

# WHAT WERE YOU DOING AT 14? Memefest follows 'Wow'bhav feat!

As soon as Vaibhav Suryavanshi stunned experts and fans alike by scoring a 35-ball century at the IPL, the 14-year-old became a household name. Memers were quick to react to Yuvraj Singh's post on social media which asked this very question

Team Café

cafe@herald-goa.com

### Who is Vaibhav Suryavanshi?

Hailing from Samastipur, Vaibhav Suryavanshi's cricketing journey began at just four years old, when his father noticed his early passion and built a small playing area in their backyard. By the age of nine, he had joined a local cricket academy, laying the foundation for what would become a remarkable rise in Indian cricket. Vaibhav made headlines at 12 when he debuted for Bihar in the Vinoo

Mankad Trophy, scoring 400 runs in just five matches. But his breakout moment came during a youth Test match against Australia in Chennai, where he represented India U-19 and hammered a 62-ball 104 — a knock that grabbed national attention. This stellar performance earned him a spot in the IPL 2025 mega auction, where he was picked up by the inaugural champions, Rajasthan Royals.



### MEMER'S GET CREATIVE ON SOCIAL MEDIA



MUDDASACHEM FEST IN VALPOI CELEBRATES WORKERS' SPIRIT



SIP THESE DRINKS TO HELP PROTECT YOUR SKIN

### SWIPE RIGHT

### Riddhima Kapoor Sahni confirms shooting for movie

Ranbir Kapoor's sister Riddhima Kapoor Sahni made a smashing screen debut with the OTT series 'Fabulous Lives vs Bollywood Wives Season 3' in 2024. She made a lot of headlines for her stint in the reality show. Riddhima has now revealed that she was gearing up for her film debut which was completely unplanned. Without giving many details, she said that she was shooting in the hills until June 2025. She admitted to fully enjoying her experience. She further mentioned that entering films wasn't in her plans. "I didn't plan this. When I was approached I just said yes. I heard the script and loved it," she said.



### Chris Hemsworth flaunts intense Thor training for 'Avengers'

Chris Hemsworth is officially back in training mode as he prepares to reprise his role as Thor in the upcoming Marvel film, 'Avengers: Doomsday'. The actor recently took to social media to share a high-energy workout video that shows him punching and kneeling a heavy bag. He captioned the clip, "A little Avengers pre game warm up, coming in hot." The video has already excited fans who are looking forward to seeing Chris Hemsworth return as the God of Thunder. Known for his intense fitness routines, Hemsworth once again proves he's in superhero shape.



### Comments from the meme fest:

A Star Is Born. Innings Baar Baar Dekho, Hazar Baar Dekho — KOHLIFIED JOYDEV

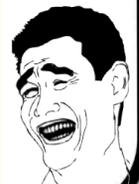
Vaibhav's fearlessness is next-level—future superstar in the making! —ANOOSHKA SOHAM BATHWAL

At 14, I was probably studying and enjoying adolescence. Vaibhav Suryavanshi is indeed a sensation! His fearless attitude and talent are inspiring. He's taking on the best bowlers with confidence and skill. The future of cricket is in good hands! Keep shining, Vaibhav! —N K KHAITAN

At 14 I remember hitting my friend Bhopinder for a straight six in that gully behind the air force quarters in subroto park Delhi. What an innings this boy has played from the very first ball that he played in IPL 2025. This boy is a wonder kid a real "Boss Baby" —VIJESH

It's amazing to see such young talent like Vaibhav Suryavanshi take on the world's best with that level of fearlessness and confidence! At 14, I was just getting started in the world of ideas and information, not quite playing at that level. But it's really inspiring to witness such performances from the next generation. The future of cricket is in great hands with players like him. Vaibhav is definitely one to watch! —VISHWARANJAN CHOUDHARY

I was in 9th Standard. Playing Cricket for my School Team and failing miserably all the time. Man this kid is something else. Never heard of such a knock. —DIGVIJAY SINGH

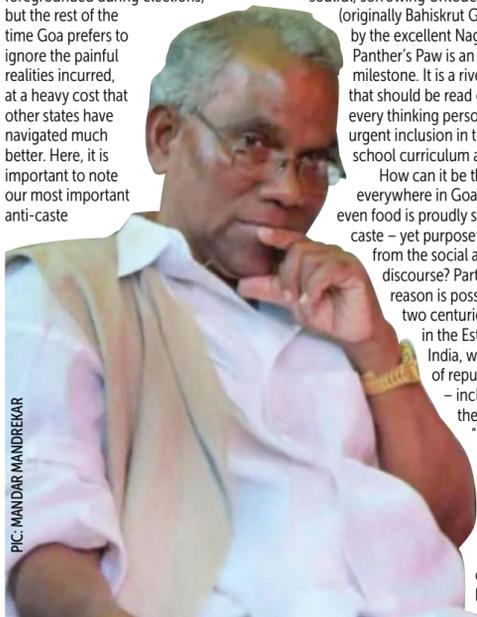


Fresh off their Coachella performance, the iconic rock band Green Day was honoured with their very own star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

# Dadu Mandrekar's Untouchable Goa

Vivek Meneses

India's smallest state has an unusual antipathy to discussing — leave alone addressing — the pernicious and poisonous impact of caste practices in culture and society. Caste gets foregrounded during elections, but the rest of the time Goa prefers to ignore the painful realities incurred, at a heavy cost that other states have navigated much better. Here, it is important to note our most important anti-caste



literature and writings are basically unavailable to the public, whether Os Brahmanes by Francis Luis Gomes from the 19th century or Vishnu Surya Wagh's searing 21st century Sudhir Sukta poems. In this regard, the elegant new publication of the late Dadu Mandrekar's soulful, sorrowing Untouchable Goa (originally Bahiskrut Gomantak) by the excellent Nagpur-based Panther's Paw is an important milestone. It is a riveting book that should be read closely by every thinking person, and merits urgent inclusion in the senior school curriculum as well.

How can it be that caste is everywhere in Goa — nowadays even food is proudly said to possess caste — yet purposefully erased from the social and political discourse? Part of the reason is possibly the last two centuries of history in the Estado da India, where a kind of republicanism — including the famous "universal" civil code — gave the appearance of equality under law and was often used by excluded

*The storm called 'Ambedkarvaad' — the ideology of Ambedkar — swept into my mind when I was still young, barely in my mid-twenties*  
— Excerpt from the book 'Bahiskrut Gomantak' by Dadu Mandrekar

communities (such as the Gomantak Maratha Samaj) to successfully petition for their rights well in advance of their counterparts in other parts of the Hindu world. But whatever the precise cause, there can be no doubt that contemporary Goans are very uncomfortable dealing with caste, and prefer to deny or dissemble about how it continues to work in their own lives, and the active discriminations their own communities are complicit in. These uncomfortable silences bothered Dadu Mandrekar greatly, and he never stopped trying to break them, over long decades when he stood almost entirely alone.

"The storm called 'Ambedkarvaad' — the ideology of Ambedkar — swept into my mind when I was still young, barely in my mid-twenties," writes Mandrekar: "It became the fertile ground from which countless ideas have taken root and flourished over the years. It allowed me to see everything and everyone through an unwaveringly critical lens. Most importantly, it gave me a foundation upon which I could cultivate creativity, justice, change, and my people — ideas that have never left me. Sometimes, when the right forces align and give me adequate

aid, these ideas transform into reality. Ambedkarvaad keeps me grounded in other ways too, preventing me from wasting words on empty criticism or frivolous gossip. Instead, it helps me channel my energy toward sharpening my abilities and using them to uplift others."

Mandrekar says "Dalit communities are found across the length and breadth of Goa, their presence in villages far outnumbering that in cities and towns. In many villages, their numbers are large enough to form separate vastis — neighborhoods of their own. Across the Pedne, Sattari and Dicholi regions, there is scarcely a village without one or more of these vastis. The Mahars for the largest segment of this population. They are the true sons of this land — not just of these regions,

but of Goa itself [and] like elsewhere in India, the Mahars in Goa are considered untouchable. They make up the majority of Goan Dalits and bear the weight of immense suffering — poverty, illiteracy, and an ignorance imposed upon them through centuries of deprivation. Every injustice, every wound, every trauma inflicted upon Dalits across the nation has left its mark on them as well. By fate — or by peculiar decree of my stars — I too am a Mahar. I too have seen, felt, lived and endured the pain, deprivation and indignities of my

people. From the moment I was capable of thought, one conviction has remained unshaken for me: my people's lives and struggles must not remain invisible." This is remarkable testimony, with an ineffable character that sets it distinctly apart from the vast canon of Dalit writing from Maharashtra, to which Mandrekar's oeuvre has an undeniable relationship beyond the mere fact he wrote in Marathi. Here's what Untouchable Goa's sensitive translator Nikil Baisane told me earlier this

week: "While Dadu tries to incorporate literary touches that often seem very Savarna Marathi Lit coded they give out a very ironic tone. It feels as if he's subtly mocking such flowery language by pairing it with harrowing stories of discrimination and bias. His writing isn't full of anguish in a very angry-young man kind of way, but that doesn't mean that it doesn't possess the spirit of anger and frustration against the system, and the society that continues to force people in hellish situations. Another factor that I found great about his writing is that while it's very reportage-like, it's not dry or matter of fact, instead Dadu we hear everything from his perspective, a perspective that represents the voices of the downtrodden. It's full of emotions and restlessness that flow out in a calm manner. I'm not sure if I remember any other writer that has a similar style"

Baisane is a very bright Pune-based 30-year-old, who is currently writing his debut novel, and Untouchable Goa is his first published translation. He told me he was especially troubled by Mandrekar's descriptions of educated Dalits in his own age group: "we see all kinds of such young men, some who are educated but are still bound to caste practices, some who can have a bright future but are forced to stay indentured to caste, and some who have fire in their heart and ready to tackle oppression without any care. I call these passages troubling because what Dadu wrote back then is still very much visible everywhere."



PIC: MANDAR MANDREKAR