O HERAL DO The Voice of Goa - since 1900

From trust to turmoil

ndia and Bangladesh, two neighbouring nations with deep historical and cultural ties, find themselves navigating a period of heightened tension and diplomatic challenges. The recent visit of Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri to Dhaka marked an attempt to stabilise relations, which have been strained following the fall of Sheikh Hasina's government in Bangladesh. However, the divergent narratives emerging from this visit highlight the complexities of bilateral relations and underscore the need for careful diplomacy.

The political upheaval in Bangladesh, marked by the resignation and subsequent asylum of Sheikh Hasina in India, has left a vacuum in Dhaka's governance. The interim government led by Mohammad Yunus is grappling with internal unrest, particularly concerning the security of minorities, notably Hindus.

This issue has resonated strongly in India, further complicating relations. India's expressed concerns about minority rights during Misri's visit were met with caution by Bangladesh, which views such comments as interference in its internal affairs.

The strained ties have also manifested in border tensions, protests, and an escalating war of rhetoric. Incidents like the vandalism of the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Agartala and the arrest of ISKCON-affiliated spokesperson Chinmay Krishna Das in Bangladesh have added fuel to the fire. While both sides have condemned acts of violence and sought to de-escalate tensions, underlying mistrust remains a challenge.

For India, a stable and inclusive Bangladesh is crucial for regional security, economic cooperation, and countering cross-border extremism. India's support for Sheikh Hasina's Awami League in the past was driven by pragmatic considerations, including shared interests in trade, connectivity, and regional stability. However, the change in leadership has necessitated a recalibration of India's approach.

Bangladesh, under the Yunus-led interim government, appears to be charting a course that emphasises sovereignty and diversification of its international relations. Recent gestures towards Pakistan, such as the removal of visa security checks, signal Dhaka's intent to assert independence in its foreign policy. However, these moves have raised concerns in India, given the historical context of Bangladesh's liberation and the uneasy ties between India and Pakistan.

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The security and rights of minorities in Bangladesh, particularly Hindus, have emerged as a flashpoint. Reports of violence against minorities and their establishments, coupled with anti-India campaigns in Bangladesh, have deepened divisions. This has sparked strong reactions from Hindu organisations in India, further politicising the issue.

While Bangladesh's interim government faces criticism for its handling of these issues, the challenges are multifaceted. Rising nationalism, polit-

ical instability, and the absence of an elected government have created an environment where communal tensions can easily escalate. The situation demands a nuanced understanding of Bangladesh's internal dynamics rather than a reactionary approach.

The increased security measures along the India-Bangladesh border are symptomatic of the deteriorating trust between the two nations. The border, once a symbol of close people-to-people ties, has become a zone of apprehension. Families on both sides worry about reprisals, and trade and movement have been disrupted. This not only affects local livelihoods but also undermines the broader goal of regional integration.

The current state of India-Bangladesh relations requires both nations to adopt a forward-looking and pragmatic approach. For India, this means engaging with the interim government without appearing to interfere in Bangladesh's internal affairs. Diplomatic outreach should focus on shared interests such as economic development, regional connectivity, and counter-terrorism.

For Bangladesh, addressing internal challenges, particularly the protection of minorities and restoring political stability, is paramount. The interim government must demonstrate its commitment to inclusive governance and human rights to rebuild trust domestically and internationally.

Twitter World

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IT Consultant. Need to fix the

IT infrastructure in order to

make government work.

ChiefElectoralOffice

@CEO_Maharashtra Maharashtra Assembly Election Counting: Mandatory counting of 1440 VVPAT slips in all 288 constituencies completed on 23.11.2024, no discrepancy was found between the candidate-wise number of votes in EVMs and the candidate-wise number of slips in VVPAT machines. @ ECISVEEP



There is no doubt that today's youth has been deprived of motivation, though a few have started showing their talent in their own right which is a good sign. But otherwise, it's the parents who should shoulder this responsibility to bring out

the best out of

their children



e all have had the past which was so beautiful; the present looks very promising, though a big question mark remains. But the future has now become almost desperately unpredictable. Yes you guessed it right! It's a reality check for Goans.

We need to admit that till date, we have been mostly living in the past. The past that gave us our many great brave hearts that earned name and fame in different fields and made us feel proud. Most of them even outclassed many of the best talents in the country. They had their glorious past through their illustrious career in their life even with minimum resources at their disposal then.

Goa's sports, be it hockey or football, along with its culture, has been the hallmark of our heritage. Together with sports and culture, Goa was second to none. The past has definitely left an indelible mark on Goa's history. And we should always be feeling proud of their legacy. But have we done enough to look at the future?

Today as we turn the pages of the past triumphal, we still seek the answer as to what prevents today from bringing out the best from the Goans. The erstwhile Goans, if we



may recall, were truly hard core Goenkars. Most of them had showcased their talents with humble beginnings; be it in sports, music, theatre, singing, cooks and butlers, writers and directors, novelists, architects to name a few.

I may not be able to recall evervone's name lest I forget some of them. Those are the ones whom we remember today and hold them in high esteem. And that has become our legacy. The legacy that should have inspired today's forget the likes of J P Souzageneration and imbibes their lin, Master Vaz, Jacinto Vaz, values to achieve success into M Boyer, Alfred Rose, Prem

their own respective field.

But sadly, we have been slowly getting decimated in our own backyard today; be it by our own choice or by those forcing deceitful ideology upon us in the name of good governance. Do we have any opportunities left? Opportunism galore, but it's the self-discipline, hard work and perseverance that one should adhere to produce our next generation heroes. There is a choice to be made for all of those who are aspiring to grow and achieve success in their respective field.

No doubt we lack the magic of strategic planning into this whole game plan. First we are being shown the brighter side and then there is another side of it which is shrouded in darkness without even any silver lining. And that is what we have been unable to recognise.

But sooner or later the stars will start failing to twinkle and might even come crashing down right in front of us. Then there will be hardly any escape once our dreams have been shattered. Neither revenge nor curses will ever make them realise their follies

Today, the government too has failed to realise the potential of Goans' talent and instead it is unleashing its own agenda in the name of development, which is destructive in nature. So, what we ought to do is just strengthen our resolve, the will power, and perseverance to achieve our goals and save our Goenkarponn. Too often silence cannot be gauged as weakness, but yet the rhythm of the struggle has to be kept on high decibels.

As of today, there are yet to be born leaders who commands overall respect of the masses, a force in itself like late Dr Jack de Sequeira, late Mathany Saldanha on the political front.

In sports, football in particular those who played their hearts out, the likes of Visitacao Lobo, Maurice Afonso, Brahmanand Sankhwalkar, Bruno Coutinho, Nicholas Pereira, Camilo Gonsalves to name a few who raised the bar and kept Goa on a very high pedestal. Where are the stalwarts in the making today?

If you go into the past of our Tiatrs how Goans can ever

Kumar and Junior Rod just to name a few who mesmerised Goans with their sheer natural talent. As of now, Goans are yearning to see the birth of such stalwarts.

The Konkani songs of yesteryears are still making waves across the globe and are being commercially exploited by many of today's artists instead of bringing out their own new compositions. Do we really lack good lyricists? Do we lack good musicians? No! But we definitely lack the creativity of writing songs that would make an impact in the music world. Goans are looking forward to such a talisman that would create a sensation in his/her own right. I pray that such an icon will soon rise on the horizon sooner or later when we shall hear their songs which will make a sensation.

There is no doubt that today's youth has been deprived of motivation, though a few have started showing their talent in their own right which is a good sign. But otherwise, it's the parents who should shoulder this responsibility to bring out the best out of their children.

First and foremost, the parents ought to imbibe some knowledge of our past great Goans instead of children wasting their precious time on their mobiles.

Parents should talk about Goa's past glory to their children who will definitely show interest. That will give them a reason to think.

In sports, don't we have talent to compete at the Olympic level? Though every event in the competition has its own glory and importance, the most challenging is the field events that steal the limelight in the Olympics (no insult intended for other events).

But it will not happen because there is neither thrust nor competitive force playing into the hearts of our youth. The schools and colleges are too busy with their academic curriculum and have no time to tap the talent of the potential candidates in whom we could find some great athletes in the making.

The competitive force on the sports field has been lacking at every level and those in charge of respective sports bodies are playing only to the galleries."

(The author is a Konkani novelist and an ardent loverofnaturephotography)

people's*edit*

BARRIERS AND FACILITATORS

DWARKANATH S KAMAT

As per 2011 census report, out of 121crore Indian population, 2.68 cr people are differently abled, which is 2.21% of the total population.

We all are aware of the challenges differently abled people face in various areas such as managing activities of daily living, transportation, participation in social activities etc.

The cause of their disability can be musculoskeletal, neurological, congenital, sensory impairment and so on. The severity can range from mild to severe and the disability can be partial or total.

Various organisations are working towards creating a disabled friendly environment. In order to assist our differently abled friends and to make them functional, these organisations have taken initiatives such as setting up an awareness camp and providing assistive devices.

Based on the health condition and the functional status, assistive devices are prescribed to differently abled population as well as they are trained to use these devices correctly.

But mere prescription and training cannot be the way to create a disabled friendly society. For that the focus also must be on identifying the environmental barriers and breaking them.

The major barriers are encountered at various public places, buildings, public transport and sometimes even at home. Environmental modification, use of facilitators and adaptive devices are the ways to break these barriers.

Provision of facilitators like ramps, elevators, railings at Public places is necessary. Ramps can significantly reduce the efforts of a wheelchair bound person while moving from one area to another. These ramps are installed in many buildings like government and non-government offices, Banks etc to facilitate accessibility. But are these the only places people wish to go?

Ramps must also be installed at other places like shopping centres, restaurants, foot paths, public transport and schools.

Railings give a sturdy support to individuals with gait abnormalities or strength deficits in the lower extremities, senior citizens and people having balance issues. Fixing railings is necessary in the house too. These railings should be fixed throughout the length of the staircase, ramps, and walls of the corridor, bathroom and toilet.

One more modification can be done at home is increasing the dimension of the door frame for easy wheelchair accessibility.

To promote functional independence in performing activities of Daily living, various adaptive devices can be used. For instance, to make eating easy, a universal cuff or a built up spoon i.e. spoon with a wider and thicker handle can be used for a person having weak and restricted grip. A weighted spoon can be used for persons having tremors. Other examples are long handle brush for bathing, tap turner for those who have restricted mobility in joints.

Amputation is also one of the main causes of disability. Use of prosthesis and artificial limbs like the Jaipur Foot can make a huge difference to the quality of life.

A good quality, well designed and advanced prosthesis which are flexible and strong enough to withstand high impact stress have not only promoted independence in walking and jogging but also encouraged people to participate in sports like running, badminton, golf, archery etc.at a professional level.

Creation of an accessible and disabled-friendly country is one of the goals we have to achieve. So let us get united and contribute towards it by encouraging, promoting and ensuring Implementation of innovative ideas to break the barriers.

Beware of 'juice jacking'

Many individuals frequently go to coffee shops, stores, and other locations with charging ports when their phone's battery runs low. Today, however, even seemingly ordinary actions like this can make them fall victim to cyber fraud.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reportedly issued a cautionary message to cell phone users advising them against charging their devices via public chargers due to security threats presented by 'juice jacking'. In this type of attack, hackers manipulate public USB charging stations by installing malware on them or altering their hardware, which enables them to steal data from linked devices.

When unsuspecting users plug their devices into such compromised charging ports, cyber-criminals can siphon off personal data or install malware onto the connected device and even device encryption with ransom demands.

While using a public charging kiosk, it is safer to switch off the device before charging. One should avoid public charging ports or portable wall chargers. Only wall sockets should be used for charging the mobile.

It is best to avoid using public Wi-Fi while charging the phone, especially if one plans to access the bank account or conduct any financial transactions. It is advisable to carry

a phone charger with built-in data blocker and a power-bank when travelling. These mobile chargers with built-in data blockers only provide power, preventing any data transfer between the phone and the charging port. This eliminates the need to rely on potentially compromised public ports.

Adelmo Fernandes, Vasco

Goa's 'Swim in sewage' attraction!

There are numerous Sewage Tankers which collect sewage not only from residential units but also from Commercial/Hotel/Guest Houses (many at over capacity in the tourist belt)! My question is, where do they offload all this sewage?

Based on facts that we see in Goa, with all water bodies, including creeks being highly polluted and full of stink, it is prudent to think about what is causing this.

Recently there were sewage tankers caught even supplying the "load" as water supply to residential units!

I request the Goa Government to clarify on how the sewage is being managed/properly disposed of! Else I can only conclude that it's a part of the un-declared "swim in Goa's sewage"

tourist attraction! Arwin Mesquita, Colva

For letters to the editor contact us at editor@herald-goa.com. New wave instability

All letters must contain correct postal address and telephone number. Letters are liable to be edited for brevity.

letterstotheeditor

The turn of political events in Syria raises fears of a new wave of regional instability, following the ouster of Bashar al-Assad by the militant group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), ending his family's despotic rule for over 13 years.

in Middle-East

It marks a turning point for the middle-eastern country, shattered by years of civil war which has turned cities to rubble, killed hundreds of thousands of people, and forced millions abroad as refugees. Western governments, which have shunned the Assad-led state for years, must decide how to deal with a new administration in Syria in which HTS looks set to

have greater influence. HTS, which spearheaded the rebel advances across western Syria, was formerly an al-Qaeda affiliate. The Syrians, therefore, will obviously remain fearful as this militant group will impose draconian Islamist rule or instigate reprisals. As the rebels form their first provisional government free of the al-Assad family in more than five decades and a peaceful transfer of power takes place in the country, Syria now faces an immeasurably difficult task of

healing the wounds of the civil war and turning the page on totalitarian rule.

Ranganathan Sivakumar,

Who is the pig here?

What State BJP spokesperson Giriraj Pai Vernekar said is correct. "Never wrestle with a pig, because both will get dirty and the pig actually enjoys it" (O Heraldo, December 10). The question here is who is the 'pig' referred to by the BJP Spokesperson and it seems that the pig is actually enjoying the match.

On the front page of Herald dated December 10 on 'Anti-Corruption Day' Herald has questioned what happened to the promise the CM made of recovering the money in the "cash-forjobs" scam?

I don't think we can expect an answer to the question because the sad reality we are facing today is that we are wrestling with pigs!

Matias Lobo, Tivim

Beware, dictators!

What will happen to the rulers when the anger of the people of a nation explodes, particularly when the top leader turns power hungry and autocratic, has been well demonstrated in the manner the people of Syria led by the militants rose in clamour against Bashar-al-Assad, the Dictator- President of Syria and made him flee the country to save his life.

First it was the uprising of the people of Sri Lanka against the Rajapaksa brothers, who as dictators were involved in Himalayan corruption, looting the exchequer and other criminal acts, to demit office and flee the country. They brought an end to their cruel regime which paved the way for a new regime which has assured to bring all the looters to books and confiscate their ill-gotten wealth.

Next, it was Bangladesh. The people who had been tolerating for long under duress the tyrannical rule of Sheikh Hasina, who had allegedly been looting the country, imprisoned her opponents and even eliminated her enemies, with an army supporting her evil deeds, rose like a tsunami, chased her and her coterie and made her flee the country.

She is now a refugee in India, awaiting deportation and to be tried for treason, looting the treasures of the country and many other criminal charges filed against her including the massacre of hundreds of people before she fled the country.

Tyrants like them should remember that people will not remain submissive forever and once they come to the streets to teach them a lesson, it would be unimaginably and immensely unbearable to them.

Tharcius S Fernando, Chennai

Printed and published by Walter Ligorio D'Sousa for and on behalf of Herald Publications Pvt. Ltd. Printed at Herald Publications Pvt Ltd, Plot No: L-135, Phase II, Verna Industrial Estate, Verna, Salcete, Goa. Published at PO Box 160, Rua Sao Tome, Panjim, Goa - 403001.

Editor-in-chief: Raul Francisco A. Fernandes. Executive Editor: Satadru Ojha (Responsible under PRB Act) Regd Office: St Tome Road, Panjim, Goa. Tel: 0832-6750840 (Editorial) and 0832-6750839 (Advertising) Margao: 2737689. **Mumbai Office:** 16-A, Bell Building, 2nd Floor, 19 Sir PM Road, Fort, Mumbai - 400001 (Tel: 22840702/ 22844908). RNI No: 43667/83.

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