskill women.
- Organizing such activities that empower women

#### Benefits : Each woman member

- Receives gift as a token of appreciation from Prime and various privileges from our esteemed sponsors
- Monthly programmes for members of Prime Yuva Saheli will be organized.
- Chance to be on Prime TV channel and participate in discussions and to voice their concerns.
- The membership is open to all woman across Goa.





**DR. PRAMOD SAWANT**  
CHIEF MINISTER, GOA

21st March, 2023

## **M E S S A G E**

I am pleased to learn that Prime TV has completed eight successful years on April 21st, 2023. On this celebratory occasion, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations and best wishes to the magazine.

Prime Media has been an instrumental force in reporting on various aspects of Goa, covering news, reportage, and features that have contributed to the growth and development of the state.

I extend my best wishes to Prime TV to a future of consistent, responsible journalism for the benefit of Goa.

**(Dr. Pramod Sawant)**  
Chief Minister, Goa

## GOA'S 1ST AYURVED DIGITAL CHANNEL



प्रिम  
अयुर्वेद

Prime Ayurved is an entity that provides a platform to put forth the ayurvedic knowledge and expertise to the world.

Through this channel we will reach out to the people to expand their ayurvedic ideas to the world. Prime Ayurved is another sister concern of Prime Media Goa, which is an Infotainment Television Channel in Goa.

Prime Ayurved aims at promoting wellness through the Ayurveda medicines and practices, which have been going on for centuries in the country.







**YURI ALEMAO**  
Leader of Opposition



LOP/IPNPL/2022-2023/179

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023

**To,**  
**Shri Sandeep Kerkar,**  
**Chief Editor-Prime Media Goa,**  
**Infomedia Prime Slot Network Pvt. Ltd.**  
**La Campala Colony, Bungalow No.13/596/A Miramar**  
**Panaji-Goa.**

Dear Bab Sandeep,

Greetings to the Team Prime Media Goa on the Auspicious Occasion of your Eighth Anniversary Celebration. I am happy that Prime Media Goa, a Television Channel which began its broadcast 8 years back has created its own mark in the Media Sector in Goa with its Combative News, Debates, Discussions, Social Issues, Cultural, Cuisine and Personality based Programs.

I am happy to know that you will be publishing Anniversary Magazine Edition to commemorate 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Prime Media Goa popularly known as Prime TV.

My best wishes to you and your entire Team,

With best regards,

Thanking you

**Yuri Alemao**  
**(Leader of Opposition)**



# PBN BHARAT

Connect & Grow

## GOA's 1st BUSINESS TV



CONNECT AND GROW

PBN Bharat also known as Prime Business Network Bharat is an entity that provides a platform to various businesses - small, medium, large - to connect, multiply, and grow. The aim of the channel is to help provide a special dedicated platform to showcase inspiring stories of talented entrepreneurs.



SCAN ME!

PBN is a sister concern of Prime Media Goa, which is an Infotainment Television Channel in Goa. PBN plans to go digital creating a niche for business and industries to grow globally by featuring on our platform.

Additionally, it also provides information about the business industry, trade, and commerce. Through PBN we plan to bridge gaps between entities and customers and create a network that will help grow digitally value of brands associated with this channel.





# EDITOR'S VIEW



**Sandeep Kerkar,  
Editor In Chief, Prime Media Goa**

After mining, entire focus has been diverted towards tourism as entire world wants to be in Goa. Goa is now becoming destination for all major events of India such as International Film Festival of India (IFFI), Serendipity Arts Festival and Indian Super League (ISL) matches . But the question arises whether such big events benefitted Goans?. For the last 16 years, Goa has been hosting IFFI. It was announced that it will be held in Goa every year in November but we are yet to get a convention centre for hosting the same. Although announcements have been made in this regard on many occasions.

Likewise many films, be it Bollywood or Hollywood being shot in Goa. Events like Sunburn are held on the eve of new year. Many ad films, running on national TV channels, are shot in Goa. But the question is that do these events benefit Goans? They appear to be benefitting limited business class like taxi operators and hotel owners. But what about common Goans?

I think Goa Government must take firm decision on having proper infrastructure for film industry and make provision for training locals so that they could get job in the state itself and they do not have to migrate to Mumbai or other cities. Government should think of creating manpower required for the film industry as if it is done, it will not only be cost effective for producers but will also provide employment to local unemployed youth. The state can have state-of-the-art training institute for film industry professionals which is need of the hour. The problem is not just related to film or entertainment. Even in tourism sector also there is a lack of skilled manpower which renders local youth unemployed. The government should conduct survey of skilled manpower required for the industry and ensure that Goan youth are trained at college level itself so that they become ready-to-work, which will not only solve unemployment issue but also help in reduction of crimes.

We talk of wellness tourism and hinterland tourism but are farms being utilized for this? Because fact is that we are dependent on our neighbouring states for almost everything like milk or vegetables, fruits etc. Government can allot some budget and recruit farmers as government servants under Agriculture Department, give Comunidade land for farming after identifying the lands in every taluka. This will not only boost wellness and hinterland tourism in the state but also realize the dream of Swayampurna Goa. This will also change the tourism perspective of the state which is known for sand, sun and sea.

Finally, let us work for Goa with Goans and ensure that entire Goans settled across the world come back to Goa. Let more and more events take place in Goa but again I reiterate that it must benefit Goan and Goyenkars!



## NEW EDUCATION POLICY 2020 : FUTURE IMPACT

**By Shailesh Zingade, Director,  
Directorate Of Education**



The National Education policy 2020 is framed so as to bridge the gap between the current state of learning outcomes and what is currently required. It aims to address country's various growing developmental aspects and is based on the five foundational pillars of NEP 2020, namely, Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability and Accountability. It aims at producing engaged, productive, and contributing citizens for building an equitable, inclusive, and plural society as envisaged by Constitution and emphasizes on safe and simulating learning environments, combined with good infrastructure and appropriate resources conducive to learning.

In NEP 2020, the teachers and parents should promote students' holistic development in academic and non-academic activities by recognizing, identifying and fostering the unique capabilities of each students. The highest priority should be accorded to achieving Foundational literacy and Learning (FLN) for all students by Grade 3 as a necessary pre-requisite to learning.

The 5+3+3+4 curricular and Pedagogical structure replaces the 10+2 existing structure making learning more Holistic, Integrated, Enjoyable and Engaging for students. The integration of 21st century skills.

Mathematical thinking and Scientific temper in the curriculum will result in all-round development of the students. There will be no rigid separation between Arts and Science, Curricular and Extra-curricular activities as well as Vocational and Academic streams.





Entry age of 3 years for Nursery has been notified by Directorate of education. The Directorate had intensive discussions with stakeholders and Goa Board has conducted orientation programmes for its BOS members and Board members by involving SCERT Faculty members. Efficient resourcing and Effective governance through school complexes will be promoted. The teachers in the anganwadis have been included in the training of ECCE i.e. National Initiative for schools heads and Teachers Holistic development (NISHTHA). These factors will definitely contribute to Universalization from ECCE to secondary Education by 2030.



School Students attending classes

Under NIPUN Bharat various activities such as Vidya Pravesh has been implemented in all Government and Government Aided Schools for Std. I from academic year 2022-23. The module prepared by NCERT is translated in Marathi and supplied to GPS and Teachers have been trained. Teachers' manual is prepared and students worksheets, Games, puzzles have been developed to achieve specific learning outcomes. 73 master Resource persons (BRC/CRP/Teachers) have been provided 7 days intensive training.

Vidhya Samiksha Kendra (VSK): The Directorate of education, SCERT and Goa Samagra Shiksha have signed an MOU with ConveGenius Group for Technical and Hardware support. VSK has a centralized reporting System which will help to improve the schools Key Performance indicators (KPI's). The Integrated Dashboard will have functionalities of students, teachers, school's learning outcome and assessment, survey management besides communications and analysis. The Hon Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant inaugurated VSK on 8th August 2022.



## SP Nidhin Valsan : **IRONMAN**



I was born and brought up in Thalassery in Kerala. My father was transmission assistant in telephone department and mother a clerk in revenue department. During my school days, I had my education in a government aided school. I was good in studies. I secured 6th rank in Kerala state 10th board while 10th rank in Kerala engineering entrance examination and in All India Engineering Entrance Examination I secured all India rank 142. I enjoyed reading and studying. At the same time I represented school in cricket, table tennis and chess.

After I finished my engineering I was working in a Multinational company in Bangalore. I worked for almost two years and I repaid my education loan. Almost all of my college friends at that time were appearing GRE, GMAT and CAT to get into MNCs and foreign countries. I was very much confused about my future. That time I remembered what my father had told me in my school days. He used to tell me that no matter what you are or who you are you always have a responsibility and obligation to this great country and you should always try to do something for your fellow countrymen. Civil services was the best career choice for converting these words into action and I decided to prepare for civil services. I was in NCC as school student and I always had a fascination for uniformed services. That's how I became an IPS officer.

The biggest challenge one can face is balancing the professional life and personal life. A police officer is always on duty and most of the days the duty times extend to late nights. Sometimes the call of duty may last continuously for three to four days with negligible sleep. These long uncertain work hours makes it really a challenge to find time to take care of fitness and spending time with family. Another challenge I face as police officer is the gap between resources we have and the expectations the citizens have from us. Everywhere and every time police is required. But our numbers are less and our resources are scarce. With the available resources we try our best to meet all the expectations of the people who we serve. But it's a real challenge.

The journey as a cancer survivor fills my life with hope and positivity. However the battle with cancer was a real ordeal.



## SP Nidhin Valsan : **IRONMAN**

To be exact, during my fight with cancer, chemotherapy and covid there were four times I went to bed at night and didn't expect to wake up the next day. But because of prayers of my family, the friends and God's blessings, I survived. Cancer is an extremely difficult disease. The treatment lasts for months sometimes years . It affects not only body but also the mind. But we have to endure. The biggest question which we face is "why me?" which has practically no answer. I kept myself engaged. I surrounded myself with positive things and my family. After a long one year battle I defeated cancer. But battle with cancer is lifelong. Every third month I have to go for medical check up to check for relapse. I was advised by my doctors to have a disciplined life style to prevent recurrence.

My biggest motivation is my belief in God and future. I believe in powerful and strong values. I believe in focus, commitment, hardwork, persistence, endurance and love. I believe in two very powerful quotes; 1) focus, commitment, sheer will (from John Wick movie); 2) Life is not about how hard you can hit, its about how hard you can get hit, and keep moving forward. (from Rocky Balboa movie). These values made me defeat cancer and covid. And within one year I trained hard and completed Ironman Goa 70.3



The biggest challenge in life is mastering our minds. I kept myself engaged. I believed in my doctor. I believed in my treatment. I believed in my training. I believed in my coach. I kept working hard. I remember during ironman training I used to wake up everyday at 4 AM and start my training at 5 AM. I went to bed early and slept enough for the body to recover. I woke up early and I trained; I trained consistently without fail.

Like every person in this world, my journey so far has been filled with ups and downs.

I have decided my future life will be devoted to share the blessings and help others to make this world a better place.



## Can Mining Make Goa a Tax-Free State?

*By Sandesh Prabhudessai*

A decade has passed the mining of iron ore, a major backbone of the Goan economy since its liberation in 1961, has yet to start. Why? Because it was banned by the Supreme Court in 2012. Why was it banned? Was it because Goa Foundation, an NGO led by Dr Claude Alvares, went to the Supreme Court? Or because the Supreme Court confirmed through the investigation conducted by Justice Shah Commission that Goa was blatantly involved in Illegal Mining? Who was the culprit? Goa Foundation or the Government of Goa led by its corrupt politicians in collusion with the mining leaseholders?

When the growth of the Goan economy came to a grinding halt in 2012 with a ban on mining, everybody, including the trade unionists, made Dr Claude Alvares of the Goa Foundation, the Villian. As though he had passed the judgement and he is the Chief Justice of India. We did not even bother to think that the court has found his allegations valid, verified by a Commission headed by a retired Judge and the blatant 'theft' of our own mineral wealth was confirmed by the highest judicial body of this country.

### **What is the ultimate outcome of the whole legal exercise, today?**

The Portuguese had handed out 791 concessions - called Titres de Concessao - from 1929 onwards to various persons and companies, with each concession ranging from 20 to 100 hectares. They called themselves 'mine owners'. When Goa became part of independent India, these mines were brought under the central mines act, from October 1963. But the so-called 'mine owners' challenged it, claiming that the concessions were granted to them 'in perpetuity', which means for endless time. They won the first battle in the Goan court, but lost the war in the Supreme Court, in 1981. In 1987, the Government of India abolished the mining concessions and brought them under the MMDR Act. They were converted into 'deemed leases' for 20 years, which were to end in 2007. But the government renewed the leases while the China boom shot up iron ore prices from US\$ 15 to US\$ 180. The ore export zoomed up from 12 million tonnes to 54 million tonnes by 2012.

### **THE DAYLIGHT ROBBERY**

Justice Shah Commission and then the Central Empowered Committee, both set up by the Supreme Court, established two hard facts:

- 1.The operation of iron ore mining from 2007 to 2012 by the deemed leaseholders was blatantly illegal since the leases expired in 2007.
- 2.When total iron ore exports during these five years were actually around 1950 million tonnes, production was shown only at 1554 million tonnes. It meant that around 396 million tonnes were exported illegally, without even paying taxes.

The Justice Shah Commission, as we all know, marked the losses at Rs 35,000 Crore. They continued mining without being the leaseholders from 2007 onwards, mined outside the lease areas, and exported ore by evading taxes. This daylight robbery was committed during the Congress regime. Later on, during the BJP regime in 2014, once again 88 'active' leases were renewed, which were again struck down by the Supreme Court. According to Dr Alvares, Goa once again lost Rs 3300 crore due to this.

## END OF THE LEASE ERA

But finally, the Supreme Court order prevailed, the lease era was over, and the apex court ordered in 2020 that all leases should be taken over and auctioned as blocks. Since then, now the mines belong to the People of Goa and not the ‘mine owners’ any more. Like how government-owned cashew plantations or ‘Manos’ (sluice gates) for fish are auctioned, the mines are now being auctioned for a limited period of 50 years.

### IRON ORE RESERVES OF GOA

TOTAL RESERVES	EXTRACTED ORE	REMAINING ORE	COST @US 100/TONNE
927 MT	350 MT	577 MT	RS 3 LAKH CRORE

MT: Million Tonnes (Figures rounded up)

Source: Indian Bureau of Mines

Out of the 25 mining blocks, only four have been auctioned till date in the first phase. Five more are in pipeline. The procedure would go on till all the blocks are auctioned. But even if all the blocks are auctioned, not more than total 20 million tonnes can be extracted every year together, from all the blocks. That’s the cap the Supreme Court has imposed to arrest boundless mining. We need to preserve it also for our future generations. That’s the spirit of the new mining policy.

Dr Claude Alvares and his colleague Rahul Basu, have recently published a book: “The Supreme Court and Intergenerational Equity: The Goa Mining Case”. The 300 and odd pages of the book tell us the whole history of Goa’s mining and the court battles, including the judgements etc. It also tells us how iron ore reserves need to be looked at as inter-generational equity. At the function held to release the book, both of them made two separate presentations. They were simply the real eye-openers. (Both are available on Prime TV YouTube channels).

## FIVE PER CENT V/S NINETY-FIVE PER CENT

Dr Alvares, at this function, provided the audience with a break-up of the four blocks as follows:

### MINERAL SALE PROCEEDS OF FOUR MINING BLOCKS

(Value in Rs Crore)

Mine Block	Auctioned to	Value of Ore	Estimated Mineral Sale Proceeds to Govt of Goa			
			Auction Premia	Royalty	Permanent Fund	Total
Bicholim	Vedanta	27167	17265	4075	2717	24056
Sirgao-Mayem	Salgaoncar Shipping	7544	7488	1132	754	9374
Sirgao	Bandekar	2928	3258	439	293	3990
Kalay	Fomento	5549	4794	832	555	6182
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>43188</b>	<b>32805</b>	<b>6478</b>	<b>4319</b>	<b>43602</b>

Will this table open our eyes, at least now? What does it tell us? Forget the 15% royalty or the 10% of the amount kept in reserve as the Goa Iron Ore Permanent Fund (GIOPF) for our future generations as per the new mining policy, the Goa government would get 75% of the amount from the sale of the iron ore. This will come directly to the government treasury. All these years, under the pretext of the leaseholders being the ‘mine owners’, this whole amount was going to them.



We were getting only five per cent, in the form of royalty, some amount in the form of different taxes and the charity like schools, hospitals etc built by the ‘mine owners’ (No doubt that has been their valuable contribution to Goa’s economy and social upliftment even when there existed no concept of Corporate Social Responsibility - the CSR).

It is also a good sign of gesture that the same leaseholders, who were yesterday’s ‘mine owners’, have accepted this new concept in principle and have bid for the auctions. They will now hopefully partner with the government to develop Goa socio-economically in tune with the new mining policy.

But this is not the complete picture. The amount shown in the above table will increase multifold once 20 more blocks are auctioned. But this whole amount will not come to the treasury as soon as mining activity starts. There is a cap for not extracting iron ore of more than 20 million tonnes annually.

### OVER 6000 CRORE PER YEAR?

Based on the first four blocks being auctioned, Rahul Bose presented a rough picture of how rich the public treasury would be every year, once mining starts.

**ANNUAL REVENUE GENERATION @20 MT OF ORE EXTRACTION**

<b>Mineral Sale Proceeds</b>	<b>Rs 6304 Cr</b>
Auction Premia	Rs 4734 Cr
Royalty	Rs 937 Cr
<b>Total Utilisation</b>	<b>Rs 5671</b>
Permanent Fund	Rs 624 Cr

According to the authors of the book, if they are not wrong, during the entire period of eight years from 2004 to 2012, the state received only five per cent (5%) of the legal sale of ore. The major component of it was royalty. Minerals worth Rs 51,655 crore were exported and the public treasury received only Rs 2387 crore in the form of royalty. This means, on average, less than Rs 300 crore per year. Now, the amount of royalty would increase three-fold, nearly Rs 1000 crore. And in addition, the premia over the sale of ore is five times more than what we will get as the royalty. Nearly Rs 5000 crore. The total revenue would be over Rs 6000 crore!!!

### TAX-FREE GOA?

Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant recently presented the annual budget in the Goa Assembly last month. These are some of the major highlights, in terms of revenue generation.

**ESTIMATED TAX & NON-TAX REVENUE INCLUDING MAJOR ESSENTIALS (2022-23)**

State Tax Revenue	Rs 6341 Cr
State Non-Tax Revenue	Rs 3226 Cr
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>Rs 9467 Cr</b>
<b>MAJOR ESSENTIALS</b>	
VAT on Petrol-Diesel	Rs 1686 Cr
Power	Rs 578 Cr
Water	Rs 172 Cr
Transport	Rs 437 Cr
Health (Patient fees & charges)	Rs 8 Cr
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Rs 2881 Cr</b>

Theoretically, if we look at these figures, we will realise that taxes imposed by the state government could be totally wiped out and Goa can be made a 'tax-free state', if we utilise the annual returns we will get from mining in a calculative manner. The state tax revenue is a little over Rs 6000 crore while Goa will annually earn around Rs 6000 crore from the auction premia and royalty from mining. But this need not be practically viable when Goa annually gets over one crore tourists and part of these taxes are also recovered from them, compared to hardly 15 lakhs of the population of Goa.

Soon after the presentation of the budget, within a week, the Goa government announced a second hike in power tariff - this time 5.19% - across the board, to be made applicable to the domestic consumers as well as the commercial establishments. Do we really require to squeeze Goans with such a hike, that too when there is more power consumption in the summer season?

A few years ago, then chief minister Manohar Parrikar, one of the best financial managers Goa has experienced, had literally scrapped the VAT on petrol and diesel. In this year's budget, the major component of tax returns coming from 'major essentials' shown in the above table is coming from the VAT on petrol and diesel - Rs 1686 crore. In addition, revenue generation through power and water tariff, fees and charges collected from patients at GMC hospital and other health centres as well as different types of taxes and fees imposed by the transport department on vehicles add to Rs 2881 crore. Can't the Goa government provide total relief to Goans by imposing taxes and fees on such essentials as water, power, health etc? Of course, the excess and wasteful misuse could be controlled by imposing a cap on the usage of water and power.

The biggest challenge the whole world is facing today is the future of Special Children when they grow up. Can't Goa build state-of-the-art facilities for these children to make them self-reliant and make all necessary lifetime provisions for them?

## **INTER-GENERATIONAL PERMANENT FUND**

In addition, Goa becomes the first state in India, where we will create a Permanent Fund for the future generations. For this, as per the Supreme Court guidelines, Goa Iron Ore Permanent Fund (GIOPF) has been created. As per the provision, 10 per cent of the sale proceeds must be deposited in GIOPF and should be utilised for future generations. Around Rs 500 crore has already been accumulated so far through e-auction of the ore etc. Around Rs 624 crore would be added to it every year.

Goa Foundation has floated the idea of transferring 100 per cent of sale proceeds to the GIOPF. It would, according to Dr Alvares and Mr Basu, would create a huge amount of reserves for the generations to come. For a population of around 15 lakhs, each Goan could get a monthly dividend of around Rs 9000.

However, this concept was also opposed by some panellists at the book release function while they proposed various alternatives. Some panellists vehemently opposed freebies and proposed to utilise the reserves for productive usage.

Goa is perhaps the only state in the country which prepares a Regional Plan every 10 years. Along similar lines, Goa also needs to think about implementing this unique concept of intergenerational equity by creating such a Permanent Fund. How it should be utilised for future generations requires a DEEP THOUGHT, like how experts came together to chalk out a vision document, called RPG21, after the most disastrous RPG11 was scrapped.

In a similar manner, after banning mining for over 10 years now, Goa needs to chalk out a similar Vision Document for the utilisation of the GIOPF, for the next 50 years. It needs to chalk out the responsibilities of the ore extractors, the government and the people whose land is destroyed to extract this mineral wealth. Not by keeping in mind the Development Index (of constructions, constructions and constructions....) but the concept of the Happiness Index! To make Goa a real Happy State!!!



# PHOTO GALLERY



# SHOOT DIARIES





# Goa's Automobile Industry

*In Conversation with AAKASH N N KHAUNTE, DIRECTOR, Alcon - ANIL COUNTO Enterprises*



**Q. How do you see the growth of automobile industry in Goa?**

**Aakash :** Historically the auto industry in Goa has been relatively small compared to other states in India, however there has been a steady growth of the industry post covid and the market has slowly reviving. If I compare Q1 2023 v/s Q1 22, the auto industry in Goa has seen accelerate a huge jump of 26% in passenger car segment.

**Q. Do you think Goa is at pace with rest of the states in terms of automobiles?**

**Aakash :** If we look at PAN India figures of passenger cars, India too had a decent growth of 20% in Q123 vs Q1 22. Compared to PAN India figures goa is higher by 6%. Compared to the total passenger cars registered in India in Q123 Goa has contributed to only 0.4% of the total sales, however we rank the highest in India when it comes to percentage of households that own a car in each state in India. Goa stands at 45.2% against the national average of approximately 7.5%.

**Q. Being in auto industry for so many years, how have the trends changed over a period of time in terms of preferences of people in automobile.**

**Aakash :** We have been into the auto business for the past 17 years. Earlier it was the sales team who always influencing the customers on their purchases of the make and the model, however in today's date the customer is very well aware of the make and model he wants to choose, the only reason he comes to the showroom is to touch and feel the product. This is largely due to the digitalization and online platforms which share a lot of comparisons and reviews of every manufacturer.

## Goa's Automobile Industry

**Q. Do you think introduction of EV vehicles help diminish the market for petrol and diesel industries?**

**Aakash :** While IC engines are unlikely to disappear completely in the near future, it is clear that the growth of EV market will lead to a decline in their use over time. Governments all over the world are offering incentives and subsidies to encourage adoption of EVs, further accelerating the shift away from IC engines. Also considering the expectations of Indian government of becoming fully electric by 2030, all manufacturers are working towards the same. Goa as a market is also looking great towards adoption of EVs and we have seen a huge growth of EVs in Q123 vs Q122. Considering that there is no road tax and further subsidies from the manufacturers, EV sales will get boost in the country.



**Q. How do you see petrol/diesel and EV as a parallel growing industry?**

**Aakash :** While the growth of electric vehicle market is likely to lead to a decline in the use of petrol and diesel vehicles, but it is possible that this industries could continue to coexist and grow in parallel for some time. The governments around the world continue to tighten emission regulations, it is likely that the growth of petrol and diesel vehicle industry will slow down and eventually decline.

**Q. What are the major problems in the automobile industry especially in Goa?**

**Aakash :** Overall the auto industry is facing a range of challenges both globally, PAN India and also Goa. The major challenge is currently the supply chain disruptions due to semiconductor issues and also the higher demand over a period of time. The rising cost of raw material, taxes, labor and import duties has also impacted the product cost which affects the sales especially with higher ticket size cars.

**Q. What according to you are the major solutions towards the problems that arise in the industry?**

**Aakash :** I feel that the government plays an important role in solving these problems, as they have to relook into the policies especially when it comes to import duties and local taxes and encourage the OEMs towards make in India policy by giving subsidies on manufacturing. This will not only reduce the car pricing, and availability issues but also create new employment opportunities for the people.



# Goa's Automobile Industry



**Q. How are the trend in terms of hiring in the industry?**

**Aakash :** As I have mentioned earlier the industry has grown and will continue to grow irrespective of ICE or EVs, hence the demand for skilled workers is increasing day by day. Also huge opportunities would be coming in terms of recruitment for the auto sector in the near future. The auto sector offers a wide range of employment opportunities across the variety of platforms which includes engineering, sales, marketing, research and development, Accounts and finance, mechanical, electrical and software engineering and so on..

**Q.10 Do you get required skilled person for the jobs?**

**Aakash :** Considering the complexity and advanced technology involved in today's new generation vehicles irrespective of ICE or EVs it becomes very difficult to find the right set of skills especially when it comes to diagnosis of the vehicles. Also considering the growing network of all manufacturers across India we have seen a huge scarcity of manpower at the retail level.

**Q. What are your predictions for the future of this industry?**

**Aakash :** Automobile industry is going through significant changes with new technologies and customer preferences I feel EVs are expected to gain more market share. Also connected



connected cars with autonomous driving with features like WIFI, ADAS and latest infotainment system with integrated smartphones and other devices would gain popularity in the coming years. Also safety technologies would be not compromised on any cars.

**Q. How do you see Goa on the automobile chart in the next 5 years?**

**Aakash :** The growth of the automobile industry in Goa will depend on various factors such as economic growth, government policies and consumer preferences. I feel the government has to promote other industries along with tourism to boost the economy of the state which will further increase the per capita income and the consumers would have more disposable income to spend. Also to boost the sales of

cars the government should relook at the taxation especially road tax reductions/ subsidies which has proven to boost the sales in the past (2019-50% road tax reduction).





## INTELLECTUAL GOANS LEAVE STATE DUE TO LACK OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES : NITIN KUNKOLIENCAR

President Emeritus of MAIT

The employment scenario in Goa is grim. There are no employment opportunities for locals and whatever available opportunities are going for non-Goans thus affecting employment and entrepreneurship potential of Goans. Government has creating killer system by distributing jobs at its own whims and fancies.

This I am highlighting because it affects the employment and entrepreneurship and opportunity level to the Goans. Those who get works, they do not execute them in Goa. They do in their own states or cities and later dump it in Goa. And it is not just limited to IT sector but it applies to all sector be media or tourism. Even if you see tourism promotion, how many jobs have really gone to Goans? Very rare!

Though financial activities take place in Goa but not the economic activity due to which large spending go outside the state. This kills the value chains and that's why Goa might have been a very popular destination but we have created a mess in employment scenario. Another problem is of migrant menace. We are getting all this intelligent and smart qualified people going out of the state and people with labour class are entering the state.

As a result of this the intelligent genes are going out while the labor genes or the non-intelligent genes enter the state. That is why Goa's 50% of the population directly or indirectly of migrants. This has changed the demography and identity of the state and is becoming very dangerous for the future .

The unemployment problem the way we see, it is not just giving jobs and but it is also creating a big impact on the identity and demography of Goa. Hence, Goans are to be looked after for employment in a proper way. The government has to support private sector employment in the state either through government business or inviting good industries.

Almost 48% of Goa's resource go on paying salary and pensions. It has become a death trap because of over employment in the government services. Government is talking about e-governance. They have spent so much money but it recruits LDC and UDC which are not required. There is need of more data entry operators , IT service people, more engineers into the government service system but that is not happening. I think LDC, UDC culture has to go in a modern way of governance.

Government should create opportunities for future skills and should not go on recruiting people for legacy skills which are not going to exist.

You want IT to be taught even from 1st std but what is the point if you're not going to take them in for jobs . This is where the correction has to happen from the government side and that is what is extremely important.

Goa should deal strongly with migrants. These migrants have become very sensitive towards politics as a result of which they get priority over Goans which is very disheartening and really sad for the state. I think we Goans need to act over this.

I think there is large amount of under employment when it comes to IT or engineering sector in Goa.

Very few corporates have a capacity to pay a good package to people who work in tourism sector in coastal areas. Therefore, migrant workers survive on tips. Those who come from eastern parts or drought affected areas of the country, their preference is to get two meals a day and shelter somewhere. They work and at times people exploit them. So we need to make a human resource mapping of the state and workout the capacities and jobs available. I think Labour Department and Human Resource Corporation have miserably failed in their duties.

If we talk about Swayampurna Goa, its a great slogan. I appreciate it, but if Swayampurna Goa is to be realised then Goans need to get opportunities out of the eco system. There is a need to work out a structure and use agriculture for gainful opportunities. There is need to link agriculture and tourism. There is potential in fisheries sector as well. We have more than Rs 1500 crore worth fish industry in Goa but there is no value addition to the product. We should see how we can create value chain and engage locals and create opportunities for them. All departments are talking about schemes but they are on paper. IT Department does nothing. Most of the startup's were not paid. Agriculture Department has lost focus. IDC Department has become landlord. Who will work for development of Goa if the departments that are made for working for the betterment of the state are not working. So I think it's time that the Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, all ministers and corporation heads sit together on a deliberation and feel that chamber of commerce or other institutions of Goa should take the lead.



## WOMEN EMPOWERMENT SCENES IN GOA

***In Conversation with Mrs. Sulakshana Pramod Sawant,***  
*BJP Mahila Morcha Prabhari & President – Goa State Women Self Help Group Association*

Women's empowerment is a very broad subject. To put it simply, it refers to enabling women to explore themselves and realize their abilities. It is a continuous process aimed at achieving greater

autonomy and equality in society. I would like to create an environment where women are better represented in decision-making positions. I also support women's economic empowerment by providing access to finance, resources, and opportunities. This would help them to achieve their goals and strengthen their ability to access the tools and resources needed to make their own decisions and take control of their lives.

Today, women face many challenges around the world, primarily including gender-based violence, limited access to education, workplace discrimination, lack of representation in decision-making, limited access to health-related information, and cultural and societal norms. These issues not only harm women physically and emotionally but also restrict their freedom and opportunities. In many parts of society, women have limited access to education, which affects their ability to develop skills, earn a livelihood, and participate fully in society. Additionally, women often face restrictions and expectations imposed by cultural and societal norms that limit their freedom, mobility, and opportunities. Patriarchy, which considers women to be less capable in leadership positions, is a common issue in many societies, and as a result, women are deprived of opportunities in business and politics. I believe that achieving work-life balance is difficult for women, and they often prioritize their families over their careers.

**Q.How would you describe the opportunities for men and women in goa? Do you feel equal opportunities are given to both?**

I believe that Goa, being a well-educated state, offers equal opportunities for both women and men, although these opportunities may vary depending on factors such as education level, occupation, and socio-economic status. Despite efforts to promote gender equality and reduce discrimination through legislation and affirmative action programs, certain cultural barriers still exist that need to be addressed to achieve equal opportunities for all. To accomplish this, policies and programs that support women's empowerment, such as access to education, training, and finance, need to be implemented. Additionally, promoting a culture of gender equality that challenges stereotypes and discrimination and supports women's involvement in decision-making and leadership roles is crucial. Ultimately, ensuring equal opportunities for both men and women benefits society as a whole by unlocking the full potential of all individuals and creating a more equitable and inclusive world.

**Q. What your definition a holistic women?**

A holistic woman is certainly not a superwoman, but I believe that taking a holistic approach that considers the mind, body, and soul is essential. This approach encompasses all aspects of a woman's life, including physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual health. A holistic woman may prioritize self-care practices such as regular exercise, healthy eating habits, adequate sleep, and stress management techniques to maintain physical health.

## **Q. What is your suggestion to uplift fellow women?**

First and foremost, we should create awareness to build and boost the confidence of women. Women often feel subordinate or unable to realize their strength, and this is the basic thing that individuals can do to help. In addition, various government schemes and corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities of private companies are working towards women's empowerment and upliftment. Fellow women should also look into and try to address issues like harassment at the workplace, domestic violence, mental health issues, etc. of their fellow women. These issues can be addressed by approaching government authorities, counsellors, NGOs, etc.

Teamwork or group work is considered to be more effective and efficient than working on an individual capacity. We have the concept called self-help groups where women can participate on a bigger aspect, which will help them and society as a whole by making them financially independent. We should also celebrate the successes of other women and recognize their achievements. This can help build a culture of support and encouragement. Advocating for change by using our voice to advocate for policies and initiatives that support gender equality and empower women is important. This can include lobbying for equal pay, better workplace policies, and other issues that affect women. Remember, uplifting fellow women is about creating a culture of support and encouragement. Small acts of kindness and support can make a big difference in the lives of others.

## **Q. If you born again, would you like to be born as a woman again?**

I would love to be reborn as a woman because I am proud of being a woman and I believe that a woman is complete within herself. She is a symbol of completeness. But at the same time, just to see the funny side of it, if I had to be born as a man, I would like to know what that ego issue with some men that makes them not support a woman and always consider her subordinate. Maybe I would be able to understand that issue or at the same time, I believe that I would be able to take the role of supporting women to be stronger.

## **Q. Best advice you have received from a fellow woman**

A leader is the one who takes you where you want to go, but a woman leader is the one who takes you where you ought to be. This is a great statement that I have heard, and there is another piece of advice that says one has to fight their own battles and stay strong throughout. I believe this is the best advice I have received.







# आमच्या कोंकणीचो आमकां अभिमान जाय...

गोपीनाथ वि. गांवस, सत्तरी

कोंकणी उलय, कोंकणी बरय...

आमची कोंकणी आमकां जाय...

कोंकणी आमची मायभास, कोंकणीचोच आमकां ध्यास...

कोंकणी आमची कार्यालय भास, कोंकणी आमची कारबार भास...

अश्यो भक्त बोंबलेंतल्यान घोशणां दिल्यो म्हूण कोंकणीचो विकास, कोंकणीचो प्रचार, प्रसार आनी कोंकणी समृद्ध जावंची ना. कोंकणी समृद्ध जावपाक जाय जाल्यार आमकां कोंकणी मनशांक पयलीं आमच्या कोंकणीचो अभिमान आसपाक जाय. आमकां काय जणांक कोंकणी फकत आमकां सर्वायक जावपाखातीरच जाय. जाल्यार आमकां काय जणांक आमचें सादपाक जाय म्हूण आमकां कोंकणी जाय. आमी आमचीं शाणपणां कोंकणींतल्यान सांगतले आनी आमच्या भुरग्यांक काडून इंग्लीशींत शिकपाक घालतले. आनी विचारल्यार सांगतले इंग्लीश ही भास ग्लोबल भास. ती आमकां येवपाकच जाय. आमकां केन्ना - केन्ना आमच्या घरांत लेगीत कोंकणी उलोवपाक कमीपणाचें दिसता. आमची भास कोंकणी अशें जर आमी मानतात आनी ती खऱ्यांनीच आमकां जगोवपाक जाय आनी तिगोवपाक जाय जाल्यार आमी आमच्या भुरग्यांक कोंकणी शाळेंत घालपाक जाय. आमच्या घरांनी आमी आमच्या कोंकणी भाशेंतल्यानच उलोवपाक जाय. आमी जो कार्यालयीन वेव्हार करतात तोवूय कोंकणींतल्यानच करपाक जाय. मागीर तो पंचायतींतलो अर्ज आसूं वा खंयच्या सरकारी कार्यालयाक बरयल्लें पत्र आसूं.

आमी पयलींच थारायतात पंचायतींतल्या सचिवाक कोंकणी कळात काय कोण जाणां... सरकारी कार्यालयांतल्या क्लर्काक जांव त्या अधिकाऱ्याक कोंकणी कळात काय कोण जाणां... हावेन कोंकणींत दिल्ल्या पत्राक जांव अर्जाक तो अधिकारी कोंकणींत जाप दियत काय कोण जाणां... अशें म्हणून आमीच कोंकणी बरोवक सोदिनात. आमच्या कोंकणी बदल खऱ्यांनीच जर आमकां अभिमान आसा जाल्यार दरेक गोंयकारान आमचें कार्यालयीन कामकाज हें

कोंकणींतल्यानच करपाक जाय. सरकारान करूं वा ना करूं. आमीच कार्यालयांतल्या त्या कामकाज पळोवपी मनशाक सांगपाक जाय म्हाका जाप कोंकणींतल्यानच दी म्हूण.

कारण तो जेन्ना सरकारी जांव निमसरकारी कार्यालयांत नोकरेक रुजू जाता तेन्ना ताका कोंकणी ही आवश्यक आसता. ताका कोंकणींतल्यान बरोवक, वाचूक आनी उलोवक कळटा हें तो त्या त्या मुलाखतीक सांगता. आनी त्या नेमानुसारच ताका गोंयांत सरकारी वा निमसरकारी कार्यालयांत घेतात.

आमच्या गोंयच्या शिक्षण संचालनालयाचो कार्यालयीन वेव्हार जेन्ना कोंकणींतल्यान सुरू जातलो आनी तो आवश्यक पद्दतीन सुरू जातलो तेन्नाच गोंयांतल्या सगळ्या कार्यालयांचो वेव्हार खऱ्या अर्थान चालीक लागतलो.

आमच्या राज्यांत काम करपी सरकारी अधिकाऱ्यांक, कर्मचाऱ्यांक आमची कोंकणी भास येवपाकच जाय. आमी जंय वतां थंय ल्हान मोठ्या धंदेकारांकडेन हिंदी भाशेंतल्यान वेव्हार करपाक सोदतात. हें सगळें बंद जावन आमी आमच्या गोंयांत पोट भरपाक आयिल्ल्या दरेकल्याकडेन कोंकणींतल्यानच उलोवपाक जाय. तांका तांचें पोट गोंयांत भरपाक जाय जाल्यार ताणीन कोंकणी उलोवपाक जाय. आमचें परतें जालां आमी तांचेंच भाशेंतल्यान उलोवक सोदतात. तशेंच आमी बरोवप्यानी आमच्या गावांतल्या सामान्य मनशाच्या सामान्य विशयांचेर आनी तांच्या मना काळजांमेरेन पावपी विशयांचेर बरोवपाक जाय. आमच्या गोंयांत गावां गावांनी वेग वेगळ्यो बोली आसात. त्यो बोली आतां ना जावपाच्या वाटेर आसात. आमी गावां - गावांतले लोक शारांनी रावपाक लागल्यात आनी शारीच जाल्यात. आमच्या गांवची भास जर आमी आमच्या शारांतल्या आमकां फ्लॅट करपी फ्लॅटांत जर जीती - जीवी दवरली जाल्यार ती भासय उरतली आनी आमची संस्कृताय लेगीत जीती - जीवी उरतली. आमची भाशा फ्लॅट जावंची ना. आमच्या भुरग्यांक आमच्या भाशेबद्दल अभिमान तेन्नाच निर्माण जांवक शकतलो. आमी सांगतले एक आनी करतले एक अशें जांवचें ना. आमचें साहित्य हें सामान्य मनशाचे विशय जावपाक जाय. तशेंच ह्या समाजांतल्या दरेक घटकाचो आवाज हें आमचें साहित्य जावपाक जाय. अशें जालें जाल्यारच आमच्या कोंकणीचो फुडार हो निश्चितच परजळीत आसा हातूंत अजिबात दुबाव ना. आमच्या कोंकणीचो आमकां अभिमान जाय...



# WHAT'S IN THE GOA BUDGET 2023?

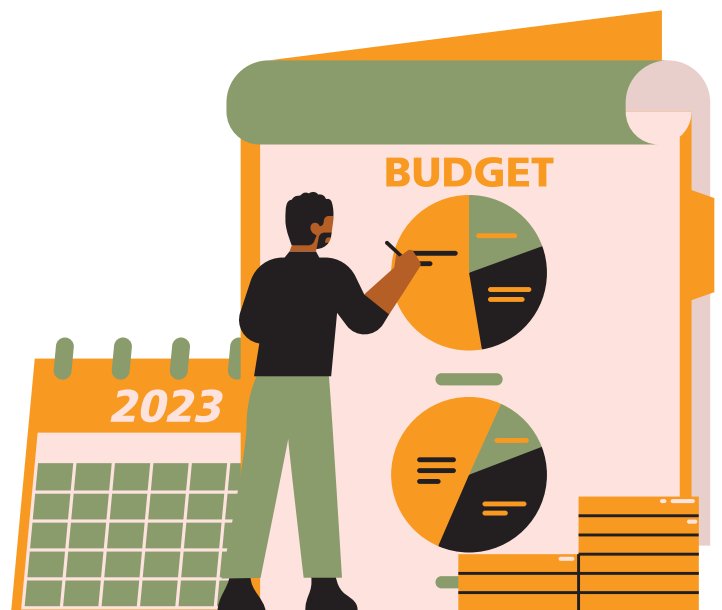
By CA. Rohan Bhandare

The fact that the Hon. Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant's state budget speech exceeded 120 minutes, and that the Budget document contained multiple annexures to showcase the various upcoming projects itself speaks of the intent and vision for Goa.

The Goa Budget has followed the major themes of the Central Government, and has planned to spur the Goan economy by investing in infrastructure, green initiatives, education and health.

Given below are the major highlights of the Budget:

The allocation for health has increased by 18% over the previous year, and the increased allocation will strengthen the infrastructure at Goa Medical College, Goa Dental College and Directorate of Health Services. The proposed establishment of Jan Aushadhi Kendra for generic medicine will strengthen the local pharmaceutical industry and



provide quality medicine at affordable prices.

Ø The infrastructure projects, especially the New Borim Bridge and the Four laning of Anmod-Mollem will redefine the logistics map for Goa, and have a multiplier effect on the economy through increase in private investments.

Ø The digital efforts for online registration for services, launching an app for all public services, enforcing time bound delivery of public services and the proposal to make all Government offices paperless will

## WHAT'S IN THE GOA BUDGET 2023?

not only reduce costs and duplication, but will also ensure transparency and efficiency in the departments.

Ø The high allocation of Rs. 4,145 crores for green initiatives, and the formulation of Green Goa Policy is apt for Goa's environment and will encourage green manufacturing and create green jobs. The EV Subsidy scheme will encourage buyers to make environment friendly choices.



Ø The Industry related proposals for digitization, decriminalizing and simplifying compliances will help in the ease of doing business. The rationalizing of VAT rate on Piped Natural Gas was a long pending demand from the Industry, and will reduce the cascading effect of the VAT component on the final products and make them competitive.

Ø The initiatives such as introduction of Caravan Tours, hinterland tours, the new Home- stay Policy, and the Convention Centre for MICE tourism will widen Goa's tourism spectrum and promote Goa beyond beaches.

Ø The upgradation of Property records and linking them with financial institutions and AADHAR will increase transparency in real estate, prevent land frauds, and enable due diligence for the public.

Looking forward to the speedy implementation of the voluminous budget checklist.



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