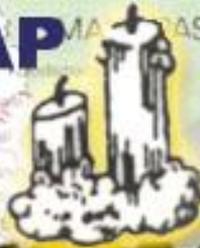


GOA SU-RAJ PARTY'S

ROAD MAP FOR GOA

WHEELING IN

THE CHANGE



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The Introduction

November 1999 sowed the seeds for a change in goan politics when Francisco Sardinha split from the Congress party to form the 'GPCP' to become the Chief Minister of Goa, with the outside support of the Goa RSS-BJP. The consequences of this move were not lost on concerned minds considering that Goa had 13 Chief Ministers in as many years. The disturbing aspect in the new formation however was that this "musical chairs" game had suddenly taken a more sinister aspect as, the 'politician' in Goa, indicated that he could throw ideology to the winds and make pacts with the devil if need be for the sake of power, and that the welfare of Goa be damned in the bargain. The writing was on the wall bold, and clear.

As history will record, concerned minds came together at the International Centre-Goa, Dona Paula, in January, 2000, to prepare a platform for further deliberations, with the encouragement and participation of General Sunith F. Rodrigues [retd]. The list of invitees was a random selection of erudite citizens, writers, businessmen, industrialists and generally, persons known to have shown keen interest in wanting to see Goa effectively governed, persons who would subscribe to good governance. Having prepared the base, the deliberations continued with the first session having taken place at 'CARITAS' complex, St. Inez, Panjim, on February 2, 2000. Through subsequent sessions, the ground realities that were impeding the political stability in Goa were exposed. Leaving aside the social and cultural needs, the political needs of Goa were prioritized and discussed threadbare, resulting in identifying the necessary reforms needed to steer Goa on a safe and well defined course in its political advancement, based on selflessness, determination and the motivation to replace Goa's politics, which has become more and more decadent and self-serving in years since 1961, with politics that shall clean up the mess and give a breather to Goa and Goans.

Having drafted a charter of reforms, the question that remained to be answered was: “What next!”. “How to sell this to the present political masters?” “Will there be takers?” “Will it not be laughed at as impracticable, impossible and undesirable, considering the direction in which Goa’s political thinking was moving?” “Should this resolve be forced on the political parties through NGOs, pressure groups or through letters to the editors in the newspapers and magazines?”

All these questions were answered by the well remembered address by one delegate at the very first meeting of the minds at the International Centre-Goa. This is what he had to say:

“ Gentlemen, if we are sitting here today to look at ways how to replace dirty politics with clean politics, then it is clear that this task cannot be left to NGOs and Pressure Groups. Politicians become all too powerful when in power and NGOs and Pressure Groups succumb to pressures. Besides, if you care to cast a glance at persons who are managing our municipalities and panchayats , you will see our future politicians in the making, who are acquiring the expertise to lead Goa into the 21st. Century. In time, when they will occupy positions of power, our present politicians will look like “SAINTS” despite what they have done to Goa. You cannot have a bull-fight without horns striking horns. If there should be no will in this gathering to take on dirty politics with clean politics, I suggest we all go home and save ourselves our valuable time and a lot of heart-aches. ”

The Goa Su-Raj Party [GSRP] was thus born and was subsequently registered with the Election Commission of India, New Delhi, on 31st. August, 2000. The name of the Party and its emblem [The Light-House] were selected out of many options, through a process of ‘double balloting’.

It was too soon for GSRP, which was less than two years old, when it was confronted with the May, 2002 Goa Legislative Assembly elections,

unwanted as they were, prematurely forced on the State through the dissolution of the Legislative Assembly by Mr. Manohar Parrikar, who, had deposed Francisco Sardinha, to take over as Goa's Chief Minister. Even though GSRP had not found its feet, so to speak, the Party contested eight seats in these elections. It was a very humble beginning but it helped to bring Goa's newest political Party to the attention of Goa's electorate. The most frequently asked question during these election campaigns was: "*Will you be around for the next Assembly Elections?*" Our answer was an emphatic "*Yes*".

During Parliamentary elections [2004], GSRP supported the candidates of the NCP and the Congress for the North and South parliamentary constituencies respectively. Yet again, in the Poinguinim bye-elections held on October, 13, 2004, when the sitting Congress MLA of the Poinguinim Assembly Constituency, resigned from his seat to join the BJP to re-contest the seat on the BJP ticket, this Party sought to make its presence felt in order to give the people of Poinguinim an alternative between the two national parties in order to disseminate the message to the Goan electorate that future elections must be fought on written-down guarantees and assurances in respect of the development of the people through the development of the State rather than on the strength of money and muscle power, such as was excessively demonstrated during these elections. Understandably, due to the charged atmosphere within the Constituency, reluctance was expressed by the short listed candidates to step into the fray, and therefore, the Party remained committed to working against the communal and the corrupt agendas.

The instability re-surfaced yet again with the resignation of five [5] sitting MLAs of the BJP to dislodge the RSS-BJP Government of Manohar Parrikar. The June 2 by-elections to these five Constituencies namely Poinguinim, Benaolim, Margao, Cumbarjua and Taleigao have resulted in the BJP retaining just one Assembly Constituency seat of Poinguinim, three going to INC and one to NCP. The resignations of sitting MLAs saw President's Rule with the Legislative Assembly having been kept in 'Suspended Animation'. The latest clear mandate given to the Congress-NCP alliance in the bye-elections has put a

Coalition Government of the Congress-NCP-MGP in place with Mr. Pratapsing Raoji Rane as the consensus Chief minister. Hopefully, this Government will lead Goa to the General Elections in the year 2007. GSRP, however, did field its candidate in the 'Taleigao' Constituency in these bye-elections, again, to offer the people of Taleigao the alternative between the two national parties, and, in order to demonstrate the will of this Party to persist. If one will ask the question as to 'why' only in Taleigao and not in other 4 constituencies, the answer lies in the fact that GSRP is totally committed to DEMOCRACY. It fielded its candidate, in fact at the last hour, only to force the election process which otherwise would be aborted to crown the king of Taleigao as UNOPOSED. This was GRSP's victory.

Founding Beliefs Of GSRP

GSRP believes that 'Good Politics' emanates from:-

- **Self-sacrifice.**
- **Ethics & Discipline.**
- **Transparency & Accountability.**
- **Long-Term Planning & Vision [coupled with short-term goals that will mark the mile-stones of progress.]**
- **Secular Principles [separation of State from Religion]**

With these main principles in mind, GSRP has evolved an ORGANIZATIONAL SYSTEM which it believes will help to ultimately achieve the aims and objectives originally set out in the Party's Constitution.

The Building of a Party

GSRP has been founded on the belief that a political party will make a difference in the political scenario of Goa, on the basis of selflessness, commitment to Goa and single-minded pursuit of the ideals and goals of the party. On the other hand, the Party would have to be totally in control of its elected representatives as much as it is in control of its affairs prior to elections.

Therefore, its foundation, which is its '**Constitution**', has been written with great care and thoughtfulness. GSRP believes that it can achieve success in the political field through dissemination of its beliefs with a concerted effort directed towards gaining the confidence of the people. Therefore, GSRP invites dedicated and committed citizens to join the Party by shedding the traditional complacency, the overwhelming distrust of politics in general and to step forward to defy the so called "political giants" who have thrived by dividing the people on the basis of caste and religion and by preying on their economic stagnation through giving them temporary benefits.

It is an acknowledged fact that no political organization can survive without its own grass-roots movement. In keeping with the old adage "*walk before you run*", GSRP, having stood the test of time, is now confident of stepping out to set-up its grass-roots organizational wings in each of the forty Assembly Constituencies of Goa with like-minded and dedicated persons in the lead.

1. Organizational Wings:

GSRP's Organizational Wings shall take shape with **life-members** taking up the posts of "Village Representatives" [**VRs**] in each of the 360 villages of Goa. The VRs of each constituency, headed by a 'President' and a 'Secretary', elected from amongst the VRs shall constitute the 'Constituency Working Committees' [**CWCs**], the members of which shall be the constituent members of the '**General Body**' of the Party, inclusive of its Executive Wing, with full voting rights. The VRs shall be aided by 'Ward Representatives' [**WRs**], appointed by the respective CWCs. However, WRs shall not be the constituent members of the General Body. The full fledged 'General

Body' shall not exceed 480 members at any given time and shall be the driving force of the Party.

2. Party Finances:

Political financing rarely comes without strings attached and without its inherent pressures. In simple terms it means that the financiers will seek to influence the decision making process of the Party thereby weakening its independent thinking process and actions. GSRP has therefore taken a lot of precautions to prevent such a scenario from occurring through **Article 27** of its Constitution. To solve the perennial funding ills experienced by political parties, often forcing them to resort to unethical means, GSRP has initiated a '**70/30 Financing Plan**', through which all the needs of the Party's main organization as well those of its grass-roots organization shall be met.

Explanation:

*Seventy per cent [70%] of the funds collected within the respective constituencies, by way of **life membership fees** [Rs. 300/-]; **small donations** [less than Rs. 10,000/-] and through other enterprising **fund raising activities** and programs conducted by the respective CWCs, shall be rolled-back into the respective Constituencies. These funds shall be utilized [with total accountability] within the respective Constituencies as deemed fit, which will include helping the socially and economically under-privileged and helpless; deserving senior citizens to the extent of placing them in 'old-aged homes' and meeting their maintenance expenses ; mini developmental schemes and projects deemed vital to boost the confidence of the local people to be taken up where the panchayats and municipalities fail to respond to these dire needs, etc., as well as the party's organizational commitments such as the conduct of its localized meetings, internal organizational elections and the electioneering processes for Parliamentary, Assembly and gram/zilla panchayats and municipalities. However, the Party forbids spending of these funds on '**religious activities**' or for any '**religious**' purposes' in keeping with the Party's secular credentials.*

Our Vision

It is obvious that Goa needs serious '**Long-Term Planning**'. Goa is approximately **104** kilometers in length, with an average width of approximately **35.5** kilometers. Of the 35.5 kilometers width, we have **0.5** Km (500 meters) wide stretch of the coastal belt as "no development zone" [**Coastal Regulation Zone-CRZ**], and an approximately **14** kilometers wide stretch of mountainous terrain of the Western Ghats region. Within the usable stretch of approximately **21** kilometers width, we have riverine stretches, marshlands, swamps, hilly regions, water bodies, agricultural and settlement lands etc. Therefore, if we are to look at Goa some fifty [50] years hence and beyond, we shall have to be precise and diligent in planning for the future.

Though centrally administered as Union Territory since Goa's liberation in 1961 until 1987 when Goa attained Statehood, there has been hardly any co-ordinated planning. Whatever planning that has taken place, has been done on 'ad-hoc' basis, the result of which is open for all to see. A good look at the port city of Vasco da Gama is a valid example. If this continues, Vasco da Gama will be the 'Dharavi' of Goa if it has not already earned this status.

The present population of Goa is approximately 15 lakhs. If we are looking at long-term planning, we need to compute what Goa's population will be in 2020, 2040, 2060... etc. If we take Goa's average population growth at 21.5% [1960 to 1990], and considering Goa's population at 1990 mark to be 11,69 lakhs, Goa should have a population

of approx. **17** lakhs in 2010; **20** lakhs in 2020, **25** lakhs in 2030, **31** lakhs in 2040 and a whopping **45** lakhs in 2060. On a progression chart, if this is taken into consideration, serious thought has to be given to sustained planning, to augment and/or rebuild new infrastructures, to cope with the increasing demands on utilities like potable drinking water & water conservation, public health, sanitation & hygiene, sewerage, public transport, power, housing, road-networks, eco-system protection, controlled industrial growth for jobs, resources management, agriculture, fisheries, preservation of forest cover, internal law and order, disaster management....., the list is long. If this task is left to the discretion of the parties in power to decide, then we, as a State, must think again. Therefore, there is a critical need for Goa to have a concerted program based on long-term planning and a definitive immutable road map to follow, though always open to improvisations and adjustments. The methodology of achieving the aims may change, but not the aims.

There is no doubt that we have had town planners working since 1961, when Goa was taken over from the erstwhile Portuguese regime in an un-spoilt, immaculate and almost 'barren' state as far as development is concerned. But if the then architects of Goa were serious and committed, Goa's development would have been soundly charted on a 'Systematic Long Term Planning' basis, and we would not be saddled with an unplanned and a 'shoddy' Goa that is confronting us today. Successive Governments and Government Ministers have been anything but "Goa-Planning-Centric". They have perennially considered the Town & Country Planners' to be their personal assistants, and have used them for their own selfish ends to enlarge their vote banks. How else does one justify the deterioration of the once beautiful, clean and well organized Mapusa market; the cancerous garbage dump sores of 'Sonsodo' and 'Curca' in Margao and Bambolim respectively; the crash metamorphosis of the capital city of Panjim for the hosting of the IFFI in 2005 and back to serious digging-up of what has been already built in record time without a care for planning, and the subsequent flooding in a way never experienced before? Planning is hardly seen in our cities, towns and the entire prized coastal belt which sustains our valuable golden goose Tourism Industry and which is the biggest single employer. What has

taken place is not ‘planned development’ but ‘planned vandalism’. These aspects deserve a serious and critical look with demands that the administrators act with responsibility and commitment in order to rectify the million and one things that have been allowed to go wrong for the reasons stated earlier.

The need of the hour is, therefore, an urgent and sensible approach to planning, on the basis of “CLEAN SLATE PLANNING”, wherever possible. Most of Goa, fortunately, is still untouched. If we seriously put the ‘planners’ to work, and by taking the people, who are, and shall be the beneficiaries, into full confidence, Goa will become something of a marvel for us all to admire and feel proud of.

Envisaged System of Administration

To understand more about the type of “**system of administration**” that we are propounding for Goa, we wish to cite the experiences of the city of Surat in the State of Gujarat.

Some years ago when Surat was considered a dangerous city to live in, with residents running away from its crippled hygiene, and the prevalence of a deadly plague, a new municipal commissioner [Mr. Rao] was deputed to take charge of the city. At first, Mr. Rao himself opted to run away, but realizing that he had no other alternative, he introduced a very rigid system of administration, which was, at first, resisted, tooth and nail by the people, including the local MLA, who had to be even arrested for interfering with his directives. The system was subsequently taken to heart by the citizens for its tough, result oriented approach, ultimately gaining for the city of Surat the title of being the second most cleanest city in India after Chandigarh. This feat was achieved within just two years. The system that the Commissioner adopted remains in place in the city of Surat, even to this day, and strictly adhered to. This is possible because Mr. Rao has left the city’s proud citizenry as its watchdog. The conscious citizens of Surat will accept and allow all

improvements over the system, but will vociferously oppose and challenge any changes that may provoke degeneration of the system that has proved to be effective.

It is possible to compare Goa, in its present predicament, to the city of Surat when it was at its worst. The cities Panjim and Mapusa in their recent manifestations of uncleared garbage and the world famous Mapusa market in a most unhygienic condition, is a clear example pointing to the fact that our civic administration has failed and failed miserably. Needless to say, we need many a 'Mr. Rao's' to come along to change things for us and give the people of Goa, a "system of administration" and a sense of direction. Goa Su-Raj Party has plans to do just that. For, if we wish to achieve lasting and long term results, we must bring in many talented persons who are otherwise sidelined, and who have to silently watch and suffer incompetence ruling the roost. The elected State Government must fortify the hands of honest and efficient bureaucrats by availing of their services through enactment of sensible and result oriented legislations. It must review existing laws, acts and rules. It must retain, modify, correct or discard those laws which have not helped in any way to bring in the required results. A law must first make basic '**common sense**' and must not only work for the good of the common man but must be seen to work for the good of common man. Furthermore, laws, acts and rules must be such that they, while maintaining the long-term interests of the State, bring immediate relief to the people in the shortest possible time frame. Such laws, acts and rules must be transparent and impartial, and not suffer from the malaise of half-hearted enforcement. The reason that such clean laws, acts and rules are not found, is because the vested interests are many who reap rich dividends from these being slack and amenable to misinterpretation or outright non-enforcement.

Election Manifesto

It is a standard routine for political parties to bring out their ‘election-time manifestos’, invariably termed as ‘*election planks*’. We have heard of these ‘election planks’ before, and we shall hear of them in the future, as long as democracy exists and electoral battles fought. In not too distant a past, we have heard of election planks such as “Garibi Hatao”; ‘Hindutva’; “Feel Good”; “India Shining” etc., mouthed by the national parties. In Goa’s context, we have heard of “Six Member Cabinet”; “New Faces”, “Good Governance”, et al. The ordinary ‘voter’ in general knows that these planks are not to be taken seriously. Most often than not, these ‘all-weather-ingenious-planks’ have mysteriously sunk to the bottom of the political seas and forgotten about, as soon as the elections are over. In Goa’s case, these election planks have scaled new heights, supplementing them with the distribution of costly goodies such as cell-phones, motorcycles television sets and even refrigerators among other things along with rupee notes of 500 and 1000 denominations, not to mention unlimited free food and drinks. In the recently held Goa’s bye-elections to the five constituencies, it is said, that a particular candidate paid hard cash of rupees one lakh for fifteen votes of a single family. To a great extent, due to the fact that these political parties have gotten away with brazenly breaking of promises, indulging in rampant corruption, graft, and lately, overt communalism thinly hidden behind a layer of pseudo-patriotism, they have even mustered the courage to flaunt with impunity the unfortunate fact that “people’s memory is short” and hence, in each election, use the same formula to garner votes.

What GSRP is presenting to the Goan electorate here is neither a manifesto nor an election plank. It is its very ‘soul’, the declaration of its ideology, its beliefs and its ethos. Its elected representatives will be men and women who believe in self-sacrifice and who will be bound to the commitments, and above all, the ‘*vision*’ of the Party. They will be persons who will be willing to work within the framework of the Party’s Constitution, its by-laws and its programs. The individuals who will step forward will have to fear nothing. They will have the chance to match their selflessness, their dedication to work for Goa’s developmental excellence with those who have founded this Party, many of whom work

and will be working selflessly without drawing attention or honour upon themselves, to make it grow into a formidable deep-rooted organization. And if at all, a need is felt to have an 'election plank', then it will have to be the "CLEAN GOA" plank, so that it becomes the 'slogan', the 'by-word', on the tongues and on the minds of all Goans throughout the twenty first Century and beyond, stressing the word 'CLEAN' in all its meanings and senses.

GSRP has shown that it is willing to work within the parameters of self-sacrifice through the inclusion of the following articles in its constitution as part of its permanently installed manifesto and which will not be deleted or amended during the lifetime of the Party:-

(a) Constitutional Provisions:

- Five [5] member Cabinet [**Article: 34**]
- No Chairpersonships or Directorships of State Corporations & Institutions to MLAs. [**Article: 38**]
- Recall of MLAs through disciplinary action [**Article: 40**]
- No amendments or deletions of the above Articles [**Article: 41**]

The above provisions are backed by the following requirements for the selection of the party's candidates for parliamentary and/or legislative assembly elections and for the financing of their respective election campaigns, etc.

(b) Selecting Candidates:

The potential candidate/s shall preferably be from the same Constituency. However, the party executive reserves the right to make the final decision/s. Under normal circumstances, the president/s of the CWC/s would be the likely candidate/s with the secretary/s filling-in as substitutes.

(c) Financing Election Campaigns & Party Programs:

The respective CWCs shall finance the election campaigns of the candidate/s through the constituency funds accruals (70%) due to the

constituency from the party funds, in keeping with the Party's stand that a candidate contesting any elections shall not spend his/her own money. This is in keeping with the Party's belief that if the candidate is to be the people's candidate, people must fund the candidate's election campaign to whatever extent possible. This also goes a long way to discard the 'winnability' criteria of candidate/s, presently preferred by most political parties. The winnability criteria will not be attributed to the candidate/s fielded by GSRP but to the Party's underwritten programs and its very outlook on governance.

(d) Leader of Legislature Party–Chief Minister–Cabinet:

There will be no Chief Minister designate prior to the legislative Assembly Elections. The Leader of the legislative party, who will be the Chief Minister, will be selected at the post-election 'Party Convention' along with the other four members of the Cabinet.

This unique system of selecting the Chief Minister and the Cabinet members as well as the most transparent way of distributing the 'portfolios' has been conducted at the Party's post May 30, 2002 Assembly Elections – "PARTY CONVENTION-2002" at the T.B. Cunha Hall, Panjim, when the Party selected its "SHADOW CABINET" from the 8 candidates it fielded in the Assembly elections 2002.

This system is specially designed to eliminate the race by MLAs-elect to be accommodated in the ministerial berths and the repercussions thereof as also to eliminate the post-election confusion of portfolio distribution, wheeling and dealings that we see going on with bitter acrimony between the Chief Minister and the MLAs for weighty, money making portfolios.

This system of selecting the leader of the legislative party-cum-Chief Minister and the other four Cabinet members shall be the most transparent, clean and effective system where the selection will be conducted in two rounds of balloting by the pre-determined 'ELECTORAL COLLEGE' consisting of members of the Party

Executive, members of the CWCs, as well as a few erudite, principled and known for their outspokenness personalities, who may or may not be the members of the Party. In this selection process of the said Electoral College, the elected MLAs opting to be in the race for the Chief Ministerial post or for the Cabinet posts, shall not be included in the electoral college. This Party convention shall take place immediately after the elections results have been declared and the Party's Chief Minister and the Cabinet shall be declared within 'twenty-four' hours from the declaration of the election results with the people of Goa seeing the hand of governance almost immediately thereafter. The Party Convention shall be open to the media on prior intimation.

Note: Those interested in knowing the full procedure involved in the conduct of the above mentioned Party Convention may please contact the Party through goasuraj31@gmail.com

GSRP's Commitment For Goa

With GSRP at the helm of political affairs of Goa, the people of Goa will experience effective and just State Administration, leading to the building-up of new infrastructures that are deemed necessary for a fast developing state and vastly improving on, if not totally rebuilding, the existing infrastructures, so that the State enjoys the status of being the No.1 State in the Union in the real authentic sense. Through its Constitutional provisions, as well as through its clean political outlook, GSRP guarantees the true empowerment of the people.

Our emphasis is going to be on tuning-up and revitalizing the State Administration' because, when this is made simple, effective and result-oriented, everything else shall automatically fall in place, including the effectiveness of the 'policing machinery', thereby making the 'Law and Order' situation in the State, exemplary. GSRP guarantees non-

interference by its Government Ministers and MLAs with the policing machinery to protect this effectiveness.

With the innovative Administrative System in place, the people of Goa shall be freed from being drawn into the nets of indebtedness to the MLAs, Ministers and Chief Ministers, thereby always remaining free from asking for favours. Their work shall be done in the normal course of the duties delegated to the various Governmental and local Self-Governing bodies, leaving the Ministers and MLAs time to concentrate on their regular work of running the State machinery in maintaining its administrative quality, without being tied down to actively run the various Government Corporations and institutions, which shall be put in the hands of professionals on hire and fire basis, leaving ample time for themselves for leisure and privacy. In simple words, the people's elected representatives shall not be doing anybody a favour, but shall be doing exactly what they have been elected to do, i.e. legislate. Moreover, as a buffer, the Party Organization itself shall be divorced from the Legislative Party on the basis of 'one man-one post'. This simply translates to say that none of the elected representatives of the Party shall be the sitting office bearers of the Party Organization during their terms in office as elected people's representatives.

GSRP shall concentrate on the governance of the state and shall not be bothered with vote-bank politics, to try to please voters with their personal requests and demands, more so, illegal. Legitimate demands of the people shall be met through natural justice and on priority basis. The incumbent MLAs shall be able to concentrate more on their responsibilities, without being preoccupied with developing their personal vote-banks for their future electoral successes. GSRP reserves the right not to field incumbent MLAs for the second term, unless, it so feels that these MLAs deserve to be given a chance. In other words, 'performance' rather than 'popularity' shall be the criterion. In any case, the general policy of GSRP is not to allow more than two consecutive terms to its MLAs, in order to promote second generation leadership.

GSRP does not support the commonly portrayed concerns of MLAs [and aspiring candidates in the run-up to the elections] for the development of their respective constituencies. GSRP believes that no constituency can be developed in isolation of the development of the State as a whole. GSRP scoffs at the reasoning by MLAs aspiring to be Ministers that due representation to the constituencies in the Cabinet needs to be given. On the contrary, GSRP believes that those who are inducted into the Cabinet are chosen for their capability and capacity to plan for Goa as a whole, on priority basis, so that all constituencies find balanced developmental progress to ensure the '**Economic Freedom**' and the well being of the people of the State.

To tackle this priority, the state has to invest substantially in terms of long term planning and financing of those core sectors which shall safeguard and guarantee this '**economic freedom**'. This simply translates to providing 'JOBS'. To have more jobs, more service oriented and manufacturing industries are required. To set up more industries, we need stable and reliable infrastructures such as quality **uninterrupted** power supply, abundant **potable** water supply, excellent network of roads, a worthy and reliable public transport system, an advanced telecommunications system and most of all a clean and responsive State Administration. Therefore, with the intended 'System of Administration' in place, most of the existing ills and ambiguities shall be eliminated and Goa can look forward to do business in right earnest. When we say we need more industries, we first need to solve the existing inherent problems of the industry as a whole in Goa, its functioning ills, people's concerns with respect to **environmental degradation** and its safeguards with respect to the **disposal of industrial wastes**, toxic or otherwise, etc. Industries such as Zuari Agro Chemical Limited [**ZACL**], Meta Strips Limited [**MSL**], Goa Carbon, Mining Industry in particular and others shall be reviewed for environmental as well as other safeguards such as employment to locals etc. As a matter of fact, Goa is ideally placed for less of "manufacturing industries" and more of "services industries". **This industrial atmosphere must be tackled with deft long-term planning so that not only Goans in Goa may benefit from this, but Goans settled elsewhere outside Goa or those who have settled**

abroad may have the opportunities to come back to their homeland to live, work and prosper, and in so doing, contribute to Goa's rebuilding and its all round progress.

With a well defined long-term "Economic Policy" underway, Goa can then set its sights on other advancements in infrastructures and public utility services that shall enhance the quality of life of the people of Goa, for which they shall not only be eager to pay for, but shall also appreciate and welcome them.

Goa Su-Raj Party believes that, by putting down the following in black and white, it has made its intensions very clear to indicate to Goans the direction in which it shall move. However, some of the ingredients needed to be included to make Goa the 'GOA OF ONE'S DREAMS' may not have been included, since different people see along different lines. Valuable inputs and ideas from those who are throbbing to see Goa as it should be, are most welcome, to make the list grow and expand to the satisfaction of all Goans.

The following are the few ingredients of the vision that Goa Su-Raj Party wants to project and propagate:

[I] LAW & ORDER

1. Judiciary:

Appointment of judges to the lower judiciary must be made based on their knowledge of the local laws as well as their knowledge of Konkani, since knowledge of the local language is crucial in the dispensation of justice. The general discipline, especially in the junior courts shall be enhanced, since this has been noticed to be gradually eroding. All cases being heard under various laws by Mamlatdars, Dy. Collectors and other Revenue Courts under the Mundkar, Tenancy and Rent Control legislations shall be taken out of the jurisdiction of the Revenue Courts and transferred to the Civil Courts by suitably amending the present legislations.

In addition the following shall be implemented:-

- (a) There shall be no shifting of Courts from one locality to another such as the proposed shifting of the Panjim Courts across the river into Porvorim.
- (b) This party shall ensure that sufficient land is acquired for a new/modern court complex which shall accommodate all Courts and Tribunals in one place for the Courts in the Tiswadi (Ilhas) in North Goa District jurisdiction so that ample court rooms are possible to be accommodated in the complex and sufficient parking space available for the present as well as future needs. Gradually this types of Court complexes shall be built in other jurisdictions.
- (c) There shall be provision for decent accommodation and transportation for judges. This Party shall ensure that the employees of the Court shall have a proper dress code to reflect the dignity and decorum which is expected in the Court rooms and within the Court premises.
- (d) This Party's aim shall be to provide speedy justice by appointing sufficient number of judges to ensure that the said aim becomes a reality.
- (e) This Party shall also look into the provision of providing good libraries for the advocates in order to encourage the profession to attain higher levels of legal learning .
- (f) The Courts shall be provided with sufficient finances to sustain the highest of standards with respect to cleanliness, hygiene and general appearance and maintenance of the Court buildings and their premises.
- (g) There shall be reorganization of the jurisdictions on the basis of Taluka boundaries, so that all branches of Government shall exercise the jurisdiction within the same boundaries and specially

with respect to such Authorities as Civil/Criminal Courts, Revenue, police and Sub-registrars.

2. Lok Ayukta:

Corruption is widespread at all levels of the Government of this State.. There is a need to reduce the same if not eradicate it completely. In order to ensure transparency in public administration and the affairs of the State, there is a need to create an institution like ‘Ombudsman’ [Lok Ayukta being the Indian version]. In order to be effective, this institution is to be provided with adequate teeth. Goa Su-Raj Party shall create such an institution in Goa on priority basis when voted to power.

3. Sub-Registrar’s Offices:

The offices, which are located in most Talukas’ Principal Towns where all conveyancing is registered, civil marriages solemnized or pre-nuptial steps taken, wills are recorded etc. shall come in for special scrutiny as, for sometime, these offices have become dens of corrupt practices and where records are freely available to the unscrupulous elements to destroy or to manipulate. Many cases of forgery have come to light and yet our Governments have ignored or have refused to do anything about all this.

The system of recording all transactions and transfers of properties, mortgages, partitions or any other rights acquired over a property in separate cross-referenced registers shall be strictly implemented in order to facilitate title searches and curb malpractices. For this purpose, various departments involved in property matters or allied activities, including the Courts, Talathis, Survey Departments shall have to report and make available a copy of any decision taken in any property case, so that the same may be recorded in the appropriate register.

4. Police:

Police Department shall be freed from the interference by the Executive Branch. It shall be fully equipped to fight crime with modern methods. Police stations shall be provided with adequate transport/patrol vehicles fitted with modern communication facilities. Recruitment procedures shall be streamlined to give equal representation to the main communities of Goa. The Police force shall be brought under a 'Civilian Services Board'. A public relations bureau shall be set up at the police headquarters which shall be responsible to implement and oversee the establishment of public relations desks at each police station to improve police-public relations at all levels. Such designated officers at every police station shall be responsible for the building up of the confidence of the public in the police force, follow-up on criminal complaints and complaints against any police personnel for dereliction of duties and/or misconduct. Special programs shall be designed to train all police personnel in matters of traffic laws, hygiene, good mannerism, handling of telephone and/or communications systems and public psychology (including mob psychology) and techniques on how to control mobs, demonstrations and marches without resorting to unnecessary violence.

Investigating Officers (IOs) in criminal cases shall be held accountable for shoddy/poor or unsatisfactory investigations resulting in cases being dismissed by the Courts. This will be taken into account at the time of considering promotions.

The absence of the police on regular beats and/or patrolling during the night hours has become chronic. Confidence of the public in the police needs to be drastically improved. Police patrols during night hours shall be made effective and mandatory.

(a) Accountable Business Practices:

Easy to register mandatory registration for: Non Banking Financial Companies [NBFCs], visiting Medical Professionals, Recruiting Agencies, Antique Dealers/Collectors etc. shall be introduced. A special police cell shall be constituted to permanently monitor the above activities. Traveling door to door salesmen shall display identity/registration cards on their person, issued by the Goa Police,

making it mandatory for these sales persons to sign-in at each police station in the jurisdiction in which they shall work from time to time. Police clearance shall be required for clubs and/or facilities operated by foreigners. No discrimination shall be allowed to be made at such venues or institutions unless it is meant for 'members only' and criteria for membership shall not be allowed to be on the basis of origin or the colour of the skin. No foreign person on tourist visa shall be allowed to overstay and shall not be eligible to engage in any activity/s not compatible with the visa held.

(b) Illicit Trades:

Intensified drive against violations of laws, rules and regulations on drugs, narcotics, liquor adulteration, prostitution, illegal gambling [matka etc.] paedophilia, fictitious recruitment agencies, training/services centers and investment services. Police personnel who are found collaborating with such illicit conduct of trades shall face, as a first step, suspension from service. Cash registers for all retail vendors shall be made mandatory. Sale of spurious/duplicate materials shall be stringently punished with revocation of licenses and with jail terms for owners for violations.

(c) Police Action/Protection:

It is noted that a lot of violations are taking place with respect to illegal constructions in prohibited areas of the 'CRZ' and other public places and/or on private/Comunidade lands. This is done, specially, taking advantage of weekends and holidays, to start and complete such constructions when the statutory bodies/departments overseeing/acting on such complaints are closed. In such cases, the police, even if informed of these irregularities, seek permission from the departmental heads concerned to intervene. This anomaly shall be rectified and the police shall be authorized to intervene in these cases and stop or demolish such illegal constructions if the purported owner does not produce, at the site and on demand by the police, the relevant, valid permission/s, license/s or NOC/s and/or original

documents of the properties from competent authorities. The police shall not demand the presence of the complainant at the site of inspection nor shall the police disclose the identity of the complainant to the opposite party. Even a telephonic complaints shall suffice and the police shall take cognizance of the complaint after ascertaining the veracity of the complaint.

5. Immigration & Customs:

These services have earned a bad name in the State. These Departments shall be thoroughly sensitized, with requests to the Central Government under which these services are directed, to simplify procedures, making them effective and humane. Serious malpractices and under-hand dealings by the officers of these Departments shall be recorded with sufficient proofs and these shall be presented to the Central Government with recommendation to take action on such officers and/or to effect their transfers from Goa's jurisdiction. The Central Government shall be suitably briefed so that appropriate action is taken without delay.

6. Vigilance:

A special cell shall be created in the Vigilance Department to keep an eye on the Departments such as Police, Immigration & Customs [Airports and Sea Ports, check posts nakas], Excise and Sales tax offices, etc. The vigilance cell shall also keep a random check on the workings of all other Government Departments. Officers and other civil servants caught for accepting or demanding bribes and/or other favours in exchange for discharging their duties and even being negligent or irresponsible at the place of work shall be sufficient grounds for inviting severe punishment. If there is a need to keep this cell under surveillance to ensure its effective functioning, this shall be done.

7. Jails & Jail Administration:

The Administration with respect to jails and detention centers shall be reviewed and desired reforms shall be incorporated on the advice and recommendations of the concerned 'Civilian Services Board' and 'Administrative Commissions' set-up by the Government. The key areas looked into shall be meals, sanitation and medical attention.

8. Security Services:

Introduction of Private Security Services preferably under retired police officers.

Explanation: -

It is a fact that a lot of our youngsters are dropping out from schools due to there being no serious aptitude testing system to channelize them into vocational professions. Most often these youngsters end up being absorbed into anti-social activities imparting a crippling blow to their mainstream development. Security being a sensitive issue, Goa's security services shall not have to depend on outsiders to take on the ever growing security services requirements locally. Boys and girls volunteering for such a service shall be imparted quality training through short training courses on the lines of 'Police Academy' training and posted as security personnel at various institutions, manufacturing units, hotels, banks and ATMs, etc.

[II] GENERAL POLICIES

1. Official Language:

Konkani shall be the sole Official Language of Goa. All official correspondence shall be in Konkani (Romi & Nagari), Hindi & English. The Party shall keep an open mind on the standardization of the script for Konkani by encouraging a proper time-bound pragmatic debate on this issue by excluding emotions and implement the decision arrived at with total commitment. Maximum Governmental funding or financial help shall be assured for the development of Konkani through audio-visual, print, cultural and other mediums. As far as Marathi language is concerned, it has the backing of a large State such as Maharashtra where, though there is a sizable population of Konkani speaking people, no recognition has been forthcoming for Konkani, unlike in the State of Karnataka. This Party proposes that, in case the Marathi protagonists in Goa are in a position to obtain for the Konkani language in Maharashtra

the same status that they demand in Goa for Marathi, this Party will fully back their efforts for equal status for Marathi in Goa.

2. Goans First:

Goa shall take care of the sons & daughters of the soil in a most unique manner. Proof of residence and/or domicile certificates for 'Goans' seeking Government employment, admissions to Government colleges and institutions etc. shall be stopped in favour of "proof of origin", in that, one's parent/s must be Goan/s. Knowledge of Konkani shall not be the criterion for 'a Goan'. Socially and economically backward communities such as Gawdas, Kunbis, Velips and Dangars shall benefit from special State sponsored facilities for their up-liftment with respect to their educational, socio-cultural and economic development. Land rightfully belonging to them which has been appropriated by others and/or by institutions etc. shall be reverted to them. There shall be no compromise on qualifications as well as the competence required for the position/s in question with respect to employment. There shall be no reservations nor lowering of standards for special categories based on caste, creed or social standing. This Party shall strive to modify Central Government directions in this respect, at least for Goa. Preferences shall be given to socially disadvantaged and handicapped only after the qualifying 'benchmarks' are fully complied with. However the 'Goans First' criterion shall not apply in cases where the required qualification/s and/or levels of competence sought for filling positions is not available from bona fide Goans and talent engaged from outside Goa shall be duly respected, accepted and fully assisted in the true sense of Goan hospitality. Such appointments of outsiders shall be on the basis of contracts to leave doors open for Goans to be recruited at a later date.

3. Goa's Civil Service Cadre:

Whether to have Goa's own Civil Service Cadre or not, its feasibility, its pros and cons shall be put to debate and views arising out of these objective discussions shall be recorded. If it is so felt that Goa must have its own civil service cadre, then appropriate representation shall be made

to the Central Government in this regard. In the interim period we shall do all within the means available to encourage qualified youth to appear for exams at the Central Government level in all branches including I.A.S., I.F.S., I.P.S. etc.

4. Parliamentary Constituencies:

This Party feel that Goa needs a better and more effective representation in Parliament. Increasing the existing Parliamentary constituencies (Lok Sabha) from the existing two to three (North-Central-South) could be one solution. Grouping of MPs of smaller States such as Nagaland; Mizoram; Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Goa and Daman-Dadra-Nagar Haveli on a reciprocal basis would be the other solution so that the demands of smaller States such as Goa are not lost in or overlooked by Parliament.

5. Civilian Services Boards:

All public services shall be monitored by specially constituted '**Civilian Services Boards**' comprising of non-elected, eminent members of the society who have no known political affiliations, specially chosen for their concern in the social front and possessing independence of thought process and exemplary character. These boards shall be entrusted with the setting up of a system of recruitment procedures and processes for selections for Government jobs, including the police force, which shall be carried-out on non religious, non-caste and non-political basis. Such Boards shall also be entrusted with the responsibility to look into specific complaints from the members of the public into the mis-behaviour or dereliction of duties by Government/Civil servants, including the police, and advise the Government accordingly so that corrective steps may be taken before things deteriorate.

6. Central Bureau of Investigation[CBI] & [ED]

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) shall be integral part of the State's investigative agencies. The Party shall extend full support to these agencies to carry

on their investigative work as they deem fit without any pressure or influence from the Government. These agencies shall enjoy blanket permission to investigate Civil servants and/or private individuals without exempting past and present Government Ministers and MLAs including the Chief Minister/s for any criminal offence/s and/or for holding assets disproportionate to their known sources of income.

7. Standardization of Names of Places:

It has been observed that the names of places are spelt according to each one's wishes as a result there is no uniformity. This anomaly shall be taken care of and names of places shall be notified in the Official Gazette as authentic names both in the Roman and Devanagiri scripts. Example of mis-spellings are: Haldona or Haldonem for Aldona; Mhapsa, Mahapsem for Mapusa, Saloi for Salvador do Mundo, etc. All signboards and name plates indicating the names of places shall use the officially notified name spellings. Any deviations, variations or violations of the notified name spellings by Government or semi-Government Agencies shall be appropriately penalized. Any change of name of any place/s shall be effected through the observance of set procedures that are required to be followed and such changes already effected without following set procedures shall be reverted back to their proper notified names.

8. Disaster Management:

Appropriate certified agencies shall be engaged to set up fool-proof Disaster Management Plans for the port town of Vasco in particular, as well as all other cities and towns of the state, including the entire coastal belt. Citizens shall be conscientized of the 'do's and don'ts' in case of emergencies as well as during major disasters like fires, earthquakes, cyclones, flash-floods, tidal waves, tsunamis, major oil-spills etc. Government shall have appropriate numbers of trained disaster management personnel who shall move into action on short notice. Fire stations shall be equipped to fight chemical and industrial fires besides normal fires. The State shall be kept in the 'readiness-mode' at all time to cater to any and all natural disasters with respect to evacuations, search and rescue operations, emergency accommodation of the

evacuees as well as relief operations including setting up of emergency kitchens and food & medical supplies and services. Suitable places shall be identified and kept in readiness in case mass burials/cremations are required following disastrous calamities such as crippling earthquakes and Tsunamis in order to curtail epidemics. Supplies like tissue paper, oil coagulant spaying material as well as clean-up operation facilities and equipment to cater to major oil spills in the coastal areas of the sea shall be kept in readiness and/or to be made available at short notice with needed manpower details. A list of doctors, civil and mechanical engineers, nursing staff and paramedics shall be compiled and kept updated every three months indicating their respective stations, to be mobilized as per the coded emergencies. The State of Goa shall be made fully ready in all preparedness to cater to relief operations not only within the State but also in the neighbouring States as well, if and when required.

Example:

Take the instance of 110 tons of fuel oil spillage into the sea across from Aguada light-house [early March 23, 2005] as a result of a moving barge colliding with an anchored vessel. It took the local authorities as much as 11 hours to take cognizance of the occurrence. Disaster Management Plan under any circumstances must be deployed within a shortest possible time span. This can be achieved only if thorough preparedness is maintained and the machinery kept well oiled to move into action on emergency footing to arrest the spread of the spill.

Note:

The state of lack of preparedness to tackle natural disasters have been exposed in Goa vis a vis the land-slide at Dicarpale in South Goa and the flooding of Mala-Fontainhas, Panjim, during the recent heavy showers. Disaster Management seems not to be on the list of priorities of any successive Governments as indicated by the total lack of preparedness of the Commercial Capital of the Country, Mumbai, as witnessed during the unprecedented flooding of the megapolis during heavy rains, often.

9. General Safety:

(a) Road:

[refer...[VII]-5]

(b) Industrial:

All factories, manufacturing units, industrial estates, work-shops, repairs & maintenance garages and any other ancillary units shall be duty bound to store sufficient and mandatory fire-fighting equipment in house, portable or otherwise, to be determined by the Fire-Department's safety regulations. In addition to normal fire-fighting, steps shall be taken to train the staff and management of industries, including fire fighting personnel in fighting industrial and chemical fires. Periodic in-house fire-drills shall be mandatory for every industrial set-up. Safety helmets shall be compulsory for staff and workmen of factories including construction industry. Fire-fighting personnel shall be resident in the fire-stations and in ready preparedness/standby mode at all times. Large Industrial Estates shall have their own fire-stations located within their premises.

(c) Institutional & Commercial:

All educational institutions and large commercial establishments including recreational venues like theatres and meeting/convention halls shall install fire detecting apparatus besides providing for portable fire extinguishers placed at prominent places and/or on every floor of the building. Escape routes shall be clearly marked and identified for emergencies.

10. Population Stabilization:

The focus of the National Family Welfare Program [NFWP] has changed substantially over four decades of its implementation. From being an exclusive 'fertility control' program at its inception, it has evolved and matured into a program for providing information, supplies and services, enabling couples to make free and informed choices regarding the size of their families, to ensure the survival of their children and providing the total package of services required for reproductive health. The falling birth rate and low death rate in Goa has resulted in a trend towards stabilization of population at a manageable level. But this trend is offset by the reproductive profile of ever increasing influx of migrant labour population whose reproductive behaviour is representative of the states

of their origin. 'Family Welfare Program' in Goa shall be reoriented to bring the migrant labour population to fall in line with small family norm adopted by Goans. Also, appropriate steps shall be taken to see that migrant labour population in Goa does not increase over a set limit in order not to off-set the balance as prevailing in Goa up to 1980.

11. Demonstrations, Protest/Victory Rallies & Processions:

Guidelines shall be laid down for the conduct of protest/victory rallies, morchas, demonstrations etc. in order not to cause any hardships to law abiding citizens who need to go about their normal daily chores. No public roads, streets or highway stretches shall be allowed to be blocked and the normal flow of traffic shall be maintained at all times. Prior police clearance shall be mandatory if such occurrences do require blocking of certain sections of the public roads. The concerned authorities shall ensure smooth and well publicized diversionary arrangements in order not to disturb normal traffic.

Example:

(i) The visit of Mr. L.K. Advani for a public meeting organized at Mapusa (Bodgushwar Temple) some years ago disrupted normal traffic and the movement of the people from their work places to home in such a manner that even mothers having small children, who would normally reach home at 6 p.m. reached home after 10 p.m.

(ii) The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) public meeting recently held at the taxi stand, Mapusa, where Shri. Pramod Mahajan was the star speaker, saw the entire road at the Union pharmacy staged out and closed for normal traffic from 2.00 p.m.onwards on a working day incurring a substantial loss to the merchants of Mapusa leaving them no alternative but to close down their shops for the day, not to mention the inconvenience faced by the commuters at large at this very busy city intersection.

12. Bandhs:

This Party believes that calling for a 'Bandh' and paralyzing the normal routine of life cannot be claimed as a 'RIGHT' by any one in a

democracy or that it has any role to play in a civilized society. Such bandhs often serve the purpose of providing the opportunity to the unruly elements to intimidate and coerce the public into towing their line even though one may not agree with the rationale for the 'bandh'. Hence such 'bandhs' shall be banned and those in the leadership responsible for calling for such bandhs shall be dealt with under the law.

13. Anjediva Island:

This issue will be re-opened to debate the basis on which the Goa Government gave away the Anjediva Island to the defence establishment free of cost when Goa is heavily borrowing and begging money from financial institutions and the Center respectively.

14. Dabolim Civilian Airport:

This issue of defence forces occupying the Dabolim civilian airport facility and the continued expansion of the defence forces will be opened-up for debate in right earnest. Other issues such as how many Goans are employed in the defence establishment, what efforts has been made by the defence establishment to recruit Goans other than placing advertisements in the local newspapers etc. will be scrutinized. One cannot forget what happened during the Konkani Agitation and the role played by the defence personnel.

18. Govt - 4th Estate Relations:

Government shall not interfere with the fourth Estate [Press]. Press and audio-visual media shall enjoy fullest autonomy. Government advertisements shall be freely and fairly distributed to all publications irrespective of their editorial stand, purely on the percentage of circulation/readership basis. Authentic and investigative anti-Government stands by the Press and the audio visual media shall be appreciated more than the pro-Government stands, in the understanding that constructive criticism of Government actions leads to refinement of government policies and thinking. Victimization of the Press and Press

persons by Government officials shall be seriously dealt with. No Government official who is cleanly exposed by the media shall be shielded by the Government, as also, very strict action shall be initiated through appropriate law-enforcement machinery against Press persons for releasing/publishing unsupported charges of misconduct/abuse of power by Government officials and elected representatives.

19. Role of Religion in State Matters:

This Party believes that the State must remain insulated from Religion. Hence the Governance and/or Government Administration shall be fully divorced from religion at all levels to maintain the secular principles. No Government or semi-Government Department or Institution shall display religious icons or pictures within their premises etc. and shall be banned from conducting religious services and functions within the premises. However there shall be exception made to Institutions functioning in buildings which were earlier private and which were taken-over by the Government and which had their own private religious sanctuaries or oratories. Public passenger transport vehicles shall also come under this prohibition. A citizen, being free to choose and follow any religion he/she may choose to, matters of religious faith shall be treated as strictly a private concerns of citizens. Religious Institutions shall not be entitled to receive government grants. However, old traditions, if any, which are indigenous to Goa, shall be maintained. Government shall not fund any facility or facilities which is/are not open to all communities, irrespective of religious faith, caste or other antecedents. Facilities which cater to only one community or one caste per se shall be considered as falling under the 'Private Domain'. State shall be neutral in its governance and shall not interfere in the internal matters of religious institutions, except when religious discord threatens to create a law and order situation due to aggrieved public sentiments. State shall be responsible to provide adequate security to all religious and heritage institutions and buildings including the maintenance of law and order, sanitation, granting of additional public transportation for festivals, etc., during festivals organized by these religious institutions where unusually large numbers of people are expected to attend and/or worship. There shall be a definitive curb on the use of public address systems and sound systems,

including the bursting of fire crackers, cracker bombs during such festivals in order to reduce noise pollution and protect the citizenry at large from extreme noise pollution abuse. Indiscriminate bursting of fire-crackers and cracker bombs during private/public festivals and celebrations shall be discouraged as these lead to the hazards of accidents, inconvenience to citizens, specially senior citizens and small children and have a long term adverse effect on their health besides causing pulmonary infection and other illnesses. Instead, pre-selected areas/exhibition grounds shall be identified for the orderly and safe conduct of such bursting of fire-cracker and conducting of fire-works shows where fire-fighting and emergency first-aid units shall be mandatorily stationed. Private functions where limited fire-crackers are used, the user shall render public places such as roads etc. clean after such use. Permissible decibel levels as stipulated by the Central Notification /Supreme Court Order shall be observed for the sale of such fire-crackers and strictly monitored. The rules which are applicable for the conduct of protest/victory rallies, morchas and demonstration marches shall be applicable to religious processions on public roads, streets and highways. No fire-works, fire-crackers shall be used after 10 p.m. Certain festivals which extend up to and after midnight shall be notified and allowed to burst fire-crackers up to 1 a.m. only. Example: Divali-Christmas–New Year etc.

This Party's Government Ministers and Elected Representatives [MLAs] shall be discouraged from playing a central role in laying of foundation stones for religious institutions such as churches/chapels, temples etc. Government shall not conduct religious rites for the inauguration of Government sponsored public buildings and installations such as , bridges etc.

[III] GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

It is an acknowledged fact that Public Relations is almost non-existent in Government Departments. This shall be enhanced in every Government Department on priority basis by designating 'Public Relations Officers'

who shall liaise between the members of the public and the departmental heads. 'Punch Card' system shall be adopted for all Government offices for accountable work attendance. Xeroxing/typing facilities shall be made available within and/or in close proximity to Government Departments, preferably run by handicapped persons.

This Party's 'Administrative System' shall be guided by the following:-

1. Administrative Enhancement:

Commission/s shall be set-up of persons, retired or otherwise, to advise, suggest, recommend, re-evaluate, review, modify, delete, incorporate new ideas, etc, to maximize the effectiveness of State governance procedures through their simplification, to reduce red-tapism and bureaucratic hurdles to the minimum. These bodies shall comprise of persons drawn from professions or positions indicated below:

Retired Justices; Lawyers; Police Officers; Jail Wardens, IAS Officers; Collectors; Town Planners; Architects; Electrical, Civil & Mechanical Engineers; Specialist Doctors; Economists, Auditors, Chartered Accountants; Master Mariners & Marine Engineers; GCCI & CII Members; IT Professionals; Industrialists; Builders & Real Estate Developers; Hotel & Resort Owners; Bankers; Priests; Educationists; Librarians; Achieves Heads; NGOs, Press personalities, Writers, Environmentalists; Public Transport Operators; Mine Owners/Operators; Agriculturists; Comunidade Representatives; Social Workers; Sports Personalities; Student/Parents representatives; Trade Unionists; Licensed Contractors; Wholesalers, Retailers; Consumer Associations; Traditional Artisans; Forest & Wild Life Wardens; Ground Water Specialists; Entertainers; Musicians; Tiatrists, Dramatists; Film Makers & Directors; Travel & Tour Operators; Erudite Citizens; Senior Citizen's Associations; and others. Through their interaction/s, group-wise or individually, governance will be sought to be made simple practical and efficient, in order that the quality of life of all citizens is enhanced.

2. Right To Information:

This Act shall be given renewed teeth. All government departments shall be geared to furnish any and all information sought by citizens within the stipulated time periods at minimal cost. Special arrangements with respect to staffing and/or facilities required to dispense with such information shall be made available to every government department. Citizens shall have no cause to approach the courts in appeals for inaction of the departments concerned. Recalcitrant Departments or persons concerned shall be penalized for withholding information from citizens which is classified as non-sensitive. RTI Commissioners shall be installed as according to the law and within stipulated time.

3. Promotions of Civil Servants:

Promotions on the basis of seniority shall not necessarily be a criterion. Any Civil Servant seeking promotion must be fully conversant with the procedures of the office as well as be capable of handling subordinates. Promotions shall take into account the past performance of the next-in-line and take into consideration the aptitude of the aspirant and his/her past record/s. Promotions shall be on merit as well as seniority with both criteria weighed for final decision, taking into consideration that the occupied post is deservedly filled up.

4. State Finance:

Planned and Non Planned Capital Expenditures shall be prudently managed. Only those infrastructural developmental plans that shall create favourable environment for increased GDP over the years shall be given top priority. The ratio of assets to liabilities shall be balanced with asset back-up. Steps shall be taken to generate the State's own resources. Balance from Current Revenue (BCR), management of cash requirement for day to day expenditure, internal audit, returns on investments etc. shall be re-examined and fine-tuned. State owned Corporations and Institutions shall be brought under strict 'Accountability Code' to make them individual profit centers. There shall be no diversion of funds from one department to another. In short, the government shall be run on professional basis in a business-like manner with increased motivation to excel in all spheres. Measures shall be taken to reduce the heavy debt burden of over Rs. 7000 crores hanging like the Damocles sword over

the State mainly through profligate spending by the state government where belt-tightening exercises are un-heard of. State's debt burden shall be reduced drastically if not totally eliminated within a reasonable period of time.

5. Revenue & Taxation:

(a) Tax Collection:

Revenue collection procedures shall be modified and tightened-up with the introduction of a fool proof system where collection/payment of sales tax etc shall undergo a sea change in terms of accountability. Targets shall be set for the benefit of evaluating the performance of the tax-officers and such targets shall be adjusted as required and as mandated by the growth of the economy from time to time. Tax evasion shall be minimized as this impedes developmental progress. Entry points in the State shall be computerized to monitor the amount of goods entering into the State on which sales tax is chargeable in order to guide the sales tax personnel in the task of collection of sales tax and or to set targets.

(b) Ecology Related Tax:

Humans have changed eco-systems more rapidly and extensively than any comparable period of time in history, largely to meet rapidly growing demands for food, freshwater, timber, fiber and fuel. Sixty per cent of the eco-system services that support life on earth are today degraded or used unsustainably. Lack of proper planning for processing and disposal of solid waste today in Goa is an instance in point .

Consciousness has set-in world wide on the ill effects of environmental degradation which has resulted in hotter summers and falling water tables. Continued deforestation has accelerated animal species extinction and overall rise in food prices. Internationally renowned think-tank organizations have suggested that the income tax provision should be replaced by environment tax to promote a sustainable economic development.

This Party is in favour of such an arrangement and shall strongly and actively lobby with the Centre for the introduction of this Provision. It shall consider introducing the same based on the principle of “**the polluter pays**” to promote a sustainable economic development as also to reverse the above mentioned trends.

(c) Excise Department:

This is the most important Department of the Government of Goa responsible for collection of taxes. This Department is not performing satisfactorily with the result that a great percentage of collectable taxes are lost to the Government. This Party shall look closely at this Department and seek to tighten its administration and make its officers accountable for lost revenue.

6. Public Works and P.W. D:

All public works that are intended to be undertaken shall be well advertised along with the approximate time of their completion, for the general awareness of the people who might be inconvenienced or be affected by the same. Contractors engaged in such works shall observe all norms of safety, and display appropriate warning signs [fluorescent and/or otherwise] at the site of work to avoid/prevent accidents [successive Governments have missed out completely on this safety aspect and public works contractors have been allowed to escape this responsibility with gay abandon]. This shall STOP. It shall be mandatory that the specifications of works carried out shall be displayed at the site of work so that any knowledgeable citizen can alert the concerned authorities in case substandard work is being carried out by the contractor. The address and the telephone numbers of the contractor as well as the officer/s in charge for the supervision of such work/s from the office of PWD shall be displayed at the site of the ongoing work. Spare or unused materials shall be cleared from the site of work when the work is completed and/or the moment such materials are no longer needed at the site. As a rule, the PWD shall be responsible to see that no unused or scrap materials remain and/or dumped alongside public roads and shall immediately respond to any citizen's concern in such cases and penal action taken. The PWD shall, at all times, be available and/or on call on

short notice to move into action in case of emergencies. The Disaster Management Department shall be in charge in case of emergencies and such calls from this Department or Authority having the power to send such calls shall be heeded even without the prior authorization from the Minister in charge of the PWD Department or of the Chief Minister.

(a) Public Works Tenders:

Criteria for awarding public works tenders shall be on the basis of “Best for Less”. All sealed tenders shall be opened on the prescribed date and time in the presence of all those who have submitted the tenders. Non temper-proof seals shall be affixed by the officer designated to receive such tenders and counter signed by the contractor/firm submitting the tender. Models, plans and specifications of such project/s by various contracting firms evincing and/or expressing interest shall be displayed in specially designated exhibition hall/s for awareness, information and comments from the interested members of the public. The selection of the project design shall be made after considering all comments and suggestions. The selected ‘model/plan’ of the project shall be displayed at the site of execution of the same so that the people are aware of what is coming up at the intended site, how much time it shall take, and how much it shall cost the exchequer. Members of the public shall be encouraged to point out flaws in such ongoing constructions. Whenever serious flaws are pointed out by any citizen/s and where corrective measures have been taken by the authorities, the person bringing to light such flaws shall be suitably rewarded.

(b) Highways:

Planned to incorporate fast & slow lanes, exit & entry lanes, gantry sign-boards to display traffic signals and direction signages, side safety railings, flyovers/subways at highway crossings, bus bays, mobile & helicopter based highway patrols capable of attending to severe accident cases/victims and their evacuation to hospitals in the shortest possible time. Road dividers wherever they exist shall be marked with fluorescent markings. Sections of highways prone to

glare from oncoming traffic shall be blanked and marked with luminous reflectors (cat-eyes).

(c) Urban & Suburban Roads:

City roads shall be fully concretized or cobbled, at least at all curves where the wear and tear the surface is the maximum. The road surface shall be clearly convexed so that the water drainage is faster and efficient, with closed gutters at either end. The convexing of the road surfaces shall be made more prominent with the internal market roads for obvious reasons. All roads shall have developed and unclogged foot-paths. Road-side parking shall be clearly defined with parking meters (optional) for 4-wheelers where applicable. Provision for planting of trees along the city streets and roads shall be made to make these streets and roads tree lined avenues. All city footpaths shall be cleared of all hindrances such as illegal structures, gaddas and others.

(d) Rural Roads:

To provide balanced long-term development of village roads, a specific time period [preferably five to ten years] shall be given for owners of properties having frontal road access to construct their boundary walls/fencing if not already in place, keeping the required road widening set-backs as mandated by law. All roads shall be hot-mixed with closed gutter provisions on both sides, foot-paths for pedestrians and bus bays for bus stops with alternate side crossings/siding for narrow roads at visible distances. **Developments of motorable roads in remote villages of Goa shall be given top priority.**

(e) Bridges & Fly-Overs:

Possibly a suspension bridge to connect Dona Paula plateau to Dabolim/Vasco. The desirability of connecting all existing ferry points by bridges shall be examined and acted-upon accordingly within a specified time frame. A bridge to connect North Goa

riverine belt to the capital city, possibly connecting Nerul/Verem to Campal/Miramar or Dona Paula plateau in Panjim shall be considered. Existing ferry points shall be serviced by roll on roll off ferries which do not necessitate reversing of the vehicles. Pipe-structured bridges such as the ones on the Guirim-Carraswado highway by-pass shall be replaced by arch bridges, since the submerged pipes pose hindrance to the free flow of water and is the cause of siltation of the river beds. Every major intersection of the highway shall be provided with a fly-over or a subway for vehicular traffic. Pedestrian crossings shall be built either underground or overhead in order to ensure the safety of the pedestrians without hindering the free flow of traffic.

(f) Water Supply (Potable) & Water Conservation:

Programs specially designed to make the general public aware on the importance of conserving this very important life sustaining natural resource shall be encouraged. Bore wells shall be banned. Existing bore wells shall be surveyed and those not in use shall be sealed permanently. Usage of bore-wells by large operating industries shall be reviewed. Licenses to operate drilling rigs for boring wells shall be stopped/revoked and/or strictly controlled. A well defined policy for rain water harvesting shall be put in place and implemented through suitably adapted 'building code' as well as through other awareness programs to prevent rainwater from simply running off into rivers and the sea. **Evacuation of water from mining pits unless otherwise filtered and stored in water reservoirs and/or channelized for agricultural purposes**, shall be prohibited. All existing lakes/water bodies including dried out lake beds shall be surveyed and further development in the vicinity of these water bodies shall be controlled under no development zones. All existing and previously live/running springs shall be identified and proclaimed as protected sites whereby the waters shall not be contaminated with any chemicals/detergents/soaps/oil and grease including agro-chemicals. Pollution Control Board shall have the jurisdiction to monitor/test these waters/sites and strictly enforce the water conservation laws. Potable water supply projects/reservoirs

shall be declared as ‘ high security’ areas mandating very strict and monitored access.

- **Women And Water:**

“Women play a central role in the provisioning, management and safeguarding of water. This pivotal role of women as users of water and guardians of environmentally safe living has seldom been reflected in institutional arrangements for the development and management of water resources”

Women are the worst affected by water crisis but least heard. We must remember that they are the privileged water managers, almost exclusively responsible for collection of water for household/domestic purposes. Water scarcity has a direct impact on how much time the woman spends in water collection.

This party shall center its water conservation policy around women and take them into confidence while evolving this most needed program for the State of Goa.

- **Rain Water Harvesting:**

A clearly defined rain-water harvesting code shall be incorporated into the building code. Other rain water harvesting programs shall be encouraged through the participation of Government agencies as well as through NGOs to harvest the rain-water which, in the present case, simply runs into the rivers and the sea. Those building projects which cater to efficient rain-water harvesting techniques shall be suitably rewarded through free publicity of their projects for greater awareness. The slogan that shall be used in Goa for the people to catch-up on water harvesting shall be “ **Udok Addai , Udok Jiroi**”

- **Water Supply for Commercial Purposes:**

Water is being indiscriminately drawn from wells in the low lying areas by individuals as business ventures to supply water commercially to builders, hoteliers and residential complexes, etc. The Government shall step in and regulate the drawing of water from these wells in order to protect the ground water resources and in order that the well water does not get contaminated with saline water from being over worked. These fresh water wells shall be registered with the local municipality or the Panchayat and appropriately licensed for the supply of water to commercial outlets and their water shall be regularly tested by the authorities. Each of these wells shall be fitted with a meter so that the water drawn may be checked to be within the authorized limits.

Explanation:

Concerned groups, the world over, are looking at the next frontier of conflict. This conflict is going to be over the availability of fresh water. All of us are aware, to a greater or a lesser degree the inter-cine and bloody disputes that have taken place and are taking place between the States of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Haryana, Karnataka and Goa (Madei) over the amount of water that each State shall receive. These are waters that are flowing through rivers that criss-cross the States. If these States were independent countries, they would be up in arms against each other. The United Nations is involved in simmering disputes between Israel and Jordan, Turkey and Syria and so on, over water. Goa, thanks to Providence, has abundant supply of water coming from the "heavens". How is this abundant supply being utilized? Do households all over Goa enjoy water supply during the dry months? The answer is a resounding 'NO'. The reason for this sad state of affairs is that the Goa Government has looked at models of Water Supply in areas in the country where rain is scarce and blindly adapted it to Goa. These 'mega projects' of supplying water from long distances have made 'mega-bucks' for our corrupt politicians.

Our natural water resources have been destroyed by mindless exploitation of our hills either for mining or for hill cutting for landfills, where the hills are the repositories of fresh water. The Goa government has been concentrating on mega-buck projects such as the scam ridden 'Tilhari' and 'Selaulim Dam' projects, both of which were supposed to generate prosperity for the agriculturists. After many years and crores of rupees spent, these projects are incomplete.

The Government of Goa has, instead, given tremendous importance to putting public water taps (mostly used by migrant labour) which have created breeding grounds for mosquitoes, as these are allowed to run freely due to these being free. Wouldn't it be better to have a tap in each home, even at a lower tariff, rather than to have waste on one side and scarcity on the other?

In order to show its responsibility towards conservation of water, the Goa Government brought in the Ground Water Bill, 2001, which effectively sought to put in place a policy under which tapping the water from one's own well would not be possible beyond 5000 liters a month, which meant that an average family could draw only approximately not more than eight buckets of water a day. After this hype and a lot of money spent, Goa is back to square one over the conservation of ground water and the Government is seen spending more tax-payer's money to entertain world-bank sponsore out of State [water consultants] firms whose job is only to conduct hi-ended presentations in 5 star hotels.

As an alternative, this party proposes the following:

(i) Aforestation of denuded areas caused by mining activities with indigenous plants and not by Australian 'Acacia', which is a program created in order to throw dust in the eyes of the people of Goa to the social irresponsibility of the mine owners/operators. Acacia sucks the ground water to the extent that it renders the terrain arid and dry.

(ii) Reviving the ponds which used to exist in paddy fields to providing aid to the farmer to easily tap that resource (but not for sale to construction sites or other purposes.)

(iii) Creating sunken reservoirs through building of aquifers on the top of the hills so that these could be naturally tapped to supply water to various close-by towns and villages.

(iv) Identifying small fresh water rivers and going for small dam projects rather than mega ones, for dual purposes of irrigation and potable water.

7. Common Infrastructure:

A thorough feasibility study based on long term planning shall be conducted before enhancing these essential infrastructural services such as **power, water, telephone/cabling, cable TV lines including sewage lines**. Possibilities of common underground ducting, preferably in the middle of the road shall be pursued to accommodate all these services with 'grid system' for distribution, to leave sides of roads free for guttering and for developing of footpaths. Very strict quality control shall be adopted to ensure un-interrupted delivery of these essential services.

8. Sewage & Sewerage System:

Cities, towns & coastal belt shall be connected to underground sewerage system and sewage treatment plants in a phased manner through a well designed universal sewerage plan and sewerage policy.

9. Panchayats & Municipalities:

(a) Amendment to Panchayat Raj Act, 1994:

The Panchayat Raj Act as is prevailing today shall be reviewed and effectively amended to eliminate loop holes and to reflect good governance. The very creation of the Panchayati Raj (village republics) is for the people of the villages to decide, in a democratic manner, what is best for them (majority wins), and to bring them into the perspective of social order and self governance. In Goa's context

and during the pre-liberation era, these village republics existed in the Comunidade bodies, most of their duties and functions having been usurped by the Panchayati Raj after the so called liberation of Goa. The provisions of 'Gram Sabha' and the provisions under which the resolutions passed by Gram Sabha shall be reviewed and amended appropriately to make the resolutions passed by the Gram Sabha totally and absolutely binding on elected Panchayat bodies and their execution thereof, in order to eliminate the scope of nullifying the resolve of the people of the village by the elected bodies. However, clear jurisdiction over matters that may be decided by the Gram Sabha shall be defined which will not interfere in the execution of the 10 year notified REGIONAL PLAN.

Example:

The controversy over the resolution passed by the Socorro Gram Sabha held on May 7, 2005 vis a vis the demand for status quo on housing development due to the shortage of water. This brings to fore the inadequacies of the Act to spell out the powers of the Gram Sabha to pass resolutions which nullifies the existence of laws, rules and regulations. The most that the Gram Sabhas can do is to press for the amendment in the existing laws, rules and regulations.

(b) Qualifications; Salaries; Disqualification & Dissolution:

Salaries to Panchayat members/municipal councilors shall be reviewed in favour of a monthly honorarium to be paid to them on the basis of their attendance at Panchayat/Gram Sabha and municipal council meetings and programs. Qualification and/or qualifying criteria for contesting Panchayat/municipal elections shall be stipulated. Procedures and/or processes for litigations with respect to Panchayats shall be simplified to eliminate lengthy delays. There shall be time limits spelt out for all procedures including appeals to be heard at all levels. The existing provision regarding any Sarpanch or Panchayat secretary being 'remiss' in their duties shall be amended with a suitable amendment to the Act and strictly complied with. Such amendment shall stipulate the maximum number of "remiss" actions that shall be tolerated, after which automatic

suspension prior to disqualification proceedings shall follow in case of an elected member and outright dismissal from service if it involves a Government servant such as the Secretary. Municipal and Panchayat bodies shall be dissolved and their operations taken over by the Municipal/Panchayat Administrator/Director in all cases where these bodies resort to needless and frequent tabling of ‘No Confidence Motions’ and toppling games to settle scores in rival power plays, until such time that fresh elections are held when they are due.

(c) 73rd. & 74th. Amendments:

These amendments to the Constitution of India which require the Government to devolve more powers to the local self-governing bodies (73rd for Panchayats and 74th for Municipalities) shall be fully implemented to ensure clean, merit-based, transparent, accountable governance both at grass-root as well as at the Legislative Assembly and Cabinet levels. With its clean outlook towards general governance, the Goa Su-Raj Party shall be in an ideal position to accomplish this task of devolution of powers to these grass-root self-governing bodies by virtue of its steadfast resolve to exorcise Goa’s Civil Administration from self-seekers and the corrupt.

Explanation:

The implementation of the above two constitutional amendments can never be expected from the present self-serving Government. If any Government has the will to implement the amendments in toto, the following is expected to happen:

- *Since all the developmental funds shall be transferred to the Gram/Zilla Panchayats & Municipalities, developmental projects shall be undertaken by these bodies. The legislators (read MLAs) who handle these funds presently will have these taken out from their domain and allotted directly to these bodies. Since there will be no money to be made in the legislature through dishing out contracts, self-seekers will not be interested in contesting the*

legislative assembly seats. Instead the rush will be to contest the Gram/Zilla Panchayat & Municipal seats.

- *The legislative seats will be left vacant for erudite, retired and/or persons who will want prestige more than the means to make more money. Besides the voters will have a dilemma to elect one clean candidate from the other. Since laws and rules shall be made by the legislature, stricter laws and rules shall emerge from this august house, where Gram/Zilla Panchayat & Municipal members will not be able to make any money over the projects. The sentiments while framing these laws and rules will be that of the 'dog in the manger'. **"If I cannot and will not make money at the cost of the people, I shall not allow anyone else to do so too"***
- *Since strict accountability will be introduced and since Gram/Zillas Panchayats & Municipalities will not be able to misappropriate the allocated funds through dishing out contracts, there will be less and less interest in contesting these seats by self-seekers. They will be better off seeking employment elsewhere or be self-employed.*
- *Conscious citizens who normally shun the Gram/Zilla Panchayat & Municipal positions will now be encouraged to contest these seats to serve the society at large in good faith and with noble intentions.*

Note:

Goa Su-Raj Party believes that the signatories to these two amendments had the interest of the people at heart. This party will endeavour to implement these amendments in toto to the best of its ability after it is satisfied that the grass-root self-governing bodies are fully and efficiently geared to take on these added responsibilities with total accountability.

(d) Markets & Market Hygiene:

Existing markets shall be re-designed and/or re-located for customer/shopper friendliness on basis of 'clean slate planning' where desired/required and/or wherever possible. Municipalities, Panchayats and local Primary/Urban Health Centers [PHCs] shall be responsible for the cleanliness and sanitation of the markets places. The cleaning of market places such as sweeping, clearing of the garbage/wastes from garbage receptacles/bins and washing of the spaces/roads shall be mandatory on every day basis, to be completed before 6 a.m. each day, preferably starting the cleaning and clearing operations immediately after the business hours of the market. State of cleanliness and after use storage of chopping boards/blocks for fish, fresh meats etc. shall invite special attention from the PHC inspectors. All markets to have specialized bins to collect segregated bio and non bio-degradable garbage at source. All garbage generated by vendors/stalls, shops, restaurants etc. shall collect their own daily generated garbage segregated at source in their own receptacles and empty the same in the municipal bins before closing time. Market inspectors shall ensure, through on the spot fines, that there are no violations. It has been noticed that out of State vegetable vendors are mostly responsible for messing up the markets with their left-overs strewn all over the market place, the fault lying with the market authorities for being slack and unconcerned with cleanliness and hygiene.

All public toilets in the market area shall be maintained in clean state and sanitized, preferably with a permanent toilet attendant on duty at all times. Fish and vegetable vending areas shall be well cleaned, washed, sanitized with sprayed disinfectant at regular intervals.

(e) Garbage & Trash Disposal:

Treatment/recycling sites for every Panchayat areas and/or Constituency shall be acquired/set-up, financed and operated by concerned Panchayats and/or Municipalities, independently. Fish/meats declared unfit for human consumption, carcasses of dead animals and other organic wastes shall be composted/treated to generate organic manures/fertilizers. Garbage dumping, excess or

non usable fish dumping in rivers and trash/construction material dumping along roadsides etc. shall be strictly prohibited and violators prosecuted.

Note:

In the aftermath of the Curca revolt by citizens, the garbage of Taleigao has found its way in the vicinity of the University of Goa on the Dona Paula plateau, Panjim garbage near the Santa Monica cruise jetty and the Mapusa garbage on the Guirim-highway by-pass [over the water pipeline and into the Mapusa river].

(f) Best City-Town-Village Awards:

In keeping with the understanding that a strong and healthy **ward** will lead to make a strong and healthy GOA, this Party's Government shall sponsor special annual "**Best City-Town- Village Awards**" so that 'Cities, Towns and Villages of Goa' may compete with each other for this award. Criteria shall be set for this evaluation, such as:- **[i]** Best enforcement of building regulations and meeting citizen's needs without breaking laws and without harassment. **[ii]** Effective garbage disposal. **[iii]** Quality, maintenance and illumination of roads and public places. **[iv]** Sanitation and Hygiene **[v]** Neighbourhood watch. **[vi]** Environment protection through control of noise, air, water, land pollution. **[vii]** Encouragement of better quality of life such as creating gardens, children's play parks and planting of trees etc. **[viii]** Agricultural excellence, control on stray animals, proper pavements and drainage system and most importantly "honouring the sons and daughters of the city, town and village who have excelled in any field i.e sports, medicine, science social justice etc. The certification of this award shall be carried out by an independent [all Goa] body constituted for the purpose. Through this award, the long standing developmental demands of the winners shall be granted, such as school, playground; market; children's park; community hall; telephone exchange; hospital/clinic; public toilets; etc. Competitions for this award shall ensure proper functioning of the Municipalities, village Panchayats and Comunidades through the generation of interest among the people to attend the village Gram Sabhas, Municipal and

Comunidade meetings and to take active part in the governance of these bodies.

10. River Fronts:

River fronts shall be developed and protected from erosion through placement of cement/concrete tetra-blocks. Rivers shall be de-silted through controlled and scientific dredging through commissioning of mini-bucket type dredgers. Extraction of sand from rivers shall be reviewed through a detailed marine/river bed study, preferably by institutions such as the NIO. Structure of bunds and sluice-gates shall be improved/modernized to safeguard agricultural lands from saline water flooding.

Example:

The development of 'Ribandar Causeway' [Ponte de Linhares] in North Goa which is the extension of the city of Panjim, shall be developed as a "Necklace" of Panjim city. The existing road shall be widened over pilings along the river side to accommodate a broad two-way (2 lane) road with a road divider and well demarcated angular parking for 2 & 4 wheelers including parking for buses on both sides of the road along the entire stretch of the causeway, complete with parking meters. The promenade shall have boat landings at sufficient distances from each other to facilitate boating/sailing landing/boarding etc. This broad promenade shall serve as a refreshing escape for the residents of Panjim city and the neighbourhood areas for a leisurely and relaxing evening, strolling, fishing, pram-walking etc. where controlled and well organized fast-food dispensing shall bring in a marina like atmosphere. All this development shall not be at the cost of the Mandovi River. The salt pans and mangroves on the south side shall be permanently frozen from any developmental activity in the future to protect the sensitive eco balance. This particular development is a dream, long since nurtured by the founders of this Party.

11. Rivers & Waterways:

Goa needs to see more development of waterways and rivers for public transportation, recreation, tourism etc. However rivers and waterways

which are the spawning grounds for shell fish and other varieties of Goan fish shall be identified and protected from disturbances, to protect the livelihood of the local/indigenous people so that they are allowed to conduct their fishing trade un-impeded. A strict vigil shall be kept on oil spills and hazardous effluents being discharged into these water bodies to protect marine life as well as to safeguard pollution of the human food chain. Study to explore the hazards of excessive sand extraction from rivers on marine life conducted by marine institutions such as NIO and others shall be put to good use through implementation of its recommendations through the local self-governing bodies like Panchayats and Municipalities and like-minded NGOs..

Example:

“The water sports project [at Nerul] did not eventually take off but it sent a strong message that a small community that eke out their living and put no pressure on the system for jobs, water, electricity etc., should be protected and nurtured.”

[GT ‘Weekender’- Father’s Day Special-19 June, 2005 – By: Sujay Gupta, Editor]

12. Marine Jetties & Wharfs:

These shall be developed along the river fronts for easy transportation of goods and cargoes as well as to serve as passenger landing points for speed commuter water crafts such as hydrofoil boats. Ore barges shall not be allowed to be tied/berthed at places not specifically demarcated for such facility.

13. Mangroves, River Banks, Salt-Pans & Khazan Lands:

Mangroves along the river banks shall be protected through specific legislation. No mangroves shall be allowed to be destroyed or cleared without prior clearance from the concerned/defined authority even if such areas fall in private land holding. Existing mangroves and swamps shall be charted and protected. Mangrove plantation shall be increased in areas where pollution of waters is excessive and its growth affected.

Mangroves along the river banks shall be re-planted wherever necessary and in areas where it is depleted through natural or human action.

14. Saline Ponds-Sluice Gates & Bunds:

Saline water pond/s (*better known as 'poim' in Konkani*) serviced by sluice-gate/s (*manos*) shall be dredged as necessary and their borders re-enforced through depositing of mini concrete tetra-blocks to prevent erosion of the agricultural lands/fields surrounding them. Tetra blocks shall be used so that the crevasses may serve as the spawning/feeding places for the local variety of fish. However, this mode of arresting land erosion through walling the banks with cement-concrete tetra blocks shall be studied for long-term ecological damage. These ponds shall be sufficiently oxygenated by channeling of river waters into the ponds at high tides through pipes running through the bunds and breaking over a track of rocks which in turn shall oxygenate the waters and help in spawning of indigenous fish varieties such as crabs, lobsters tiger-prawns etc. which require abundant oxygen. Culverts and/or small bridges shall be constructed and the existing broken ones repaired to facilitate movement of tractors etc to inaccessible agricultural lands. Small landing jetties shall be constructed to facilitate limited water sports which will indirectly help in oxygenating the waters. The local tenant's associations shall be revived and/or modified and professionally guided for better conservation of agriculture fields and the surroundings. River bunds shall be regularly maintained and the effects of the 'wakes' of the transiting ore-carrier barges on the stability of these bunds, where affected, shall be minimized.

A careful study of marine water rise through reclamation/s of marshlands shall be conducted to assess the effect of the rise in water on Goa's existing bund- systems.

[IV] TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING

This Party shall endeavour to set up a Planning and Development Authority [PDA] under one roof having jurisdiction over the entire State.

Regional or Taluka based offices shall be opened to facilitate the local populace. Strict adherence to the Regional and Outline Development Plans shall be observed and shall be made mandatory. Terms of Reference for the execution of the Regional and Outline Development Plans shall be strictly observed [10 to 15 years in case of RDPs]. The scope of Town & Country Planning Department shall be widened and its procedures simplified. Private citizens shall not be burdened with transportation costs of T&C planning inspectors/engineers for site inspections. Conversion of land use from one category to another shall be limited to the 'Regional'[RPs] and 'Outline Development Plans' [ODPs] with no scope whatsoever for arbitrary decisions. However, appropriate adjustments shall be allowed in case of large scale natural calamities for disaster management activities.

1. Building Code:

This code shall be redrafted to simplify building procedures, especially in the villages of Goa, and to standardize architectural designs to suit the ambience of the villages. Safety code for buildings shall be reviewed and strictly enforced. A percentage of stilt or underground areas for city buildings shall be prescribed to accommodate parking and free spaces. All public buildings including public institutions such as banks, post offices, etc. shall observe the building code with respect to the facilities and easy access for disabled persons. Laboratory for testing samples of construction materials shall be upgraded and public works carried out shall be sample-tested at predetermined stages. Special care shall be taken during planning of Governmental and corporate office building areas in the capital city, cities and towns for wider roads and ample parking facilities.

2. Septic Tanks:

Code for the construction of septic tanks shall be re-formulated. The existing laws shall be modified to include standards for the construction of septic tanks with clearly defined supervisory obligations on the concerned Primary/Urban Health Centres in view of protecting ground water resources such as wells, springs etc. The onus of granting of permissions to septic tanks shall be shifted to PHCs from Panchayats and

Municipalities with the roles of Panchayats and Municipalities kept to basic minimum of collecting of the requisite fees if/when applicable. Clearances required from Town & Country Planning, PWD etc. shall be stopped in case of individual constructions of septic tanks and soak pits not incorporated in construction plans such as residential houses and or residential/commercial complexes. The septic tank airing pipe shall be installed with a permanent mosquito proof adapter for which the respective PHC shall be responsible. No Occupancy certificate shall be issued unless until the PHC's clearance is obtained.

3. Soak Pits:

There does not exist a code for the construction of soak pits and therefore soak pits are constructed in a hap-hazard manner rendering them clogged and useless in few years of usage. A definitive code for construction of soak pits shall be defined and the respective PHCs shall be the monitoring agencies. Only individual residential houses shall be permitted the use of ground soaking pits for the septic tank out-flows. Multi-storied and multi-unit residential and/or commercial buildings shall not be permitted to release the septic tank outflows into the soaking pits dug into the ground. These constructions shall be required to set up waste water treatment plants [STPs] with holding tanks so that this water may be re-used for the purposes of gardening, washing of vehicles etc. since the ground cannot and will not absorb large amounts of water discharged by these units resulting in water logging and creating breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

Example: Pollution of ground water in the entire coastal belt of Goa resulting from indiscriminate and thoughtless authorization of septic tanks and soak pits.

4. Land Conversion and Land Revenue Code:

Conversion of agricultural land shall be frozen. It has been noticed that agricultural lands are being officially misused by giving sanctions to build farm-houses, which in fact are private bungalows. The use of

paddy-fields bordering roads and highways for any non-agricultural purpose even on temporary basis including the manufacture/display/sale of natural stones and cement products shall be stopped and existing encroachments removed within a stipulated time frame. Agricultural lands hitherto un-lawfully converted shall be restored to agricultural status with the clearing of unauthorized and illegal structures, irrespective of their shape and sizes and to whom it belongs. Present and past Panchayat authorities such as Sarpanchas/Secretaries or the Municipal Chairpersons/Chief Officers during whose tenure such structures have come up shall be thoroughly and unsparingly investigated and appropriately penalized for dereliction of their duties. Conversion of '**orchard lands**' shall be permitted only after objections from the public are first considered and given due weightage as well as after considering the need for accommodating any increase in settlement areas. Conversion of land for construction activity shall be licensed within a time-bound period by the Deputy Collector's office/Sub-Divisional officer to minimize corruption. This will take place only if all the approvals are first obtained. Refusal of conversion shall also be given within a certain time-limit with reasons for refusal. Appeals shall also be decided in a time-bound manner. The Land Revenue Code shall be amended to provide for these modifications.

5. Land Encroachment:

Illegal encroachments on all public places/roads and Government lands shall be removed through a special 'Ordinance'. Religious shrines, stalls, repair-works garages, display of goods and other encroachments on public roads, streets, foot-paths and public accesses shall come under this ordinance and shall be cleared/removed/shifted to ensure safe passage of traffic and the safety of pedestrians and commuters, in general, users of these public places.

6. Land Fills:

It has been noticed that paddy fields are being indiscriminately and clandestinely filled allegedly with the connivance of the authorities to make way for other plantations such as cashew and coconut palms etc. as well as for housing and commercial activities. Also the loop holes in the

scheme for building farm-houses in agricultural lands is being used to build bungalows where land fill is a must. Action shall be taken on those resorting to this type of filling of agricultural lands or water bodies and appropriately penalized and/or prosecuted. This party shall adequately strengthen and strictly enforce the laws on land filling/hill cutting [for land fills], etc.

Example:

The recent proposal from the Minister for environment to land-fill the unused mining pits through dumping of garbage and to plant trees over them, is a proposal that will directly contaminate the ground water table. Also, the resultant emissions of methane gas from such dump sites may not support tree plantation.

7. Coastal Regulation Zone [CRZ] Protection:

CRZ violations shall be monitored through Satellite imagery. The CRZ code will be efficiently and strictly enforced. All construction in the CRZ area which are illegal shall be demolished irrespective of their shape, size or who they belong to. CRZ area will be cleared once and for all to maintain status quo indefinitely. No demands for regularization of the CRZ encroachments shall be entertained.

[V] PUBLIC HEALTH- HYGIENE & HEALTHCARE

1. Sanitation & Hygiene Code:

Monitoring of sanitation in all its aspects shall be the primary responsibility of the respective Primary/Urban Health Centres. [PHCs] Panchayats and Municipalities authorities of the area shall be responsible, on pain of dismissal, to implementing any directives of the these Health Centres. There shall be full financial support for sanitation programs from the State Government. Provisions shall be made for reporting and prompt clearing of dead animals, specially from roads and highways, through an independent government agency [preferably the municipality]. This is necessary to avoid passing of the buck between adjoining jurisdictions, resulting in dead carcasses remaining in public

places until they disintegrate on their own, vitiating the environment with foul stench for days on end.

This code shall be put in force for hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, diagnostic centers, clinical laboratories etc. with respect to general sanitation and hygiene and the effective and efficient disposal of medical wastes.

Public Health Centres [PHCs] and Food and Drugs Administration [FDA] shall be responsible for the observance of a well established sanitation and hygiene code for public buildings; markets; abattoirs; bus terminals; railway stations; beaches; sports stadia; cinema houses; hotels & holiday resorts; bars & restaurants; eating houses; fast food stalls; food counters; grocery stores & shops; bakeries; roadside gaddas/dhabbas serving snacks & prepared food items; manufacturers of packaged eatables and snacks; bottlers of mineral water, soft drinks, liquor and others. Special checks shall be kept on the deep-frying oils for eatables and snacks, its re-use after cooling shall be prohibited since such oils once cooled, become saturated with carcinogens. Checks shall be kept on the efficient working conditions of fresh meat/fish refrigeration plants and their auto-running on emergency/substitute power supply in case of main power failures. The jurisdiction of the above two institutions shall be well defined and non over-lapping so that each one does not pass the buck on the other There shall be certification by the PHC of all fresh meats sold in the market/s within its jurisdiction. No fresh meats shall be sold without having proper certification and the vendor's license shall be subjected to suspension for violation of the certification procedures besides confiscation and burning of item/s concerned. The PHCs shall undertake this exercise jointly with the Animal Husbandry and FDA officials.

Public health related building code for construction of septic tanks and soak pits shall be put in place [refer [IV]-2,3]. Prevention of mosquito menace and pollution of ground water resources shall take precedence. Provisions shall be made for inspections by health inspectors of overhead water tanks of buildings, houses etc, stagnant water bodies,

marshlands with respect to. mosquito larvae eradication. The efficacy of the PWD sponsored common sulabh toilets shall be reviewed with respect to health, environmental and ground water preservation safeguards. Health inspectors shall carry-out time-bound inspections and issue timely reports under various enactments as it has been verified that delays are being caused by such inspectors for illegal pecuniary gains. Negative reports to be justified and shall be subject to appeal.

Primary/Urban Health Centres [PHCs] shall:-

- (a) Work along with the State Pollution Control Board shall also be responsible to monitor noise, dust and water pollution generated in mining areas which is the cause of deteriorating health of villagers in the mining areas.
- (b) Work alongside with municipalities and Panchayats to effectively discipline the owners of domestic/pet animals. Laws for compulsory registration of all domestic/pet animals shall be strengthened and enforced. There shall be appropriate tagging system for easy identification of the owner of such domestic animals/pets. This becomes necessary since owners do not take responsibility to dispose off their dead animals in a hygienic manner.
- (c) Along with municipalities and Panchayats shall monitor the clearance and disposal of bio-degradable and non-bio degradable wastes. Incentives shall be given for large housing colonies to manage their own solid wastes within their premises.

The term 'Public Places' shall be clearly defined to remove the lacunae from the law against smoking and spitting. Smoking or spitting pan, tobacco/gutka, urinating and littering in public places including roads, etc. shall be strictly prohibited and penalties and punishments for violations shall be imposed, more severe for educated persons of stature.

2. Healthcare:

This Party shall ensure clean environment indigenous to Goa and promote awareness of nutrition oriented treatments for physical ailments and degenerative diseases. Availability of prescription drugs and medications shall be strictly regulated through FDA so that the prescription drugs shall not be sold without valid prescriptions. Medical malpractices shall be strictly monitored and heavily penalized.. Awareness of adverse drug reactions shall be promoted to control degenerative diseases. The party shall provide adequate support to alternative systems of medicines, including ayurveda, yoga, naturopathy, unani etc.

(a) Hospitals:

Many people wonder whether our hospitals in Goa are centers of cure or the antechambers of our final resting place. Most hospitals lack basic hygiene, the personnel are badly trained and the hospitals understaffed, there is no infrastructure to speak of and some are just money-making rackets. The Party therefore proposes:

To devise and implement criteria for setting-up and running private hospitals in Goa and a procedure for their de-recognition and suspension/stoppage of activity in conjunction with Medical Council of India,

Creation of a principal and secondary medical board or boards that will be operating on a five-year term basis to monitor the operations of each hospital within their jurisdiction and to verify any complaints and to make their reports to the Principal Medical Board (PMB) which will decide on the action to be taken. Appeals against any decision taken by such PMB will be available and all reports and decisions shall be made within specified time frames.

Government hospitals and Primary Health Centres shall be improved, not only in terms of the services provided, but also in terms of increasing the staff to meet all requirements such as attendance and care of accident victims, attendance of patients in the hospital

without the family having to make arrangements for a personal attendant for the patient, better hygiene, improved treatment by acquiring and properly maintaining the equipment, exchange programs and lectures to encouraged and improve the medical knowledge and techniques, better and fully equipped ambulances manned by paramedics. Need to make available accommodation to accompanying family member/s of patients who come from distant places shall be looked into.

The Goa Medical College shall be turned into an institution of respect and appreciation.

(b) Clinics, Diagnostic Centers & Clinical Labs:

These institutions shall be brought under the general sanitary & hygiene norms. Sex determination test ban shall be strictly enforced. Legislation on abortion shall be reviewed and expanded further as required to save healthy unborn female fetuses. Disabled friendly building code shall be applicable as far as possible, especially for newly built units.

(c) Food & Nutrition:

Food security is defined in its most basic form as the access to food needed for a healthy life by all people at all times. It implies ensuring a safe and nutritionally adequate food supply both at the national as well as at the household level. 'The right to life' guaranteed by the Constitution of India shall be taken to mean that people who are too poor to buy food grains shall be given the same, free of cost by the state from the surplus stock. Under Article 21 of the Constitution of India, the right to food shall imply that the state has a duty to provide food, especially in situations of drought, to the people who are not in a position to purchase food.

This party's Government shall start community food banks wherever needed and offer the food stored thus in exchange for work on bio-ecological projects, aforestation, rainwater harvesting, waste

recycling etc. It will give nutritional support to mothers, children and the infirm.

Explanation:

Health and nutrition problems and socio-economic problems are intimately interlinked. In our country, the health and related socio-economic situation is unsatisfactory and future trends are not encouraging. This situation has led our policy makers, administrators and clinicians to search for more cost-effective ways of delivering health and nutrition services.

Under these conditions, it seems more rational to undertake programs of prevention of leakage or wastage of nutrients from the leaking human bucket resulting from infections.

- ***Supplementary Feeding Programs:***

These programs have helped to better nutrition to some extent and are perhaps the only sure method of providing needed nutrients to a particular target group of population. Thus they offer opportunities to meet nutrition objectives. But these opportunities are commonly missed because of the large infrastructure investments and managerial and logistical problems. Besides, it has been observed that the child benefited from the supplementary feeding is getting less food at home in most cases. The supplementary food thus acts as a 'substitute' to the home meal, thus defeating the very purpose of the supplementary feeding.

Past efforts to deal with the problem of malnutrition have often been piecemeal. Wide ranging public health approaches such as supplementary feeding programs for vulnerable groups of population, food fortification, nutrition rehabilitation centers, applied nutrition programs, distribution of vitamin supplements etc have been in operation for a number of years, vast expenditure was incurred and a large number of personnel employed in them, but the results were not up to the

expectations. Moreover, they cannot provide a permanent solution to the problem of malnutrition. They are, at best, measures to alleviate the symptoms of malnutrition rather than measures for removing causes of malnutrition.

Malnutrition is largely a by-product of poverty. The attainment of a level of socio-economic development which shall eliminate nutrition deprivation of our people and make the supplementary feeding and other nutrition programs unnecessary must be our goal.

- ***Future Prospects:***

The United Nations organized a World Food Conference [WFC] in Rome in November, 1974. The reason for the world food conference was the world food crisis or, more precisely, world cereal crises. The world cereal crisis and malnutrition are interconnected. The resolutions adopted in the WFC intend to attack, directly or indirectly, the basic causes of hunger and malnutrition. A wide range of actions have been proposed. These actions embrace the formulation of inter-sectoral food and nutrition plans and policies, the establishment and strengthening of food and nutrition intervention programs, the improvement of nutrition education at all levels, the promotion of the applied nutrition research, the establishment and strengthening of global nutrition surveillance system, the improvement of health and environmental conditions, strengthening of consumer safety measures and the further development of the food contamination monitoring programs. These activities are closely linked and although they may need separate implementation because of the differences in scope and urgency, they should be regarded as parts of a comprehensive and integrated plan of action.

- ***The New Strategy:***

The new strategy which emerged from the recommendations of the WFC is based on the concept which is not new but has not previously been fully explored that food production, marketing

and consumption must be treated as a single system. Any attempt to solve the nutrition problem through isolated action in one of these three sectors alone will not achieve sustained progress. Thus, nutrition must be integrated into planning in each sector. Specific structural changes in one of these sectors may improve nutrition situation more effectively than a typical 'nutrition solution' such as supplementary feeding programs or food fortification.

- ***Anti-Oxidant – Anti Disease:***

If one can name the single biggest threat to one's health, it would be oxidation. When oxygen is added to any compound, oxidation takes place. This very process, even though it is responsible for life, creates harmful 'free radicals' which cause oxidative damage to cells. But, even though free radicals are a serious threat arising from pollution of environment and other factors, one can limit the damage that they cause by living right and eating right. The latter involves making sure that you eat enough anti-oxidants that 'neutralize' free radicals before they attack cells. Examples of anti-oxidants are carotenoids, vitamin C, vitamin E, selenium etc. Green leafy vegetables and fresh fruits are rich sources of anti-oxidants.

(d) Food & Drug Administration:

This Department shall be totally activated to change the outlook of how fresh meats, fish, vegetables and readymade food stuffs etc. are stored/sold in the State. The FDA shall, in particular, check on the expiry dates of food stuffs manufactured locally or imported in order to safeguard the health of the people and also to discourage unhealthy marketing practices. FDA shall be empowered to move quickly and efficiently to remove expired, banned or contaminated items from the market place and dispose off such materials effectively. The sale of pharmaceuticals as well as narcotic drugs shall be strictly monitored. Sale and consumption of banned drugs

shall be heavily penalized. Vigilance on food adulteration and adulteration in bottling of local and foreign made liquors shall be strictly maintained and violators brought to book with revocation of respective licenses. Well equipped food and beverages testing laboratory shall be set up in the State.

[VI] SOCIAL CARE

1. Old Age Homes:

As part of the social responsibility of the Government towards senior citizens who do not have anyone to look after them in their old age, these needy persons shall find solace in the aged homes run by the Provedoria. Also those institution/s which cater to such social obligations of rendering service to helpless senior citizens without discrimination on caste and/or religion basis shall be given financial grants subject to Government supervision without actually interfering in the working of the institution/s other than concerning the welfare of the inmates.

2. Orphanages:

This Party's Government shall endeavour to set up State sponsored orphanages where religion and caste discrimination does not exist. Orphanages run by other religious or non-religious institutions as well as by private individuals shall come under the microscope of the government as regards the welfare of the orphans. Foreign nationals, unless connected with known social welfare institutions shall be banned from running orphanages. Institutions suspected of pedophilia shall be closed-down and inmates transferred to the Government sponsored orphanages. Out of State registration of orphans shall be allowed on merit basis only. This shall not be applicable to out of State orphans of Goan origin.

3. Homes for Mentally Retarded /Unbalanced/Insane:

These persons shall be taken care of by way of special schools for mentally retarded children, special homes for adult mentally retarded and insane such as persons afflicted with Alzheimer's diseases.

4. Abused Children:

A special cell, preferably under Provedoria shall be set up to take in Goa's abused children. Such children shall be taken in and provided with a virtual home atmosphere in special centers where their growing-up needs shall be met in every respect to the most modest extent so that they shall become the assets to the State in their adult-hood. This shall be the primary responsibility of the State.

5. Handicapped:

These persons (including children), are the responsibility of the State in so far as the State shall ensure that their needs are satisfied with respect to their schooling, their moral, mental as well as their physical development. As such, proper schools for the handicapped and mentally retarded shall be provided and those that are already established shall be further enhanced with modern facilities along with other facilities such as disabled friendly buildings housing public institutions, public transport etc. Programs shall be organized wherein these person can show-case their talents in creativeness in the sphere of arts, cultural activities and personal excellence.

[VII] PUBLIC TRANSPORT & R.T.O.

General consensus shall be reached through public debate and through a White Paper either to fully privatize, or full State take-over. This Party shall not be in favour of partly private and partly State run public transport system. In any which case this Party's Government shall ensure that the public transport services shall run from 5 a.m. to 1 a.m. with extensions where required up to 2 a.m. with frequency adjustments for late and earlier hours commuting on need basis. Quality and maintenance of the public transport buses shall be vastly improved. It shall be mandatory for all new chassis on order to be phosphate treated

(phosphating process) to arrest corrosion. Steel plates used for building of bus bodies shall be strictly of standard gauge and all buses shall have to have lower height for their entry and exit steps to facilitate ingress or egress. Fast commuter river transport services, preferably hydrofoil system for point to point river connected destinations shall be initiated. Strict code for 4-wheel, 3-wheel taxi system with fare meters installed and dress code for drivers shall be made mandatory. There shall be an endeavour to run the public transport system entirely on LPG/solar power. Two-wheeler taxis (motorcycle taxis) shall be discouraged with no more issuance of licenses. Modern and well designed local & Inter State 'Bus Terminuses' shall be built at locations outside the city limits and away from the bustle of the crowded cities and towns. Separate city public transport to run on battery/solar power on ring-routes. Mini-bus services for rural interiors shall be pressed into service. Railway stations shall be modernized with easy access platform crossings as well as to offer wide range of facilities like locker rooms, left luggage services, changing and rest rooms, quality restaurants, fast food counters, parking lots etc. Newly built public transport coaches (buses) shall be disabled persons friendly. Two/three tier inspectorate system shall be pressed into service to check passengers for fare tickets. Ticket punching machines shall be installed in every public carrier. Tickets shall be made available for purchase at all general store outlets. Maintenance of public transport carriers whether Government or privately run shall be required to be up to the mark and very strictly monitored. The use of music and the display of religious icons and images in local public transport carriers shall be prohibited. There shall be a directive to the inter-state public transport carriers on the norms to be followed for internal entertainment offered as well as music played for the benefit of the long distance passengers.

Goa has one of the highest, if not the highest percentage-wise death rates in India, all due to inaction by police and the R.T.O. to monitor abuses on the roads, the cattle nuisance or due to bad roads. Something has to be done urgently if more lives are not to be lost. This party proposes to carry out suitable amendments in the existing laws not only to fine the owners of stray cattle and other animals seen freely roaming the roads in

the villages, towns and on the highways, but also to provide jail terms for them. There shall be strict enforcement of the law that mandates registration of all pets and domestic animals.

The traffic police is conspicuous by its absence during night hours when the entire traffic police force retires for the day at 6 p.m except for very busy intersections. This shall change drastically with regular RTO checks being kept on traffic police details of deployment in the State during the night hours.

1. Standardization of vehicle number plates:

It is sad to note that the state of Goa has felt it best to leave the owners of the vehicles to determine what type of number plates they want for their vehicles. At times we see designer number plates with complicated style of numbering which is at most, difficult to even decipher. This Party believes that the state of Goa needs to have uniform standard for the vehicle number plate design, font and size for letters and numbers. There is need to differentiate vehicles from private, public, goods, passenger, government, utility vehicles such as police, ambulance etc. Once the decision is arrived at on the above requirement, generous time period and publicity shall be given before the cut off date comes into force to effect the change. Thereafter, violations and/or non compliance of the requirement shall be stringently penalized.

2. Road Markings:

All roads including national highways shall be marked by arrows [middle of the respective lane] for traffic direction and guidance. All exits and entries on roads and highways shall be similarly marked so that even ignorant drivers are appropriately aided. All road works, either minor or major, shall be appropriately highlighted by fluorescent signs and sign boards [which are presently totally ignored] for which the respective contractors shall be held accountable and responsible.

3. Automatic Traffic Signals:

All cities and towns will be equipped with automatic road signals incorporating the latest technology where light-emitting diodes will be used in place of the usual filament type bulbs.

4. Speed Breakers:

Speed-breakers throughout the state jurisdiction shall be of uniform design with appropriate signs and markings including indications of gradual speed reductions over a limited distance from the approaching speed-breaker. The height and width of the speed breakers shall be such that at a designed speed, the vehicle as well as the rider/driver shall not be inconvenienced.

5. Road Safety:

Helmets for two-wheeler riders as well as pillion riders shall be compulsory. Carrying infants and/or more than one child on two wheelers shall be discouraged. Two wheelers shall not be permitted to carry any item longer than the length of the vehicle. Tail/rear lights for motor vehicles, light reflectors for non-motorized vehicles-animal pulled crafts and bicycles shall be compulsory, strictly monitored and absence thereof penalized. Strollers/walkers on unlit roads/highway stretches at night time/after dusk shall be advised to wear light reflectors on their person to avoid being run over since on-coming full beam of vehicles tend to blind the drivers on the opposite side of the road risking run-over of pedestrians, bicycle riders, stray cattle squatting on the road/highway etc. Owners shall be held responsible for accidents caused due to their domestic animals on roads and highways. All four-wheelers shall install portable fire extinguishers in their vehicle. All road intersections, junctions, exits, speed breaker points and accident prone areas shall be adequately marked for daytime and night-time road use. All acute curves on main/trunk roads and highways shall be installed with mirror reflectors to alert the driver of the oncoming traffic.

6. Vehicular Pollution:

The RTO is blind to this aspect of pollution where vehicles violate the pollution check rules with impunity. It is a fact that the records of the RTO shall indicate that anti-pollution violation bookings are non-

existent. Drivers of virtual smoking spewing chimneys get away by showing their pollution under control certificates and when such vehicles are identified and reported to the RTO by conscientious citizens, no action is not only taken but the concerned traffic police take sides with the offender. In fact most of the government vehicles (Jeeps) are virtual smoke spewing chimneys and very badly maintained.

The RTO shall be thoroughly sensitized on this aspect and vehicles including two wheelers found emitting excess tail-pipe exhaust/smoke shall be fined along with the on the spot cancellation of the pollution check certificate. If the same vehicle is caught again exhibiting same symptoms within the stipulated one day grace period for maintenance, the vehicle shall be heavily fined and ordered off the road until the vehicle is produced for re-inspection for pollution check at the RTO. Out of state vehicles shall be thoroughly checked at the entry points with heavy vehicles like trucks buses and long-body vehicles subjected to exhaust emission check at stationary full acceleration. If the vehicle fails the test, it will have to proceed to the next available workshop/garage for rectification and repairs if necessary. Though this action shall inconvenience a lot of goods carriers, the respective owners shall have to take heed of appropriate notices displayed at the border check posts and advertisements in the newspapers including national newspapers to that effect and be fore-warned. If necessary, appropriate leaflets cautioning the out of state vehicle owners shall be made available to the drivers of the vehicles at the border check posts. RTO shall maintain random checks on centers authorized to issue pollution control certificates by re-checking the vehicles cleared by the centers. If these are found to be issuing fake certificates, these centers shall be heavily fined and authorization to check vehicles for pollution control cancelled.

Note:

Most accidents take place when rear drivers/riders race to overtake the smoke spewing vehicle ahead in order to avoid being chocked.

7. Horns & Uses:

The law prohibiting the use of multi-toned- musical and pressure horns under the Motor Vehicles Act 1984 shall be fully enforced. The sale of these horns shall not be allowed in the State and violations shall be severely penalized if necessary, with the suspension of the license of the vendor. Vehicles from other states entering Goa, including goods and passenger carriers shall be adequately warned at the border crossing check-posts not to use such horns while in the state of Goa by first checking if normal horn is fitted or not. In case normal horn is not fitted, the vehicle shall be detained until such horn is fitted as well as the unauthorized horn removed at the cost of the vehicle owners and confiscated.

Note:

It is a fact that driver/riders have been left to their own to use the horns as they wish to the extent that motorists wish each other by blowing horns and/or patrons signaling to their servants in residential complexes to come down and empty the car of groceries, etc through continuous honking. When this irresponsible attitude towards blowing horns was brought to the notice of one previous Chief Minister [Mr. Luizinho Faleiro] at his regular Janata Dharbar courts in the city of Mapusa, the then Director General of Police [Mr. Brar], when asked by the Chief Minister to explain why this was so, has gone on record of telling the CM that Goans, in general, have no manners when it comes to using their vehicle horns. And this was just passed off with laughs and smiles. This party will see to it that lax and care free attitude of drivers and riders in Goa changes drastically with general guidelines framed for the use of vehicle horns. Irresponsible drivers and riders shall face prosecution. It is to be admired that in countries such as in the Gulf region, when one blows one's horn, it means some emergency has taken place and everyone is alerted.

8. Silence Zones:

Silence Zone shall be clearly marked. Awareness campaign through newspapers and audio-visual media shall be stepped up to make citizens aware on the importance of observing 'silence zone'. The use of vehicular horns, outdoor loudspeaker, whether for functions or for announcements, shall be prohibited within a distance of hundred meter radius of institutions like hospitals, schools, courts, government offices and other sensitive institutions. Institutions such as hospitals, schools and

courts shall not be allowed to be set up in the vicinity of main arterial roads and highways or in the vicinity of noise generating infrastructures such as bus terminuses and markets.

9. Road Marshals:

This Party's government shall, through the RTO, appoint responsible citizen riders/drivers as 'road marshals' with special powers to halt and educate any traffic rule or law violator anywhere in the state of Goa. Any citizen when shown the 'road marshal' badge, shall respectfully listen to what is being told and why, without arguments. In case riders/drivers pick up argument with the road marshal, their vehicle number, date and time shall be reported to the traffic offence cell and suitable action shall be taken against the violator. Necessary provisions shall be made into the law to accommodate such violations.

Note:

What one sees on the road in Goa is utter lawlessness. Most drivers and riders do not seem to know their basic traffic rules. Drivers and riders are seen cutting in on the wrong side of the road at intersections with impunity, as well as overtaking from the left on two-way single lane roads. The traffic police is utterly inadequate in putting some sense on the roads which has become a killing field. Therefore, the only way this can be controlled is through 'road marshal' phenomena where educating riders and drivers throughout the length and breadth of Goa can be achieved faster.

10. Public Parking:

Cities & Towns shall introduce multi-storied parking facilities for two and 4 wheelers. Underground parking shall be given due consideration in future urban public or private projects. Residential/Commercial buildings in urban and semi-urban areas shall provide stilted parking. Parking areas in towns and cities on main roads as well as by-lanes shall be demarcated and parking rules strictly enforced to eliminate double parking as well as indiscriminate parking on both sides of very narrow roads. The stilted parking rules shall be provided for in the building rules and regulations.

[VIII] POWER GENERATION & SUPPLY [WIND-HYDRO-SOLAR]

The State of Goa shall strive to establish norms to deliver un-interrupted and quality power supply to its citizens, industry and sensitive installations such as hospitals and others. Electrical power being the basic necessity of modern life, this shall be the State's prime responsibility and obligation. The state shall not bar time, investment or resources to put a qualitative 'power' policy in place for the State of Goa, not without the inclusion of best brains available locally, nationally and internationally, during the formation of such a policy.

The alternative sources such as hydro-electric, wind and solar power generation shall be encouraged and state subsidized to augment the state's power generation capabilities and reduce the dependence on fossil fuel power generation. Goa is in a position to set up wind power generation in most of the coastal belt areas. Solar power could be harnessed in a big way to reduce the water heating requirements as also for street lighting and traffic signals purposes.

Improved System:

Bi-metal (heat-resistant) fittings as specified for high voltage distribution lines including fittings for sub-stations shall be made mandatory as this is the singular cause of frequent breakdowns in power supply in the state where ordinary mild steel fittings replace bi-metal fittings to keep the spurious trade in full operation and government machinery well oiled for kickbacks. Presently in use non-bi-metal fitting shall be replaced with bi-metal fittings. Electricity engineering staff shall be prohibited from taking private contracts directly or indirectly, violations of which shall be awarded with dismissal from service. Fixtures including billing meters shall be supplied by the Department through strict quality control,

as citizens are forced to procure sub-standard and spurious units from the open market. Power billing shall be computerized with hand-held mini-computers for meter-readers for on-the-spot billing. Queue-less paying facility for bills, preferably through cheque payments including on-line facility shall be initiated. Segregation switches shall be mandatory to be installed at pre-determined locations in order to isolate faulty sections of power lines for quick restoration of supply to unaffected areas. Transformers shall be of double capacity to cater to unplanned increases in loads for the area. Complete segregation of high-tension overhead corridors by removal, cutting and/or clearing of trees etc within the stipulated distance with or without prior permission of the owners of such trees.

Improved Service:

The working of the Electricity department shall be reviewed with respect to the attending of the calls made by citizens resulting from power failures. It is generally observed that during any power failure, the concerned department's telephone is continuously engaged giving the impression to the citizen that it is placed off the hook. Departmental clerks are seen not to be bothered with the files of citizens who have applied for new connections, with inordinate delays wearing out the patience, thereby necessitating having to see senior officers to look into the matter. The movements of the linesmen is at time unaccounted for most of the time making it difficult to trace the linesmen when badly needed. Attendance to night power failures is chronically slack as there is just one set of night crew on duty with a vast area to cover, most often resulting in the failure remaining unattended until the next day if a citizen does not persist in knowing about the action taken. Due to erratic power supply, people are continually left with burnt out electrical gadgets like refrigerators, TVs, power supplies of computers and computers etc. not to mention the food items stored in the refrigerators going bad over a prolonged period of power not being available. Street lights remain un-replaced for days on end with excuses given that spares are out of stock.

This Party shall put a Civilian Services Commission (refer.. (II)-5) to suggest ways and means to correct these ills affecting the Electricity Department so that the citizen does not only get a reasonably good service from this Department, but also is satisfied that the Department is fully functional and accountable.

This Party shall also review and cancel the procedure followed by the Electricity Department of issuing electrical connections to houses etc. on a mere affidavit signed by the person concerned without the N.O.C. from the concerned Panchayat or the Municipality, thus encouraging illegal constructions. The provision where citizens procure the N.O.C. from the Health Department to release Electricity Connection shall be reviewed and/or cancelled.

Goa shall be made fully powered through under-ground cabling in villages, towns and cities. Grid system shall be introduced where connections shall be given to households, industries etc from nearby grids. The overhead distribution with its problems shall be gradually phased out, village by village, city by city.

[IX] EDUCATION

The entire education system in Goa shall be reviewed through debates, seminars and free discussions involving academics, pedagogues; student/parent associations etc., to bring out a “White Paper”. The focus shall be shifted from Exam Oriented Education to ‘Practical & Knowledge Oriented Education. State of the art ‘Primary School System’ infrastructure shall be introduced to make the Primary Schools in the State the best in the Indian Union and comparable to the best in the world. This we intend doing since the primary education is the foundation for future generations in this competitive world. Syllabi and examination patterns from primary school to university level shall be reviewed/changed to effect up-gradation. Educational institutions shall be freed from political influence and/or interference and shall be accorded autonomous status. Sex education as well as education on

drug related influence on human body and mind and its ill effects shall be introduced in schools. Cell phone culture in schools shall be discouraged/arrested. Dramatics arts and Indian/Western dance and music culture shall be included in school curricula to bring out/develop latent talents in goan youth.

1. Government Primary Schools:

The Party envisages state of the art universal plan for primary school buildings complete with facilities like school bus (universal design and colour) canteen, playground, garden/gardening area and audio visual teaching aids etc. Primary teachers shall be selected on basis of merit for acceptable temperament towards children and impeccable moral standing. Teaching shall be on 'no home-work' basis and mostly based on excursions to factories, mining areas, hospitals, places of importance like agricultural farms, bird sanctuaries, zoos, water falls, monuments etc. so that the young minds are exposed to real life experiences. Emphasis shall be strongly laid on teaching of 'secular moral values.'

Note:

The justification for this sustained expenditure is that if the government can afford to spend rupees 150 crores on IFFI related infrastructure with Rs. 24 crores spent on the renovation works of the Kala Academy, which infrastructure has been reduced to naught in just one heavy down-pour, and not just renovation, but another two or more Kala Academies could have been built with the same amount, the Goa government can and should spend more on primary school infrastructure as it is in the interest of Goa's future.

2. Medium of Instruction:

Primary education shall be imparted in the state language 'Konkani'. English language shall be a compulsory subject, taught with modern aids and excellent teaching staff to make primary students fully capable of easy and effortless transition from primary to secondary levels. Choice of studying other languages in the secondary level shall rest on the students on language class basis offered by the concerned secondary school.

3. High School and Higher Secondary Level:

Education at this level requires that the student imbibes high moral, social values as well as respect for all types of work. A student should come out at the end as a responsible, well-mannered and cultured being. The party shall strive to achieve this aim.

4. University & College Campuses:

The Goa University shall be totally de-linked from political interference through granting of autonomous status. The role of the government shall be limited to see that the overall functioning of the institution is satisfactory and remains secular at all times. It shall excel as the hub of advanced learning with world-wide acceptance for its graduate and post graduate degrees and diplomas. The present layout of the Goa University campus shall be brought under professional review. Library facilities of the GU shall be further enhanced to remain open on all days till late evenings. Education shall be made affordable to economically backward families with a well defined system of evaluation of such status. The syllabi for higher education in Goa shall be re- formulated based on people's needs and not according to corporate pressures. Considering the wealth of historical records at Goa Archives, research fellowships shall be initiated for junior and senior scholars to work on Goa's history. Advanced learning with world-wide acceptance for its graduate and post graduate degree and diploma holders shall be made available. Marine sciences, agricultural, eco and environment related studies, languages, tourism-related studies etc. shall be encouraged.

5. Technical Education & Vocational Training:

Students who are sluggish in academic studies shall be guided into vocational training through aptitude testing. Vocational training such as plumbing, electrical wiring, carpentry, turning, pottery, painting food processing, beverage technology and various other vocations shall be made available. Steel fitting and centering work in the construction industry which is a major industry is totally relying on manpower from across the borders. Training facilities in these fields shall be made available to enhance scope for employment and give proper direction to the construction industry.

6. Extra Curricular Activities:

Introduction of sports in schools, such as gymnastics, swimming, music, dance, drama etc. on par with developed countries No Government school and/or government aided school will be allowed to come-up without such facilities.

Note:

Our education system does not encourage the development of a socially responsible mind. Our graduates are in many cases persons who are social ignorants – what they learn by rote cannot be related to life as a whole.

[X] SPORTS & LEISURE

Budget allocations shall be made for setting up of sports stadia and athletic tracks, jogger's parks etc. River sides and/or river bunds shall be developed in phased manner as walkways for leisure strolling-cum-jogging. Proficient scouting system will be introduced to pick up young sporting talent in different fields of sports, to promote/facilitate sports through sports scholarships where this talent shall be encouraged to excel in the preferred field. However, school and college education will be obligatory for building up personalities where these extraordinary talents shall be compensated through field exposure rather than class-room and examination exposure. The non-exam oriented educational system shall help to cover this imbalance.

[XI] CULTURE**1. Cultural Activities:**

This party's government shall freely fund authentic Goan cultural organizations and institutions to inculcate and freely promote Goan traditional cultural activities such as tiatrs deknimandos, natoks, fugdi, dhalo, zagors and others to preserve, cherish and encourage their rise to world standards. Cultural activities shall be guided by local needs and not propaganda. Classes in stitching, basket weaving pottery etc shall be encouraged. Institutions specializing in particular fields of culture shall be encouraged and studies and research on culture shall be nurtured and given special attention. Kala Academy shall be made into a central institution of cultural excellence.

2. Traditional Feasts-Zatras-Fairs& Customs:

Sitting fairs during religious feasts/festivals of churches and temples in Goa shall be better organized to eliminate inconveniences to commuters and road users. These traditions shall be maintained since these are the life-line giving indigenous flavour to Goa and Goans and must not be allowed to disappear in the name of modernization and development.

[XII] AIRPORTS

The provision for a second airport at MOPA is ill conceived in the face of lack of proper infrastructures in the State such as uninterrupted power and water supply to name a few to sustain the existing development. The existing Airport at Dabolim is sufficient to take care of Goa's civilian flying needs if only the naval operations are shifted from Dabolim Airport to the Sea Bird base at Karwar. This is the only sensible thing to go for at the present stage before putting a heavy strain on Goa's finances and infrastructures. [refer.. II-14]

Development of air-strips as required for flying clubs and/or for recreational purposes as well as helicopter landing pads in every taluka shall be undertaken. It shall be mandatory for major installations such as university campuses, medical facilities such as GMC, police headquarters, sea ports and others to provide helicopter landing pads to cater to swift evacuation or landing facilities in emergencies.

[XIII] SEAPORTS

Sea Port of Mormugao shall be further developed through State/Central planning. Strategic riverfront locations shall be developed as small service ports. Ports shall provide floating cordon to all berthed as well as anchored vessels/ships as soon as the berthing/anchoring operations are completed, to contain oil seepage/leakage from vessels into the sea/river waters. Discharging of bilges into the sea/ rivers waters by all vessels including service launches and boats shall be prohibited and strictly monitored. Vessels anchored or berthed in ports shall be prohibited from releasing smoke through their smoke-stacks (funnels) during boiler firing operations. Such violations shall be monitored by the Port Authorities and respective vessels/ships shall be severely penalized/fined. A strict watch/supervision shall be kept at night for such violations since these operations are conducted during the night hours to evade detection. Dock areas shall be sensitized to control pilferage/smuggling of cargoes and other items.

[XIV] ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY PROTECTION

1. Pollution Control Board:

The Pollution Control Board shall be the authority vested with the responsibility to co-ordinate with all law enforcing agencies in the maintenance of a clean environment irrespective of whether it concerns land, water or air. Suitable directions from this authority to the law enforcing agencies shall keep these agencies abreast and sensitized to the need for a clean environment and in turn co-ordinate their actions with those of the conscious general public and at the same time educate others concerning the ill effects of polluting the environment. The existing misconception that the Pollution Control Board is only delegated with the duties and responsibilities to supervise and/or enforce anti-pollution laws, rules and regulations with respect to large industries only, shall be removed. The Pollution Control Board is and shall be accountable for all

and every aspect of pollution of land, water and air in the state and shall liaise with the Governments of the neighbouring States to minimize the effects of pollution entering and affecting the state of Goa. i.e. oil slicks etc.

The Party shall work towards establishing a Centre for Environmental Studies” as suggested by eminent Goan working with World Health Organization. Industrial units shall be segregated from residential areas. Strict environmental safeguards shall be introduced to reduce noise, air, water and land pollution.

2. Environment Tax:

[refer.. III-5]

3. Noise Pollution:

(a) Loud Music & Funnel Speakers:

The existing Madhya Pradesh Control of Music and Noises Act, Samvat 2008 as adopted by the State of Goa shall be replaced by a new indigenous Act to protect Goa from the malaise of ‘Loud Music’ noise pollution. Public address systems and outdoor use of music systems shall comply to strict ‘**no nuisance code**’ which shall be introduced, whereby only authorized agencies shall be permitted to rent out/use these systems. No institution whether religious or otherwise shall be allowed to permanently display public address speakers [horn/funnel speakers] externally and/or use such devices externally without prior permission from concerned authorities. Such permissions shall be given under strict supervision. The jurisdiction for licensing and/or issuance of such permissions shall lie with the law enforcing agency which is the police. No dual agency/authority shall be vested with such jurisdiction in order to pin down responsibility in case of violations and to avoid ‘passing of the buck’ when it comes to enforcing the law. Rave parties as introduced in Goa shall be banned altogether. Out door and/or open air parties and functions shall not be permitted beyond 10 p.m. Such functions which are slated for the late hours may be held in totally double-doored sound-proofed venues.

(b) Fire Crackers & Cracker Bombs:

Code for bursting and/or display of fire-crackers and fire-works shall be introduced to reduce noise pollution and litter. Bursting of fire crackers and cracker bombs beyond the authorized decibel level shall not be allowed and their sale prohibited. The recent Order passed by the Honourable Supreme Court on Noise pollution shall be implemented and enforced in letter and spirit.

4. Multi-Tone & Pressure Horns:

[refer...VII-7]

5. Heavy Machinery & Heavy duty Transport Carriers:

Heavy machinery such the earth moving machinery as used by the mining/construction industry shall be prohibited from use during the sensitive sleeping hours of the immediate residential neighbourhood. It has been observed that the noise produced by these machineries, may it be the running of the conveyor belt systems, the movement of trucks during ore loading operations and the general clanking sounds within the operating mines, carry far and wide during the late night-early morning hours disturbing resident of even far away villages, specially during the winter season [Nov-Feb].

Note:

It has also been noticed that internal village roads are being used by heavy-duty and over-loaded mining-ore trucks as these internal village roads offer short-cuts to the trucker's destination, there by disturbing the sleep of the residents through strained engine noise while the trucks execute uphill climbs, besides polluting the roads with ore-dust.

These aspects of noise pollution shall be taken care of with appropriate laws and rules under 'Noise Pollution' and through sensitizing the mine operators on the hazards of noise on the local populace.

6. Discharge of Oil, Sewage & Toxic Effluents & Wastes:

Strict vigilance shall be kept on the discharge of untreated effluents in water bodies, rivers, sea or land including free flowing sewage. Natural

springs, waterfalls etc. and the water bodies and ponds serviced by these flowing waters shall be protected by suitable legislations to preserve their naturalness through prohibiting of any sources of pollution. Members of the public who wish to use these natural resources shall be prohibited from using soap/detergent for bathing/washing of clothes, motor vehicles and scrap items such as chemical containers or others materials containing toxic matters.. Hazardous chemical containers shall require special permission from the Goa State Pollution Control Board for their disposal and/or destruction.

7. Vehicular Pollution:[Engine Exhaust]

[refer VII-6]

Note:

Of late, we have been fortunate to see the ‘satelite picture’ of Goa’s landscape. And, needless to say, as Goan citizens who care for Goa’s environmental-ecological & developmental balance, we have been shell-shocked at what we have seen. Goa’s mining belts have devastated Goa’s landscape beyond recognition. It is little wonder that the people of these areas are up in arms against the mining-politician lobby. It is very clear that the departmental authorities in charge, have been conniving with the mining-politician-lobby in their greed to stay in office, to inflict this irreversible damage to Goa’s balanced ecosystem. This party has always taken the stand that the mineral resources of Goa are the wealth of the people of Goa and not of a few mine owners and local and central politicians. If this wealth will not be shared with the people, even to the extent of making their lives free from scourges of the mining industry such as chronic dust pollution, depletion of ground water resources and pollution and silting of water bodies, sensitive rivers and agricultural fields, destroying Goa’s beautiful God-given landscapes, these resources must lie buried and untouched.

It is the resolve of this party to fight this evil, tooth and nail, to inflict very severe pain and humiliation on the enemies of Goa, who are, most of them without doubt, very much short-sighted Goans.. It is only for this reason that this party does not have a single ex-politician in its ranks but only true, loving and caring citizens of Goa.

[XV] FOREST & WILD LIFE PROTECTION*

A very broad policy on conservation of forests and wild-life shall be put in place in consonance with the existing world and/or international and

national policies and strictly implemented. All encroachments on forest lands and wild life sanctuaries shall be removed, including total prohibition of mining operations. Attempts to de-notify forest lands shall be resisted. Future encroachments on forest lands if any shall be prevented through permanently established statutes so that successive/future Governments do not interfere with forests and wild life protection. Expansion of civilization at the cost of forested land and its wild life shall be prohibited. The ban on hunting and poaching of wild animals shall be strictly enforced and the nexus between Government/Forest officials, police and the poachers shall be broken through penalties even for those consuming/displaying animal meat/skins etc. respectively. The term 'civilization' shall not include 'indigenous people' and/or the 'tribals' already living in forested areas, who have lived and co-existed for centuries with mutual respect for each other. However attempts to re-settle the so called tribals already settled outside the forested areas into the forest areas as well as accord them, through "**Schedule Tribes [Recognition of Forest Rights] Bill 2005**", the rights and titles of forested lands and/or to commercialize these settlements shall be seen as attempts by the vested interests who want to exploit the forest lands, its produce and its wild life through the back door by using the gullible tribals or in the guise of '**injustice**' having been done to the tribals. The real motive behind this Bill must be carefully studied in order that our forest lands may not be vandalized to the detriment of our environment and precious wild life.

Rates of Government forest guest-houses shall be reduced to make them more affordable. The way wild animals are kept and treated in our zoos shall be reviewed to effect drastic changes.

[XVI] EMPLOYMENT & LABOUR

All Government employment shall be through centralized and computerized employment exchange. Contract employment/labour by

the government shall be abolished. Strict migrant labour policy shall be introduced. 'Minimum Wage' board shall be reviewed. Job security in industry including hotel industry shall be ensured. Minimum wage scale shall be introduced to adjust to inflationary trends. Employment on religious and caste basis shall be discouraged except where it is mandatory to implement the same under the constitution of India. The concept of 'Civil Services Boards' shall be introduced to bring about new/versatile system of written/oral testing of candidates for employment where religious faiths, caste etc cannot be identified to effect free and fair merit based employment system . Migrant labour shall work in Goa only through registration with local labour employment agencies [LEAs] or through registered labour contracting firms. Free-lancing migrant labour shall be discouraged through fines.. Labour contracting firms shall set up labour housing camps with various necessary facilities including schooling for the labourer's children, besides safe and hygienic accommodation and safe drinking water supply. Enrollment of migrants in the State's electoral rolls shall be banned not to allow unscrupulous politicians from using these migrant labourers as their vote banks. Status of the ration card as an identity card shall cease. Labour department, through surprise inspections, shall ensure that labour contractors and LEAs adhere to the labour employment code. Laws on child labour shall be strictly enforced. However the steps for rehabilitation of rescued children require greater study and appropriate steps are needed to prevent the child from being used once more in this manner.

Explanation:

One of the major employers of migrant labour are the road works, be they connected specifically to roads or connected to the laying of pipelines cables, where trenches are required to be dug. The other industries which are labour intensive are the construction and mining industries. These are the industries that are contributing in a great way towards in-migration from other States. These migrants are left to fend for themselves after the contract is over and as a result they set up their temporary/permanent dwellings by way of huts, sheds, residences in the first available open space One of the major sufferers of these

depredations has been the Comunidade land and absentee land owners. The result has been a lot of tension which presently is under control but which could explode in future.

*Goa must discourage contractors who are dependant solely upon manual labour and encourage entrepreneurs from Goa to buy the necessary earth-moving and other equipment, which shall be utilized by the Government of Goa and by the private industry in order to minimize the employment of labour forces constantly being brought from outside Goa. This has caused a tremendous imbalance in the demographic scenario of Goa. **If Goan labour had been freely and abundantly available, this would not be necessary in the first place.***

[XVII] TOURISM-NORMS-PROJECTS & DEVELOPMENT

We believe that the Tourism industry can provide the Goa Government with the much needed revenue for development. This industry is already the biggest employer. It is necessary however to harness this vehicle and control its onward march so that Goa and its citizens benefit and continue to benefit from it. It is necessary to envisage and plan for the next fifty years and to set in motion policies and programs that shall not only enhance the value of Goa in the eyes of the tourist but clearly indicate to the citizens that indeed tourism is beneficial for Goa. **Hence projects and plans must not only be tourism-centric but Goa Centric.** We do not need to blindly imitate other tourist locations, but rather learn their lessons on how not to do tourism.

We require to do the following:-

1. Conserve our Culture:

Dance troupes and music presentations have to be of a high category. What is presented at this moment can at best be considered a mongrelized version of our culture. Dance troupes shall require a

certification from a cultural body or society that shall be created for the purpose that shall train and certify that such troupes meet the required standards of proficiency in music, dance and presentation.

2. Conserve our Ethos:

Festivals such as Carnaval and Sismo (Holi) shall be encouraged to revert to their original form, if required, by declaring a holiday on such days (for Carnaval as was the case during the Portuguese era), so that the population may get involved and directly participate instead of being a monopoly of commercial houses.

Local culinary art to be propagated amongst tourists through festivals, encouraged in five-star hotels and other restaurants frequented by tourists.

Mando Festival and other such festivals shall be encouraged and the folk songs recorded and lyrics printed to provide for greater spread and popularization not only amongst tourists but also amongst the younger Goans.

Classes in Konkani (roman) for tourists shall be offered (lot of interest is evinced by many tourists) and a 'booklet' of Konkani concise expressions shall be brought out.

3. Conserve our Heritage:

Houses, forts, churches, temples, old bridges shall all come under special attention. Appropriate legislation whenever and wherever required shall be formulated and implemented to ensure conservation of pre-identified structures, monuments, conservation areas, other than those already in existence shall be identified and incentives shall be provided to each owner for maintenance of the house and those abandoned structures or those under dispute and which are being neglected shall be taken-over after due warning to the owner/s.

(a) Spreading Awareness:

Educate the locals and tourists on the need to maintain Goa clean and green. To conserve its resources, such as beaches fields and hills

in a clean state, its markets [which attract the tourist] in a hygienic condition and free of litter, plastic or otherwise.

(b) Eco Tourism:

To encourage eco & heritage tourism, once a proper and interesting circuit is planned and developed. Heritage tourism to be introduced to exploit the rich heritage of Goa through restoration work of heritage buildings and monuments as well as through cataloguing and maintaining of antique artifacts in appropriate museums.

4. Norms:

No discriminatory sign boards or discriminatory advertisements shall be allowed by tour operators, hotels, restaurants, clubs, discothèques or any other business outlet/s catering to tourists in Goa. The tourist taxi system shall be thoroughly re-viewed in order to bring about universal hiring rates based on short/long distance coverage where the passenger shall record the kilo-meter reading before the start of the journey. Waiting charges shall be well defined. No disputes over rates to be charged once fixed by the Government shall be entertained and violations shall be very severely dealt with even to the extent of de-classifying the license to operate as tourist taxi. Exploitation of tourists by locals, touts and tourist taxi-operators shall be brought under strict control through setting up of special code of conduct. The laws and rules governing the plying of tourist coaches for fixed and/or casual destinations shall be such that there shall be no ambiguity and or hindrance in its operations from any quarters once such licenses are obtained and/or granted by the authorities. Camping sites shall be identified and developed with the required facilities for “recreational vehicles” [RVs]. Inland waterways shall be developed for tourism and tourism related activities. Hinterland tourism shall be given equal developmental status with coastal tourism development in the State. **The role of the Archaeological Survey of India [ASI] shall be reviewed with respect to heritage sites and structures.** The Antiquities and Art Treasure Act [1972] shall be sought to be suitably amended to include deterrents towards smuggling of antiques and treasured works of art and paintings. Foreign tourists shall be nominally taxed on entry to Goa, the proceeds of which shall go for

refurbishing, renovation and/or maintenance of places and monuments of touristic interests. Harassment of visiting foreign tourists by lamenis with respect to selling of trinkets and/or begging shall stop. Persons on tourist visas shall not be allowed to engage in any business activities not compatible with the visa status. Tourism related crimes such as dealing in drugs, sexual crimes etc. shall be dealt with stringently. Interpol exchanges shall be augmented to detect foreign criminals vacationing and/or hiding in Goa. Police harassment of tourists shall cease with the dismantling of the tourist police. Innocent tourists shall be guaranteed help and assistance to safeguard their rights, their personal safety/modesty and their personal belongings.

5. Licences to Bars & Restaurants:

The State Government's amendment to the law enacted by the Central Government on the issue of licenses to Bars & Restaurants in the vicinity of schools and places of worship in the name of promoting tourism shall be cancelled and the original law shall rule.

Explanation:

The Central law is sought to be diluted through this amendment. In the name of promoting tourism, laws that are very necessary are diluted so that the Excise Commissioner may issue, taking recourse to the amendment, licenses to any person/s or institution/s which are not supposed to avail of this facility. This does not make any common sense. The original law has been made keeping in mind the good of the people and that law must prevail.

6. Beaches:

A forward looking policy shall be introduced on the maintenance and cleanliness of Goa's beaches. Unsafe bathing areas along the coastal belt shall be clearly identified and signboards displayed and maintained. Life-guards shall be placed on permanent duty, preferably on floating platforms/pontoons anchored off-shore with life saving equipment where such areas are identified as most unsafe and where very large numbers of people venture into the sea. Prominently displayed notices and sign-boards shall indicate where no bathing/swimming shall take

place in view of these spots being dangerous and/or treacherous. Any one wanting to enter into these areas shall be discouraged and such areas shall be permanently monitored. However, this shall not include senior citizens and children sitting/playing at the water's edge, specially those senior citizens who immerse their limbs in the sea water to ease rheumatic and other ailments. Extraction of sand from the beaches and up to 500 meters shall be strictly monitored and violators prosecuted with jail terms if necessary. Sand dunes and dune vegetation protection shall be intensified as sand dunes are the natural barriers preventing environmental disasters. Turtle conservation, wherever applicable, shall be made mandatory and strictly enforced through setting up of indigenous bodies comprising of local citizens who know best and care about this natural treasure. An independent supervisory jurisdiction shall be set outside of the existing purview of Forest Department, to cover the entire western coast as well as estuarine areas of known sea turtle nesting sites and concrete steps shall be taken to protect these sites from encroachments. Littering on the beaches of Goa shall be discouraged through general awareness and through placing of eco-friendly trash bins. Freely available and well advertised toilets/baths shall be installed away from the beaches and easing on beaches shall be strictly forbidden. The policy of placement of shacks on the beaches shall be reviewed to protect the beaches from being cluttered. Areas for parking traditional fishing canoes and boats on the beaches shall be demarcated. Stray animals such as dogs and cattle shall be picked up by the stray animal squads to make the beaches free from stray animals. Owners who are persistent in not attending to their domestic animals which invade the beaches shall be fined and if necessary prosecuted. Only pets accompanying their respective owners shall be allowed on the beaches but generally discouraged. Serious contamination of beaches by oil-spills in the seas shall be attended to by the disaster management authorities and the cleaning of the beaches carried out under its direction.

Explanation

It is necessary to have a policy regarding the Tourism Industry where-under the local population directly benefits from it either by way of jobs,

ancillary industries, supply of perishable goods etc. or through indirect ways such as improvement in the infrastructure such as roads, water, electricity, garbage disposal etc.

No attempt has been made by the Governments so far to integrate various aspects of life in Goa and its requirements, with tourism. An example in point is the glaring deficiency encountered in the industry today, namely that there is hardly any trained goan personnel available to take up various jobs in hotels. The Institute of Hotel Management (Catering College), Porvorim takes in students on an all India basis and Goans find that they have no place in the same. We see mushrooming Hotel Management Institutes which are at best deficient in providing proper training and at worst are money making rackets.

No study has been conducted by the Government of Goa whereby the experience of other countries is studied and the errors committed there are avoided.

We require a better approach to:-

Providing an avenue to school drop-outs, SSC & HSC passed persons who, with proper training could be provided lucrative jobs in hotels.

Development and encouragement of traditional industries such as pottery, weaving, carpentry and other small-scale industries such as glass works, wire sculpturing etc.... thus providing opportunities for training in more sophisticated forms of oven conditioning/baking so that artifacts may be manufactured to be sold to the tourists as souvenirs.

Setting up of an institute in catering solely to provide higher training in all categories of jobs available in the hotel industry other than management training.

Encouragement to owners of heritage houses to maintain them in good condition by means of a contractual maintenance agreement between the owner and the Government and/or private entrepreneurs so that these

heritage houses become part and parcel of a heritage tourism circuit which is the need of the hour as slowly such buildings are beginning to disappear. Development and implementation of a policy under which construction activity in tourist areas shall be regulated outside the Coastal Regulation Zone [CRZ] areas to avoid congestion and breakdown in the infrastructure as well as destruction of old heritage residences.

Development of all our inland waterways so that the beauty of our interior villages and of the hinterland would be tastefully exposed to the tourists. For this purpose all residences along the rivers would be encouraged to be beautified and to participate in the benefits of tourism.

All canals in Panjim city and outlying areas [St. Inez nulla, the Ouuem Creek] shall be deepened and cleant, the river/canal sides shall be beautified and small decent kiosks shall be encouraged to cater not only to tourists but to locals. Tours in the canals through small boats preferably non-mechanized, built to a particular design shall be encouraged to ply in these waterways. Small arched bridges over these canals shall be built to enhance the beauty of Panjim city.

There shall be encouragement to all municipalities to reserve a minimum space of 10 hectares or as near as possible in order to provide a healthy environment such as parks and gardens to double as lungs for the cities and towns. Any rivers bordering such towns would also be utilized for boating facilities and other entertainment.

Each town shall be encouraged to have a small museum where items, mechanical or others, which have a direct bearing on the life and times of Goa and Goans which are about to disappear forever will be mounted and conserved so that they shall not only be attractions for the tourists but also serve as educational facilities for the younger generation.

In short, this party believes that if Goa is to have a future in tourism it is necessary that a long term plan is drawn which indicates and advises which manufacturing industries are incompatible with the tourism

industry. We cannot afford to have an 'Open-Door' policy on this, such as the one practiced by successive Governments of Goa and which have damaged and are continuing to cause damage to our environment. We require a policy which is not only integrated but from which no departure shall be permitted just because a new administration is in place.

This party believes that tourism can be the vehicle which can improve the quality of life of every citizen of Goa. It is also our belief that tourism-related projects which are good for tourism are also good for citizens. As an example, a better water supply to hotels and resorts would necessarily mean a better water supply to every household along the way, for we do not believe in having an arrangement providing special facilities only for one hotel as has happened during CHOGM. Better roads, good drainage, broad pavements shall make life of the citizen easier and less stressed. Today's scenario in the tourism belt is: narrow roads, puddles of water during monsoons which splash everyone with dirt, clogged drains and no side walks. At least in these areas, due to the revenue directly flowing from tourism related industries, the Government should have been preoccupied about the infrastructure. Unfortunately this has not been the case. In places like Calangute, plastic prevails over every thing. There is dirt and earth all over the roads and there is no drainage system to speak of. The central place in Calangute looks like it is the dumping ground for everything. The goose that lays the golden eggs has been neglected and has lost a lot of its feathers. Despite the fact that hoteliers had made an offer, not only to the tourism department but also to the various local Panchayats, to take care of the cleanliness of the beaches at the hotelier's own cost, on the condition that the Government should provide a place where vermiculture should be enforced to dispose off the garbage, as also the authorities to fine those responsible for dirtying the beaches. Sadly, this proposal was shelved due to disinterest on the part of the authorities.

Note:

Civic sense of our authorities, may it be salaried babus or elected representatives, has been lost to high heavens. An example shall suffice if we say that our Mandovi Bridge

[old] , despite forcing its users, tourists, dignitaries, elected representatives, ministers, chief minister, locals or whoever, to inhale the stench of the garbage below, has not seen the attention of a street sweeper in a long long time. “Live it to the ‘Nature’ to take care of these minor details”, seems to be the general refrain. “On the contrary, let us concentrate on sky-buses, IFFIs, mono-rails, Mopa Airport et al” to bring in millions of more tourists into Goa.

[XVIII] AGRICULTURE

Goa must deliberate if Agriculture needs to be given the ‘Industry Status’

A new policy shall be introduced to encourage the setting-up of large collective co-operative farms by owners of contiguous farming lands/strips to form viable agricultural units. Organic farming shall be encouraged through Government subsidy to convert/recycle bio-degradable wastes. Agricultural low lying fields, specially paddy-fields shall not be allowed to be converted to horticulture or other activities by filling. Mining operations or dumping of mining rejects in agricultural lands shall be stopped altogether. (Example: Satari, Bicholim, Sanguem & Quepem Talukas). The existing ‘Tenancy Act’ (Land to the Tiller Act) shall be reviewed and revitalized and/or modified to encourage agriculture. **An Agriculture College or Institute shall be set-up in Goa.** Grazing tracks shall be defined and maintained and the movement of cattle on trunk roads and highways for grazing and watering shall be prohibited.. The effects of putting fallow agricultural lands under ‘Jathroppa’ cultivation/plantation for the promotion of the manufacture of non polluting bio-diesel in the State shall be actively studied and encouraged if found viable.

Explanation:

It is the belief of this party that from the time that the Tenancy Act came into force, all agricultural lands have been exponentially neglected in the course of the years. Studies conducted and opinions gathered by the party indicate that the bonanza handed out to the “agriculturists”, where-under entire agricultural lands belonging to several owners, many of which, in numerous cases, ended up in the hands of a single

individual who, overnight became one of the bigger land owners, without any obligation or accountability to a higher authority and without having to pay a market price for the land s/he obtained, has been the root cause for the malaise affecting today's "agricultural" scenario. The smaller or the bigger land owners including the Comunidades, individuals, religious institutions played a preponderant role earlier, in ensuring that the person to whom the paddy field was leased would cultivate the same and ensure that the production was sufficient not only to pay the annual lease rent, but also sufficient to keep body and soul of the lease-holder in good cheer. There is nothing in the Tenancy Act, as it stands today, to enforce or even to verify the quantum of production in each paddy field and whether the cultivation being carried out, if at all, matches the potential of the concerned field. In many cases large tenanted lands has been transferred to so called agricultural co-operatives which are, in fact building and/or construction companies or firms in connivance with the Tenant and the Mamlatdar. Such lands have been subsequently sub-divided into plots admeasuring around 1000 square meters where posh bungalows are sought to be built under the guise of "farm houses" (an exception to the building rules but protected under the Tenancy Act which has served well the tenant, the owner and the corrupt Mamlatdar). In other cases paddy-fields known as 'Khazans' are being exploited for their fish potential, by deliberately breaking or breaching the 'bunds' to allow entry of saline water.

In the world of globalization, and GATT, we see a country like China in a position to export to India one of our major food staples namely 'rice' of good quality at a price of approximately Rs. 4 or thereabout per kilo. This is or should be a sign on the wall for the Government of India , more specifically for the Government of Goa (CAG report-'Herald'- 17 Jan, 2005)

We cannot have age-old practices being carried on, the results of which are there for every one to see. Man power in Goa is at a premium [at Rupees 15/- or more per day for a male and Rs. 100/- for a female in comparison to much less in neighbouring Kholapur district in Maharashtra] and yet this labour can be considered cheap in global

*terms, for the young generation does not wish to toil in the fields and even if they were willing to do so, we would still find that China would be able to export its agricultural produce to us at a lower price. **The reason is that today's economics mandates that holdings need to have a minimum acreage in order to be economically viable and scientifically exploited and developed, with multi-cropping practices reintroduced and/or new crops/fruit plants introduced for maximum utilization of land.***

Agriculture cannot anymore be labour intensive, not at least as far as Goa is concerned. It requires mechanization, where one machine shall carry out the task of 80 odd people. This requires size in the holding. We do not propose acquisitions and dispossession but we believe that we require legislation which shall ensure that contiguous tenanted agricultural properties starting with paddy fields as a first step, shall require to be brought under one management in a co-operative manner and where the law provides enough teeth to the Government to bring recalcitrant tenants/ owners or holders of fallow land in line with the scheme. We firmly believe that this is the path to the future and to a vibrant agricultural policy which shall convert the presently useless land into a bread basket for Goa, thus reducing, if not eliminating Goa's near total dependence on imports of many essential agricultural produces from outside the State.

[XIX] GAOKARIES [COMUNIDADES]

The Official authentic translation of the 'Code of Comunidades' which exists in the Portuguese language shall be fully translated into the English language and thereafter in Konkani for wider dissemination. Comunidade organizations shall be revived and revitalized to put them back on track by carrying out necessary amendments to the 'Code' to curb the powers of the Government, and laws whereby these institutions

shall not only have full control over their owned properties that have been encroached upon, or those that have been taken away under the provisions of the Tenancy Act, so that they may be able to perform their obligations and relieve the Government of the financial burden to maintain bunds, gutters and all other functions that at one time the Comunidades used to perform without casting any onus upon the coffers of the Government and to relieve the entire population of Goa from paying in taxes for these past mistakes.

Explanation:

The Code of Comunidades was the creation of the Portuguese regime which served the purpose, ostensibly, of protecting these 'centuries old' pre-Portuguese Institutions by enacting into law, what were hitherto only practices having the force of law which were already in operation in the Comunidades and which governed the relationship between the Comunidade as an Institution on the one side and its components, namely the gaokars [or share holders] on the other, as well as its relationship with the communities residing in the village who were not gaokars/shareholders. With modifications in such laws the Government assumed a paternalistic role as there were accusations of mismanagement and profiteering and various other disputes between the management of these Institutions and its components. This job of oversight by the Government did not come about gratis. The Comunidades were made to pay heavy taxes to the Government in proportion to their incomes in the form of "DERRAMA". These Institutions were essentially agriculture-based. They did, however, hold other land in the village which was also utilized for grants (AFORAMENTOS) for the purposes of erection of residences, institutions, play grounds, or other activities of social importance. From the auction of the fruits of the orchards, and the cultivation of the paddy-fields by temporary lease-holders, the Comunidades would derive their main income. Only a fraction of this income was meant for distribution to the components and the share-holders. The remaining amount was spent on the maintenance of culverts, gutters, repairs of roads, bunds, financial help to the destitute for burial or cremation etc. Non agricultural land or uncultivated land was reserved to cater to the

increase in the population. Each Comunidade had a plan (TOMBO) which indicated such lands meant for residences, with well demarcated plots and access roads, and it was from this reserved land that the grants were to be made for residences. Because of this important role in the village the Comunidades were known as "Village Republics".

From the day that the first Government came to be installed, these institutions became the targets for destruction, first by enacting the Tenancy Act where Comunidades and Religious Institutions (apart from the private landowner) were overnight dispossessed of all agricultural lands and later by programs such as the 20 point program and the regulations mandating grants of land for residences to all Government employees not having their residences in Goa. Obviously, the only people who benefited from these last two programs were the non-goans who were imported in their hundreds by the first elected Government. Subsequently, the remaining land became the target of government acquisitions for industrial estates, acquisitions for the purposes of industries being set up by public limited companies etc., and only a pittance was paid to these Institutions. With all this pillage, and deprivations carried out by the successive Governments against these Institutions in the name of TUTELAGE as well as the greed of some gaokars, it is surprising that these Institutions still survive, though only in a truncated form.

Courage is necessary to recognize that the Tenancy Act has not only not done what it was supposed to do, namely to improve agriculture, but on the contrary, has cast a tremendous financial burden on the Government of Goa. This needs to be rectified. Steps need to be taken in the interest of future prosperity, to not only increase agricultural production in the State but to drastically reduce the expenditures of the Government which has assumed the financial burden to carry-out works and maintenance earlier carried-out by the Comunidade in its own particular village.

[XX] INDUSTRIES

1. Single Window Clearance:

Introduction of a 'Single Window Clearance' system shall be the aim of this Party whereby an entrepreneur shall not be required to run from 'pillar to post' to get the required clearances, including environmental clearances and N.O.Cs from various self-governing bodies and institutions. The entrepreneur shall not be required to meet with the industries minister or the chief minister for setting up of any industry. All departments dealing with the issuance of clearances etc. shall be streamlined to work according to time limits and shall be held accountable for delays. The jurisdiction to sanction industries in Panchayat/Municipal areas shall be clearly defined. Industrial training for manpower/labour requirements prior to the setting up of any industry requiring specialized work-force shall be made mandatory to generate local employment. A local partner shall be required for industries set up by non-Goans. Industries that are welcomed in Goa shall be listed in the 'Department of Industries' brochure along with Government subsidies, if any, and other facilities such as local/central tax holidays etc including a full and complete guidance to the entrepreneur of the procedural requirements of the State Government as well as those of the Central Government, including the entrepreneur's IEM Registration (Industrial Entrepreneur's Memorandum) with the Industries Ministry, New Delhi. The Industry's application folder shall be designed to contain everything in the way of forms to be filled-in, detailing land, financial, power, water and other . requirements even to the extent of declaration of wastes and by-products, effluents generated, their treatment & disposal, so that the entrepreneur as well as the Industries Department is totally and fully guided and informed about the industry. Engagement of a minimum of eighty percent [80%] of the local workforce shall be made mandatory in the interest of generating employment to the locals and maintaining the demographic balance.

2. Public Hearings:

Public debates, seminars and hearings shall be conducted prior to the formation of the 'State Industrial Policy' where general consensus shall be arrived at on what type of industries (small-medium-large) Goa needs to promote to attain maximum benefits to Goa and Goans taking into consideration the environmental impact of such industries and employment benefits to Goans. The consensus arrived at, shall be the White Paper on Goa's Industrial needs. Only those industries which shall contribute to the general industrial health of Goa shall be cleared and listed in the industries promotional brochure for single window clearance and no further public hearings for setting up of the listed industries shall be necessary. However proposals to set up other industries not already listed in the cleared list may be considered based on environmental friendliness and other factors after public hearings in order to take into account people's grievances and reservations, if any.

3. Mining:

It is necessary for the mining industry to co-exist with the environment, to maintain the eco-balance and the health of the local people. A comprehensive "State Policy" on mining shall be introduced to regulate dust, usages & dumping of mining rejects, its erosion during monsoon seasons; washing of mineral ores in water bodies and rivers; curb on noise pollution produced through running of heavy mining machinery specially during late night/early morning hours [refer XIV-7]; silting of rivers and agricultural lands/cultivable fields by mining rejects; evacuation of ground water collected in mining pits [refer] etc. Mining related environmental and research studies shall be encouraged. Impact of mining in general on local people and village life and other relevant issues shall be highlighted through a well documented 'white paper' and/or a Documentary Film. Mining leases shall own the responsibility to improve the socio-economic conditions of the affected local villages through appropriate roll-back of a certain percentage of their profits from mining operations.

4. Bore Wells:

[refer III-6 Water Supply]

5. Industrial Pollution:

[refer XIV-1]

6. Toxic Waste Disposal:

[refer XIV-8]

Note:

We extend our special thanks to Dr. Samir Kelekar who, through his presentation at the GCCI auditorium recently, has opened our eyes to what Goa is missing in the world's most sought after, non-polluting Information Technology [IT] industry. Needless to say, Dr. Samir Kelekar has been a friend of the party, who has recognized its agenda from the party's outlook exposed through the internet, since its formation in 2000. We are assured that Dr. Samir Kelekar will interact with many other affluent Goan 'IT Barons', who are spread out in India and abroad, to chart out a master-plan that will help Goa to become, at least half, if not full, what Karnataka's Bangalore is today to the IT Industry of the world.

[XXI] FISHERIES

The depletion of the marine resources in the most competitive industry such as the fishing industry in the State is one of the main pre-occupations of this party. Hence the party shall take the following corrective steps so that a balance is maintained irrespective of who shall gains and who shall lose.

1. Control on Excessive Fishing & Trawler Density:

Commercial fishing shall be guided by fixed quotas of fish that may be landed per day, per trip etc. A system shall be put in place, if not already existing, where individual fishing vessels shall sell to the co-operative society/s which in turn shall release the fish to fish factories, export and other outlets, **after the predetermined quota for local consumption has been released to the local markets.** The density of trawlers in goan waters shall be determined as per the norms laid by international/national marine agencies in order to reduce the impact of over fishing. This Party believes that it is the moral responsibility of the Central Government to enforce this regulation throughout the country and to set-up a national enforcement agency such as the Coast Guard to monitor the national coastline to counter the threat posed by foreign trawlers fishing in

national territorial waters. If over fishing is not regulated in the near future, a time will come for the Fisheries Department to fix a quota system for each trawler, boat or maybe even an individual, for the amount of fish that may be caught per day etc in order to allow our seas and rivers to re-generate its depleted stock of fish.

2. Fish Net-Mesh Regulation:

The mesh size for fishing nets shall be stipulated for various fishing activities and strictly enforced in order to save juvenile fish from being indiscriminately caught. Fish nets violating this ‘**mesh code**’ shall be confiscated and destroyed as well as the owners heavily fined.

3. Fishing Ban During Fish Breeding Season:

Total ban on fishing during fish-breeding season shall be maintained with the supervisory role vested with the Fisheries Department, which shall liaise with the Coast Guard to enforce the ban. The fishing ban shall be strictly observed which shall be from 10th. June to 15th August for the west coast of India. The Central Government shall be pressurized to impose appropriate fishing ban during this period throughout the eastern and the western coasts of India, taking into consideration that the fish breeding seasons may vary from east to west coast of India.

Note:

PIL filed by Goa Environment Federation [GEF] with the Bombay High Court, Goa Bench, to hold the Goa government as well as the Governments of Maharashtra Karnataka and Kerala to observe the fishing ban from 10 June to 31 August is highly appreciated.

4. Fish Preservation & Storage:

Adequate cold storage facilities shall be made available by the Government and/or the fishing co-operatives mandatorily equipped with appropriate capacity captive power generation plants in case of lengthy power failures with automatic switching-over from external to captive generation of power. Sites shall be identified for drying of fish taking into consideration objections from the general public of certain localities towards fish stink generated by the natural fish drying operations. Due consideration shall be given to set up enclosed and environmentally

friendly fish drying centers where large amounts of unwanted fish may be dried and circulated into the food chain rather than it being dumped into rivers and sea causing environmental pollution.

5. Sale of Fresh Fish:

The Fisheries Department shall decide on the quota of fresh fish that shall be released for distribution to local fish markets before it is supplied/sold to the fish processing/canning factories and chains of hotel and restaurant. This shall be a difficult task but an attempt shall have to be made so that the common man is not deprived of his favourite fish varieties which becomes too expensive to buy and/or the unavailability of these and other seasonal fish varieties in the local fish markets for ordinary consumption.

6. Pollution Of Fish Breeding Grounds:

[refer III-11]

7. Aqua & Pisci Culture:

The breaching of bunds to flood saline waters into khazan lands for pisci-culture shall be severely dealt with and persons involved in such practices shall be prosecuted. Pisci-culture activities shall be encouraged on co-operative basis in the saline water ponds that are vastly available in Goa. However procedures and safety norm shall have to be followed in order to preserve the eco-system of these saline ponds which are the treasures of Goa.

[XXII] NEGLECTED CITIZENS

1. SCs,STs& OBCs:

Right to land of the Gawda, Kunbi, Velip and Dhangar communities shall be defended. Government shall invest heavily to provide infrastructures for their education, cultural and socio-economic up-

bringing so that they are able to compete in the job market or otherwise, with the rest on equal terms. Steps shall be taken to conscientize these communities of their role in the society at large.

2. Ecological Refugees:

Dams such as ‘Anjunem’ ; ‘Selaulim’ in Satari and Sanguem Talukas respectively have displaced large number of people from their settlements due to the submergence of their villages. They have been resettled in hostile locations such as hill-tops and barren places etc, where agriculture is impossible. Appropriate package assistance shall be organized to reach out to these and other ecological refugees of Goa, with special attention given to them in terms of agricultural facilities and the supply of potable water.

3. Freedom Fighters:

A thorough review shall be initiated through a setting up of a committee of veteran freedom fighters of Goa to divest fake entries from the list of freedom fighters. The legitimate freedom fighters should have no objection to such a move which shall go a long way in restoring the much eroded respect for the genuine freedom fighters still living and active as well as saving the exchequer and the tax-payers a lot of financial burden. It is absurd that after 43 years of the so called liberation of GOA, more freedom fighters are being registered into this list. New entries into the list of Goa’s freedom fighters effected during the rule of the RSS-BJP with active collusion of Goa’s then Governor Mr. Kidarnath Sahani shall be reviewed as also those freedom fighters who have been involved in the street and house name plaque vandalism of Mala-Fontainhas, Panjim shall be brought to account.

4. Senior Citizens & Students:

Guidelines for giving special and preferential services to senior citizens and students shall be introduced. Students must be aware of what they are missing by way of improved public services and facilities rather than be passive with what they have or get. The once flawless system of PROVEDORIA (Institute of Public Assistance) shall be re-vitalized to

give better attention to our old and feeble which is the duty and social responsibility of any well governed State or Country. Students and senior citizens shall get concessional rates with respect to public transport services and other public services that shall be determined through a Government- senior citizen–student dialogue/interaction.

5. Sports & Other Personalities of Yester-Years:

There are many persons who have been shining during their heydays and who have represented the State in major sporting events but who have fallen from grace and are living hand to mouth or even begging on the streets, worn-out and afflicted with diseases. The State shall take care of these persons on humanitarian grounds and give back to them their self-respect.

[XXIII] ESSENTIAL NEW FACILITIES

1. Public Crematoria:

‘No Religion Bar’ crematoria/burial grounds shall be built for towns and cities where bodies of unclaimed and/or unknown persons shall be disposed off without creating community tensions and bad-blood. These crematoria/burial grounds shall be utilized by anyone wishing to do so.

2. Public Auditoriums:

Public auditoriums shall be built through Government sponsorship for the conduct of cultural, social and entertainment activities in each of the eleven Talukas of Goa and/or as deemed necessary, duly taking note of the existing facilities. These shall be built/refurbished to render them thoroughly sound-proofed and environmentally friendly, causing no noise pollution and where functions may be held at any hour of the day or night without being the cause of disturbance to the neighbourhood. Existing facilities shall be upgraded.

3. Museums:

Each taluka shall be encouraged to set-up a museum to preserve/store the collector’s items indigenous to the land depicting the life style of the

past, ancestors, in years gone by before these items fade into obscurity and are lost forever. These museums can be the revenue earners and/or places where tourists from other parts of the State, Country or foreign tourists can patronize and enrich their understanding of Goa of the past.

4. Archives -Document Preservation & Restoration:

Micro-filming of documents which are with the archives department shall be completed on priority basis. Priceless documents which are neglected but still intact with various Comunidades shall be preserved and duly micro-filmed. Those documents which are salvageable shall be restored and preserved. It is a pity to see vital documents belonging to the Comunidades which have been painstakingly preserved for hundreds of years have been allowed to rot in decaying conditions in Comunidade buildings and godowns.

5. Sports/Athletic Stadia:

There is the need to tremendously increase the sporting activities of the Goan youth which are presently confined to mainly soccer and a few other games like cricket and hockey. Athletic stadia at each taluka level is a must to inculcate the sporting interest of the youth who are straying into undesirable activities for the lack of the same. The State shall do better to galvanize the youth into productive activities for their human development so that they may not fall prey to adverse anti-social and drug related influences which are seen prevalent in modern times. Besides, Goa has the right sporting mix to excel in any games prevalent the world over excepting those games relating to snow and ice.

6. Public Exhibition Grounds:

There is a need for planning of exhibition grounds (North-Central-South) with ample parking spaces, sanitation, restaurants, fast food corners, children's parks, entertainment such as movie theatres, fire-works shows/display grounds, etc. including shopping malls and venues for

visiting fairs, all in one place where people of Goa can look forward to spending their free time productively and satisfactorily.

7. Satelite Townships:

Setting up of satellite town-ships are vital with shopping malls and other facilities in off city limits to decongest cities such as Vasco Margao, Ponda, Panjim and Mapusa.

8. Multi-storied Parking:

It is a commonly seen fact that parking in major cities of Goa has become a mind boggling concern. With thousands of vehicles entering the roads every month, the parking scenario is going to get out of hand in the very near future. City father shall need to think in terms of multi-storied parking facilities where people may enjoy the unclogged city streets as well as be without the pre-occupation as to where to park while visiting the city for shopping and for other purposes. This is a non-priority requirement and shall be considered only after exhaustive re-planning and re-organizing of the existing parking facilities is undertaken. The best way to de-congest the Goa's main arterial roads is to have an impeccable public transport system for which this party has given due consideration.

9. Industrial Estates:

The existing Industrial Estates shall be evaluated for operational occupancy and those unit that are sick and/or under utilized shall be either wound up or revived with special financial restructuring packages through the EDC etc. The setting up of new facilities shall be kept in abeyance until such time as a certain percentage of existing Industrial Estates are certified as fully functional.

10. Special Economic Zone: [SEZ]

The setting up of the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Goa is sought to be bull-dozed by the present Government and the Goa Chamber of Commerce and Industry [GCCCI]. No doubt, this is an important facility that can see the absorption of a lot of skills and talent in Goa. However,

this party has severe reservations on this account which are also the reservations of many a thinking and concerned Goan. We shall list these reservations as under:-

- SEZ must be profitable to Goa. In the past, ventures have been set-up to deplete Goa's resources and have vanished in thin air leaving bad taste in our mouths.
- Government must decide the type of units that shall be allowed to be set-up and by whom.
- Employment scope for sons of the soil.
- Viability of the SEZ for being a "Country within a Country" with respect to State and Central laws, rules and regulations.
- Land requirement and the necessary infrastructure development within the SEZ.
- If the SEZ status, once set-up, shall be permanent or semi-permanent. If it is the latter, Goa could be used by multinationals to make hey while the sun shines and left holding the baby when they decide to shift their operations, and,
- We do not see any time limits for the approver to accept or reject applications.

This Party has taken care to study the SEZ Bill and has noted with alarm that there is no provision made anywhere at all for time-limits for the Approval Committee to accept or to reject proposals from entrepreneurs. The apprehension of this Party is that since most of the appointments on this Approval Committee shall be made by the Central Government, there could be a devastating effect if this Committee is not bound by time-limits. Prospective entrepreneurs could be made to run from pillar to post until certain palms are greased. In this case, the fears of this Party is that genuine non-resident Goans [NRGs] and local entrepreneurs shall be the ones who will lose out.

The Goa Government is cautioned not to rush haphazardly into setting-up of the SEZs in Goa before the apprehensions in the minds of the people of Goa are dispersed and before putting down the Government policy on inviting the types of industries that shall absorb the unemployed of Goa. Besides, the Goa Government must actively pursue

the idea of contacting NRIs and NRGs individually and convince them that investing in Goa is in their own interest. If this is not done, this party will not support this scheme as it will be destructive to Goa's interests.

11. Radio-TV Studios & Broadcasting Stations:

It is high time that Goa has its own independent State TV, RADIO and FM broadcasting stations. To facilitate the making of quality TV serials, especially in Konkani, this party's Government shall introduce a policy through which these shall be promoted and assisted to the fullest extent to germinate and to nurture talents for Goa's cultural and entertainment excellence. Though Goa's tiatrs are indispensable, a look must be given to improve the TV viewing capacity with the delivery of par excellence TV serials in Konkani on the line of the TV serials in Hindi and other languages. At no point dubbing of other language TV serials in Konkani must be entertained as this shall keep the Goan cultural and entertainment society in perpetual state of stagnation.

Our Dream

Those amongst us who deprecate our “**identity**” or question whether it exists, shall have only to ask the tourist, both Indian and foreign, whether s/he finds any difference amongst Goans, from the other people in India and the answer will be a resounding “YES” What distinguishes us Goans is not only our way of life but also our attitudes, prejudices (unfortunately), our tastes, cuisine, our songs, the tiatro , natok, deknimando, fugdi, dhalo, zagor perni, ghode-modim etc., and above all our language, dress and manners. Along with our culture our traditional excellence has been losing ground. As a result there has been a complete disruption of our social fabric with cascading effects on various factors of our economy. Our artisans with their traditional occupations has been disrupted and if a serious thought is not given to these traditional occupations, they shall be lost forever and the ranks of the unemployed shall swell. Oxford Dictionary defines ‘ethos’ as “characteristic spirit of community, people or system”. It is this commonality of thought expression and culture that defines a Goan and it is this that is under threat in Goa. Increasingly, emigration of Goans is taking its toll upon the demographic profile of Goa, though a certain balance in terms of absolute numbers has been maintained, mainly due to the fact that Goans, bred and brought-up in the rest of the country have returned to their ancestral land. However, in terms of total percentage, the Goans in general are in peril of becoming a minority in their own land if this trend of emigration is not arrested and the in-migration of people of non-goan origin is not reduced to manageable levels. This in-migration, which started from the 70’s due to some of the short-sighted policies of the very first Government of Goa after the so called liberation, more so of the first chief minister, in relying upon massive import of Marathi teachers, surveyors, Bhats [Hindu Priests] and other people from across the border was the foundation upon which the edifice of preparing Goa for the merger into Maharashtra had begun to take shape. Preference was given to outsiders at all levels, including drivers of government vehicles. The existing functionaries of Goan origin were ignored and bypassed in

promotions. Due to the Tenancy Act, many Mamlatdars were “imported” once again from other States of the Country to implement this law, which has in the greatest measure possible, dispossessed the landowner and enriched the so-called tenant, without any limits being imposed on holdings to prevent one individual from possessing land which earlier belonged to several families of landowners. Such laws and the ‘Mundkar Act’, have directly contributed towards a break-down in the confidence of the land-owning class, which directly resulted in the sale of land to the highest bidder. Vast tracks of property were sold, specially in Salcete, by landowners for hotel construction, to conglomerates from the rest of India and abroad at throw-away prices and the direct reason for this was that the land owners felt unprotected by the existing laws and by the then government machinery which was totally tilted towards the tenant and the mundkar....the vote getters for the Government. With the sale of land, migration followed. Entire families are now in the process of abandoning properties and houses in favour of emigrating to Canada, Australia or New Zealand the new Meccas for the Goan. The reason for this trend is a mixed bag of fears and aspirations --- fears of the communal forces, fears for the future of their children’s well being which is connected to perceived lack of educational avenues and lucrative or secure employment, the wish of the Goan to live in a “highly developed” country where apparently wages are “higher”, though this may not necessarily translate into a higher standard of living or a better quality of life, aspirations to be in a country “perceived” to put merit before favouritism, where religion shall not matter but only one’s ability and willingness to work hard are a criteria. This “perception” of the Goan is, many a times, dashed against the realities encountered later in their adopted country. But shame stops them from returning to their land.

This Party intends putting in motion programs which shall strive to put a stop to all this and to raise the morale of the Goan in general, to raise the stature of Goa in the eyes of the Goan. This Party’s “Road Map for Goa” is directed towards achieving this aim. For Goa without Goans will have lost one of its most characteristic assets and cease to be the same. It will then turn into something which nobody would recognize. In-migration has to be reduced to manageable levels in order to prevent dilution of the

demographic profile that gives Goa its special colour. Programs such as the 20-point program and preference to government employees not possessing land in Goa for allotment of land which has contributed towards non-Goans being favoured by giving land at dirt-cheap prices at the cost of many a Goan shall stop. Entry of non-goan labour force shall be regulated through laws strictly enforcedbut these laws shall not be directed against the migrant labour force but shall, on the contrary, seek to put a greater responsibility and onus on the contractor to treat this labour with dignity through proper living conditions and decent and hygienic accommodation and who shall be responsible for taking the labour back to the state/place of their origin instead of leaving them to their fate in Goa....later to occupy vacant land and demand relocation and rehabilitation by the Government of Goa, as is taking place in the present day. And above all, it is not right that the migrant labour be allowed, to a greater extent, to decide the political fate of this State and its stake holders.

We want every Goan to feel that this blessed Goa is his/hers and that his/her interests shall not only be safe-guarded and protected but that his/her voice will be heard without having to resort to violence, or through frustration, to emigrate. Through other programs that shall be encouraged by this party, individuals or companies shall be formed to look after and conserve, through commercially oriented ventures, properties and houses of emigrants and absentee landowners. We want a Goa where the emigrants shall feel like coming back-to.

THIS IS OUR DREAM WHICH WE HOPE TO TRANSLATE INTO REALITY
FOR WE ARE

PROUD TO BE GOANS

Our Appeal

Dear Fellow Goans,

We have dared to put in writing our aspirations for Goa... call it dreams ... despite the fact that cynics and detractors would try to ridicule us by calling us dreamers...i.e. people who do not have their feet on the ground. Yes – we are dreamers. We are the sons and the daughters of the soil and we have the right to dream and we have the right to expect what shall be rightfully ours. And we know that we can translate these dreams into reality if given the chance. You, fellow Goans, have the key in your hands to decide the fate of your Goa.

Glancing through the above, you may feel that the document borders on 'idealism', the dreamer's utopia, rather than 'pragmatism'. We do concede that while this may be true, Goa needs more idealistic vision, after the vacuum that has existed in the past 43 years [presently 53] of so called democratic rule in so called Liberated Goa. All possible thoughts have been put into this document in the hope that if Goa cannot achieve one hundred per cent of what is intended, it can surely come to the half-way mark and still benefit immensely from the efforts. This is in keeping with the desire of this party to do justice, where justice is needed to be done and which is perhaps long overdue, to take Goa ahead on a satisfying progressive track.

The political game that is in play today, has come round in a full circle from early post liberation politics of suspicions of one class over the other, in the issues of merger, Language and Statehood. This long and formative rule has not given Goa what it should have by way of governance.

During the past 43 [now 53] years of so called democratic rule in Goa, each era has been found wanting in following policies of governance

that would seek development of the people of Goa, economically, culturally and socially, through a well planned and written-down programme, which would serve as the road map for Goa's long-term development. The short-term, short-sighted and forked vision that has been followed, has only brought in petty, insignificant, non-prioritized achievements that has helped, and is presently helping, the ruling bosses to consolidate their positions and to prolong their days in power. Therefore, if we Goans are to come of age, we must give wide berth to political dispensations which tend to be dictatorial, self-centric and short-sighted in their approach, which are seen to discard with contempt, views, suggestions and recommendations by parties in the opposition as well as by citizens of integrity, expertise and acknowledged experience.[in the present case, MOPA AIRPORT]. After all, in a democracy, the government of the day is the government that represents one and all, whether we have voted in its favour or against it. Governments must 'govern' and not 'discriminate'.

*In these trying times, there is the utmost need for us to see ourselves **NOT as Hindus, Muslims, Christians and others but as serious and concerned 'GOANS' who love Goa.** The persons connected with this political movement may be its originators, but the people of Goa at large are, and will be, its inheritors. A few decades from now, let us not leave space for ourselves and for our posterity to say “**We should have done better**”*

Indian polity is fast sinking in its ideals which prompted our elders to even sacrifice their lives so that we may excel through our freedom to think and to decide. With more and more tainted persons and crime lords gaining foot-hold in electoral politics, it leaves much to be desired [this trend is presently visible in the choice of a cabinet minister of Goa, who has replaced the last Chief Minister, gone on to occupy the august seat in the Union Ministry].

*In keeping with the good old adage “**Evil prospers where good men fail to object**”, GSRP makes a fervent and humble appeal to conscientious and righteous minded citizens of Goa ‘**to stand up and be counted**’ in*

order that the rule of law, justice and peace may prevail and prosper over lawlessness, disorder and mayhem, for the benefit and the continued security and well being of us all. And last but not the least, let us be proud to be Goans.

Goa Su-Raj Party

What People Say

Tony Martin:

[Author of the book “Naked Goa” has this to say in one of his outspoken chapters in the book]

“In normal times, the problems of the common man owing to inefficient administration and faulty system are far too many to keep a count. The least the government could do towards creating a system is to form a tough and impartial multi-member commission with due powers on the lines of the consumer redressal forum to police the administrative system at all levels. Any genuine complaint against any government official or department should be referred to this commission. The irrelevant and indolent babus should be taken to task with as much guarantee of productivity from them as their month-end pay packet. Otherwise things can only get from bad to worse.”

Felix D’Cunha:

[A retired Marine Chief Engineer]

“We hang petty thieves and appoint the greater ones to ‘PUBLIC OFFICE’.

“I went to a good school where some of our foremost politician learnt their three R’s. ‘This is Our’s, That is Our’s, Everything is Our’s.”

Irineu Gonsalves:

[Popular Sports columnist]

“FIFTY-SEVEN YEARS AGO, India became an Independent, democratic and sovereign country after long colonial rule of 200 years. The problems began a few years later. The dedicated and committed leaders of that era were replaced by power hungry and selfish politicians. Today, there is a complete divorce between politics and ethics. Not even one-fifth of the money allocated to a public project reaches the target.

*Communalism, casteism and parochialism have gained more and more ground. The grip of red-tape'ism is so firm that a common man finds it very difficult to venture into any enterprise without greasing the palms of the persons at the helm. Bureaucratic regulations consume a lot of energy, time and money. With our abundant resources and our great human potential, we should have been leading the exports market but that is not to be. Hong Kong has less than 1 per cent of India's population and its land area is just 0.03 per cent of India's. Yet it enjoys almost two times the trade of India. We have more religious mores than any other country but what we practice is hatred. **The worst tragedy is that men of character and integrity are not found in politics any longer**".*

Averthanus D'Souza:

[A Management Consultant]

Quotes Thomas Friedman of The New York Times.

"When we were young kids growing up in America, we were told to eat our vegetables at dinner and not leave them. Mothers said, 'think of the starving children in India and finish the dinner.'

And now, I tell my children: 'Finish your maths homework. Think of the children in India who would make you starve, if you don't.'"

Gabriel (Gabe) Menezes [London]

'A must read letter by: Suketu Mehta' - [forwarded via e-mail]

ACCORDING to a confidential memorandum, I.B.M. is cutting 13,000 jobs in the United States and In Europe and creating 14,000 jobs in India. From 2000 to 2015, an estimated three million American jobs will have been outsourced; one in 10 technology jobs will leave these shores by the end of this year. Stories like these have aroused a primal fear in the Western public: that they might soon need to line up outside the Indian Embassy for work visas and their children will have to learn Hindi.

Just as my parents had to line up outside the American consulate in Bombay, and my sisters and I had to learn English. My father came to America in 1977 not for its political freedoms or its way of life, but for the hope of a better economic future for his children. My grandfathers on both sides left rural Gujarat in northwestern India to find work: one to Calcutta, which was even more remote in those days than New York is from Bombay now; and the other to Nairobi. Mobility, we have always known, is survival. Now I face the possibility that my children, when they grow up, will find their jobs outsourced to the very country their grandfather left to pursue economic opportunity.

The outsourcing debate seems to have mutated into a contest between the country of my birth and the country of my nationality. Of course I feel a loyalty to America: it gave my parents a new life and my sons were born here. I have a vested interest in seeing America prosper. But I am here because the country of my ancestors didn't understand the changing world; it couldn't change its technology and its philosophy and its notions of social mobility fast enough to fight off the European colonists, who won not so much with the might of advanced weaponry as with the clear logical philosophy of the Enlightenment. Their systems of thinking conquered our own. So, since independence, Indians have had to learn; we have had to slog for long hours in the classroom while the children of other countries went out to play.

When I moved to Queens, in New York City, at the age of 14, I found myself, for the first time in my life, considered good at math . In Bombay, math was my worst subject, and I regularly found my place near the bottom of the class rankings in that rigorous subject. But in my American school, so low were their standards that I was – to my parents' disbelief- near to top of the class. It was the same in English and, unexpectedly, in American history, for my school in Bombay included a detailed study of the American Revolution. My American school curriculum had, of course, almost nothing on the subcontinent's freedom struggle. I was mercilessly bullied during the 1979-80 hostage crisis, because my classmates couldn't tell the difference between Iran and India. If I were now to move with my family to India, my children – who

go to one of the best private schools in New York – would have to take remedial math and science courses to get into a good school in Bombay.

Of course , India is no wonderland. It might soon have the world's biggest middle class, but it also has the world's largest underclass. A quarter of its one billion people live below the poverty line, 40 percent are illiterate, and the child malnutrition rate exceeds that of sub-Saharan Africa. There is a huge difference between the backwater state of Bihar and the boomtown of Bangalore. Those Indians who went to the United States, though, have done remarkably well. Indians make up one of the richest ethnic groups on this country. During the technology boom of the late 1990's, Indians were responsible for 10 per cent of all the start-ups in Silicon Valley. And in this year's national spelling bee, the top four contestants were of South Asian origin.

There is a perverse hypocrisy about the whole jobs debate, especially in Europe. The colonial powers invaded countries like India and China, pillaged them of their treasures and commodities and made sure their industries weren't allowed to develop, so they would stay impoverished and unable to compete. Then the imperialists complained when the destitute people of the former colonies came to their shores to clean their toilets and dig their sewers; they complained when later generations came to earn high wages as doctors and engineers; and now they are complaining when their jobs are being lost to children of the empire who are working harder than they are. My grandfather was once confronted by an elderly Englishman in a London park who asked, "Why are you here?" My grandfather responded, "We are here because you were there"

The rich countries can't have it both ways. They can't provide huge subsidies for their agricultural conglomerates and complain when Indians who can't make a living on their farms then go to the cities and study computers and take away their jobs. Why are Indians willing to write code for a tenth of what Americans make for the same work? It's not by choice; it's because they're still struggling to stand on their feet after 200 years of colonial rule. The day will soon come when Indian companies

will find that it is cheaper to hire computer programmers in Sri Lanka, and then it is there that the Indian jobs will go.

Of course, it is heart-wrenching to see American programmers – many of whom are of Indian origin- lose their jobs and have to worry about how they will pay the mortgage. But they are ill served by politicians who promise to bring their jobs back by the facile tactic of banning them from leaving. This strategy will ensure only that our schools stay terrible; it will be an entire country run like the dairy industry, feasible only because of price controls and subsidies.

But we have a resource of incalculable worth right here to help us compete: the immigrants who have been given a new life in America. There are many more Indians in the United States than there are Americans in India. Indian-Americans will help America understand India, trade with it to our mutual benefit. Just as Arab-Americans can help us fight Al Qaeda, Indian-Americans can help us deal with the emerging economic superpower that is India. This is the return of the gift of citizenship.

And just in case: I am making sure my children learn HINDI.

Note: Suketu Mehta is the author of “MAXIMUM CITY: BOMBAY LOST AND FOUND”

****GOEM AMCHEM – GOEM AMCHEM****

'Theme Song'

Of

Goa Su-Raj Party

Lyrics by: Dr. N.s. Dumo

Music composed by: Rev Fr. Peter Cardozo, Director of Music-Pilar-Goa.

Sung by: Kiran Kerkar

Recorded at Pilar-Goa

[Widely played-back during Goa Assembly Elections 2002]

GOA SU-RAJ PARTY
BY - LAWS
[Approved by the Party Supreme Executive]

1. The President of the CWC [Constituency Working Committee] shall be the natural choice for the candidate for the Constituency under the normal circumstances.
2. The Secretary of the CWC shall be the 'Substitute' Candidate.
3. The Party Supreme Executive has the powers to decide whether the CWC President or any Party Executive member shall be given the ticket. In case the Party Supreme Executive decides in favor of a Party Executive as the Party's candidate for a particular constituency, this decision shall be binding on the CWC.
4. The funding of the CWCs shall be on the basis of 70% roll-back from any and all funds collected within the Constituency. CWCs are allowed to spend their funds in any way manner they like and as per the minuted records of the CWC meetings. However, such funds are prohibited to be used on any/all religious activities or for any religious purposes.
5. There shall be no CHIEF MINISTERIAL CANDIDATE
6. It is mandatory for the Party Candidate/s for any/all Constituency/s to file a notarized affidavit with the Party towards the acceptance of the Party Ticket under stipulated terms and conditions so that there is no misunderstanding in the future on how the Party intends to proceed

with the governance of the state.

7. The procedures followed at the post election Party Convention to choose the Cabinet and distribute portfolios shall be binding on all at all times. However, if after the Party Convention, and in the qualified opinion of the Party's Supreme Executive, the CM elect is not the right person to take over as the Party's first CM but feels that any non-elected Supreme Executive Member should take over as the CM to lead the Party's Government in the right direction as envisaged by the founders of the Party, the choice of the Party's Supreme Executive shall be made known at the convention and this choice shall be binding on all. Such position shall be temporary for a period of 6 months only, as permitted under the Representation of People's Act, 1951, and the said 'acting' CM shall vacate the position in favour of the CM elect who shall take over as the legitimate CM for the rest of the term.. Should such eventuality arise, the Cabinet shall be a 6 members instead of the stipulated 5 and the acting CM shall hold the portfolios of Finance and Home with the rest of the portfolio's in the CM's chart handled by the CM elect.
8. The Party's Cabinet shall take the Oath of Office COLLECTIVELY and in KONKANI.
9. The First Cabinet meeting shall take place with all Heads of Departments present as well as the heads of Secretarial staff. This meeting shall be considered as the introductory meeting to lay the foundation for the future coordinated working between the Departments and the Cabinet.
10. Cabinet members shall meet on every day basis to give credence to the co-ordinated working of all ministries. These Cabinet meetings shall be considered as working Cabinet meetings wherein any/all decisions taken in these meetings shall have official Cabinet approvals.

11. It shall be proper and mandatory for any Cabinet member to question, make a suggestion or request information, from any other colleague minister/s regarding the working of their respective portfolio departments. This shall, in no way be considered as an offence or prejudicial or interference in the working of the individual cabinet minister's department/s.
12. The cabinet members shall not be entitled to personal security. Security threats if arises, the coverage of security to individual cabinet members, including the CM shall be evaluated as per the actual threat perception and taken care of, accordingly.
13. V.I.P and V.V.I.P. culture shall be terminated and no Government Minister, including CM and/or any high ranking Government official/s shall be authorized to use RED BEACONS on the Government/private vehicles. However, the existing protocol for national/ foreign leaders/dignitaries shall be observed when on Official State visits.
14. MLAs shall not get the 'SECOND TERM' to give credence of the Party's slogan. 'NO SECOND TERM'. However, the party allows MLAs to hold second terms provided that the respective CWCs [CONSTITUENCY WORKING COMMITTEES] are agreeable. The Party does not allow consecutive THIRD TERM for its MLAs.
15. As far as possible, No ex-MLAs shall be admitted into the Party to maintain the Party's founding un-written commitment.
16. The Party's Government shall respect all religions on equal basis but shall be NON-RELIGIOUS with its outlook to maintain Secular Neutrality. No government grants or facilities shall be given to any

religious institution/s or to any of its followers under any circumstances. Grants/facilities shall be available for pan-religious communities as these shall be extended to all citizens irrespective of their religious affiliations. Religion shall be kept out of government recruitment processes and shall be on merits only. Public funds shall not be used on religions or to sponsor religious activities. However, age old customary practices shall be respected.

17. The Party shall remain adamantly against any/all reservations but shall give first preference to the members of the weaker sections, and for women, but on merit lists only with no exception whatsoever.
18. The Party's Government shall not deviate from the Party's ROAD MAP FOR GOA, but shall treat it as its GEETA, BIBLE & QORAN. The Party's Government shall not execute any policies unless and until these are whetted by the Party's Supreme Executive.
19. The Party's Government shall be engaged in BELT-TIGHTENING EXERCISES and shall put maximum emphasis on repayment of the Public Debts through spending Tax-payer's money prudently to remain within its means, so that this over-burdening yolk of Public Debts is ultimately lifted from the shoulders of the posterity. Cabinet Ministers and MLAs shall be prohibited to go on national/foreign jaunts/study tours.
20. The Party shall maintain its middle position between the electorate on the one side and its government on the other side to shield both from engaging with one another. The Government shall deliver the promises to the electorate as given by the Party in its Election Manifesto i.e. the ROAD MAP FOR GOA. The electorate shall not be directing its frustrations towards the government but to the Party

which in turn shall be obligated to direct its government to implement what has been promised in the manifesto. The status quo of the electorate talking to the Party and vice versa as was the case before elections shall be maintained at all times after elections.

END

A GLANCE AT THE REFORMIST GREEN PARTY OF GOA

THE GOA SU-RAJ PARTY

About the Party:

The year was 1999-2000. This Party was formed as a result of eleven brain-storming sessions held where a cross-section Goa's civil society, which included individuals who expressed their views through letters to editors, editorial articles, writers, social activists, industrialists, lawyers and others were invited to take part in these deliberations. The first session was held at the International Center, Dona Paula, with the exercise continuing at Caritas, Panjim. The attendance started with approx. 45 and ended with 16 signing on the dotted line to become the Founding Members of the Party. Since then, the Party hasn't looked back and it prides itself as the singular most authentic political party of Goa which can deliver 'clean, people-friendly governance' without much ado. And there is a reason 'why' it is bound to succeed. It is because it shall start with freshers who do not carry previous baggage..

Registration : The Party is registered with the Election Commission of India w.e.f. 31/08/2000.

This was achieved without any of its promoters needing to visit the office of the Chief Election Commissioner, at Nirvachan Sadan, New Delhi.

Constitution : The Party's Constitutional pros and cons have been debated thread-bare during the formative deliberations before their inclusion as 'Articles' meaning to solve all governing ills of the State which have taken it backwards, to give it the positive direction for its up-gradation. These provisions are packed to the hilt with the necessary ingredient of self-sacrifice which may be detected from the following

sensitive Articles in its body indicating that the Party really means business:-

Art. 34 – This Party can have not more than a ‘**Five Member Cabinet**’.

Art. 37- Dual posts in the Party Organization are not permitted. (Ex: Its elected members cannot hold Party posts).

Art. 38 – Its Elected Members cannot hold posts of Chairpersons or Directors of Government owned Corporations and Institutions.

Art. 40 –Its elected members can be ‘Re-called’ for dereliction of their duties as ‘legislators’.

Art.41 – Amendments to the above Articles and a few others are sealed from any future amendments during the life of this Party through this Article, the logic behind being that these Articles if amended will dilute the original principles on which it is built. If at all, at the later stage, when Goa is solidly moving on the track of Effective Good Governance with GSRP having delivered the goods, the necessary amendment may be made through changing the name of the Party but not under GOA SU-RAJ.

Grass-Roots Organization : Consists of Constituency-wise Constituency Working Committees [CWCs]. Every village of a Constituency shall be represented in the CWC thro’ a Village Representative [VR] appointed by the Party Executive from the list of life members of that village. The respective CWC will be headed by a ‘President’ and a ‘Secretary’ elected by the VRs from amongst themselves. Ward Representatives [WRs] shall be appointed by the respective VRs to complete the grass-roots organization of the constituency. VRs shall be integral part of the General Body of the Party with full voting rights. WRs are not part of the Party’s General Body and do not enjoy voting rights.

Grass-Roots Funding : Funding of grass-roots organizational programmes within the respective constituency is through funds collected within the constituency, seventy per cent [70%] of which funds being rolled-back to the respective CWC. There are no restrictions for the use of these funds except that these are not to be utilized for any 'religious' purposes. The respective CWCs must manage the election campaigns, including the payment of the candidate's deposit with the 'Returning Officer/s' from this funds. Collection of funds shall be thro' memberships, donations and thro' various fund-raising activities ad schemes. Funds thus expended must be accounted for on 'project-wise' basis with the Party's accounts cell.

Election Tickets : **Unless otherwise decided by the Supreme Executive of the Party in isolated cases**, the Presidents of the respective CWCs shall be the natural choices for the candidacy. Candidates are required to furnished notarized affidavits to the Party before the issuance of the Party Tickets. One point in the affidavit is that the candidate, if elected, shall not seek the ticket for a 2nd. Term. Second term shall be allowed provided that the incumbent President of the respective CWC agrees and/or has no objections.

Post Election Procedures leading to the formation of the Government :

[In case the Party wins 21 seats in the Legislative Assembly Election]

Party Convention:

Selection of the CM, the Cabinet & distribution of portfolios shall take place at the Party's post Election Convention,.[The procedure to be followed at this Party Convention has been show-cased post Elections 2002 at the T.B. Cunha Hall, Panjim when the Party had 8 candidates contesting i.e. 4 in North and 4 in South]. The decisions taken at the 'PARTY CONVENTION' shall be final and honoured by all at all times in a pure democratic spirit, which decision/s are within the ambit of the Party's Constitution and the approved by-Laws.

The Party shall hold its post-election ‘ Party Convention most immediately after the declaration of election results. This convention shall seek to execute the following:-

1. To elect the leader of Party Legislature Wing = CM + the Cabinet
2. Distribute all Portfolios.

The Electoral College:

1. Supreme Executive of the Party: [40 members max].
2. CWC Representatives: 2 each, making a total of $40 \times 2 = 80$ members.
3. Erudite citizens having no party affiliations with any political party: 10 members.
A total – Not exceeding 130 members

Note:

MLAs elect shall not be included in the Electoral College. Press shall be invited to cover the convention. A member of the Electoral College shall be appointed as the ‘chairperson’ for the Convention through voice vote. Sitting arrangement for the Electoral College; the MLAs elect and the Press shall be separate. Portfolios shall be grouped in a balanced manner into five ‘charts’, ready for distribution. [The procedure to be followed at this Party Convention has been show-cased post Elections 2002 at the T.B. Cunha Hall, Panjim when the Party had 8 candidates contesting i.e. 4 in North and 4 in South. The decisions taken at the ‘ PARTY CONVENTION’ shall be final and honoured by all at all times in a pure democratic spirit.]

Conduct of Convention :

1. Chairperson shall call for nominations from MLAs elect for the post of CM/Leader of the Legislature Party. Nominations must be proposed and seconded by any two members of the electoral college.

2. First round: The chairperson calls on each of the nominees to address the electoral college within a stipulated time frame. The topic being 'WHY YOU SHOULD VOTE FOR ME'.
3. 'FIRST BALLOT' shall record nine (9) names out of the list of eligible nominees.
4. 'SECOND BALLOT' shall record five (5) out of nine names after each of the 9 answer a question drawn from a box at random which questions have been posed by the e-college members.
5. The top scoring 5 names is the CABINET.
6. The Points scored by each of the five in both ballot shall be aggregated against each respective name. The person having the highest count shall be the CM elect. The others, the cabinet members.
7. The chairperson shall relinquish the chair to the CM elect after handing-over the CM's portfolio chart which has Finance & Home.
8. The CM elect shall invite each of his cabinet colleagues in the scoring order of points to select the portfolio charts from among the 4 remaining.
9. The Party President shall announce the next move of the newly elected cabinet and bring the convention to a close by proposing a 'vote of thanks'.

Position of the Party w.r.t. its Government :

The Party shall occupy the middle position between its government on the one side and the people [electorate] on the other side so as to shield both, the government as well as the people from one another.

The First Cabinet meeting shall take place the following day of the Cabinet Oath taking Ceremony. All the heads of the various government departments shall be invited for this introductory cabinet meeting. From thereon, the cabinet shall meet on each working day from Monday through Friday at the pre-appointed hour for the purpose of establishing

co-ordination in the working between the various ministries to bring maximum benefits to the people and to the governance at large.

The cabinet shall see to it that each and every policy decision of the PARTY, which essentially shall be the government's decision, is implemented faithfully and effectively through maximum co-ordination between the cabinet ministers/MLAs, the government departments and the end-users. The Government policies shall be those that are declared in the Party's manifesto aka the Party's 'Road Map for Goa'. Any new policy decision to be undertaken shall be decided by the Party and not by the Party's Government. In short the Government shall concern itself with the full implementation of the policies already approved and included in the ROAD MAP to be executed. The Party shall decide on the formulation of new policies with the participation of the people of Goa through debates, hearings and discussions.

The prime concern of the government of this Party shall be to bring visible results in the governance within a short period of time. Maximum efforts shall be made to maintain and improve the existing infrastructures and working conditions within the governmental departments with inter-related co-ordination. Each governmental department shall have a Public Relations Officer on duty at all times.

Establishing newer long-term infrastructures shall be taken-up with people's participation in decision making process only after the existing ones are executed to the total satisfaction of the people at large.

Priority shall be given to maintain GOAN IDENTITY and to favorably accept participation of erudite and professional minded Goans into the everyday running of the government departments such as the education, police/ law and order, health and recreational facilities, environmental and ecological supervision, agriculture and maintenance of our assets such as rivers, bunds, sluice gates, mangroves, salt-pans and low lying areas, our public transport, market sanitation and hygiene, to promote alternative electrical power supply through wind, water and solar energy

to supplement the fossil fuel generated electrical power, efficient water supply and water harvesting systems.

This party believes that 73rd. and 74th. Constitutional amendments must be implemented in toto. But not before the Pachayat Raj Act, 1964, and the Municipalities Act have been suitably amended to effectively close and/or block all loop-holes therein which has helped the corrupters of governance to take maximum advantage for self aggrandizement.

Finally, the Party looks for the clean hearted and clear minded Goans to come forward to join the rank and file of this forward-thinking Party of Goa to take its programmes far and wide throughout the length and breadth of Goa so that its people get to know what is in store for them through genuine fool-proof self-governance and empowerment.

The End

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For almost the last five years this paper/document which we have called the “Road Map For Goa” has been in preparation. The initial document that we started on has subsequently taken a totally different shape through the inputs and information received from our friends and well wishers. There has been such a huge vacuum for good governance in Goa that it would be difficult for us to limit this document to the present size if we were to include all the inputs and information we received. As far as possible we have given explanations as background, and our *raison d’etre* for the steps and measures envisaged against the particular subject dealt-with.

Important inputs legal or otherwise have come from **Adv. Antonio Lobo**, who along with Mr. Floriano Lobo, has worked with this document for the last over six months, adding, revising, editing and reorganizing the contents as its architects with the finishing touches given by Prof. Matias Vaz who has printed this document for the Party, being its incumbent President and the proprietor of Messrs. Maureen Printers, Santa Cruz/Panjim.

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Prof. Matias Vaz
President

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