

AAMI GOENKAR

For Goans, Of Goans, By Goans



Issue No 52

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My Dear Members,

I wish to extend warm greetings to all Aami Goenkar brothers and sisters for festive period beginning with Sansar Padwo to be closely followed by Ram Navami and Hanuman Jayanti. Gudi Padwa marks the victory of good over evil and we celebrate the triumphal return of Lord Ram to Ayodhya from exile after killing the demon Ravan.

The festival has a social significance as it is held to mark the beginning of the spring season. We Goans, consider it auspicious to start a new activity on this day as it is believed that it will be successful as it has blessings of the almighty. Goans celebrate this day with great spirit and joy, extend greetings, exchange sweets and spend the day praying. This enthusiasm should continue all through the year as we should treat each day as new day of the year. Life is fun and we deserve to live it full size.

Our festivities demonstrate unity in vibrant cultural diversity of India. Different communities in India celebrate their new year in different ways as per their tradition. We must resolve to uphold and strengthen this diversity for the sake of preserving our diverse cultural landscape.

This is a special year as we are celebrating festival of democracy in the months of April, May extending to early June. The world is excited about India and has possibilities and hopes for India. India stands on the threshold of a wonderful



journey. One of our greatest strength is our stable democracy for which we, the citizens must vote for effective leadership and give absolute majority to deserving parties to bring about progress and development. Our biggest strength is our democracy and our political system is

based on our constitution. If we fail to ensure inclusive political, economic, social development, we will degenerate and become soft power, forced to compromise interest of the country.

We need Government which is stable, decisive to take tough decisions in the interest of our beloved nation, which is possible only if it gets full mandate and majority in the house. We have to be conscious of ballot box which is way to decide who will make laws for us, what will these laws be and who will be provide strong and effective administration to implement laws and regulations in full force. I would urge you to cast your vote for decisive Government which will work for collective long term interest and not in a partisan way, Which is a better option than resorting to NOTA. Please spread word

(Contd. on page #2)



For any correspondence, please contact:

Aami Goenkar

30/1 Parekh Mahal
L. J. Marg, Mahim, Mumbai 400 016
M : 098206 23089
E : aamigoenkar@yahoo.in
W : www.aamigoenkar.org

BOOK POST

(Conti. from Page #1)

among your friends and relatives to make them aware of their constitutional duty to vote for giving us right leadership which will make us progressive bharat, a Vishwaguru it is destined to be.

The month of April marks beginning of new financial year for our institution. Just a fortnight ago, we spent considerable time doing assessment of our progress, evaluate what went well and listed actions for course correction, we will double our collective efforts on journey driven by vision , mission and goals set by our illustrious founders and esteemed members. In past one month, we have seen cash trickling in as memberships and donations. In coming months we will use digital and social media tools to expand our outreach spread goos word about Aami Goenkar, expand list of our well wishers who will be our wish fulfillers and help us mobilise resources to achieve financial sustainability connecting us to Goans across the Globe.

In coming weeks, we will announce a calendar of various events within our core objectives viz. education, culture, health through partnerships with like minded institutions. Building on success of earlier years, we are planning a mini Goa Festival to encourage entrepreneurs and start ups in our modest way. We also plan publication of our signature project, a book on Festivals of Goa early next year. I would request our members and well-wishers to play a pro-active role in celebrations like Goa Liberation Day, Teachers Day and other upcoming programs going forward.

I wish to reemphasise that two major challenges facing our institution are raising financial resources and building a team of next generation to carry the torch of mission and take the institution to next level. I am confident that good work does not get hampered for lack of funds so long as we remain focused on our vision and build by a balanced team of good people.

I thank you, once again, for your continued support and look forward to an excellent and exciting period ahead. I extend my heartfelt wishes to you and your families and request for your continued participation in the initiatives of our institution.



CA Mohan Sanzgiri
President

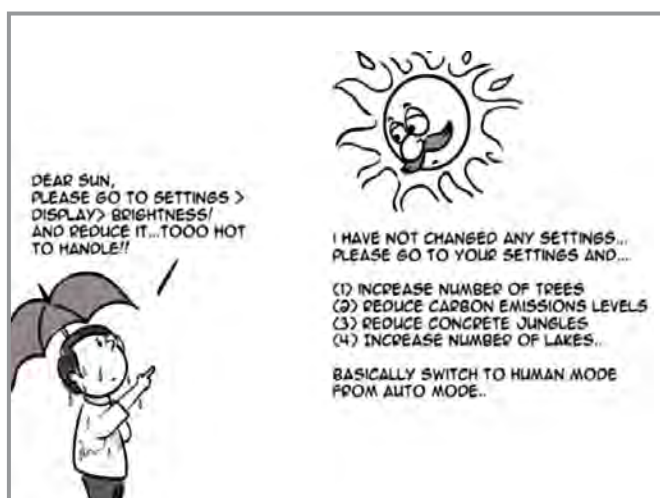
April 09, 2024



Vice President Dr. Asmita Hegde has taken good initiative to form a Musical group of AAMI GOENKAR under the banner **"SURILE AAMI GOENKAR"**

It was officially formed in March 2024 and about 10 Aami Goenkar Members have joined the group so far. We invite more Aami Goenkar Members interested in Vocal/ Instrumental music of any form to join the above group.

Please contact Mr. Pratik Hegde
Mobile No :- 9552518865



Dear Fellow Goans,

Together, we are stronger. Together, we can create a legacy of prosperity and unity for future generations of Goans.

Join **Aami Goenkar** today, and be a part of this transformative journey. Joining Aami Goenkar is a simple process, but it's a step towards making a significant impact. Visit our website www.aamigoenkar.org, where you'll find more information on how to become a member. You can also reach out to us directly at **98206 23089** for any queries or assistance.

To those who have yet to join, we extend a warm invitation. Let's unite under the banner of Aami Goenkar to ensure our beloved Goa not only thrives but sets a benchmark for community-led development and cultural preservation. Your membership, your voice, and your actions can make a difference.

AN APPEAL



Ira Naik

Young Achiever
Making Goa Proud.



Goa despite being one of the smallest states in India, has produced a number of talented individuals across various domains such as sports, arts science and entrepreneurship. Celebrating such achievements not only brings pride to the local community but also inspires others especially young people, to pursue their passions and strive for excellence.

It is said that every child is special in some way and when it shows extraordinary talent matching adult experience, we call it a wonder kid. Such prodigious abilities are the result of relentless efforts in a conducive atmosphere

Ten year old Ira, is an accomplished ballet dancer at the international level. Having begun as a student of ballet at National Ballet School of India (NBSI) for past five years, Ira has completed UNESCO level 4 certification. She has participated in various Ballet competitions and events that included individual and group dances in the past three years.

She was runner up in the Classical Ballet Kids Category at the Great India Ballet Competition (GIBC) in December 2021. She is the recipient of a scholarship from Ballet Festival of India for her Final Classical Ballet performance at Great India Ballet Competition (GIBC) in January 2024.

She has been awarded two Platinum (Besaya) level medals for Solo and Duet dances as well as two Silver medals in Indian Fusion and Classical Ballet Solo performances at Spain's CND Besaya ballet competition in March 2023.

One of the events she participated in was as the "Hook Hand Thug" character in the play "Tangled Ballet" based on the story of Rapunzel at the Russian House, Mumbai in April

2022. She was the "Head Dwarf" character in the play "Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs" at Royal Opera House, Mumbai in November 2023. Ira has exhibited intense dedication over past few years which has made her develop both emotional and physical strength by going through rigorous training so essential for light, graceful movements.

Ira is an allrounder who loves to read books and has recently started writing few poems. She likes to draw pictures (one of which was published in Maharashtra Times) and she is a Brown Belt in Karate.

Ballet being a western dance form was pursued only by the elite class of Indian society hence not so well known until recently. However in past few years, we have noticed a gradual shift towards recognising this art due to exposure in digital media. This will encourage children to take up ballet as a hobby and even as a career option in due course. At the same time, our country needs to create infrastructure and training facilities to help children reach their full potential and achieve international standards. We at Aami Goenkar, wish Ira the very best in her passion and win more laurels for her motherland Goa and our beloved nation.

Goan prodigy helps senior citizens to know their rights

At just 10 years old, Atharv has made waves in the tech world with his creation 'Teko' and other innovative apps, alongside excelling in academics and winning numerous accolades.



A whizz-kid, **ATHARV NADKARNI**, is just 10. A student of Vidya Vikas Academy, Margao, Atharv has been into coding since age four, and now has entirely coded, designed and conceptualised a mobile App for senior citizens and named it '**Teko**' (meaning support in Konkani). The App would help senior citizens in understanding the laws meant for them, their legal rights and where they can approach for help. The App has multiple other features too.

"Atharv had plans to develop a mobile app for a long time but did not know what kind of App he should work on. A family visit to Sanjivan Aarogya Dham at Bandora, a home away from home for senior citizens, inspired him to make an App for senior citizens as most elderly people are not aware of their legal rights and laws that benefit them," stated Atharv's mother Dr Shruti Nadkarni, HoD of Law at VVM's G R Kare College of Law in Margao, who provided all necessary legal information for the App.

"Atharv began working on the App in March this year and completed it in a month, in April. We are launching it at 'Sanjivan' on April 24 in the presence of Dr Ashatai Sawardekar, the founder of Sanjivan, and a senior citizen," stated Mayur Nadkarni, Atharv's father, an engineer who owns M.graphix Design Studio. Mayur, an artist, musician and painter along with Shruti, a BSc, LLM, MPhil (Law), PhD (Law) and a singer - are the winds beneath their super-kid's wings. "Teko" is Atharv's gift to the society, especially the elderly, believes the Nadkarni couple.

This is not the first App that Atharv designed. Two years ago, when he was eight, he made a Currency Converter App and uploaded it to the Amazon Appstore. During the pandemic, Atharv also created the MIT Scratch programming tutorial videos series on his YouTube channel to teach children how to get started with the basics of coding.

"I want to do something innovative for humans, like bio-printing - a method in which you can print human organs to be used to transplant," expresses humble, yet confident Atharv. To know of bio-printing technology (a tool for building tissue

and organs structures in the field of tissues engineering) at his age should take us i awe.

Born bright, Atharv's journey in the numerical would begin at the age of 18 months, when he began identifying numbers and started reading. By three, he not only knew all the countries and their respective capitals but could also spell the longest 45 letters word in an English dictionary.

"We realised that our son is extraordinarily brilliant and too curious. A polymath, he had too many questions and even we had to do our own research to answer his queries because we didn't want to give him 'fake' answers as that would lead to feeding wrong info into his brain," said Shruti.

Atharv started coding with HTML and CSS, and solved mathematical calculations mentally when he was just four. He knew the periodic Table with all the elements, Newton's laws, Pythagoras theorem. At the same time he developed interest in singing and playing piano. At five, when kids of his age play with Barbie doll, Atharv built his own website, www.atharvnadkarni.com. He could explain the trigonometric Unit circle and solve problems or give the value of Pi to 100 decimal places from memory.

"I began learning Python programming in 2019," recalls playful Atharv who became a content creator, started his own YouTube channel, @Athroid and made his first temperature converter App with voice output (Celsius-Fahrenheit-Kelvin) when he was six. "Currently I have 170+ subscribers," boasts the class-5 student who would turn 11 on April 29.

At seven, Atharv secured Rank 2 at National Wiz Spelling Bee Competition Mega Finals. Writing blogs on Maths and Science topics, on his website became his favourite past-time. This wonder-boy expresses deep interest in Space and Apollo Moon missions and learning foreign languages. He learnt Portuguese as he already knew Marathi, Hindi, English and Konkani. A glimpse of his meritorious journey is seen in the numerous medals and certificates he won from SOF Olympiads, Australian Maths Competitions, GK quizzes, elocution competitions, etc. "This eight-year-student joined

C programming in November 2021, and competed C++ programming language in July 2022 in record time. C and C++ are taught at the second-year engineering level. With right mentoring Atharv can revolutionise the IT sector. He is an asset to our nation." predicts Atharv's computer trainer Mitendra Alve. In the same year, Atharv completed the Portuguese language course, won medals of Excellence in SOF Olympiads in all subjects and was featured in Gems of Goa program on Prime TV Goa news channel. "I love Rubik's cube. It takes me just 20 seconds to arrange it," smiles Atharv. A favourite of all in school, teachers fall short of the words in praise - he never does any mischief and ever truthful.

Mayur recalls that in 2022, nine-year Atharv made his own version of the popular New York Times Wordle game using Python language. He was invited as a guest newsreader on Prime TV Goa channel on Children's Day. Part of the school choir at the Asian Saga musical program at Margao, multi-talented Atharv has no stage-fright while playing keyboard. "Atharv won the SOF Olympiads Outstanding Achievement Award for bagging medals of Excellence and Distinction in all the SOF Olympiads, viz, GK, Maths, Cyber, Science and English. He also won Certificates of Merit in Maths, Mathlathon, Achiever's test, Grammar Quest, etc. Now he has developed a deep interest in football, and his current favourite teams are Manchester City and FC Barcelona. And Atharv has recently expressed his desire to learn Sanskrit." adds Mayur who is in search of a good Sanskrit teacher. "We leave no stone unturned to quench his thirst for knowledge and learning," endorses Shruti.

At 10, Atharv participated in the All India School contest for environmental awareness and won third place having made a video to create awareness in plastic recycling. "We were invited to Mumbai to receive the prize at Camion School. Atharv was the only kid from Goa to have won a prize," says the proud mother as assistant professor of Law.

Blessed to have an intellectually rich family, which is equally active in creativity, Atharv's paternal grandmother, Anuradha Nadkarni is a classical singer and his maternal grandfather, Ramesh Sapre is an educationist and motivational speaker who imparts spiritual discourses across India, and who has a YouTube channel.

"We don't know what the future has in store for our kid, all we can do is to try and satisfy his curiosity and direct him towards being a good human being," says Atharv's grandmother, Anuradha who won the All Goa Senior Citizens Singing competition at 75.

Courtesy : **BHARATI PAWASKAR** | The Goan Everyday, Goa

Young Talented Wonder Boy -

Mayank Pandit

MAYANK, just a 6 years old child. At such a tender age he is remarkably talented in handling the Pakhwaj with precision and passion. His ability to synchronize with the singer and enhance the musical experience reflects an extraordinary level of skill and musicality.

Mayank's musical talents run in the family, inherited from his father, Shri Anil Pandit, a skilled Pakhwaj player, and his grandfather, Shri Babu Gadekar, who is proficient in both Pakhwaj and Harmonium. The influence of his ancestral musical heritage likely played a significant role in shaping Mayank's passion for music and nurturing his talent from a young age.

Mayank's journey is a testament to the richness of Vasco, musical heritage. Drawing comparisons to renowned figures like Pt. Jitendra Abhisheki like Pt. Jitendra Abhisheki, Kishori Amonkar, Lata Mangeshkar, Pt. Ramdas Kamat, and others speak volumes about the potential and promise he holds.

The mention of late Laya Bhaskar Khaprumama Parvatkar, the former Goan tabla maestro, possibly being reborn with a new name adds an intriguing layer to the narrative, hinting at the timeless essence of music and the cyclical nature of talent. Mayank Pandit's journey as a musician will undoubtedly be one to watch, as he continues to grow and evolve into a matured artist, leaving an indelible mark on the musical landscape of Goa and beyond.

Awards & Prizes:

- A) Received many prizes from individuals at programs.
- B) Swarabrahma Sangit Sanskrit Sanstha honoured him for Solo performance in July 2023 at Vasco Goa.
- C) Honoured by Mahamantri Shri Satish Dhond & Dr. Anand Shetye at Pirna Mapusa in 2023.
- D) Participated in a program & felicitated at Pinguli Math, Kudal of Anna Maharaj on 31-01-2024.
- E) Participated & felicitated by Shree Damodar Bogdeshwar Dindi Pathak on 29-04-2024 at Kalika Mandir, Shivoli, Goa.

Mayank Pandit seems to be making quite a name for himself at such a young age, receiving recognition for his talent in playing the Pakhwaj. It's wonderful to see such passion and skill in music being nurtured and celebrated.



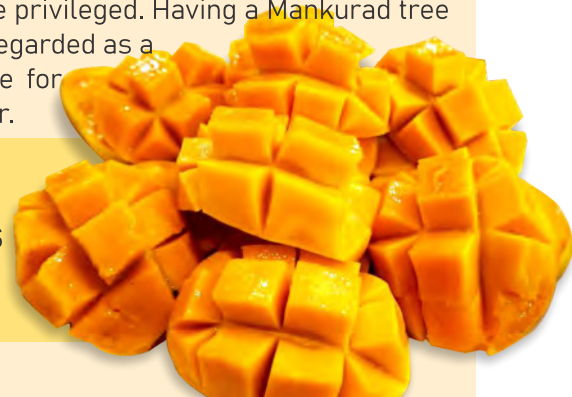
For most Goans, Mango means **"MANKURAD"**. It is the first mango to hit the market, The evolution of the name "Mankurad" arrived from its Portuguese origins. Goa's rich mango heritage, especially with the Mankurad variety, reflects both its agricultural importance and its cultural significance in the region. Among all the mangoes, Mankurad, also known as Goa Mankur, Kurad, Malcorado, Corado etc, is the most popular variety that is available throughout Goa. The Portuguese named it Malcorado meaning poor coloured and in time this word transformed to "Mankurad".

The Goan Mankurad is restricted to local markets where they fetch decent prices. Mankurad is supposed to be a mid-season typically small-medium in size, with an oblique oval shape, having its uniform bright yellowish orange or red blush

skin when ripped fully, less fibre, an agreeable balance of sugar and acidic qualities with sweet taste and thick pulpy texture, rich in taste fruit with very small and flat mango seed.

Mangoes take one week to ten days to ripen after harvest at maturity. Love is a mango that is ripe on the tree. We call it 'amor-piko' aambo. That is a delicacy for the privileged. Having a Mankurad tree in the yard is regarded as a matter of pride for the homeowner.

**IN 2023, THIS
SWEET FRUIT
MANKURAD WAS
AWARDED THE
GI TAG.**



Obituary



DATTAIRAYA RAMCHANDRA SHIKERKAR, aged 106, left for heavenly abode on April 5th, he lived a life marked by dedication, service, and resilience.

Born in Goa in 1917, during world of change, he taught in Portuguese and later bravely ventured into the Royal Air Force, where he valiantly served during the war in Burma, Sri Lanka and Lahore. He continued his service to the IAF until 1977, leaving behind a legacy of fighting for justice and honour.

Despite facing adversity with a serious bout of paralysis at 58, he emerged from it with resilience, embodying the spirit of overcoming obstacles.

A man of discipline and integrity, he was known for his strict adherence to principles and his unwavering patriotism. His cheeky sense of humour brought smiles to the lives of those around him, leaving an indelible mark on all.

A teetotaler, in spite of being in defence services were proof enough of his advocating for good health with regular exercises, timely meals and timely rest. He was open minded and as per his wishes his eyes and body were donated to the medical college in Vadodara.

His was a life celebrated with purpose, valor, and humour. He leaves behind a legacy, difficult to follow but will surely inspire many.

Accept our heartfelt condolences from **Aami Goenkar**. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family during this time of sorrow.

May his soul rest in peace.



Aami Goenkar

Expressing Gratitude

By Editorial team

On October 12, 2023 **Aami Goenkar** stepped into 21st year. It is a fairly long time. Fortunately, many of us associated with it since its inception, are still active and have pleasant memories of the formative period as well as its growth phase. Each sanstha is created with a purpose. In fact, the purpose is understood first and then a suitable structure is created to fulfil that purpose. Our tagline was, **“for Goans, of Goans, by Goans.”**

Each year gives us an opportunity to look back to assess the impact either good or bad it has created on the community it was expected to serve. Often, with the efflux of time with influence of the external environment, the primary purpose is forgotten or misinterpreted. Each year, on foundation day, we revisit the cause and express our gratitude to the founders and well-wishers or else, we will wander and lose our way.

We have to put the core purpose in centre and align our resources around it to ensure that the purpose is achieved. The very purpose of formation of Aami Goenkar was to create a group that will elevate the energy of individuals and encourage others to join the stream, engage with each other and implement initiatives of common good. We must be grateful for this opportunity to serve the community. If we take more from society and give back less, we are a burden to Mother Earth. It is our duty to return more than we take, that is gratitude. When we see smiles on the faces of beneficiaries, we get divine satisfaction.

Each one of us is special but we must work together as a team on this mission for our beloved nation for community. We must realize that on our own, we do not have power. We are dependent on external help for every small thing in our life. When we get an opportunity to do service and serve selflessly, our evolution starts. In social service entry is easy, most drop off, very few continue who hold to the goal firmly. There are swings, both happy and sad days, successes and failures, we should not be refocused, we have to go through life.

Our founders established Aami Goenkar with the spirit that it will survive for centuries even after they pass away, a new order will take over but the core will remain unaffected. The Managing Committee is given responsibility of organizing things in an orderly way and reaching out to everyone to join the mainstream. Obstacles are what we see when we lose sight of the overarching goal. Life is meant for bigger things and when we shift focus from me, mine, myself, join a broader cause and fit ourselves in that by accepting the situation, a wider circle of activity we fulfil our life.

In a busy schedule of activities, we prioritize our life. Joining a social institution makes us energized, recharge helps broaden our perspectives. We all are part of the movie. We write a script with expectations from others, we keep ourselves in the centre and expect others to react in a certain way which is beneficial to us. Social institutions show us the way to continue in the movie keeping common good in the centre stage, we learn to recreate scenes and that makes our life joyous.

We look forward to next five years of progressive period in the lifetime of our Sanstha.





ENVIRONMENT CHANGE & THE MONSTER OF WATER SCARCITY

A dry tale of Indian Silicon Valley with water crisis in Bangaluru is the forerunner red flag for future chaos of water shortage in Mumbai. The erratic hot summer is the messenger to this unpleasant forthcoming episode.

It shall take time for Mumbaiers to wake up from their deep slumber & comfort zone. It's high time to rigorously implement following mandatory guidelines...

- 1 Conserve every drop of potable water & check wastage at every weak point.
- 2 BMC need to increase its pace to update/maintain its complex network of water pipelines, avoid major breakdowns, fix leakages, wastages in transmission & control illegal diversion of water flow.
- 3 Stop usage of potable water for construction, gardening, washing cars etc.
- 4 It's high time to rethink whether swimming pools should be operational in hotels, clubs & huge residential complexes.
- 5 Existing water reservoirs to be maintained & new ones encouraged after checking ground water retention quality & other technicalities. Creating new water sources as a supply side intervention cannot be dismissed as a solution to Mumbai's water problem.
- 6 Rain water Harvesting (RWH) to be made mandatory at all residential complexes.
- 7 Rigorous public awareness about RWH is important at all levels of public life
- 8 Recycled used water can be released for construction, gardens, toilets & secondary purposes.... It's reported, 20% of Singapore's water supply is from recycled water. Germany's classic water management & distribution could be a subject for serious study
- 9 Hygienic cleaning & maintenance of several old potable water wells in Mumbai could also be an alternative option for surrounding areas.
- 10 Unplanned urbanisation, re-development & proliferation of high-rise buildings (without OC) is a serious concern for strategic policy decision at Govt & BMC levels.

EQI presents data in 5 domains- Air, water, land & bldgs., around us & socio demographic environments to provide us a snap shot of overall environmental quality.

In the light of unhealthy EQI & increasing road traffic BMC/ Govt should strive to improve the taxpayers' quality of life & give them healthy liveable conditions.

However, ground reality is...

Action without vision is a nightmare & Vision without action is a daydream.

