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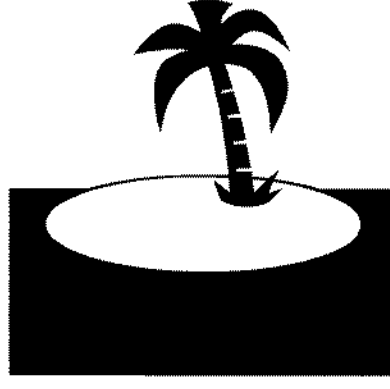


*The 8th Biennial
Goan Convention*



Chicago, Illinois - July 1st, 2nd, 3rd 2006





ओंवळां २००६

Compiled by:

Arti Pandit & Neel Lawande

Acknowledgements:

The organizing committee of the 8th Biennial Goan Convention in Chicago wishes to convey their utmost gratitude to the convention's supporters & well wishers. In particular, we would like to acknowledge Guirish & Asha Sardesai, the coordinators of the 7th Biennial Goan Convention held in Canada, for providing the surplus funds of the convention, which helped us to jump-start our planning activities.

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We would like to acknowledge the following families for their support. This convention would not have been possible without their generous support

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July 1st, 2006

Dear Fellow Goans,

It gives us, the Organizing Committee of the 8th Biennial Goan Convention, great pleasure to welcome you all to the Windy City. The 2nd Goan convention was held in Chicago in 1994, exactly 12 years ago, and we are honored to organize this convention in Chicago for the second time. While we have planned a lot of exciting activities for you over the next couple of days, we have at the same time, tried to move the activities at a very susegaad pace. We hope that you will enjoy the 2006 Goan Convention as much as we enjoyed putting it together for you.

Our main goal of the convention is to get all the mogaal and susegaad goenkars together at one place so they can meet their relatives, close friends and old classmates and engage in some ruchic khobryo. Combining the winds of Chicago with the vaavzad of Goa rains, the hip-hop, blues and rock music of Chicago with the fugdees, dhaalos and mandos of Goa, we have put together a program that will take you back to memories of our sweet homeland of Goa. We have tried to bring different flavors of life acquired by us Goenkars over the years of growing up, together in our very own paradise of Chicago where we have attempted to touch each and everyone attending this convention with our love and devotion. We have created a website for representing the Goan Convention with the expectation that organizers of the next Goan Convention will take it over. You can visit this website at <http://www.goanconvention.com>.

Again, we welcome you all to the 8th Biennial Goan Convention. We hope you enjoy the program we have put together for you and we hope you enjoy your stay in Chicago.

Our best wishes and a warm welcome to you all.

Sincerely,

The Organizing Committee
8th Biennial Goan Convention

Goa Organization in America8th Biennial Convention ~ July 01 – 03, 2006

The Radisson Hotel, 1725 E Algonquin Rd, Schaumburg, IL 60173

PROGRAM**Saturday, July 01, 2006:**

03:00 pm – 05:30 pm

06:00 pm – 07:00 pm

07:00 pm – 08:30 pm

08:30 pm onwards

Registration

Reception

Dinner

Family Night

(Participants will include family members)

Sunday, July 02, 2006:

07:00 am – 09:30 am

09:30 am

10:00 am – 03:30 pm

03:30 pm

06:00 pm – 07:00 pm

07:00 pm – 08:30 pm

08:30 pm – 09:00 pm

09:00 pm onwards

Breakfast

Buses leave for picnic spot

Picnic

Buses leave for hotel

Reception

Dinner

Fashion show

Sangeet night

Monday, July 03, 2006:

07:00 am – 9:30 am

10:00 am – noon

Breakfast

General meeting

(Meeting followed by boxed lunches)

Goa Organization in America8th Biennial Convention ~ July 01 – 03, 2006

The Radisson Hotel, 1725 E Algonquin Rd, Schaumburg, IL 60173

YOUNG ADULTS PROGRAM**Saturday, July 01, 2006:**

03:00 pm – 05:30 pm

Sign-up for fashion show participation

06:00 pm – 07:00 pm

Ice breakers

07:00 pm – 08:30 pm

Dinner

08:30 pm onwards

Family Night

(Followed by "Sands of Goa" dance party
with DJ Eclipse)**Sunday, July 02, 2006:**

07:00 am – 09:30 am

Breakfast

09:30 am

Buses leave for picnic spot

10:00 am – 03:30 pm

Picnic

03:30 pm

Buses leave for hotel

04:00 pm – 07:00 pm

Ice cream social

07:00 pm – 08:30 pm

Dinner

08:30 pm – 09:00 pm

Fashion show

09:00 pm onwards

Mocktail Party with DJ Eclipse

Monday, July 03, 2006:

07:00 am – 9:30 am

Breakfast

10:00 am – noon

Closing sessions for goodbyes
(Meeting followed by boxed
lunches)

Organizing Committee

Mr. Sanjay Wagle and Mrs. Arti Pandit

Mr. Suyog Bhobe and Dr. Swati Bhobe

Mr. Pramod Dubale and Mrs. Seema Dubale

Miss Sonya Kenkare

Mr. Sachin Lawande

Mr. Sanjay Lawande and Dr. Shubhada Lawande

Mr. Neel Lawande

Mr. Rajeev Prabhu and Mrs. Nina Prabhu

Mrs. Leena Sardesai

Memories of Goa

By: Nina Prabhu

IN MEMORY OF MY FATHER LATE SHRI VASSANT SINGBAL AND MY NEPHEW MASTER AMEY.

Such a small state that's merely a tiny dot on the map of the world and having known to be a capital of Portuguese India formerly is nothing but a paradise, a treasure chest which can be explored for years and yet at the end of it the hunt doesn't end. Goa has been a pride to each and every one of us born there and spent their lives elsewhere. It is hard to find a Goan who is not kind hearted, a food lover and some are even gifted with the most extraordinary talents.

Being born, bred and brought up in such a land makes me feel so proud and actually miss it more than ever. Having spent my entire childhood in Panjim, in the company of my own family and close friends it seems like yesterday. As we were growing up, my father would always say one thing, "Make the most of it now...tomorrow is altogether a different day." And I would make fun of him and say, "What do u mean??? Tomorrow will be just like today...what's so different,"... Years passed...we all grew up...my sisters got married...The so called home definitely started having a different look, but the busy life kinda helped coping up with life.

I have always been so close to my parents and moreover, a known fact that daughters are closer to dads was no different rule to me. There were times when I wanted my demands to be fulfilled and knowing there may be some differences in opinion between my mom and me, I would naturally share it with my father. I knew exactly how to get things done but little did I know that my father also knew I was trying one of my stunts. However, without any arguments, life just went on. Being the youngest of the family, I will say I really enjoyed the best of everything. Meanwhile, I felt fortunate when my sisters had kids and they would come by. We would have family get-togethers, not forgetting some excellent and exotic dishes that my mother cooked. The taste was so different from what I cook myself today.

As they say, every girl has to leave her home someday, I thought my turn had come much earlier than I expected. However, I decided that was the best decision my parents had made for me 'cos they knew from day one what I wanted. So a couple of days before I stepped in the United States, I kept wishing for some magic that would make days and nights so long that I could spend more and more time with my parents. My parents tried not to show their heavy hearts to me however from few comments here and there I knew they were going through much more than what I was going through. It was like a battle of emotions, each one of us were putting up from our individual sides. Every single day, my mother would try to make at least a couple of dishes that were my favorite. It hurt me real badly to see them making efforts not to breakdown. Until the day dawned when I had to say goodbye. My flight was at noon...my sisters along with my nephews and nieces and their families had come on the previous day. I hadn't slept the whole night just wondering when I would get a chance to be with them again.

My mother again made my favorite breakfast but unlike other days hardly anyone ate it....she made my favorite lunch, but in between when I peeked in the kitchen, her eyes were red and as usual she blamed it on the onions....well I understand she was chopping onions but what about my father and sisters??? I spent a lot of time just hugging my father and none of us said a word until my father broke the ice and said, "Tomorrow will not be like today,"...I broke down...this time without saying a word. He just patted me on my back and said "Bai, I always knew that someday you would be gone, but didn't imagine it would happen so fast. But don't worry, days will fly by and one day you will come back as an American Citizen." Again, during lunch time, no one really had the appetite. For the last time I had a look at my house, my pets and my family and sat in the car...

As the flight tookoff from Goa airport it was as if the world had come to an end until I landed O'Hare airport in Chicago. It definitely gave me a shock but a pleasant one.

My new life had begun. Homesickness played a major role, but I tried once again not to show it. Life was going on when one early morning I had a call from home saying my father was no more and my family had decided to tell me three days later since they were worried how I would handle the situation all by myself. I felt as if all the blood flow to my heart had stopped. There was no way to control the emotions. My world had ended. I could imagine the entire situation that had taken place. Years passed...my kids came along and gave me new enthusiasm to live.

However with each and every passing day I spent with my kids I could empathize with my mother. I could feel my self repeating words similar to my mom. Now is that hereditary or genetics??? Oh well....seems surprising but all of us at some point of life imitate our parents and perhaps it's the ego/pride that keeps us from admitting that we went through the same situation.

Living in this country has definitely made me a different person in certain aspects but I guess the originality is hard to wipe out. I had started handling emotional issues much better (or worse my husband would know better). Couple of visits to India makes one feel better but I wonder why it gets so hard when its time to come back. All the bawling and crying and homesickness hasn't changed in years.

Talking about visits I think my last visit was really memorable. I spent a lot of time with my mom and sisters and my nephews. We decided to visit places that brought back nostalgic feelings. One of my nephews who was an upcoming artist Master Amey....he even made sketches of my kids and couple of other portraits. He spent unusually more time with us even missing his college and other activities that he loved. At one point I even joked and said, "Now I'll have to take you back with me," and he abruptly said, "Lets enjoy today because tomorrow never comes.".....The whole thing was a big joke and we all laughed about it. Just the night before I was leaving Goa...Amey made these beautiful paintings for me and insisted I should take them with me. As with all of us, when we come from Goa, our bags are already loaded with solas, teflas and khaarein(dry fish) along with some extraordinarily authentic spices, clothes...oh my god unending list. But anyways I didn't want to hurt his feelings...so I decided to get them as cabin baggage. Amey came to see us off at the airport,....he tried very best to hide his emotions and said goodbye with a sad smile.

A year back tragedy struck again.....Amey was hit in an accident and died on the spot and once again I was told only after things were over. I kept asking myself as to what is it that life has in store.....The boy had not even started his life and before anyone could know it was all over. It was the biggest blow our family had faced. My mother was unable to talk for months. I didn't have the courage to call anyone up. All I did was prayed...prayed not only for my family but to each one of us who have gone through some unexpected episode in life and that's when my fathers words kept ringing in my ears, "Make the most of it today...tomorrow will be a different day." What a great man I thought...he had made a statement applicable not to just one moment, but every moment of our lives and coming back to my own life, I find myself repeating the statement over and over again either to family or friends. Now that's definitely not hereditary or genetics...its just the experience that takes a man to different heights unknowingly. We definitely inherit the cultures and the values that our parents have inculcated in us.....its worth more then millions!!!!!!

And coming back to Goan roots I wonder how different life would have been growing up elsewhere then Goa.....guess never the same. Or probably its just the personal opinion. I have yet to meet any Goan who doesn't greet with a smile, who doesn't offer a cup of tea with a snack on the side, who doesn't prefer to sit on voltaire(an arm chair used in olden times) and watch the paadeli(person who plucks coconuts) getting the soor(coconut toddy). So my friends I'm sure we have a reason to say we are Goenkars and will always be no matter where we live.

Since the year 2000, I have been part of a nonprofit registered in California, Goa Sudharop Community Development, that supports groups and individuals in Goa who work and fight to improve the environment, sanitation and safety in Goa, and preserve our Goan culture and heritage. I would like to share my observations of some of these issues during my visit to Goa this February, with supporters of Goa Sudharop, the G.O.A. Convention and other Goan organizations in North America.

My pictures and observations are being posted on the Goa Sudharop website, www.goasudharop.org and comments and suggestions can be sent to me at filomenagiese@yahoo.com.

Still Beautiful Goa:

On the positive side, I found Goa to be still beautiful and green in comparison to the dry Rajasthan landscape. Even the lovely green slopes around the Ganges in Uttaranchal State were not as strikingly green as the Goan rice fields and river banks. Tourists and we NRG's love Goa for its greenery, its beaches, its food, and its charming, friendly people. I was in Panaji and Maddgaom for Carnival and thoroughly enjoyed the fun, the parades, the bands, and the happy crowds.

What Goans Can Do For a Better Goa:

I will list some of the improvements below that I feel that we could espouse and support: as Goans interested in the welfare of Goa and Goans:

1. Road Safety: Road safety should be a top priority of government and private agencies. One elderly maid in my family circle was hit and had a broken shin bone. She was being looked after by a younger sister who, in turn, was struck down by a car and killed while I was there. As this was one of the many hit and runs in Goa, there was no hope of compensation and help for this older woman except what could be provided by my family members.
2. Clean the Rubble in the Streets: Pedestrian sidewalks and clean up of left over sand and stone rubble from building projects is a very necessary improvement. First of all, the streets are unsightly. Secondly, it is risky and dangerous for pedestrians to walk in the path of heavy traffic and also look out for stones and rubble. Builders should be held accountable and fined for leaving their rubble on the roads.
3. Nature Conservation in Goa: There are signs all over India saying: "Keep Rajasthan Green" or "Keep Goa Green." But in fact, there is not much preservation of the Goan rice fields and other green lands. Just the opposite: they are deliberately left fallow and then turned into building schemes. Goa needs an aggressive "Goa Nature Conservancy" movement and the political will to enforce conservation.
4. Ban on Plastic Bags and Waste: Panaji is enforcing a ban on plastic bags and waste with a 14,000 Rs. fine. It makes the city look clean and inviting. Why don't Maddgaom and other cities in Goa follow Panaji's lead?
5. Architectural Preservation: Panaji has restored and preserved many of its old houses and quarters. Districts like the Fontainhas will remain as markers of Goa's beautiful Indo-Portuguese architectural heritage, thanks to this heritage awareness. Again, why is not more being done for architectural preservation in other parts of Goa?
6. Need a Goan Museum: There is a heritage Museum of Goan artifacts somewhere in Panaji and supposedly there are government schemes for archiving precious old documents and putting them on disk. But according to experts in the heritage field like Percival Noronha there is hardly an active program in Goa for the preservation of Goan heritage. Getting an active Goan Museum to preserve Goan heritage is again a matter for action by NRG's.
7. Maintenance of all Buildings: Everywhere, new and old buildings are in need of repair and painting, including government buildings. Government and tourist agencies should attend to building maintenance.
8. Animal Control: I wondered why my U.S. healthcare provider, Kaiser Permanente, offered me rabies shots for my trip to India. I had no idea that dogs, monkeys, and diseased animals are a threat to public health all over India. While animals should be treated with respect, the visitor to Goa is intimidated by barking, fighting dogs everywhere in the streets. There does not seem to be a program of neutering and spaying these animals. Some of these dogs are wandering around with sores and wounds from their fights. Animal control should remove diseased cows and dogs from streets for the sake of public health.
9. Fighting for Public Health Issues: NRG's should raise their voices in support of the many groups that are fighting for better sanitation and Public Health measures in Goa. Floriano Lobo and others agitated for public toilets for the new market run by the South Goa Planning and Development Authority in Maddgaom. But these are very inadequate and one can see all kinds of people relieving themselves outside. There are cows and dogs, some

diseased, around the market, which adds to the unsanitary conditions there. Another public health eyesore is Son-sodo Garbage Dumpyard in Gogol on the Margao-Curtorim Road on the outskirts of Margao, coming under Margao Municipality. Local Goans are fighting for accountability for public health issues by municipal authorities. Goa Sudharop has given a fellowship grant to the South Goa Public Interest Group to help fight these battles. More NGO's and NRG's have to come forward to help solve these problems.

10. Control Drug Tourism: Tourism is Goa's biggest industry, bringing in a huge tax income for government coffers as well as profits for the tourist industry. But one Goa Government tourist officer pointed out that more low income tourists and drug tourists are coming into Goa. There are luxury resorts but as Goa becomes less verdant and quiet and more unclean, richer tourists will tend to stay away. We have all heard about the drug rave scene in Goa. But now, this is being replaced by the heroin trade.

The paper, the Herald (www.oheraldo.in), ran a story about the new drug tourism in Goa. Apparently, Kashmiri drug dealers are setting up handicrafts businesses in tourist spots like Baga and dealing hard drugs undercover. They also sell arms to Sri Lankan terrorists from their Goa base. Young Goan youth are also becoming heroin addicts. Citizen and political action is needed to combat drug tourism.

11. Slums in Goa: While in Jaipur, I read a Times of India account of the lakhs of illegal Bangladeshi migrants entering Assam and the northeastern states. The Assamese and other local people were thoroughly alarmed but government officials were taking no action because these illegal migrants would constitute a "vote bank" for them. Too farfetched for Goa, I thought. Such things only happen in other parts of India. Imagine my dismay to discover that slums of migrants exist in Goa too. I saw examples of these migrant slums such as the slum on the way to Benaulim at Khareband, a ward of the Margao Municipality, right on the way to the tourist beaches of Benaulim, and the slums at Moti Dongor (Monte), Babu Nagar, Fakhirband, and Aquem side of the Margao Railway Station. There are more slums on the outskirts of Margao like Fukat Nagar, Ram Nagar, Kargil-stan, and others. For that matter there are migrant slums all over Goa on the fringes of all the towns, small or big, and of industrial estates. Is Goa going to be dotted with slums, detracting from its scenic beauty and tourist appeal? Without sanitation or other facilities, they are real threats to public health and tourist eyesores. Hopefully, measures can be taken to improve this deteriorating situation.

This article is written in the hope that NRG's in North America will take some active part in addressing issues and problems that face Goa and Goans through helping organizations like Goa Sudharop and other NGO's and by dialoguing with the Goa Government and its agencies..

Filomena Saraswati Giese,
Berkeley, California

[These views are strictly of the author].

Present Goa

Dr. V.A.Pai Panandiker

***Former President, Centre for Policy Research
& Chairman, Committee on Knowledge Economy, Goa Planning Board***

Present Goa begins in 1961 when the Indian Army moved in to liberate Goa. After 451 years of Portuguese rule, Goa became an integral part of an independent democratic India. It was and is a new beginning where our rights as free and sovereign citizens are guaranteed within a constitutional democratic system. True genesis of change in Goa was the first election in 1963.

Today, Goa is the most successful of the 28 states of the Indian Union. While Goa became free from colonial rule only in December 1961, the other States had become independent in August 1947. Yet, Goa is miles ahead of the other States of the Indian Union both in social and economic development. All of that achievement is post 1961 period.

Why did Goa succeed? Did the Portuguese play any part? 451 years of Portuguese rule from 1510 to 1961, apart from its harshness especially from 1510 to 1760, in fact tried to uproot Goa from its Indian cultural moorings. The majority Hindu population lived largely as second class citizens. Until 1910, we could not even open a primary school which taught us in our mother tongue. What can be more oppressive than the fact that we could not learn through our own mother tongue!

Today, Konkani is one of the 18 official languages under the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. Our elected representatives have the right to speak in Konkani even in the Indian Parliament.

Goa paid a heavy price for the quality of the Portuguese rule. Lack of Portuguese competence is aptly reflected in the key indicators of Goa in 1961. For instance the literacy rate in Goa in 1961 was just about 31 per cent. Infant mortality was about 70 per thousand and the birth rate about 33 per thousand.

Contrast this with the literacy rate of about 85 percent in 2003 despite immigration, infant mortality of about 11 per thousand, birth rate about 14.5 per thousand. Goa has the best social indicators in India all of which were achieved between 1961 and 1991. Goa was the first State of India to reach the Replacement Level of Fertility or 21 birth rate in early 1980s, much before Kerala did. Goa has the highest per capita income in the country in 2005, estimated at around Rs. 85,000.

Look at the Goan Economy and its structure in 1961 and 2003. In 1961, Goan economy was essentially agricultural. It accounted for nearly 50 per cent of the State Domestic Product. The Industrial Economy, except for mining, was small, almost negligible.

Witness the change in 2005 when the Agricultural Economy is less than 10 per cent, Industrial Economy of 35 per cent and Service Economy of 55 per cent. Is this the right direction?

It is. As societies and nations move from one stage of the economy to the other, the structure of their economies change. Agriculture and agricultural economy dominated the world for perhaps five thousand years. Hence civilizations, like the Indian, thrived and modern Europe etc were poor and backward until the advent of the Industrial Revolution.

Goa's Major Achievements

What are Goa's main achievements since 1961? Above all, Independence and Freedom without which no human being can develop and flourish. As the old saying goes, good government is no substitute for self- government. And the Portuguese Government in Goa was by no means a good government.

One of the most important consequences of 1961 was the Liberation of the majority community. 1961 freed the majority Hindu community from various shackles and restrictions, most important of which were the educational facilities. Democracies make choice of everything possible. It is that choice especially for the majority community which made it possible for Goa to flourish after 1961, even if we complain today of political corruption or incompetence in terms of our expectations from the elected rulers

Principle Constituents of Success

The three principal constituents of success in Goa since 1961 are 1) Democracy, 2) Demography and 3) Development.

Democracy brought about the basic change in the relationship between citizens and the Government. Both the foreign and the feudal order changed. Equality of vote opened many new, even if not full, equality of opportunities. Goans got more educated, more skilled, more wealthy and certainly more healthy.

Life expectancy today in Goa is perhaps 75 years as against 77 in the U.S. Behind all this was the transfer of power from the foreign rulers and rich and the privileged to the masses of Goa. A very important feature of the Goan democracy is that there is no communal divide between the Hindus and the Catholic Christians. Unlike the "Two Nation Theory" between the Hindus and Muslims before Independence which led to the Partition of India in 1947, the Goans from both religions live as "One People" .

Impressive change was also made possible by Goan demography. Demography is about population. Our population growth slowed down after the 70's. Fewer children died, few mothers died in childbirth. Hence people went for smaller families. They invested more in the education of their children and for improving their quality of life. Once the demography of Goa stabilized, pressure on land disappeared and land was no more the source of wealth. Skills were. Goa's development in the last 40 odd years is dramatic. Every indicator is better. Better roads, better telecommunications, better health care, better educational facilities made many things possible which were not possible earlier. Both our hard and soft infrastructure improved dramatically.

Hence the quality of life vastly improved. Goa became more safe and secure. Hence, Goa developed into a good tourist destination. It was the hottest destination in 2005. Nature was always very bountiful to Goa.

But it is ultimately the people who create a nation, society and even the State. Goans did well even if Goa Government did not do as well after 1961.

What did Goa do right? Most importantly to integrate with the rest of the country and the world. Unlike Northeastern States who closed themselves behind Article 371, Goa took the risk of open access. It liberated Goans from narrow territorial boundaries. Goans are everywhere. In Lisbon, London, Los Angeles as much as in Bombay or Bangalore. We decided to be free from fear of integration. We, in many ways, Globalized before most other States of the country did. Many have not yet done so.

Even Maharashtra which had done so well before 1961, has lagged behind Goa. Today, Maharashtra's Infant Mortality is about 45 and birth rate about 21. Poverty level in Maharashtra is about 25 per cent as against about 4 per cent of Goa. Even per capita income of Maharashtra is less than one third of Goa's. The structural change in the economy of Goa has made many things possible. In particular the nature of employment opportunities. Many in Goa lament the decline of agriculture. The fact is that agricultural production in Goa has in fact gone up; not down. For instance, our coconut production in Goa in 1960 was about 70 million nuts. It is now 125 million nuts. Cashew production in Goa was 5000 tonnes in 1960. It is now about 23000 tonnes. Even rice production which was estimated at 40,000 tonnes in 1960 by the NCAER study in 1962 was 142,123 tonnes in 2000-01. In 1960, Goa imported 34,700 tonnes of rice.

In other words, it is not as if Goa's agricultural production has declined. On the contrary, it is much higher than ever before. But the agricultural economy as percentage of the SDP has declined. This is exactly how it should be. With modern technology, we can produce more agricultural products with less land. Secondly, the income potential of agriculture is always low. Also as economies change, it is the "brain" rather than the "brawn" that matters and enables higher incomes and standard of living. Hence the growth of the service economy with high "skill" content during the end of the 20th century where all of you come in. Most of you will not work in agriculture. They will work in high income, high skilled jobs, possibly, in the Knowledge Economy. Universities are designed primarily to enhance the skills and knowledge of the people so that they can earn higher incomes and higher standards of living.

The good news is that Goa's manufacturing Sector has more than doubled in the last ten years. Also that while the occupational structure shows decline in cultivation and agricultural labour by more than 20 per cent, the "other workers" have gone up by over 45 percent. Why did Goa succeed industrially and most other States of India did not? Despite all official commitments and pledges, Indian Government since the mid 1950's has been basically unfriendly to private ownership of Industry. Jawaharlal Nehru, a committed Fabian Socialist, may have changed his "Socialistic Pattern of Economy " had he lived a little longer. But the entire structure of "Planned Economy" that Nehru firmly planted and Indira Gandhi pushed with vengeance through her policy of "Controlling the Commanding

Heights of the Economy" created what C. Rajagopalachari called the "Permit- License Raj". It made India an unfriendly investment destination even for the great entrepreneurial industrial houses like the Tatas. India's industrial economy is still held by shackles by the government bureaucracy.

Following Karl Marx's Communist Manifesto in 1848 with the aura of Industrial Revolution riding high, most of the "socialists" got committed to Marxist "Dialectical Materialism". Post Industrial Information or Knowledge Revolution has clearly shown that "Dialectical Mind" is now far more important than "Dialectical Materialism". Mind rather than Matter is what really matters!

Despite Dr. Manmohan Singh's Economic Reforms during 1991-96 period, the Industrial Economy of India has been stifled by "Permits and Licenses". Too many controls, too many regulations and too much political and bureaucratic corruption anchored in these controls stymied the growth of the Industrial Economy of India.

Goa has been lucky at least in one respect. It was spared the "socialistic pattern" followed by the rest of the country in mid 50's. Most of the other States went for the public sector and invested huge state resources in all kinds of so called "public enterprises". Very few were really

enterprises. They all became milch cows for politicians and bureaucrats. Witness that even in 2006, there is so much political, bureaucratic and even judicial resistance to "Disinvestment" of the public sector.

Goa was a relative exception. Between 1961 and say 1991 while Goa Government invested heavily in the social infrastructure, especially health, education and communication, it invested very little in the public sector. Dayanand Bandodker as the first Chief Minister increased the plan outlay on health and education from 18 percent to 47 percent - a dramatic as well as a historic shift in plan priorities. No other State did so. It changed Goa forever. This remarkable achievement of Dayanand Bandodker has not been adequately recognized even in Goa.

Goa also simultaneously made it considerably more attractive for the private domestic sector to invest. Also the foreign investors. The benefits are clear in that Goa has one of the most socially as well as industrially developed economies in the country. Most States including much vaunted Kerala, have yet to learn lessons from Goa's development strategy and performance. A great deal of credit for Goa's performance must go to the first three Chief Ministers viz Dayanand Bandodker, Shashikala Kakodkar and Pratapsingh Rane. They provided basically sound policies, stability and efficiency. And the people of Goa took good advantage of the new opportunities to create a highly developed State of the Union. Ultimately, a State or a Nation develops not by what the Government does but by what the people do. Goans have done well.

Where Does Goa Stand Now?

By Indian standards, Goa has done well. But not by international standards. Our neighbours like Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore are way ahead of us. As against India's per capita income of about U.S.\$ 800 in 2005, Thailand's per capita income is around US \$ 2500, Malaysia's around \$ 4000 and Singapore's around \$ 30,000. Goa must think of how to attain such international standards. It is possible. Goa should aim to reach a per capita income of U. S. \$10,000 by 2020.

The principal task for any government is make the people happy. Goans are more happy than say the Biharis. But they are not as happy as they should, and could, be. Hence Goans migrate as soon as they get a good opportunity including overseas. The highly skilled ones like I.T. professionals, medical doctors etc go to the U.S or the U.K. The lower end professionals go elsewhere.

These are, however not good solutions. Goa does not yet to create high end, high tech jobs for its young people. That needs investments - large investment both in the soft and hard infrastructure and new emerging sectors and technologies. And investments, whether domestic or foreign, will not come unless the investors find Goa a "Friendly Investment Destination". Speeches are useful for atmospherics but simplification or better still the eradication of Controls and License Raj is far more conducive to Investments. Goa has not done enough.

High end services like five star tourist industry and other service sectors especially the Knowledge Sector including the I.T. need much better economic and social infrastructure. Goa has yet to create the requisite world class quality of ports, airports, roads, telecom, power, water supply, sanitation, schools, colleges, health services etc to support the international quality service sector or even the primary and secondary sectors of the economy. Is it all that difficult? Not at all. Goa did so much in the social sectors in just about 20 years. It could do much more for the Infrastructure and new areas of employment in less the 10 years. But not if the system is based on "Permit - License Raj" run by politicians and bureaucrats.

Where does Goa Ideally go next for its future? That is the question which all of us should ask and press for. As the principal architect of present Singapore, Lee Kuan Yew wrote, "the future divide of the world will be between those with Knowledge and those without"!

Goa has yet to realize the criticality of developing its Knowledge Sector to create the most advanced opportunities for the Goans. The Knowledge Sector is relevant for every facet of Goan life and Goan economy be it agriculture, industry or services. For the future success of Goa, it is either Knowledge or Nowhere. That is the challenge for each of us in Goa in making our own assessment of where Goa stands today, and where Goa should go next.



मातृ-स्मृती

आपले आवयचे आपल्याचेर अनंत उपकार आसतात हाची जाणीव जेन्ना तिच्या भुरग्यांक जाता तेन्ना त्या खिणाक आपल्याक दिव्य साक्षात्कार जाल्लेवरी भासता आनी तो आपल्या भाग्यवान आयुश्याचो सगळ्यांत मोलादीक खीण जावन वता. ह्या खिणाक आपल्याक कळून चुकता कीं आयुश्यांत आपल्या मनांतली प्रत्येक गजाल आनी इत्सा जाणून घेवन ती पुर्ण करपी व्यक्ती ह्या विश्वांत आसा ती फकत आपली आई. 'आ' आनी 'ई' म्हणचेच आपलो ईश्वर. आनी जेन्ना आमकां जगांतलें सगळें सुख आयुश्यांत जरी मेळ्ळें तरी मनांत ही वळ घोळटा: "स्वामी तिन्ही जगाचा आई विना भिकारी." आमची आवय कै. सौ. सुचेता अवधूत पै पाणंदीकर. आमकां तिचें मार्गदर्शन मेळ्ळां आनी तिणें आमचेर भव्य आनी दिव्य संस्कार केल्यात. ताकाच लागून आयज आमी ह्या संवसारांत नावलौकीक मेळोवंक पावल्यात. आमची आवय जिद्दीन, आंतरीक ओढीन, तळमळीन आनी त्यागान आमी कर्तृत्ववान जबाबदार नागरीक जावचीं म्हूण झटली. आयज आमी जे तेंगशेर पावल्यात ताचें सगळें श्रेय आमचे आईक. आईची याद जाली की 'प्रेमस्वरूप आई' 'वात्सल्यसिंधु आई' ह्या गितांची याद जाता.

आमी तिगां भावंडां. आमचे आईचें घर आनी कुळार एकाच गांवांत आशिल्ल्यान तिका मंडगांवचो सगळो लोक 'वासंती' ह्याच नांवान वळखतालो. श्रीमती गंगाबाई अग्नी हांगेली ती धाकटी चली. सगळ्या गांवची ती वासंती आनी वासंतीबाई आशिल्ली. वासंती दिसलें की तिच्या परिचयाच्या मनशांच्या आंगांत स्फुरण चडटालें, चैतन्य येतालें. वासंतीबाई दिसली कीं ल्हान भुरगीं आपल्या आवयबापायचो हात सोडून धांवत येवन तिचे वेंगेंत सुखावतालीं. अशी हांशिल्ल्या तोंडाची आनी जगाक हांसोवपी अशी तिची वृत्ती आशिल्ली. संवसार म्हणलो की चड उतार, सुख दुख्ख हांची कमतरता नासताली. त्रास जाताले. रांदप, कुटूंब पद्दती, भुरग्यांची काळजी, शिक्षण, घर सांबाळप आनी समाजसेवाय करप हें सगळें ती कशी जमोवन घेताली हें तिकाच खबर. पूण आपल्याक जाल्ल्या त्रासांची केन्नाच कोणाकडेन कागाळ केल्ली वा खंत परगटायिल्ली आमकां एकुयदां याद जायना. सदांच हांसती, आनंदीत फुलपाखरां भशेन तिचो सभाव. खिणांत हांगां तर खिणांत थंय. चौफेर भिरभिरताली.

लम्रापयलीं शालेय शिक्षणा उपरांत पुण्यांत रावन वाडिया कॉलेजांत शिकून तिणें टी.डी. ही शिक्षिकेची पदवी घेतली. मागीर मंडगांवच्या महिला नूतन विद्यालयांत शिक्षिकेची नोकरी केली. लग्न जाले उपरांत 1965 वर्सा तिणें आपल्या भुरग्यांचेर दुर्लक्ष जावचें न्हय देखून नोकरी सोडली आनी आमचे उदरगतीच्या मार्गाक लागली. पूण आमी जेन्ना 12 वी शिकून मेडिकल कॉलेजींत पावलीं तेन्ना आमचेखातीर केल्ल्या बलिदानांचीं फळां तिका मेळ्ळीं. रोखडेंच त्याच वर्सा तिका परत शाळेंत शिकोवपाचें आमंत्रण आयलें. महिला नूतन शाळेच्या शिशू भारतीच्या विभागांत तिणें पांय दवरलो आनी परतून एकदां ती आपल्या भुरग्यांच्या जगांत गुल्ल जाली.

भुरगीं म्हणचे तिचो जीव की प्राण. तीं दिसली कीं तांकां मायेन सांसपोवप, तांच्या माथ्यार, फाटीर हात भोंवडावप, तांकां वेंगेंत घेवप, तांकां शाण्या, बाय किंवा बाब म्हणल्याशिवाय उलो मारप ना. ह्या तिच्या आपुलकेच्या सभावाक लागून ती सगळ्या शाळेंतल्या भुरग्यांची आवडटी वासंतीबाई जाली. भुरग्यांच्या सुप्त गुणांक वळखप, तांकां चालना दिवप आनी तांचो विकास करप हो तिचो हातगूण. "बाबा बरो शिकून फुडें बरें नावलौकीक मेळय आं" हो तिचो कानमंत्र. कोणाची 10 वे ची वा 12 वेची परिक्षा आसूं, तांकां मुजरत बॅस्ट

ऑफ लक स्वता वचून वा फोनार दिवप आनी 10 वेक वा 12 वेक पयलीं आयिल्ल्या वा बऱ्या मार्कांनी पास जाल्ल्या भुरग्यांचें तोंड भरून कवतूक करप. त्याच वेळार नापास जाल्ल्या किंवा कमी मार्क पडिल्ल्या भुरग्यांची उमेद वाडोवपय ती चुकनासतना करताली. पालकांकडेन तर सदांच तिणें तांच्या भुरग्यांची तोखणाय करप. तो मस्ती करता वा सारको शिकना अशें चुकून पसून तिच्या तोंडांतल्यान येनाशिल्लें. भुरग्यांचें खूब कवतूक करपी, तांकां नाच शिकोवपी, पदां शिकोवपी, खेळूंक लावपी, नाटकांत भाग घेवपाक लावपी आनी सदांच भुरग्यांक उल्लासीत दवरपी अशी आशिल्ली ती वासंतीबाई. शिकागोच्यान गोंयांत परतताली तेन्ना खूबशो चॉकलेटी, पेनां, लिगां, नेल पेंटस् घेवन वताली. “कोणाक मे हें इतलें व्हरता” अशें विचारत जाल्यार “म्हज्या शाळेंतल्या आनी वाड्यावयल्या भुरग्यांक” ही तिची जाप आसताली.

शाळा सुटली की घरा पावपाक तिका खूब वेळ लागतालो. कोणय दिसता तांचेकडेन तोंड भरून उलोवप, आपली मनशां आसत तर तांकां ओडून आपल्या घरा व्हरप, शेजाऱ्यांक उले मारप, फुलां झाडां दिसलीं की तांकां तोखेवप, पक्षी पाखरां हांचेकडेन उलयत उलयत, वाटभर सगळ्यांक जागयत ती सकाळीं शाळेंत वताली आनी येताली.

आमची आई खंय म्हूण ना? मडगांवचें नामनेचें महिला मंडळ तिचें दुसरें घर. मंडळांत नवें कितें करूयां? नाटक बसोवया? स्पर्धा दवरया? नाच करूया? धालो-फुगड्यो खेळुंया? सगळ्या स्पर्धांनी स्वता भाग घेवन दुसऱ्यांकय भाग घेवपाक प्रोत्साहन दिवपाच्या तिच्या सभावाक कोणच लागनाशिल्लो. प्रत्येक पाककलेच्या स्पर्धेंत तर तिका इनाम मेळटालेंच. फॅन्सी ड्रॅस स्पर्धेंत तर तिका ‘हरदास’ आन ‘अर्धनारी नटेश्वर’ जावपाचें कशें सुचलें तें तिकाच खबर. स्पर्धेंत भाग घेतलो की मनशाक हुशारी आनी मनाक तरतरी येता अशें ती म्हणटाली. नवे नवे बरे कलात्मक विचार तिच्या मनांत सदांच चालू आसताले. गोंयचे आकाशवाणीचेर तर दर वर्सा तिच्यो कितल्योशोच कार्यावळी जाताल्यो. ‘गोमंतदर्शन’ ही तर तिणें पुर्व विद्यार्थ्यांक घेवन सादर केल्ली कार्यावळ पॉप्युलर हायस्कूलाच्या 50 व्या स्नेहसंमेलनांत खूबच गाजली. कोण शिकना तांकां घरा आपोवन स्पेशल शिकोवप हेंय ती चुकनासतना करताली. तिका कोणूच दुस्मान नाशिल्लो. सगळ्यांचेर माया करची इतलेंच तिका खबर. म्हाका हें जमचेना, म्हाका हें येना, म्हज्यान आयज नजो हे शब्द तिच्या कोशांत नाशिल्लेच. आई आतां शिकयलें तें पुरो, आतां सुशेग घे म्हूण सांगत जाल्यार ‘शाळा म्हूण हांव’ हें ती सांगताली. आनी खरेंच, एप्रिल 99 सालांत ती रिटायर जाली आनी रोखडीच चार म्हयन्यांनी सप्टेंबर 3 तारखेर तिका देवाज्ञा जाली.

आयज ती आमच्यांत ना. पूण तिच्या यादी सगळ्या मडगांवभर फाफसल्यात. सगळ्यांकच तिची उणीव भासता. शाळेंतल्यान येवपी तो रस्तो सुनो-सुनो दिसता. तिचें घर, तिची भुरगीं, नातवंडां, सोयरीं, शेजारी, मैत्रिणी, कोंबावाड्याचो वाठार, विठोबाचें देवूळ, महिला मंडळ, सत्यसाई मडगांव सेवा समिती आनी तिची शाळा तिच्या आवाजाच्या खळखळटाक मुकल्या. आयज केन्नाय आमी मडगांवां वतात तेन्ना आमकां सगळ्यांकडेन उक्तें उक्तें दिसता. खूब बेगीन ती आमकां सोडून गेली. ल्हाना व्हडांक, शेजाऱ्यांक, गांवच्यांक आनी हांगा आमच्या खूबशा परिचयाच्या लोकांक पसून माया लावन गेली. तिणें आमचेर केल्ले उपकार आजन्म फिटचे नात अशी म्हजी आई. “अशी पाखरे येती आणिक स्मृती ठेवुनी जाती” अशा ह्या शब्दांची स्मृती फुलां आमी तिका नमळायेन अर्पण करतात.

- डॉ. सौ. शुभदा विनायक लवदे
- डॉ. सौ. अनुपमा महेंद्र कुडचडकर.

KATRINACHI KAANI
By: Mrs Prabha B. Dhume

My Dear Fellow GOENKARANO

I just want all of you to know that we Dhumes are fine down in New Orleans. When New Orleans was flooded on August 30 due to Hurricane Katrina. Bhola, Deepa and I were in Goa. We had gone to attend "CHAVATH." We saw on CNN that the levee was broken in New Orleans and it was all flooded. When we found out exactly where the levee was broken we knew our house was definitely flooded, but we did not know how much of our house would be left. The levee was broken about two blocks from our house and exactly on our street and water came down gushing through that street so we knew that there would be damage. When the flood pictures came on the Internet we could see our first floor had lots of water. It actually was about 8 ft and stayed there for 3 weeks. Everything on the first floor was ruined.

All our friends tried to reach us but all phone lines were out and they still are out in those neighborhoods. Many of them called Pooja who was in St. Louis doing her residency. She logged into my email and sent email to everyone in my address book telling them that we were safe in Goa. Everyone else heard through the grapevine that we were safe. Quite a few people even called us in Goa. We really appreciated that and it really showed us how much our friends cared about us. So thanks! It's very hard to track down anyone on vacation, and it's harder when they are in Goa and are moving house-to-house, relatives to relatives. But so many people tried and to our delight, they succeeded in actually getting in touch and offered all kinds of help.

Since we couldn't fly to New Orleans, we flew from Goa to St. Louis and stayed with Pooja for a week. Since Bhola works for the City of New Orleans, we were called back to New Orleans on September 19. FEMA arranged for City employees to stay on a cruise ship, so we went there to live.

When we finally got back home, we all went through three stages. First, we were shocked by how much our homes were destroyed, in spite of viewing it on TV first. The television just couldn't do it justice, and seeing the reality of the damage was painful. The second stage was both being thankful for what we had and grieving for our losses. The third and final stage is getting ready, both physically and emotionally, to rebuild. Not everyone is willing or able to take that third step and complete the cycle.

Water stayed in our house for almost 3 weeks so everything had to be thrown out and the sheet rock had to be torn down, too. Right now the first floor of our house looks like a house under construction. All you can see are the outer walls of brick veneer with 2x4 studs and walls between rooms are just 2 x 4 studs. But while the first floor is devastated, the upstairs is exactly like it was Pre-Katrina. It's eerie.

After the cruise ship left at the end of February, we moved to a rented house in a suburb of New Orleans called Metairie. We are in the process of rebuilding our house again. It will take about 5 to 6 months. If you guys come to New Orleans any time do come and visit us.

Everyone here had some kind of damage to their houses but they still pitched in to help others who had lost even more. People opened their houses to their friends and made them comfortable for as long as they needed a place to stay. Our community really came together during this tough time.

New Orleans is not the same city anymore. One-third of New Orleans is a ghost town now. We do not know if it will ever be the same. But by the grace of Ganapatibappa we were safe in Goa and escaped the worst fate. Sure we have lost a few things. We do not take anything for granted anymore, and of course it was a mind-hogging experience. But we are moving forward. So stay in touch and thank you for all of your support!

किक्कापू

डॉ रजनी रजनीकान्त उसांगवकर

काही दिवसांपूर्वी, माझ्या एका किरकोळ सर्जरीसाठी मी आमच्या एका सर्जन मित्राच्या कंसल्टिंग रुममध्ये गेले होते. ऑफिसच्या वेटिंग रुममध्ये तसे सामसूम होते. एका बाजूला एक पंधरा-सोळा वर्षांचा मुलगा व त्याच्या शेजारी एक ३० ते ३२ वर्षांची बाई बोलत होती. बोलणं जरा मोठयानं त्यामुळे ती इंग्लिश किंवा स्पॅनिश भाषेत बोलत नसल्याचे मला कळत होते. कुतुहलापोटी मी त्या बाईला विचारलं, “तुम्ही कोणती भाषा बोलता?” बाई उत्तरली “आम्ही किक्कापू भाषेत बोलतो” किक्कापू हा शब्द काही मला नवीन नव्हता. तेवीस वर्षांपूर्वी जेव्हा आम्ही हया शहरांत आलो त्यावेळीच मला हे किक्कापू दर्शन घडले.

त्याच असं झालं इथं राहणाऱ्या एका डॉक्टरने हे शहर मेडिकल प्रकटीसला फार अनुकूल असल्याचं कळवलं. आम्ही शहरी आलो व हॉस्पिटल शोधतांना थडकलो ते **International** पुलाकडे! पुलावर **immigration office** व पुढे लिहिलेले **Mexico!** आता आली का पंचाईत?! पुढे चार गाड्या व मागे दोन तीन मोठ्या मुश्किलीने डॉक्टरांनी गाडी मागे वळवली. एक ब्लॉक मागे घेतल्यावर आम्हाला हॉस्पिटलची विल्डींग सापडली. आम्ही निवडलेले हे **Eagle Pass** शहर अमेरिका-मेक्सिकोच्या सीमेवर आहे. मधून वाहते **Rio Grande** ही दोन्ही देशांना अलग करणारी नदी. आम्ही पाहिलेला पूल दोन्ही देशांनी मिळून बांधला होता. नदीच्या पात्राच्या मानाने पूल चांगलाच लांबलचक वाटला. **Rio Grande** म्हणजे मोठी नदी पण पहाण्यास ‘नाव सोनूबाई’, हाती कथलाचा वाळा’. १९५४ साली उत्तरेला ५० मैल दूर असलेल्या **Del Rio** हया शहराकडे **Amistad** (मैत्री) हे दोन संयुक्त राष्ट्रांनी धरण बांधल्याने नदी रोडावल्याचे कारण नंतर कळले. एकेकाळी मोठं असलेलं नदीचं पात्र धरणमुळे अरुंद झाल्याने अमेरिकेकडील जमिनीचा भाग सपाट व सुका होता. पण नदी, पूल भोवतालची झाडे घरे हयांव्यतिरिक्त जर माझे लक्ष जास्त कुणी वेधून घेतलं असेल तर ते म्हणजे पुलखालच्या ३०-४० वाटोळ्या आकाराच्या झोपड्यांनी!

अमेरिकेत आणखी झोपड्या!? आठ वर्ष राहून अमेरिकेत एवढी फिरले पण कधी झोपडी नव्हती बघितली!

नंतरच्या काही दिवसांनी, ऑफिस वगैरे स्थिरस्थावर झाल्यानंतर मी ऑफिसच्या सेक्रेटरीला त्या झोपड्यांबद्दल विचारले. ती म्हणाली की त्या झोपड्या किक्कापूच्या म्हणजे अमेरिकन इंडियन्सच्या. अमेरिकेत ज्या ७०.८० मूळ जमाती आहेत त्यापैकी किक्कापू ही एक जमात. त्यांची मोठी वस्ती व मुख्य ठाणे **Oklahoma** हया स्टेटमध्ये जरी असले तरी **Texas** मध्ये पश्चिम व दक्षिण भागात तरीच मेक्सिकोच्या उत्तरेला त्यांचं वास्तव्य असतं. आम्ही फेब्रुवारीत **Eagle Pass** ला राहायला आल्याने हवेत बरीच थंडी होती. एके दिवशी आमच्या ऑफिसमध्ये मला **barbecue** चा वास आला. वेटिंग रुममध्ये डोकावून बघितले तर तेथे चार-पाच माणसं बसलेली आढळली. काळवंडलेली गोरी-पिवळट कांती व चिनी-जपान्यांच्या चेहऱ्याशी साम्य असलेलं रूप अस्वच्छ काया तसेच अस्वच्छ कपडे. सेक्रेटरी म्हणाली “हेच ते किक्कापू” म्हणजे मी खरेखुरे अमेरिकन रहिवासी पहात होते तर! नेहमी आपल्या भारतांत परदेशी प्रवासी येतात ते तिथली प्रेक्षणीय प्राचीन स्थळे, देवालये वगैरे पहाय यासाठी. परत जातांना ते रानांतल्या लोकांचे फोटो व फिल्मे वगैरे काढून तिथली माहिती मिळवतात व क्वचित वेळा त्यावर पुस्तके लिहून प्रसिध्दही करतात. आम्ही इंडियन अमेरिकेत येतो ते इथली **science-technology** शिकून घेण्यासाठी व जमल्यास पैसे कमावून इथेच ठाणे मांडून राहण्यासाठी! आम्हाला इथला इतिहास आदिमानव वगैरे बद्दल जाणून घेण्याची तशी फारशी फिकीर नसते. अमेरिकेत येऊन चांगली आठ वर्ष राहून हयापूर्वी मी एकदाही अमेरिकेन इंडियन पाहिला नव्हता बघितला होता पण तो टि. व्ही वर त्यामुळे वेंटिगरूम मधल्या त्या चौघांना पाहिल्यावर ‘अजि म्यां ब्रम्ह पाहिल्याचा’ आनंद वाटला. चौघेही जण अगदी लीन व मख्ख होते. त्यांचाच अंगाला तो जळालेल्या लाकडाचा वास येत होता. सेक्रेटरी म्हणाली की रात्री हिवाळ्यांत झोपडीबाहेर ते शेकोटी पेटवतात व सभोवती झोपतात. काही काही वेळां लहान मुले आगीजवळ जाऊन होरपळतात, मग त्यांना हॉस्पिटलमध्ये आणले जाते.

राहणी मागासलेली, त्यामुळे त्यांच्याकडे **electricity, refrigerator** वगैरे काही नसते. एकदा सरकारने त्यांच्या मुलांना दुधपुरवठा करायची तजवीज करून दुधाचे गॅलन्स पाठवले. **Refrigerator** अभावी दुध नासून गेले. मग गांवच्या लोकांनी सरकारी लोकांना दुधाऐवजी दुधाची पावडर पाठवायची विनंति केली असं आमची सेक्रेटरी सांगत होती. झोपडीत राहणे, नळाच्या पाण्याऐवजी नदीचं पाणी वापरणे हया सगळ्या गोष्टी किक्कापू लोक गरिबीमुळे नव्हे तर आपल्या परंपरेच्या जपणूके खातीर करतात हे ऐकून त्यांचं तसं कौतुक वाटलं.

आम्ही इगल पासला स्थायिक झाल्यानंतर पाच सहा महिन्यांनी एकाएकी किक्कापूच्या झोपड्यांना आग लागून त्या जळल्याचं वृत्त आलं. सरकारने मग त्या लोकांची व्यवस्था शहरापासून ७-८ मैल दूर असलेल्या **Rosta Valley** नांवाच्या एका पडीत जागेत केली. नाहीतरी अमेरिकाभर सर्व ठिकाणी युरोपीयानी चांगल्या जमिनी ताब्यात घेऊन दरग्या, खोरी, नापीक जमिनी हयाकडे इंडियनांची हकालपट्टी केली हे सर्वश्रुतच आहे.

सर्वसाधारणपणे अमेरिकन इंडियन्स आळशी असतात. बाहेरच्या लोकांनी इथं येऊन विज्ञानयंत्रणांनी ऐश्वर्याचे सभोवती मळे पिकवले पण हे लोक जवळ पाण्याचा भरं लेला रांजण असूनही शुष्कच राहिले. किक्कापूही त्याला अपवाद नाहीत. त्यातले बहुतेक तर दारूबाज वा इतर व्यसनाधीन असतात.

पूर्वी भारतात इंग्रजी राज्याच्या वेळी जशी होळकर, शिंदे, गायकवाड वगैरे ५० ते ६० संस्थाने होती. तसंच इथही प्रत्येक इंडियन जमातीच **reservation** आहे. हया **India Territory** म्हणजे त्यांच स्वतंत्र साम्राज्य. न्यायव्यवस्था वगैरे सर्व त्यांच्याहाती. अमेरिकन सरकार त्यांच्यात अजिबात ढवळाढवळ करीत नाही. भारतातील संस्थान व इथल्या संस्थानांत फरक एवढाच की, अमेरिकन सरकार **India Territory** ना खांडणी देते. त्या खांडणीतून हया लोकांची पोटापाण्याची व औषध आजारांची व्यवस्था होते. इथल्या किव्कापूंपैकी कांहीजण स्पेनिश व आंग्लो लोकांबरोबर विवाहबध्द झालेले आहेत. त्यांच्या संततीला त्यांच्या रक्तसंबंधाने ५० टक्के, २५ टक्के, १० टक्के किव्कापूण हयाप्रमाणानांत सरकारी मदत दिली जाते.

कुठंही जन्मले तरी किव्कापूंना मेक्सिको, अमेरिका व कॅनडा हया तिन्ही देशांचं नागरिकत्व आपोआप लाभतं. त्यामुळे हया तिन्ही देशांत त्यांना मुक्तपणे संचार करता येती.

सध्या अमेरिकेत इंडियन्सची संख्या घटून घटून जेमतेम सहा लाखांची असल्याचे बोलले जाते. त्यामुळे हे आदिवासी म्हणजे दुर्मिळ होत होत शेवटी नष्ट होण्याच्या मार्गावर असलेली जमात म्हणून अमेरिकेला ती सांभाळावची असल्यास नकळे. सरकार त्यांचे बरेच लाड पुरवते.

इंडियन **Territory** मध्ये तशा फारशा काही घडामोडी नसतात. अशावेळी अमेरिकन बिझनेसमॅनच्या डोक्यात काही शक्कल आली नाही तरच नवल! बऱ्याच अमेरिकन स्टेट्स मध्ये जुगाराला बंदी आहे. पापी शहर (**Sin City**) **Las Vegas, New Jersey** मधील **Atlantis** वगैरे तुरळक शहरे वजा जातां बाकीकडे जुगाराला मज्जाव. लोक तसे खेळाला आसूलेले. मग काहीनी डोकं लढवून हया **Indian Territory** मध्ये जुगाराचे अडडे सुरू करण्यास इंडियन्सना प्रवृत्त केले. **Rosita Valley** स्थापन झाल्यानंतर थोड्याच महिन्यांनी तिथं ही जुगाराचा एक अडडा आला. इंगल पासची लोकवस्ती त्यामानाने लहान पण इथून १२० मैलांवर असलेल्या **San Antonio** च्या रहिवाश्यांना ही खेळाची पर्वणी लाभली. वीकेंडला तिथून गाड्या भरभरून हटीचे लाल येतात व त्यातले बरेचसे हल्लारव होऊनच परत जात असावेत. इंगल पासला एक फायदा म्हणजे मॉटेलची संख्या भरमसाट वाढलीय.

मला किव्कापूचा धर्म व रीतीरिवाज जाणून घ्यायचे होते. सर्जनच्या त्या वेटिंग रूम मध्ये मी त्या किव्कापू बाईला विचारातांच ती म्हणाली, "आमचा धर्म व रीतीरिवाज हयाबद्दल आम्ही बाहेरच्या लोकांना काही सांगत नाही. आम्ही ते **sacred** मानतो". काही वेळाने नर्सने माझ्या आडनांवाचा पुकारा करून मला आत बोलावले. ब्लड प्रेशर वजन वगैरे चेक करून मी पुन्हा बाहेर येऊन बसले तर बाई विस्फारलेल्या डोळ्यांनी मला बघायला लागली.

"तू डॉक्टर उसांवाकरांची कोण लागतेस का"? तिचं मला विचारलं मी पली म्हणून सांगितल्यावर ती म्हणाली "आमचे बरेच लोक त्यांच्याकडे जातात. आतां तू मला आमच्या जमातीबद्दल काय पाहिजे ते विचार". माझा मूड गेला होता. काय म्हणे **sacred** गेली उडत! मी गप्प राहिले. मग तीच आपणहून बोलती झाली. म्हणाली हे गोरे लोक इथं आले आणि त्यांनी आमची आमची संस्कृती पार उध्वस्त केली. पूर्वी आमचे लोक मरत पण ते नैसर्गिक रित्या. माणसांना माणसं मारून कधी मरत नव्हती. गोरूयांनी आमच्यापासून आमच्या जमिनी हिरावून घेतल्या. आम्हाला धर्म बदलायला भाग पाडले. आमची मुळ नावं बदलली. इथं दर किव्कापूला दोन प्रकारची नावे असतात. त्यांचं स्वतःच्या भाषेत असणारं चांगलं लांबलचक व उच्चारायला बरंचसं अवघड व दुसरं स्पेनिश नांव व आडनांव.

मी म्हटलं गोरे लोक जसे पश्चिमेला तुमच्याकडे आले तसेच ते पूर्वेलाही आमच्याकडे आले. इथल्यासारखीच त्यांनी तिथंही तंत्र वापरली. फरक एवढाच की तुमच्याकडे आमच्यासारखी राजकीय संघटना नव्हती. तुम्ही **tribes** मध्ये राहिलात व बदलत्या कालाप्रमाणे सुधारणा घडवून आणल्या नाहीत. आमच्या लोकांनी गोरया तंत्रे शिकून घेतली व एकजूट करून त्यांना बाहेर धालवून दिले.

तुमचे **tribes** कोणती भाषा बोलतात? तिने प्रश्न केला. आमच्याकडे **tribes** सारखी पद्धत नाही. राज्यभाषा हिंदी पण राजकारभार इंग्लीशमधून चालतो म्हटल्यावर ती म्हणाली मग **tribes** नाहित कसे? थोड्याशा संभाषणानंतर लक्षात आलं की ती जरी चांगली इंग्लीश बोलत असली तरी तिचं शिक्षण प्राथमिक अवस्थेच्या पुढं गेलं नव्हतं. पण वारंवार तिच्या भाषणांत युरोपीयनां विषयीचा तिरस्कार व्यक्त होत होता. तुम्ही लोकं काम का करीत नाही? असं विचारल्यावर ती म्हणाली आमच्या जमिनी गोव्यांनी बळकावल्या त्याबद्दल अमेरिकन सरकार आम्हाला पैसे देते मग आम्ही कामे कशाला करायची?

तिचं जरा सांतवण करावं म्हणून मग मी तिला माझ्या नवग्राने सांगितलेला एक चुटका ऐकवला. आम्ही **Maine** हया स्टेटमध्ये रहात असतांना हॉस्पिटलमध्ये एक इंडियन अमेरिकन पेशंट म्हणून आला तिथल्या गोव्यां लोकांच्या कळपांत आमच्या हयांचा निमगोरा संघ बघून त्याने डॉक्टरांना पाव्हने तुमी कोणत्या गावचे? हा सर्वसाधारण भारतीयांना इथं विचारला जाणारा प्रश्न केला. डॉक्टरांनी आपण इंडियाचे म्हटल्यावर तो म्हणाला, "**Columbus was looking for you, but he found me!** किस्सा ऐकल्यावर मात्र, "असं म्हणाला का तो"?! म्हणत ती थोडीशी हसली.

घरी आल्यावर मी डॉक्टरांना सर्जनच्या वेटिंगरूममध्ये घडलेली हकीकत सांगितली . ते हसून म्हणाले, "हो हल्ली एक किवकापूबाई हॉस्पिटलमध्ये दाखल झाली आहे . ती माझ्याशी व फिलिपीनो मेक्सीकन नर्सशी चांगली वागते पण एक अँग्लो सोशल वर्कर खोलीत शिरली रे शिरली की मोठयामोठयाने आपल्या भाषेत कांहीतरी ओरडते . त्या सोशल वर्करने त्यामुळे त्या किवकापूबाईची धस्तीच घेतली आहे . बरं , इंग्लीश कळत नाही म्हणावं तर माझ्याशी चांगली नीट इंग्लीशमध्ये बोलते ."

पुष्कळ किवकापू लोकांना आपल्या भाषेखेरीज स्पॅनिश व इंग्लीश भाषा बोलता येतात . हल्ली हल्ली हे लोक शालेय शिक्षण घेत असल्याने वाडवर्डी लांकडून मिळालेल्या माहितीखेरीज त्यांना पुस्तकांतून युरोपीयनांकडून आपल्या जमातीवर झालेला अन्याय माहित झाला असावा .

कोलंबसने अमेरिकेत १२ अक्टोबर १४९२ साली पाय दिला . डर वर्षी अमेरिकन लोक हा दिवस साजरा करतात . **Ohio** हया स्टेटच्या राजधानीला त्यांनी आवर्जून **Columbus** ची आठवण म्हणून त्याचं नाव दिलय . कोलंबसने अमेरिकेचा शोध लावला? म्हणजे नक्की काय केले? युरोपियनांना समुद्रातून वाट दाखवून दिली व त्यांनी नंतर हा भूखंड पादाक्रांत करून तिथल्या भूमीपुत्रांना निर्वासित बनवले हा इतिहास आता स्पष्ट झाल्याने **Discovery of America** हा शब्ददेखील गेल्या २५-३० वर्षांत कुणी फारसा उच्चारित नाही . तसे कोलंबसच्या पुष्कळ आधी उत्तरेकडून **Vikings** हया भूभागांत येत होते . फक्त त्यांनी हया खंडाचा कबजा घेतला नव्हता एवढंच! १२ अक्टोबर १४९२ रोजी कोलंबसच्या शोधाला ५०० वर्षा झाली होती . वस्तविक **half Millennium** म्हणून हा दिवस तसा चांगला बार उडवून करायला हवा होता . पण प्रत्यक्षात आजच्या सुशिक्षित अमेरिकेनाला पूर्वजांच्या अपराधीपणाची टोचणी आहे . त्यामुळेच की काय तो दिवस म्हणावा तसा साजरा झाला नाही . त्यानंतर सहाच वर्षांनी **Vasco De Gama** ची **Descoberta de Camilio Maritimo para a India** ची पांचवी शताब्दी आली . पोर्तुगीज राष्ट्राचं जगतीक कीर्तित्व ते एकमेव महान कार्य भारत युरोपीयनांच्या गुलामगिरीत जखडला गेला त्या खंतीपोटी भारतात सरकारने पोर्तुगीजांच्या त्या सनदीची उपेक्षा केल्याचं कुठंतरी वाचलं होतं .

नोव्हेंबर मध्ये **Thanks Giving** चा सण **Christmas** च्या खालो खाल मोठा मानला जातो . त्यादिवशी मुद्दाम कुटुंबातील माणसं जमून टर्की च्या जेवणाची मेजवानी झोडतात . पण ज्या सणांचं मुख्यम्हणजे **India Pilgrim** मधील समझोता तो करार म्हणजे शुद्ध फसवणूक हयापोटी अमेरिकेत कुठे कुठे इंडियन्स निदर्शने करतात . दर वर्षी **Columbus Day** लाही तुरळक प्रमाणांत का होईना पण अशी निदर्शने ऐकू येतात . इगल पासच्या रोझीता व्हॉलीमध्ये आता किवकापूना अमेरिकन सरकारच्या मदतीने झोपड्यांएवजी छोटी छोटी घरे बांधून मिळाली आहेत . **Casino** मुळे कित्येकांना तिथं जॉबही उपलब्ध झाले आहेत . हल्ली त्यांची मुले स्कूलमध्ये शिक्षण घेतात व शहरांत कुठं कुठं कामही मिळवतात . अमेरिकन भाषां रहात असले तरी ते आपले उत्सव मेक्सिकोच्या **Musquis** हया गांवी जाऊन करतात . बहुतेकांचे अंत्यसंस्कारही तिथेच केले जातात . आमचा एक **Rogelio Flores** नावाचा किवकापू पेशंट होता . फुफ्फुसे क्षीण झाल्यामुळे नेहमी तो ऑक्सीजनची नळी नाकाला लावून फिरे . श्र्कदा हॉस्पिटलमध्ये दाखल झाल्यानंतर त्याला कळून चुकले की आपला अंत जवळ आला आहे . डॉक्टरांना म्हणाला आपण आता आपल्याला ट्रीट केल्याबद्दल त्यांचे आभार मानून चांगला शेकहॅंड केला ऑक्सीजन नळी काढून ठेवली व आप्तइष्टांना घेऊन टॅक्सीत बसला . टॅक्सी भरघांव पुलाकडे जाऊ लॉ गेली . त्याला जिवंतपणी आपलं प्रयाग गाठायचं होतं . पण नंतर ऐकलं की पुलाजवळ पोहोचण्याच्या आधीच तो स्वर्गवासी झाला . सग्यासोयांनी मग त्याचा मेक्सिकोला अंत्यसंस्कार घडवून आणला .

एकदा गोव्याच्या ट्रीपवर असतांना मला एक गृहस्थ भेटले . हातवारे करीत ते म्हणाले तुम्ही ज्या अमेरिकेत राहतां ते तिथल्या लोकांना युरोपीयन गोष्ट्यांनी असे कापून काढले.....वगैरे वगैरे . मी मनांत म्हटलं भल्या गृहस्था दंडकारण्यात व त्याच्याही पुढे दक्षिणेत जी आधी राक्षसांची वस्ती होती ती आता कुठं गेली? आज तिथे शहरं गावं वसवून माझे तुझे लोक राहतात ते कशामुळे? मोठे मासे लहान माशांना खाऊन जगतात हा निसर्गाचा धर्म बहुतेक त्यांना माहित नसावा .



MEMO



TORO





RIES

OF

N'TO



GOA

By: Sannya Hede

Goa- that humble paradise for “all who seek to find the beauty that sleeps in a quiet heart and patiently waits to be born again.” Goa- where there are no fences and no bars, where the silence is poignant and penetrating, where the red dirt roads hold footprints from times of old and the summer breeze brings the rich fragrance of coconut oil and mango trees. In Goa, there is something different about the dusty pink and golds of the sunset, the music of raindrops upon the *tulsi* leaves, the sleepy cock-doodle-do of the rooster at dawn, and the glittering stars that fill the sky with heavenly light—something more substantial, more real and more pure than anything the world has ever seen. This is the Goa that I know and love—and yet, even after years of separation, I still keep its secret: that its true beauty does not lie in what I see, but what I feel.

I can still vividly remember the summer drives from Margao to Shiroda, the road that signified the connection between the two inseparable halves of my family: my mother’s side and my father’s side. The scenic landscape between the two towns was breathtaking, with miles of rice patties, grassy fields and the famous Zuari River. My father could never travel the full length without stopping for coconut water from a lone vendor on the road. The location was the same every time, and our tradition of drinking from the same coconut was as timeless as the trees that surrounded us. Despite the many signs that marked the journey, I always knew we were in Shiroda when I could smell the jackfruit, for its odor is unmistakable. Before reaching our ancestral house, we would always visit the Shantadurga Temple, the worship site for our family god, Sbantadurga. As always, the entrance was marked by small boys selling sweet snacks and wise old women making garlands from jasmine flowers. Walking the temple grounds barefoot, I could feel the earth’s warmth under my feet—it was holy. The peace that filled the atmosphere always made me want to cuddle up on the steps of the shrine and fall asleep below the Devi. Before leaving, we would always go to the *tali*, or the pool in which the gods are immersed during *Maha Panchami*. Anyone who came out of that temple could not help but feel purged of all worry and sin.

My favorite place was not the temple however; it was my house, the house of my father, and his father before him and his father before him. To get to it, I had to climb up a stair-cased hill and scuttle through the trees. Ironically I would always end up meeting the neighbors before I met my own relatives—but this is common in Goa, for everyone is family. I would see them after years of separation, but they would never forget me, and they always treated me as if I were their own. My sister would always make the point that even the dogs remembered our scent. The chatter that would get going from this visit would alert my own relatives next-door and this is how the reunion began every year. Stepping onto the mud-floor, I suddenly became part of the home and the earthy smell of the walls would welcome all my senses back to place of origin. The inner courtyard with the *tulsi* plant opened up to the sky and it seemed as if heaven itself was pouring into the center from above. There was no technical “living room” as we know it so I would sit on the cot or on the floor and eat biscuits and drink tea. To pass the time, my sister and I and children of all ages from our family and the entire village would play carom and hide-and-go-seek. To get water, we would use the well and when night fell and the mosquitos came to bite me, the *maushi* from nextdoor would make some herbal cream and cover my hands and legs with it. Life was as simple and down-to-earth as that. The people were charming and real, with no false formalities and no desire to gain anything in return. Their hospitality was sincere and any guest, whether family or not, never left the house without visiting the prayer room and becoming part of the family if he was not already. When I left that house as a little girl, I took a piece of it with me, and left a piece of myself behind. Today, when I leave it, I look back and use my experience there to measure how much I have truly lived.

This is the true Goa I know whose beauty lies in the simplicity and sincerity of its people, of its lifestyle and of its traditions—things that cannot be seen, only felt by the heart. I keep Goa’s secret in my heart even though I am thousands of miles away from her—our relationship is from the heart and I know then it cannot be long until we meet again.

Prof. Arvind P. Kudchadker, Advisor Education, Reliance Industries Ltd, and
Professor Emeritus, IIT Bombay

IITs have created their global brand name primarily through their BTech student body ('CBS 60 minutes' gave us a lot of publicity). A highly rigorous, competitive entrance test (Joint Entrance Examination-JEE), high quality faculty, engineering science based curriculum, excellent infrastructure and facilities, and an environment conducive for learning have put the IITs in the league of world-class institutions. IITs intake for the BTech program is the top 1-2% of those who appear for JEE. Not surprising that our BTechs are sought after in a variety of diverse fields by reputed companies nationally, and in recent times, internationally.

Pandit Nehru's unique model for establishing higher technical institutions, the IITs, through inputs from the then technologically advanced nations with a focus on rapid industrialization of India, bore fruit as one observes after 40 years of their establishment. A large number of BTechs are abroad, mostly in the US while a significant number has chosen management (IIMs preferred) as their career choice. Only a small number remain in engineering overall. Almost 20% of the IIT graduates and postgraduates are entrepreneurs and a good percentage of these are the first generation entrepreneurs.

There is no doubt that their inherent intellectual potential and the education and exposure at the IITs have ensured success in their chosen professional career. With the globalization and liberalization of India since the early 90s, opportunities in India have opened up substantially. This has created the right environment for a reasonable number of IITians to look towards India for business opportunities. 'The World is Flat' by Thomas Friedman has brought out wonderfully well the contributions of young Indians and especially the IITians in the IT related fields.

A major concern however, has been the output of the postgraduates from the IITs. It has been very difficult to attract quality graduates to the Masters and PhD programs, especially our own BTechs. Hence the overall impact on R&D in India has been insignificant. Truly, R&D in India has not taken off yet. It is getting a boost during the past decade primarily through the multinational companies (MNC).

This overall situation is closely connected with the recruitment of quality faculty from India and abroad. My own experience in faculty recruitment is worth noting. On one of my faculty recruitment drives in the US, I was talking to an excellent potential faculty, a PhD from one of the top 10 schools in the US. He asked me a simple question, "Will you promise me a very good PhD student, preferably from the IIT? If I stay here in the US, I can get the best BTechs from the IITs and rapidly develop my research program". We are still struggling with this problem and find there is no easy solution.

IITs started with a 5-yr BTech degree program with the entry after 11th / 12th class. It later shifted to the currently run 4-yr BTech program after the 12th class. There is still a debate among several of the earlier faculty like me, whether the 5-yr BTech program was superior to the 4-yr BTech program in content, quality, and performance.

One of the ways explored by IIT Bombay to tackle this issue of postgraduate education was to start in 1985, a novel 5-yr cooperative integrated MTech program in chemical, mechanical and electrical engineering, primarily to enhance the quality of postgraduates produced by the IITs. The industry was very cooperative and sponsored financially all these students. Later this program was converted to dual degree MTech program, which is currently run by most of the IITs. This has given much needed boost to research activities and output in the IITs. A private not-for-profit university is planning to start a school of life sciences and other schools in cutting-edge technologies offering only 5-yr Integrated MTech and PhD programs with input of students after the 12th class. This model is a good mix of the IIT and IISc models and is expected to produce quality postgraduates and PhDs.

The engineering science approach, which IITs pursued very successfully produced a graduate with excellent analytical and synthesis skills. With this strong foundation and broad education with humanities and social sciences, today we find our IIT graduates in almost all fields - investment banking, software

and hardware, telecom, diamond and precious jewels, stock brokers, entrepreneurs, NGOs, civil service, politics (our own Manohar Parrikar, IITB 1978 is probably the first Chief Minister), and of course engineering. I believe it is time to extend this engineering science based model both ways i.e. conceptualization of problem, (to analysis, synthesis), to designing an optimum and affordable solution. The recent efforts in most of the IITs is in this direction.

As you well know, getting into an IIT is a dream of almost every youngster and his/ her parents. The competition is fierce and making it through JEE is a small chance. This has spun off a thriving coaching industry in India, some say worth more than Rs 2000 Crore!

Very few Goans compete in JEE. This probably is due to lack of awareness, interest, competitive spirit, and lack of 'facilities' in Goa for preparing for JEE. Several Goan-IITians are in the US. Obviously they have done exceedingly well professionally. Currently there may be about 10 Goan-IITians and about 120 IITians in Goa. Most of them run their own IT, Construction, Pharma businesses, while quite a few work in software, pharma companies, and very few in academia. Incidentally Goa provides good professional career options – computer applications, engineering, medicine (allopathy, dentistry, ayurved), pharmacy, agriculture, oceanography, management, tourism, hotel management, etc. It is also not very difficult to get into professional private colleges in nearby places such as Belgaum and Manipal. Sometimes I wonder whether present day young Goans are averse to competing in national competitive exams including civil service. At the school level, students should be better exposed to the outside world to broaden their outlook and encouraged to do an internship at the IITs, IISc, etc in the summers. Unfortunately the IITs have not aggressively pursued the 10th and 11th graders for internship. It would be a win-win situation for both.

It is generally accepted that 50% of India's population is below 25 yrs of age and 35% is below 18 yrs. Also about 11% are above 70 as compared to 16 -18% in the 'developed' countries. This is the **Young India** with a tremendous potential waiting to be unleashed through innovative policies and novel implementation strategies.

This necessitates providing high quality education and research opportunities at all levels, especially at higher education level to drive innovation, and empowering people to unleash their full potential. Many countries are now investing heavily in higher education and are promoting the private sector to become an active partner in efforts to expand and raise the reach and quality of higher education.

Seven IITs today (IITKgp, IITB, IITK, IITM, IITD the original ones and IIT Guwahati, IITRoorkee established recently), produce approximately 400 PhDs per year in engineering, a very small number for a country of our population. This year about 3,00,000 students appeared for JEE and IITs will admit around 4000. A large number on the merit list are very good students if JEE is considered as the norm. In 2005, about 4,00,000 appeared for AIEEE, around 2,50,000 engineers graduated from all over India, and 4,50,000 enrolled in engineering. These will graduate in 2009, doubling the number of graduating engineers in 5yrs. These are of varying quality, from excellent to poor. We have the numbers but not the quality. We need a large number of IIT like institutions (say 100) to meet increasing demand of quality graduates. Majority of those who aspire to get high quality education are not able to do so. It is said that we need to produce about 6,00,000 graduates every year if we have to maintain the current healthy growth rate and continue to make the impact in cutting-edge technologies.

In recent times large corporations have set-up higher education initiatives in India. For example, Reliance Industries established Dhirubhai Ambani Institute of Information and Communication Technology at Gandhinagar; L M Mittal Institute at Jaipur; JP Institutes at Noida and HP. There is an opportunity to set-up a world class institute in Goa or upgrade the engineering colleges to IIT-like institutes.

A large number of countries are already looking at India and are luring youngsters for undergraduate and graduate education. The quality of these institutions is questionable but it does attract several of our youngsters. This is because of lack of opportunities for good quality engineering education in India.

IITs are now going to face stiff competition from reputed universities abroad as several of these private institutions are seriously thinking of establishing centers of excellence in India. This is a desirable situation as it will provide excellent opportunities for aspiring clientele.

IITs have kept themselves updated through establishment of Centers, Interdisciplinary programs in cutting-edge technologies, extension centers, research collaborations and MOUs with leading universities abroad. Our alumni, with many of whom I am in close contact, are playing a very active and important role in establishing new education initiatives, projects for societal benefit, upgrading infrastructure, etc. Alumni are our most valuable asset and we need to continuously keep them involved in a variety of educational, technological, and social activities.

IITs are now getting involved in establishing IIT-like institutes in other developing countries through global agencies. IIT Bombay had initiated such an activity back in 1992 in two neighboring countries through some of our alumni entrepreneurs. However, the time probably was not ripe then. Now IITs have a great opportunity and are in a sound position to contribute to higher technical education in other developing countries.

IITs are also establishing incubators to encourage their students and faculty to convert their ideas to innovation and set-up start-up companies. A very successful incubator is at IIT Madras (with Prof. Ashok Jhunjhunwala, 1975 BTech, IITK), and another, SINE at IIT Bombay.

At one time people were concerned about 'brain drain' from the IITs as approximately 30% of our BTechs on the average (%age was higher for CS, ChE) went abroad, mostly to the US. My recommendation letter always stated that 'after completion of her/ his PhD degree, (s)he will return to India and contribute to its growth'. I am still waiting for them to return! A large percentage of them are settled abroad and have made a name for themselves and for their Alma Mater in India. They are in academia, business, finance, start-ups, VC, etc. Late Rajiv Gandhi as Prime Minister of India called it 'brain bank' and rightly so. We are 'banking' on these IIT 'brains' now and they are creating wealth for India.

A very important current issue is of 'Reservations' to the extent of about 49.5% in the IITs and other centrally financed Institutions, from the existing 22.5% for SC and ST students. Needless to say that this section of population does deserve all that we need to do to upgrade their education level to high standards, to enable them to compete. If the enhanced reservation is implemented, the basis of merit and merit alone on which IITs have built their impact and recognition globally, may have to be compromised with such large intake, whose criteria for admission would have to be different. It did take considerable effort and ingenuity from the IIT faculty to tackle this difficult problem of 22.5% SC and ST reservation. Their background was just not adequate to compete with the rest.

This large scale problem can be best solved on long term basis starting at the roots, that is at the school level by providing highly motivated teachers, modern infrastructure and facilities, etc. One approach is to establish more Navodaya schools (an excellent experiment that late Shri Rajiv Gandhi as Prime Minister of India initiated) and Central schools and reserve a certain number of seats to economically and socially deprived population, as well as, an innovative approach for slow learners. This will go a long way in eliminating this reservation problem at the higher education levels. For the last 50 years the Government has played with this very important issue and have brought us today to this sorry state of affairs, where large section of population do not have opportunities to obtain quality education even at the school level. The IITs and other Institutions must convince the Government to think in a rational way - tackle the problem at the roots.

Successful Goan-IITians and Goans in general from the US can play a very important role towards higher education and healthcare. Goa is an attractive destination for knowledge industry and could be an education hub for national and international needs. We need to get away from the mindset of 'reservations', if we as Goans and Indians have to grow and compete with the best in the world. Only then, we would go beyond 'tourism' in Goa and place Goa and India on the world map in the knowledge and cutting edge technologies.

Let us all work towards this objective.

[These views are strictly of the author].

टॅक्सासचे सांगट

डॉ रजनी रजनीकान्त उसगांवकर

पुनर्जल्म मेंळत जाल्यार
दिस्ता म्हाका जावचे टॅक्सासचे सांगट
न्हय आलास्काचे साल्मन
न्हय मानशेचे सुंगट
फक्कत टॅक्सासचे सांगट

गाबळेतल्यान सुटील्ले ताती
गुबगुबीत हॅचरीत उब घेता
पील फुटून भायर येतकच
अलगद तळयेत सोडप ताका

शेपडी हालयत मॉडत मॉडत
वैर-सकैल सुरकांडयो मारीत
आयतो पौष्टीक खावड खायत
सांगट दिशीमाशी व्हड जाता

तळयेत ना तक्षक ना भक्षक
सगले भाइबंद एका जातीचे
मणामणाचो शिधो खावन
मारतात फोल्ग होळीचे कार्नावालाचे
सांगट आतां पुष्ट जाता

मागीर तो दीस उदेता
कोबल्यातल्यान वैर वैर सरपाचो
उदकाभायर वचपाचो

थोडीशी फडफड, थोडोसो हापहाप
जीव चल्तो सर्गीत आनी कूड एका सोबीत थाळयांत
सुरी-कांटयाच्या आयुधान
देह विलीन जाता मनशाच्या पोटांत

दीवक ताका बुध्द आनी घटाय
चलौक जगाचो संसार
आनी परथून करूक तांतया आनी सांगटाचो विस्तार

नसीब

व्ही . एम . सिरसाट

पणजी गोवा
किसे सुनाता है अपनी कहानी
जब कोई सुनने को तैयार नहीं
सब लोग सोए है और तू है जागा
क्यों रोता है समझ अपने को अभागा
भगवान पर कर भरोसा
इक दिन मिलेगा दिलासा

छिपा न जाए बादल से
सुनहरी किरण सूरज की
मापी ना जाए सीमा कभी
नदिया सागर लहरों की
भगवान पर कर भरोसा
इक दिन मिलेगा दिलासा

धन दौलत सिर्फ नाम का है मेल
सुख दुख यारो नसीब का है खेल
न जाने इसका कौन दाता है
और न जाने कौन इसे पाता है
भगवान पर कर भरोसा
इक दिन मिलेगा दिलासा



7/03/2006 12:29:29

Goa Organization in America

8th Biennial Convention ~ July 01 – 03, 2006

The Radisson Hotel, 1725 E Algonquin Rd, Schaumburg, IL 60173

PROGRAM

Saturday, July 01, 2006:

03:00 pm – 05:30 pm

Registration

06:00 pm – 07:00 pm

Reception

07:00 pm – 08:30 pm

Dinner

08:30 pm onwards

Family Night

(Participants will include family members)

Sunday, July 02, 2006:

07:00 am – 09:30 am

Breakfast

09:30 am

Buses leave for picnic spot

10:00 am – 03:30 pm

Picnic

03:30 pm

Buses leave for hotel

06:00 pm – 07:00 pm

Reception

07:00 pm – 08:30 pm

Dinner

08:30 pm – 09:00 pm

Fashion show

09:00 pm onwards

Sangeet night

Monday, July 03, 2006:

07:00 am – 9:30 am

Breakfast

10:00 am – noon

General meeting

(Meeting followed by boxed lunches)



2005/2005

IMPORTANT:

- In order for us to make your stay in Chicago fun and comfortable, please return the attached form as soon as possible. It will help us in planning. (Facilities, events, entertainment, etc.)
 - If you are planning to attend, please return the Registration Form by May 05, 2006.
-

Goan Organization in America

604 S. President Street, Wheaton, IL – 60187, USA

Tel: 630.802.9245 Email: wagsan@yahoo.com Fax: 847.352.4092

September 12, 2005

Dear Fellow Goans,

On behalf of the organizing committee, it gives Arti and me great pleasure to inform you that preparations for the **8th Biennial GOA Convention** in Chicago have begun in full swing. We would like to invite you all to attend the convention with your family, to meet old friends, to make new ones, and to promote our Goan culture and heritage. The Convention will be held in Chicago on July 1-3, 2006.

We are in the process of setting-up a website that will give more details about the convention. Please add the following link to your list of favourites and check us out regularly for updates. The website address is: <http://www.goanconvention.com/>.

We have also attached the Registration Form and the Entertainment Participation Form along with this letter. Please complete them at the earliest and mail it to us. Alternatively, please visit the website to complete your registration.

We are looking forward to having you in Chicago, and we are certain that together we will make this convention a grand success. **We would appreciate it very much if you could fill out the attached forms and return them to us as soon as possible.**

With best wishes and regards

Sincerely,

Arti and Sanjay
(On behalf of the Organizing Committee)



Goan Organization in America

604 S. President Street, Wheaton, IL – 60187, USA

Tel: 630.802.9245 Email: wagsan@yahoo.com Fax: 847.352.4092

REGISTRATION FORM

Date: _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Registration Fee</i>
Adult (12 Yrs. and over)	USD 150
Youth (3 Yrs. – 11 Yrs.)	USD 75
Child (Below 3 yrs.)	Free

Registration Data

<i>Name</i>	<i>Adult, Youth or Child</i>	<i>Amount (U.S.Dollars)</i>
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
<i>Total Amount</i>		

Please make the check payable to Goan Organization in America in U.S. dollars and mail it along with this form to:

Sanjay M. Wagle
Goan Organization in America
604 S. President Street
Wheaton, IL 60187
USA



Goan Organization in America

604 S. President Street, Wheaton, IL – 60187, USA

Tel: 630.802.9245 Email: wagsan@yahoo.com Fax: 847.352.4092

In order for us to make your stay in Chicago fun and comfortable, please return the attached form as soon as possible. It will help in us in planning. (Facilities, events, entertainment, etc.)

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Are you planning to attend the 8th Biennial GOA Convention in Chicago?
(Please check one of the following.)

_____ **YES**

_____ **NO**

If 'YES', please complete the registration form and provide us with your email address and the following information:

AGE GROUP	NUMBER OF PERSONS ATTENDING
Adult (12 Yrs. and over)	
Youth (3 Yrs. – 11 Yrs.)	
Child (Below 3 Yrs.)	

Please mail this form to:

**Sanjay M. Wagle
Goan Organization in America
604 S. President Street
Wheaton, IL 60187
USA**

If you are not planning to attend, please update your address and telephone number, as you would like it to appear in the Directory, and mail it to the above address before February 28, 2006. (Alternatively, you may email the information to: wagsan@yahoo.com)



Goan Organization in America

604 S. President Street, Wheaton, IL – 60187, USA

Tel: 630.802.9245 Email: wagsan@yahoo.com Fax: 847.352.4092

ENTERTAINMENT PARTICIPATION FORM

Do you plan to participate in the entertainment program?

(Please check one of the following.)

_____ **YES**

_____ **NO**

If 'YES', please complete the following:

1. Type of item (dance, song, skit, etc.): _____

2. Name(s) of person(s) who will present: _____

Please mail this form to:

**Sanjay M. Wagle
Goan Organization in America
604 S. President Street
Wheaton, IL 60187
USA**
