

# THE SECULAR CITIZEN

(Total pages 24)

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## Indian Bishops Seek to Mend Fences with Hindus



Pakistan with just 1 million Catholics inviting the pope, and secular India of 17 million Catholics failing to extend an official invitation.

## Chattisgarh Honours FMM Sister

“We need to take all possible steps to save girls and women from being trafficked, and empower them through Education,” said Dr. Raman Singh, the honorable Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh while conferring two special awards Nari shakti and Anti-human Trafficking Awards on Sr Annie Jesus, FMM, the Directress of Jeevan Jharna Vikas Sanstha (JJVS), Kansabel, Chattisgarh, last week, at the well-packed Indoor Stadium, Raipur. She is the only “religious” person honoured by the government of Chattisgarh among seven outstanding women from across the State.



Sr. Annie and her committed team has been spearheading a powerful movement to curb the menace of human trafficking over the past five years. Through awareness programs, workshops and training, the team provides close accompaniment to the trafficked women and their families in filing FIR, in addition to rescuing them from other cities, where they are kept captives. Moreover, the team also investigates placement details of the trafficked and assists the enforcement authorities to put the agents behind the bars. For the past five years the team has reached out to 71 panchayats, 180 villages, 63 schools, 5 Blocks and organized state level training programmes and workshops. More than 100 girls have been rescued and rehabilitated from the Adivasi society, alone.

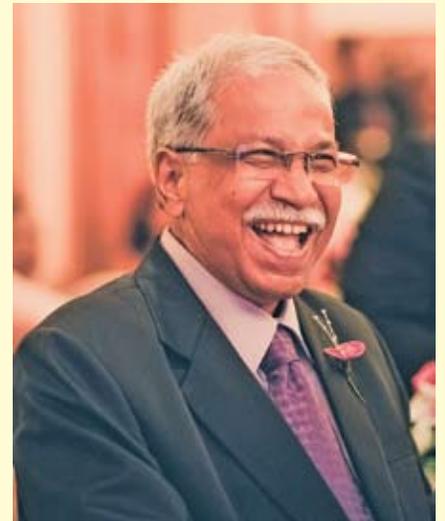
Later, in a jointly organized

programme by Women and Child welfare Department (WCD) and Social Welfare Board (SWB), Mr. Abhishek Singh, Member of Parliament (Son of Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh) honored Sr. Annie for her dynamic and selfless service to the marginalized people. through various initiatives to empower tribal women through Self Help Groups, enhance Livelihood options through Agri and Allied activities and ensure quality education applying Right to Education Act (RTEA).

—Sr Sheeba Antony, FMM



## Obituary



**Jolly Joseph Mathews**

Managing Editor - 'Dimensionally Yours' and Member - 'Dimensions', Jolly Joseph Mathews (65) passed away on 6th May 2016. He was a Science Graduate with Post Graduate in Marketing and Personnel Management.

May his Soul Rest in Peace.

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**'Thought for the week'**

*The tree laden with fruits always bends low. If you wish to be great, be lowly and meek.*

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Cover : Indian Bishops see to Mend Fenses of Hindus:  
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**POVERTY...**

by Don Aguiar

Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high wrote Rabindranath Tagore. Yet poverty is the key in India as well as in many other countries worldwide. Poverty has marked almost every country worldwide

Poverty is not a big problem as it appears to be. The population does not grow on its own. We are responsible for its growth, and poverty is its natural outcome.

The first things that need to penetrate our consciousness is that the population does not grow on its own, we are responsible for its growth and poverty does not grow by itself, it is our creation. And for centuries we have been taught to live with wrong ideas. For example, we are told that children are gifts of God and also that the number of children we have is predestined. For centuries, religious teachers have been telling us that to prevent children from being born is to oppose God.

All of this just seems to imply just one thing that God's only work is to go on making people poorer and poorer. And this goes against the very meaning of God. The very source of the word opulence is God. The word opulence is derived from the word God. So if opulence gives rise to poverty, if God helps poverty to grow, then this can only be the creation of priest, religious teachers, politicians and pundits – all those people who live through the exploitation of the poor.

Poverty kills creativity. Poor people are a society of blind followers as most poor prefer to be helped financially, educationally and much more by some NGO or organization or even by priests, religious teachers, politicians and pundits. Few among those educated who leave their poverty stricken way of living for a better one become intellectual and cultural leaders showing that the few among these educated thrive and excel outside their way of poverty stricken living where he or she is free of the stultifying cultural context .

Unless and until we remove this veil from our psyche – that God has any hand in your poverty. And what kind of God is it that wants to make you poor? But religious teachers , for example Jesus, went on telling people, to great acclaim: "Blessed are the poor" This certainly gives the poor some consolation for a short while – just like a man who is drowning in worries may feel some temporary relief from taking opium. – But this is not going to destroy neither poverty nor the worries. And if poverty really is blessedness, then it should be the preferred choice. How then, can any question of eradicating it arise? In fact, those who are not poor should also be made poor, because why should they alone miss out on this blessedness?

All these things may temporarily console the poor but they don't solve the real problem (Contd.. on p. 4)

(Contd.. from p. 3)

in their lives at all. And these consolers become obstacles to solve the real problem.

All consolations, all pseudo relief and all the deceptions and delusions given to the poor should be taken away from them, and for the poor to be clearly told "if you are poor you are responsible for it. And if the population grows, you are growing it and it is your wish to remain poor and to take this country into more and more poverty.

There is a lot people can do with their poverty and yet at times, they do very little. There is a lot that has been said about rich people and yet what we often see is the regalia bereft of the work they really do. Theirs is a life captured by paparazzi and not chronicled for what they achieve or for that matter how well they enable the riches of opportunity.

Most priestly orders when inducting a full fledge priest in their order make them take the vow of poverty. When one takes this vow of poverty it is expected that the priest live a simple life just like Jesus did. However it is surprising that there are some priestly orders that make an exception and do not take this vow. Why then do some orders make an exception to taking this vow of poverty when it should be their preferred choice in the footsteps and touch of Jesus?

One notice that priest in these order appears to have lost in the footsteps and touch of Jesus resulting in unpleasant situations arising between clergy and clergy & clergy and laity.

Anyone who has dared to undertake a transcendental journey or living through the vow of poverty taken by them would acknowledge the constant resistance their mind put up in the form of contradictory and degenerating thoughts. These thoughts can destroy years of hard work in one go. In those mo-

## Jharkhand Lutheran Pastor Found Murdered

Bhopal: The murder of a Lutheran minister in India's tribal-dominated Jharkhand state shows that Christians are now becoming a target for attacks, Christian leaders said.

The body of the Rev. Abraham Soreng of Goosner Evangelical Lutheran Church was found with multiple injuries May 6. His funeral was conducted on the next day in his Kadma village of Kunti district in Jharkhand.

Kunti is a Christian stronghold district. About 25 percent of its 532,000 people are Christians.

Investigating police officer Ranveer Singh, who examined the body, told ucanews.com that the murder appears to be the result of a conspiracy.

The state, where the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party is in power, has reported several crimes

ments one feels like a hapless cork floating in the ocean, getting tossed and engulfed by waves in multiple directions. A large majority lives in the illusion that once their consciousness is able to go beyond the mind things will automatically fall into place. But this rarely happens because till the time we are ruled by thoughts we cannot rise above the mundane as various forms and manifestations of cravings bind us. A religious person or priest allows this to happen to himself when he is not true to his vocation leading to fear and panic.

As a result of fear there is a lack of diversity of thought and a lack of genuine debate over ideas -

A thoroughly poverty centric society permits no independent thought. Poverty has stopped generating courageous people because of numbing and politicization of education, administration, police, civil society and even religious activity has killed the independent thinker.

The intellectual vacuum has in turn spawned a political and religious vacuum. The lack of intelligent diversity means that all politics or religious activity is ultimately personalized. Without an exchange of ideas, without clashing doctrines, politics or religious activity becomes just rival gangs of toughs willing to let their fists talk rather than their words. That's why from the very beginning to till date the journey of poverty in our country can be paraphrased as "where the mind is with fear"

against Christians.

Christian leaders such as Subhash Kongari consider this as part of an ongoing attack against Christians in the state. Kongari, who is state vice president of Rashtriya Isai Mahasangh (national Christian forum), said the murder is the "outcome of a deep rooted conspiracy against Christians" in the state.

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## Perform 'Works of Mercy'!

Melvyn Brown in his 'mercy' article, "From Indifference to Mercy: A Catholic Manifesto", has given us a bird's eye view on 'mercy'! (The Secular Citizen, 2 May)

May I briefly quote three aspects: 1. Pope Francis – "Become islands of mercy in a sea of indifference. 2. Mercy and forgiveness should become a trend, a Christian spring, an act of total awareness. 3. Mercy and forgiveness is the greatest weapon to defeat the ugly shades of sin.

The Catholic Church teaches us the Seven Corporal Acts of Mercy. They are: 1. Feed the hungry. 2. Quench the thirsty. 3. Clothe the naked. 4. Shelter the homeless. 5. Comfort the imprisoned. 6. Visit the sick. 7. Bury the dead. (cf. Matthew 25: 31-46).

Further, in the Diary of St. Faustina, 'Divine Mercy in my soul', Jesus reveals: "I demand from you 'deeds of mercy' which are to arise out of love for Me. You are to show 'mercy' to your neighbors always and everywhere. You must not shirk from this or try to excuse yourself ... Even the strongest faith is of no avail without works" (Diary, 742).

Let us praise the 'Divine Mercy' of God, Who bestows on sinful humankind his unfathomable mercy, so that we can perform 'works of mercy'!

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the 'Father of mercies' and the God of all consolation, Who consoles us in all our afflictions; so that we may be able to console those who are in similar afflictions, with the same consolation with which we ourselves have been consoled by God" (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).

—Dr. Trevor Colaso, *Bandra*

## Pentecost - The Dragon Fly Experience

There is the well known story of a group of water beetles, swimming around in a pond, living a routine life, and wondering what was beyond their water world. Now and then, an adventurous water beetle would climb up a reed, break through the surface of the water, leave the pond, and never return.

One beetle swore that, unlike his ancestors, he would return and reveal everything to his brother beetles.

He boldly climbed up a reed, and rose above the water's surface. As soon as he did so, the shell of his beetle body broke, and he changed into a slender new dragon fly, equipped with gossamer wings that enabled him to fly into the blue heavens above, but prevented him from returning to his water world.

The story of Jesus Christ's Messianic Mission is the story of God's Message to us as we journey through Life on earth. As human beings, we cannot recognize the Beauty and Divinity of God's Love for us. The evil spirits, endowed with preternatural vision, instantly recognized Lord Jesus Christ. "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God?" (Mark 5:7).

Our human relationships and attachments are graded to likes, respect and values. The Holy Spirit Alone Changes us to Worship God. This is what made the apostles who betrayed Jesus (Matthew 26:25), morph into valiant martyrs and endure persecution for Jesus' Sake.

As the Holy Spirit Moved over the approx. 7 billion years of chaotic darkness and Created these beautiful Universes in an instant, (Genesis 1:1-5),

He Will Change the Darkness, Failures and Sufferings we face along Life's Journey into Eternal Happiness and Love.

—*Denis Khan*

## Justice is Done

I am happy that the killers of Keenan Santos and Reuben Fernandes (Jitendra Rana, Sunil Bodh, Satish Dulgaj and Deepak Pival) have been given life imprisonment (till death) by the session's court. It is indeed a fair verdict. Now the souls of Keenan Santos and Reuben Fernandes can rest in peace. Thank God it was not another Jessica-Lal-like case where the killers were set free as they were known to the police and the politicians.

— *Jubel D'Cruz., Dombivili*

## 'Remove The Cow Slaughter Ban Immediately'

While greatly appreciating the high court's decision to permit the transport of beef into Maharashtra the ban on cow slaughter must be immediately challenged and the transport of beef to other states that have banned cow slaughter must be permitted by challenging this ban in a court of law.

If the Maharashtra government decides to enact an ordinance after it loses the case against the transport of beef and cow slaughter a case must be filed in a court of law declaring it illegal and unconstitutional.

Hindus eat beef both in India and abroad and there is nothing in the Hindu scriptures that considers the cow sacred but the cow became sacred because it was a useful animal and when one is starving one will eat anything that nourishes and strengthens the person.

Despite the cow being considered sacred it is allowed to graze on garbage from garbage dumps.

This must stop and farmers must

(Contd.. on p. 17)



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- 3. CCCI's Velvin Packaging Pvt. Ltd. - Social Service Award**  
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- 4. CCCI's Aldel Education Trust - Young Entrepreneur Award**  
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- 5. CCCI's Pattathu Brothers - Woman Entrepreneur Award.**  
(Eligibility: A self made person, good turn over, innovative)
- 6. CCCI's Reliable Industries - Excellence in Education Award**  
(Eligibility: Contribution to the field of Education)

The nominations with complete profile of achievements with supporting documents and related details along with a photograph be addressed to The Convener, Awards Committee and sent to the Chamber's Office. The last date for receipt of nomination is 15th. June, 2016.

A panel of judges nominated by CCCI will decide the awardees. The Award presentation ceremony will be held at Mumbai on 24th September, 2016.

**Anthony Sequeira**  
Chairman

**John D'Silva**  
Vice Chairman & Convener Awards Committee

# Indian Bishops Seek To Mend Fences With Hindus

by Christopher Joseph

New Delhi: Catholic Church leaders in India, including bishops' conference president Cardinal Baselios Cleemis recently met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and made two requests — invite Pope Francis to India as a state guest and for Modi to personally lead an Indian delegation to the Vatican for the canonization of Mother Teresa on Sept. 4.

Modi in his own suave way did the predictable thing. He made no commitment. Modi just promised to seriously look into the matter, consult with his colleagues and do what is necessary. That is what a press release from the bishops conference said after the meeting.

Why did the bishops' conference send a representation to Modi asking him to invite the pope? The answer could come from early March news reports that said Pope Francis accepted an invitation from Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to visit.

In early March, when media spoke of this invitation, bishops of India's 171 dioceses were at their biennial plenary. There was some discussion on Muslim Pakistan with just 1 million Catholics inviting the pope, and secular India of 17 million Catholics failing to extend an official invitation. Some bishops portrayed this as inefficiency by the Indian church leadership.

If church leaders were to meet with Modi, he will certainly invite the pope, they concluded.

The pope accepting a written invitation given to him does not mean he has agreed to visit a country. Although media reports said the pope will visit Pakistan before the end of this year, we are yet to see an official Vatican directive on this. Considering the

problem Pakistan faces with militants and that a papal visit needs months of preparation, it is safe to say that a visit may not take place this year, if at all.

Although India and Pakistan are neighbors, no one expects a papal visit to these archrivals on a single papal literary. Diplomatically, neither India nor Pakistan will accept the pope visiting their rival and then coming as a state guest to their nation. This would mean the pope will have to travel twice to South Asia this year, if he were to visit the two countries. Possible but not probable.

The Indian bishops know all that. And that is why they wanted Modi to invite the pope "at a time convenient" to both India and the Vatican.

But more than a convenient time, Modi if he were to think of inviting the pope, must first prepare and convince his nationalist Hindu party, the Bharatiya Janata Party, with its countless right-wing groups that work to make India a Hindu nation.

Modi's party and its affiliates have long been clamoring against Catholic missionaries, saying that they are implementing a Vatican plan to destroy India's Hindu culture. Modi, must require a nod from the rank and file of his party before inviting and shaking

hands with the pope.

The same goes with extoling Mother Teresa. During her lifetime and even after her death, the Bharatiya Janata Party has never accepted her work for the poorest of the poor. They have always projected it as ploy for conversion and objected to it whenever possible.

True to its policy, neither Modi or any of his party leaders have so far publically uttered a word of appreciation for Mother Teresa and her work.

Hence, Modi leading a delegation to the Vatican for her canonization is highly improbable.

His shaking hands with the pope and hobnobbing with Vatican officials cannot be done without inviting criticism at home simply because in the past the Bharatiya Janata Party has been a staunch opponent of the pope and of missionaries for being agents for religious conversions.

Opposition to Christian missionary work is emotionally close to the heart of every Bharatiya Janata Party supporter. The Indian states where the party has come to power, went ahead with introducing anti-conversion laws or sharpening existing ones that could

(Contd.. on p. 16)

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# An Awesome Foursome Festival: A Reflection

by Fr. Cedric Prakash sj\*

**It's May 8th 2016- ASCENSION SUNDAY** celebrated by several Christians across the globe! A day on which we believe Jesus MISSIONS each one of us to continue his work in this world. Jesus promises us "I am with you always; yes, to the end of time!" We celebrate today the Lord's exaltation and the end of his earthly existence- but also a prelude to the coming of the Holy Spirit. We need the Lord's Spirit to guide us, to direct us in OUR MISSION. This Mission is both in WORD and in WITNESS- concrete acts of MERCY and COMPASSION, which should be hallmark of every disciple of Jesus. On this Feast of the Ascension, we are reminded that the disciples of Jesus, the entire Church, is a community in mission. The point is- are we aware of this? Do I realize this fact in my daily life? Do I reach out to others - in mercy and in compassion, even if I feel inconvenienced a bit? Am I patient enough for the Lord's Spirit to vivify me, to energise me?

**It's May 8th 2016- WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY**-It's the 50th Communications Day of the Catholic Church since Pope Paul VI began it in 1967! A GOLDEN opportunity to live the theme given to us this year by Pope Francis 'Communication and Mercy: A Fruitful Encounter'. So important, relevant and urgent! In his message for the day Pope Francis writes, "Communication has the power to build bridges, to enable encounter and inclusion, and thus to enrich society. How beautiful it is when people select their words and actions with care, in the effort to avoid misunderstandings, to heal wounded memories and to build peace and harmony. Words can build bridges between individuals and within families, social groups and peoples. This is possible both in the material world and the digital world. Our words and actions should be such as to help us all escape the vicious circles of condemnation and vengeance which

continue to ensnare individuals and nations, encouraging expressions of hatred." The sad truth is that we are NOT doing enough in this direction! Having been so closely involved with social communications in India all these past years, one is aware that we are -as Church- a far cry from what we are actually MISSIONED to do in the field of social communications!

**It's May 8th 2016-MAY FLOWER DAY!** The great 'Flores de Mayo' (Flowers of May) Fiesta of the Philippines. It is regarded as the "Queen of Filipino Festivals". With so many Filipinos here in Beirut - it was truly a wonderful celebration. The festival is dedicated to Mary, the Mother of Jesus (she was certainly there at his Ascension and also in the midst of the disciples at Pentecost). It was a joy to witness this Marian celebration. There must have been a thousand-strong congregation at the Rosary, Mass and festivities which followed. It was meticulously planned with a high degree of participation and cooperation from all. Whilst almost ninety percent present were from the Philippines, there was a significant sprinkling of South Sudanese, Sri Lankans, Nigerians and from some other countries. Everyone was dressed up to the hilt- particularly the many 'Queens' and the little angels (I loved the black angels -the little African girls-the most!) A great inclusive spirit and 'joie de vivre' permeated the air! The sharing of food, the flowers to Our Lady, the music and dancing perhaps helped several of the migrants present, to forget that they work here as domestic helpers and in other small time jobs. Many of them have long working hours and are subject to all kinds of exploitation. Mary, Queen of Mercy (the theme of the Festival this year) pray for us and help us all!

observed in many parts of the world! I remember my own MOTHER, CYNTHIA- she was truly a woman of substance: of faith, fortitude and courage, who nurtured me and my three siblings in the values of the Gospel! There are surely millions like her throughout the world: mothers who have given up everything for their children. 'Mother's day' is often relegated to crass commercialization: gifts and flowers, cards and treats; whilst all these may have their place, we need to communicate what a MOTHER truly means, the values she personifies. These past months I have met several mothers who are refugees and Internally Displaced People(IDPs). They have fled from war and violence. I have listened to their stories of selflessness and sacrifice; it is heart-wrenching to hear of how one has been deserted by her husband just because she has given birth to four daughters; of how another cares for her paralyzed teen-aged daughter who was gang-raped by the military; of how her third has given up her dreams for a career so that her children may go to school. Many, many more! In each of them I see grit and determination- the hope of a better tomorrow for their children. I cannot but help remember our beloved and blessed Mother Teresa who embodied mercy and compassion for all: a missionary of charity!

**It's May 8th 2016-** A day pregnant with meaning and significance. A day on which we celebrate Ascension Sunday, World Communications Day May Flower Day! Mother's Day, - A day on which I am reminded that I have been mandated and challenged with a MISSION here on this earth - I can do so ONLY if I have the courage to allow the Mother in God to grip my life, then to sit still in order to smell the flowers and ultimately to reach out to others in mercy and compassion! An awesome foursome festival indeed!

*\*(Fr. Cedric Prakash sj, works in Advocacy and Communications with the Jesuit Refugee Service in the Middle East and is based in Beirut, Lebanon)*

**It's May 8th 2016-MOTHER'S DAY,**

# Hope For Tomorrow

**Jamal Makawi is no ordinary person; besides today (May 2nd 2016) is a very special day in his life and for seven other members of his family. They have just arrived in Beirut from Tripoli (North Lebanon) where they have been living as refugees for almost two years. Thanks to the 'Humanitarian Corridors' initiative led by the Sant'Egido Community ([www.santegido.org](http://www.santegido.org)) of Rome, in a few hours they will fly out to Rome as part of a group of one hundred and one refugees. Jamal's eyes are moist as he awaits tomorrow: a new beginning in their lives.**

**J**amal goes back the past four years. An enterprising Syrian from the city of Homs who had a flourishing business in 'auto spares'. He travelled to several countries on business –including India. Knowing that I am from India he adds, "I love India very much." His eldest daughter Talat (who is by our side feeding her one-year old son Tariq) chips in, "I love Indian films- oh they are so good!" and she reels out the big names of Bollywood. Tragedy struck, when his business in Homs was bombed. "I lost everything in a matter of minutes!" he says. To make matters he was soon thrown into prison as a 'suspect' "They tortured me terribly!" he laments with pain in his eyes and scars in his psyche, which perhaps may never heal. Over a period of time, he was arrested thrice- having to spend more than a hundred days in jail – and each time subject to great brutality. They finally managed to escape from Homs. How? He would rather not share this; it was a difficult and long journey- but it was certainly a relief for him and his family, when they

finally reached Lebanon and given refugee status.

Some months ago, his family (his wife, three daughters, two teenage sons and grandson Tariq) was identified by members of Sant'Egido Community to be among those who would be provided safe passage and secure rehabilitation in Italy! Jamal just cannot wait for tomorrow! They do not know what has happened to Tariq's father. He left home more than eight months ago to join them in Lebanon; but they have no news of him ever since. "My beloved wife" (as he puts his arm around her) "and my children are here with me today. That makes me happy!"

"Humanitarian Corridors" is a joint project of the Sant'Egido Community, the Federation of Evangelical Churches in Italy and the Waldensian Church. The desire to do something concrete to address the refugee crisis emerged after several Ecumenical prayer gatherings entitled "Dying of Hope" to remember the many refugees who had died in the Mediterranean Sea trying to cross into Europe. The prayer was also a form of protest against the indifference of Governments and nations to respond in a humanitarian way to what was happening. Finding a loop-hole in the European Constitution, the members realized that it was the duty of the Government to permit refugees into Italy on "humanitarian visas". The Italian Interior and Foreign Affairs Ministries agreed to this and to co-operate (after a due protocol was signed) with the three institutions on this laudable venture. It allows refugees to enter Italy without risking their lives in 'journeys of death' or falling prey to unscrupulous human traffickers.

The project will, for the moment, permit one thousand refugees – currently in Morocco, Lebanon and Ethiopia – to travel to Italy with a humanitarian visa, the costs of which will be covered by the associations themselves. The idea is to allow entry to refugees who are fleeing war and persecution and regarded



BY FR. CEDRIC PRAKASH SJ

as "vulnerable", (women left alone with their children, potential victims of human trafficking, elderly and disabled people, individuals with serious health conditions), or who are recognized as refugees by UNHCR. Earlier in March, ninety-five Syrian refugees were taken from Beirut to Rome and in May, a further fifty-four will be taken.

In this 'Jubilee Year of Mercy' the initiative of the Sant'Egido Community and others, is not merely laudable but should be held up as an example worthy of emulation. Tonight, Jamal and one hundred others, eagerly wait to board the plane to freedom. As he cuddles little Tariq in his arms, Jamal hopes and prays that Tariq will never experience the "hell" that the rest of the family has gone through these past years! It is his hope for tomorrow!

*\*(Fr. Cedric Prakash sj, works with the Jesuit Refugee Service in the Middle East and is based in Beirut, Lebanon)*

## Thanksgiving



Thanks to Sacred Heart of Jesus & St. Jude for the favours granted  
May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, loved, glorified & praised throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us. Sacred Heart of Jesus, Thy kingdom come. St. Jude worker of miracles pray for us. St. Jude helper of the hopeless pray for us. Amen, Say this prayer nine times a day for nine days.

— Roman V.

# Julio Ribeiro on Gujarat Clean-up Mission

**The state of Gujarat has been the most traditional, pro-Hindu, orthodox and business-minded state. Although Christian faith came to Gujarat in the early 13th century, there are hardly 2 to 3 per cent of christians of the total population. In such a state, some outstanding Catholic officers have earned names as honest, non-corrupt, hard-working IPS or IAS officers. To count a few, we had Erric Renison, Joseph, A K Luke, Benjamin, and Julio Ribeiro in the 80s during the communal riots. Ribeiro was directly sent by the then Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi. This writer still remembers the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Indian Airlines flight that carried Mr. Julio Ribeiro who had said to the reporters :” I’ll see to it and settle things in Gujarat...” And that he did very honestly...**

The former Director General of police, Mr. Julio Ribeiro (now 87) filed an interim petition, challenging the BJP-run government’s posting P P Paney as the new state DGP.

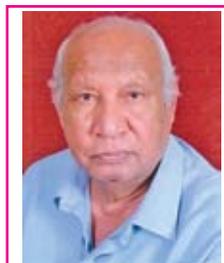
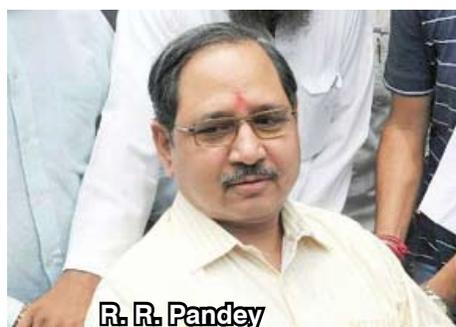
P P Pandey is the main accused in the Ishrat Jahan encounter case. The Public Interest Litigation is likely to come up in the Gujarat High Court for hearing by Saturday or so. Ribeiro in his PIL said that P P Pandey, a murder accused, should not be promoted to the highest post of the police department. The murder accused is involved in four murders and he can not be made a DGP. Such an appointment is in contravention of the ‘All India Ser-

vices (conduct) Rules. Pandey has been on bail and yet The BJP government appointed him DGP. Reacting on the government order, Julio Ribeiro said:” It is ridiculous. How can a person, who is facing trial for four murders, be appointed to the top post, as the person facing trial for the four murders has to be under suspension, according to the All India Services Rules? Most of the accused in the Ishrat case are the



policemen - some still in job some retired. How can these policemen depose against their own DGP in a free and fair manner?

Reacting on the Gujarat government’s action, Mr. Ribeiro said: “In the first place, the state government should not have revoked his suspension after he was released on bail.”



by Ignatius Dabhi  
Sr. Journalist

Julio Ribeiro was often called ‘no-nonsense cop’ by one and all, had won two such petition cases in Utter Pradesh.

The BJP Chief Minister of Gujarat, Anandiben Patel, is a disturbed person as the state is facing a severe drought condition and water scarcity has left no peace in the state. Lacs of

Patels are on street, demanding reservation. Ishrat Jahan encounter took place on the outskirts of Ahmedabad in which four person were shot dead by the police. The encounter has rocked both the houses of the parliament during the current session. Congress and BJP blame each other because of the encounter. The BJP chief Amit Shah was the home minister during the encounter and still there remain many questions unanswered on the encounter. At such a juncture, the PIL of Julio Ribeiro will create a lot of heat because Ribeiro is still a mighty name in Gujarat.

A known criminal lawyer of Ahmedabad, Mr. Dinesh Dutt, when asked on the appointment, reacted this way:” Legally it does not seem ok. Let us wait and watch how our learned judges of the High Court solve the matter. It will be an interesting case...”

‘The Secular Citizen’ congratulates our outstanding public figures. Their loyalty to the country, has earned a big name for Christian officers.

**Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru’s P.A John Mathaie writes somewhere:” Father Jerome D’Souza told the PM (Nehru) that he wished Indian Catholics fully mix with the society and from there distinguish themselves and witness the One whose disciples they have been... Julies Ribeiro deserves our pat... Bravo, Sir!**

## Hitting below the West-land

The Westland case has exposed the UPA so badly that it has hit the party below the waist-line. All this is happening, at a time, when the country is going through elections in some of the key States. This could have a far reaching effect on the polity of this country. Elections in other important States like the UP and Punjab are not far off. The Agusta Westland helicopter deal has opened the proverbial can of worms for the Congress party. The party has always been viewed with suspicion when it came to corruption. Even before the Bofors scandal erupted, there was corruption albeit very discreetly. Today with electronic media on your back, you are always under a scanner. When you have corruption problem at the highest level in government and party, there is precious little you can do to arrest its proliferation down the line.

The party allowed the poor to remain poor for far too long so that they do not ask any questions. The minorities were shown the saffron card [fear of the erstwhile Jan Sangh and its new avatar – the BJP]. This single issue kept the minorities loyal to the party for far too long. Since the UPA second term, prior to the 2014 elections, the vote bank of the Congress party started shrinking. That was the era of scams – the 2G, CWC and the Coal scams literally dwarfed the party. With a handful of MPs and some numbers in the Upper House, the party is going downhill. The strength in the Upper House is likely to shrink over a period and thereafter it could be BJP all the way. Once we reach that stage, the BJP will go hammer and tongs after the Gandhis with no fear of a stalemate in the Rajya Sabha. That will be the day, the Gandhis and the Congress Party will rue.

This is a trying time for the party in general and the Gandhis in particular who always thought they were invincible. Perhaps the time has come to face the reality of Indian politics. The political shelf life of the Gandhis is slowly but surely coming to an end. They dominated the scene for far too long. Now they are forced to think of a more aggressive option [someone like the late Sanjay Gandhi] to keep the legacy going [Rahul Gandhi did not fit that bill]. The options being limited, it

## VIEWS on NEWS

appears, the mantle may fall on Robert Vadra who is aggressive. If he steps in, the Gandhis [Sherni and the cub would have accepted defeat]. Whether this gamble will pay, the coming couple of years will tell. As I said some months ago, Jyotiraditya Scindia could be the trump card for the party. A Harvard and Stanford educated young man; he is knowledgeable, articulate and aggressive yet commands respect. He carries a very clean image. He may not be as pliant as Manmohan Singh though!

\*\*\*\*\*

## Odds against Odd - Even scheme

The Apex Court had set the ball rolling with harshly worded admonition of the government for not doing anything about the alarming levels of air pollution in the NCR. Shaken by the no-nonsense observations, the Delhi government swung into action. The judiciary had to taken a stern action on old vehicles, diesel cars, stoppage of registration of new vehicles etc. That showed how serious issue was and continues to be.

Understandably, in the Odd-even scheme, certain categories like the women drivers [traveling alone], CNG cars, 2 wheelers, VIP cars as also differently-abled drivers were exempt. Now we hear that the law makers in Delhi wanting an exemption because they want to serve the people. If they really want to serve, they should take the public transport or ride a horse as one of the MPs did recently. Not for photo-op but on a regular basis. Cycles are better since traffic jams do not affect them. Our Netas can reach their destination faster to serve the people. If one wants to serve, there are ways and means. The advocates will want exemption because they want to serve their clients. Doctors and Nurses too have a noble job to do and they must be spared. Why not the professors and teachers? They have to teach the pupils. Unfortunately, everybody wants exemption. Next we will have the MLAs and all the Corporators in the Capital also wanting exemption. In this clamour for exemption, the only lot that will be adhering to the government rules will be the aam admi [pun intended]. That is not surprising because when it comes to inconvenience, it is the cattle class that bears the brunt.



by Marshall Sequeira

The just concluded second edition of the famous Kejriwal formula of Odd an Even numbered vehicles did not really achieve anything. The first round itself indicated that though the idea was good on paper. But given the number of concessions that were necessary to be extended, it could hardly help the mission of making Delhi livable for the millions. It is not only that the people of Delhi who are choked. This capital city must be having the maximum floating population which enters and exits on a day to day basis for obvious reasons. People from neighbouring states like UP, Haryana and even Punjab enter Delhi by vehicles. Keeping this in mind, the authorities should have come with a much better and viable proposition. The Delhi government, as usual, hailed the second edition as a huge success though the quality of air did not show any improvement.

The Delhi government must review the situation after the just concluded second phase of this experiment. It should not make this a prestige issue. If reports are anything to go by, the situation on the ground did not change and the quality of air was possibly worse. Perhaps this is not the solution for the problem. The major fault lies elsewhere. While vehicles may be playing a minor role in the deterioration of the quality of air, other factors, which are yet to be identified, may be playing havoc. Is it possible that the polluted air from the neighbouring States could be blowing over the capital city? That calls for a concerted drive by all the States surrounding the capital. Other States must cooperate and view this problem as a national one. The faster it is done, it would be better for the capital city which showcases the nation to the world leaders who visit quite frequently. This will increase in the years to come. The Centre should be more concerned that the Delhi government. Swatcha Bharat and Make-in-India slogans will be meaningless if we are not able to tackle the pollution problem.

# What Parents Should Do When Their Child Comes Out To Them (Instead Of Freaking Out)

**LGBT**

by **Shambhavi Saxena**

Somewhere in my late teens, I discovered my little corner on the queer spectrum. After a monster googling session, I also discovered a Narnia of queer subculture – everything from social organisation, to political history, to bars and shows and inside jokes. But Narnia lies behind closet doors.

'The Closet' exists because, for many, there's no other protection from a violently disciplinarian society. But it isn't necessarily a place of relief. When we're in the closet, our best friends are anxiety and self-doubt. Who wouldn't want out? But there's a catch – we don't know what's waiting for us outside. A lot of coming out anxiety is because kids are unsure how their parents are going to react.

We wish annoying Dad Jokes were the most we had to deal with, but often there are very real threats to our security. Kids have faced physical and emotional abuse for being different, or forced into conversion therapy. Others are disowned. In fact, between 20 to 40 percent of homeless in America identify as queer.

Now, not all parents are going to respond with vitriol and ultimatums. When I came out, I got a few cautiously worded questions, before the business-as-usual reminders of "walk the dog" and "water the plants". Not quite the embittered showdown you'd

expect, which by the way is disappointingly common. But even when the threat of violence is zilch, some kids stay in the closet because of the feeling that their parents won't 'get it',

or that they have no idea how to react to the news.

Well, parents, we think we might be able to help out. Here are some handy tips to remember in the event that your child (or even a friend's child) comes out to you:



## Read Up

This is sort of stage-zero, but don't skip forward, because it's important. Think of it as your foundation course.

Us kids are already doing a bunch of reading of our own, trying to figure out who we are, and if there are other people who feel the same. Join us in this process. The internet offers a host of resources like Everyday Feminism and It Gets Better, where you can learn about queer identities, as well as power structures that marginalise us.

We often associate 'coming out' with 'being gay', but you want to be ready in case your kid comes out as trans, non-binary (not exclusively male or female), bisexual, pansexual, asexual, polysexual, skoliosexual or anything else on the queer spectrum.

It also helps to look up the laws that affect queer people and find local or online support groups that you can approach with questions or concerns.

## A Christian Parent's Response

If God blesses Dan and me with a child who is gay, I would want that child to know without a doubt that he or she is loved unconditionally. I would want her to know nothing could separate her from the love of God in Christ. I would want her to know that she isn't broken, she isn't an embarrassment, she isn't a disappointment. May I be part of creating a world in which I will not have to protect her from the bullies.

"Gay and lesbian Catholics have to be accountable to God for what they do in their conscience. No one else can know what is the state of their souls. St. Thomas Aquinas said if you have a misinformed conscience, you still have to follow that."

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## Acceptance

Kids aren't looking for an elaborate 'queer-warming' party with confetti cannons and rainbow cakes and banners made of ugly Facebook photos. As fun as that would be (please don't get any ideas) a simple gesture of acceptance – a nod, a hug, a can of soda – is a huge deal. But it can't stop there.

Acceptance means altering some of your behaviours, such as addressing us with the correct pronouns and not bringing up our dead-names (even if you were the one who picked it out). It also means understanding that we are not "confused", "going through a phase", "greedy", "promiscuous" or all those other shaming, dismissive remarks people throw at us.

Acceptance is about making hormone therapy accessible for us, if we ask for it, and if you have the means. It's also about taking the time to sensitise relatives, educators, and friends who are in close contact with us.

Accepting our orientation allows us to create our personhood for ourselves. This is a great confidence booster in itself, but so is the fact that you trust us to know who we are.

## Listen To Us When We Talk Of Difference

When you open up a safe space for dialogue, we'll make use of it. Especially if our gender or sexual orientation is very, very different from yours. You give us our first lessons in everything, but sometimes, we can also bring something to the table. Even if you've trawled the internet for information, our unique experiences can be huge learning opportunities for

you. We want you to recognise that life happens to us in ways that may not happen to you. These differences are important in developing your understanding of our identity, as well as queer issues in a broader sense. Don't write off our experiences as insignificant whinings. Listen.

A lot of the dialogue between you and your kid is going to involve questions. Remember, it's fine to ask questions, as long as we're approaching them from a place of respect, and a willingness to understand.

## Forget Birds And Bees, Let's Talk Comprehensive Sex Education

You're gonna have to have 'The Talk' with your kid eventually. But most sex education modules are geared towards people who are 'cis het', or cisgender (identifying with the sex assigned at birth) and heterosexual (sexually attracted to the opposite sex). This is where your reading will have its practical uses. You can challenge assumptions like "gay people don't need protection", or that sex is central to human life (trust me, your asexual children will need to hear this a LOT). We see parents as the final word on a lot of things, including sex, and you'll be playing a huge role in imparting healthy attitudes towards sex, and sexual health. The choices we make about our bodies will ultimately be ours to make, but we look to you to teach us how to make good and safe ones.

## "My Daughter, The Lesbian" – More Than Our Orientations

Queer people often become reduced to their corresponding acronym in 'LGBTQIAP+'. This kind of takes our

humanity away from us. We're not vagina-seeking-vaginas, or whatever else. Recognise that our sexuality or romantic or gender orientation is only one part of our vast personality. Your kid may be gay, or non-binary, or ace, or pansexual, but they're also a star athlete or scrabble wizard or cellist or kitten rescuer or any number of other things that make them unique. The world tends to see us as unidimensional, but we hope that you won't.

## Inclusivity

Just because your kid is queer, doesn't mean they're keyed in on all things queer. As a parent, you will play a vital role in broadening our horizons by teaching us to think more inclusively about queer and straight identities. Truth is, we're your kids, and sometimes we're brats and cannot see beyond ourselves. We still need you to steer us in the right direction, like you do with so many other things, when it looks like we're reproducing some of the exclusionary politics of the cis het-eropatriarchy.

According to a recent survey, only 48% of kids between the ages of 13 and 20 identify as exclusively heterosexual. With odds like that, every parent really should anticipate a 'coming out situation', and respond appropriately. Keeping in mind these few tips can go a long way in creating a caring and compassionate home environment for LGBT+ children. As parents, your authority, knowledge, and involvement is the thin line that separates our greatest anxieties from our greatest allies. I cannot stress enough the importance of queer-friendly parenting. For those who have it, it does wonders. And for those who don't, we hope this piece is persuasive enough to get you to change that scenario.



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# Grotto is my Way to Heaven



BY VERA ALVARES

## The First Grotto

**O**ur Lady of Lourdes is a Roman Catholic title of the Blessed Virgin Mary venerated in honour of the Marian apparitions that reportedly occurred in 1858 in the vicinity of Lourdes, France. On 11 February 1858, Bernadette Soubirous, 14 years old, went with her sister ToINETTE and Jeanne Abadie to collect some firewood in order to buy bread for her family. After taking off her shoes and stockings to wade through the water near the Grotto of Massabielle, she said she heard the sound of two gusts of wind but the trees and bushes nearby did not move. A wild rose in a natural niche in the grotto, however, did move.



Massabielle in the church compound! Joining St. Bernadette at her solitary vigil at the niche helps us to connect to our heavenly Mother and her beads of miracles.

## The White grotto of Miracles

Blessed Virgin Mary, as a young mother is revered at another grotto, at the birthplace of her Son Jesus. A short distance south of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem is a shrine called the Milk Grotto, so called because of its colour. It is an irregular grotto hollowed out of soft white rock and is especially frequented by new mothers and childless women trying to become mothers. They believe that prayers offered at the shrine combined with a diet of a mix of the white chalk powder with food will bless them with the gift of a new baby. The origins of this belief can be traced to a tradition that has passed on verbally in the Christian world.

According to this tradition while Mary and Joseph were fleeing from Herod's soldiers on their way to Egypt, they took refuge in this cave while Mary nursed baby Jesus. It is believed that a drop of Mary's milk fell upon the stone and it turned white! Hence couples grappling with the problem of infertility visit this place as Marian pilgrims.

The Milk grotto has been a site of veneration since the 4th century, the first structure being built over it around AD 385. Long after the site was recognised by a proclamation of Pope Gregory XI, the Franciscan religious order erected a church around the Milk Grotto in 1872. The people of Bethlehem and local artisans expressed their love for the site by decorating the shrine with mother-of-pearl carvings. In 2007 a modern chapel dedicated to the Mother of God was opened here. It is connected to the Milk Grotto church by a tunnel, which enabled the addition of a further chapel in the basement, supposedly as a

memorial to the children slain by Herod.

## Down Memory Lane to My Grotto

Growing up in Mangalore city the Rome of the East, has left treasured memories, cherished and occasionally relived! One or two beautiful grottos are an integral part of these memories. My school and church were adjoining buildings and summer time activities spanned across both, doubling the joy of life.

During the month of May, we took pride in decorating the grotto in the church compound and to our dismay St. Bernadette usually got neglected. The gigantic rain tree that formed the backdrop to the grotto brought a semblance of rural scene to the setting. We raided the Gulmohar and Laburnum trees drooping with flowers along the school driveway, to load the grotto with saffron and gold of the blooms. Mother Mary had to peep at us through the mound of flowers! The fun and games began with the task of decoration.....

A mention must be made of the rest of the evening. The Apostolic Carmel sisters in the school next door believed in holding on to the students by having an open house policy. After the Rosary and sing-song at the church grotto those children, who were at loose ends and loved sports flocked the school grounds for more fun. The huge sandpit and the benevolent gaze of our church patron Saint Sebastian protected us in the rough and tumble of the games. The happy evenings ended with a basket full of mangoes from the vast gardens of the convent, generously provided by the sisters who knew each one of us by name!

With the changed perspective and lifestyle, having fun is no more the same. However, in the month of May, let the children of the heavenly Mother assemble at every grotto to pray, sing and recite the Rosary!

“As I raised my head to look at the grotto, I saw a lady dressed in white, wearing a white dress, a blue girdle and a yellow rose on each foot, the same color as the chain of her rosary; the beads of the rosary were white.... From the niche, or rather the dark alcove behind it, came a dazzling light.” Saint Bernadette later said that, eyes raised to heaven and sweetly smiling, the lady in white told her, “I am the Immaculate Conception.”

Eight years after the apparitions St. Bernadette left her home at Lourdes to become a nun. While in the convent, she would look back, from time-to-time, and say: “The grotto at Lourdes was my Heaven.” Thus originated the tradition of linking a grotto to Mother Mary and the perpetual succour she provides to those who venerate her.

In every church compound a replica of the grotto at Massabielle can be found as a reminder to the Faithful of Mother Mary's constant intercession on behalf of humankind. But in the month of May the grottos come under the spotlight of devotion to the queen of May, the heavenly Mother. May being the month dedicated to Mother Mary, brings together her children to pray and make music at the

## FACTS ABOUT ANTEATERS

Anteaters are funny-looking creatures that can be found in Central and South America. They live in grasslands, woodlands, rainforests and deciduous forests. There are four types of anteaters. Some of them are near threatened species. Anteaters can be small as a squirrel (silky anteaters) or 7 feet long, counting from the tip of the nose to the end of its tail (giant anteaters). Anteaters are toothless creature. Their tongue can be 2 feet long. It is narrow and covered with tiny spines. Anteaters catch ants and termites through the hole on the top of the anthill. They never destroy anthill because they plan to come and eat another portion of ants in the future.

## WHAT IS LIGHT TRESPASS?



Light trespass is a form of light pollution which impinges on other people's personal space. The most familiar instance of it is a floodlight which illuminates a neighbour's yard. Many people find this pollution extremely frustrating and annoying and it can be source of conflict in a community. For this reason, people are encouraged to think before installing outdoor lighting; approaching a neighbor at the start can also help to encourage a good relationship which will be helpful when resolving future issues. Essentially, light trespass is unwanted spill light. It is also wasteful and it contributes to the problem of light pollution.

## Knowledge



## Page

### CARGO PANTS

Cargo pants are identified by several large pockets, most often with button, snap or hook and loop closable flaps. In addition to multiple front and back pockets, these pants will often have side pockets. They are most often khaki or beige coloured and fabrics as well. They are so named because of their ability to carry so much 'cargo' in the pockets. The style became so popular that cargo shorts soon followed. The popularity of the style has endured in one form or another since the 1970s Both comfortable and practical, they have become as much a staple of casual dress as traditional jeans and are likely to be around for many years to come.

### COLOUR THEORY

Colour theory is the study of colour and its role in art and design. Obviously, humans have been thinking about colours for thousands of years, but modern colour theory really arose in the 1800s, when it began to diverge from science into a pure art. A knowledge of this theory does require some understanding of basic scientific principles about colour and perception. This field incorporates psychology, history and criticism just as much as it does science. Students of colour theory also like to look at the meanings of specific colours, exploring the use of things like bold colours in company logos or subtle messages, for example.

## WHAT IS PATRIARCHY?

Social systems throughout history have moved from predominately egalitarian or equal, to patriarchal, with some moving – albeit slowly – back to egalitarian again. The term 'patriarchy' refers to a social system where males are the central authority figures. The term patriarchy literally translated means 'rule of the father'. In a patriarchy, the males have all the power – socially, culturally and legally. In a system based on patriarchy, not only the social systems is male dominated as well. The practical impact of a patriarchal system is that women are frequently exploited. Not only is the male the figurative head of household, he is often the legal and cultural ruler of the family as well.

## What is Spirit Photography?



The effect that marketing policies and strategies have on the economy and society as a whole is known as macromarketing. Specifically, macromarketing refers to how product, price, place and promotion strategies the four P's of marketing – create demand for goods and services and thus influence what is produced and sold in an economy. Over the centuries, businesses have become more adept at reaching potential consumers through an expanding set of mediums. Marketing therefore, has become a part of the daily life of a consumer, since consumers are exposed to advertisements for products and services.

(Contd.. from p. 7)

interpret the church's social service work as a fraudulent means for conversion and therefore a criminal act.

When the Bharatiya Janata Party came to power in Delhi two years ago, one of the first discussions by its leaders in the media were ways to introduce a national law against conversion, despite the Indian Constitution giving citizens the right to profess, preach and propagate a religion of their choice.

That is why the bishops meeting with Modi assumes significance.

It is important for Christians in India, who make up about 2 percent of the population, that their church leaders maintain friendly relations with a democratically elected government. All the more so because the party that leads the present government does not accept or support the basic concept of Christianity — evangelization.

More images of Modi and bishops shaking hands in the media will help spread an idea of cooperation than of confrontation between Christians and right-wing Hindu groups. If nothing, that should at least help a re-think among those who orchestrate violence against Christians.

The meeting may not result in bringing the pope to India this year, or sending Modi to the Vatican for the canonization. But it has a positive message of invitation for cooperation and friendship.

So although nothing may come of the meeting and the atmosphere of intolerance against Christians continues unabated, it is important that Catholic leaders are seen to keep close contact with the top political leadership.

Only time will tell if Modi and his party have accepted the bishops' invitation for friendship.

Source: UCAN

## Ambedkar's Advice to Christians

The speech delivered to Indian Christians of Sholapur. Published in 'Janata' of 5.2.1938, reproduced from 'Dnyanodaya'

"From the available religions and personalities in the world, I consider only two- Budha and Christ for conversion. We want a religion for me and my followers which will teach equality freedom among men, and how man must behave with men and God, how child should behave with father etc.

"Missionaries feel they have done their duty when they convert an untouchable to Christianity. They do not look after their political rights. I find this is a big fault in Christians. Because they have not entered into politics uptill now. It is difficult for any institution to survive without political support.

We, Untouchables, though are ignorant and illiterate, we are in movement. That is why we have 15 seats in the Legislative Assembly. Students are getting scholarships, there are government hostels. Such is not the case of Christian students. If an untouchable student getting scholarship get converted, his scholarship is stopped though his financial status remains same. If you were in politics, things would have been opposed.



"Your society is educated. Hundreds of boys and girls are matric. These people have not agitated against this injustice unlike the uneducated untouchables. If any girl becomes a nurse or any boy becomes a teacher they are involved in their own affairs, they do not get involved in public affairs. Even clerks and officers are busy in their work, he ignores the social injustice.

Your society is so much educated, how many are District judges or magistrates? I tell you, this is because of your neglect towards politics, because there is nobody to talk of any fight for your rights. ..." [Ganjare vol. III. p.142 ff.]

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# Medical Fitness



## Prevention Is Better Than Cure

### MEDICAL FITNESS:-

#### " CHOLESTEROL "

Cholesterol --- < 200  
 HDL --- 40 --- 60  
 LDL --- < 100  
 VLDL -- < 30  
 Triglycerides -- < 150

#### CHOLESTEROL

Borderline --200 -- 239  
 High ---- > 240  
 V.High -- > 250

#### LDL

Borderline --130 ---159  
 High --- 160 --- 189  
 V.High -- > 190

#### TRIGLYCERIDES

Borderline - 150 -- 199  
 High -- 200 --- 499  
 V.High -- > 500

#### PLATELETS COUNT

1.50 Lac ---- 4.50 Lac

#### BLOOD

Vitamin-D -- 50 ---- 80  
 Uric Acid -- 3.50 --- 7.20

#### KIDNEY

Urea --- 17 --- 43  
 Calcium -- 8.80 -- 10.60  
 Sodium -- 136 --- 146  
 Protein -- 6.40 --- 8.30

#### HIGH BP

120/80 -- Normal  
 130/85 --Normal (Control)  
 140/90 -- High  
 150/95 -- V.High

#### LOW BP

120/80 -- Normal  
 110/75 -- Normal (Control)  
 100/70 -- Low  
 90//65 -- V.Low

#### SUGER

Glucose (F) -- 70 --- 100  
 (12 hrs Fasting)  
 Glucose (PP) -- 70 --- 140  
 (2 hrs after eating)  
 Glucose (R) -- 70 --- 140  
 (After 2 hrs)

#### HAEMOGLOBIN

Male -- 13 --- 17  
 Female -- 11 --- 15  
 RBC Count -- 4.50 -- 5.50  
 (million)

#### PULSE

72 per minute (standard)  
 60 --- 80 p.m. (Normal)  
 40 -- 180 p.m.(abnormal)

#### TEMPERATURE

98.4 F (Normal)  
 99.0 F Above (Fever)

### Heart Attacks And Drinking Warm Water.

The Chinese and Japanese drink hot tea with their meals, not cold water, maybe it is time we adopt their drinking habit while eating. For those who like to drink cold water, this article is applicable to you. It is very Harmful to have Cold Drink/Water during a meal. Because, the cold water will solidify the oily stuff that you have just consumed. It will slow down the digestion. Once this 'sludge' reacts with the acid, it will break down and be absorbed by the intestine faster than the solid food.

It will line the intestine. Very soon, this will turn into fats and lead to cancer . It is best to drink hot soup or warm water after a meal.

French fries and Burgers are the biggest enemy of heart health. A coke after that gives more power to this demon. Avoid them for your Heart's & Health.

Drink one glass of warm water just when you are about to go to bed to avoid clotting of the blood at night to avoid heart attacks or strokes.

(Contd.. from p. 5)

be given an intensive training course on how to look after their cows and treat them when they are sick and checks must be conducted to determine the health of cows and their living conditions by veterinary doctors.

When the cow becomes old and useless to the farmer and cannot plough his fields or gives insufficient milk it must be slaughtered but this must not be done if it is sick.

Cross breeding of Indian and foreign cows must be encouraged in order to produce a better quality of milk and a greater quantity of milk.

When slaughtering cows, bulls, buffaloes and other animals they must be given a very strong electric shock to numb them before they are slaughtered and the hair from their skin must be removed mechanically by using automatic hair removing machines for this purpose.

So when the cow slaughter banned is removed people can eat what they want freely and fearlessly.

—Peter Castellino

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# 14 Short Stories

**Spend a few minutes thinking after each story. Your mood after reading these will be different for sure.**

## 1. Fall and Rise

Today, when I slipped on the wet tile floor a boy in a wheelchair caught me before I slammed my head on the ground. He said, "Believe it or not, that's almost exactly how I injured my back 3 years ago .

## 2. A father's advice

Today, my father told me, "Just go for it and give it a try! You don't have to be a professional to build a successful product. Amateurs started Google and Apple. Professionals built the Titanic

## 3. The power of uniqueness.

Today, I asked my mentor – a very successful business man in his 70's – what his top 3 tips are for success. He smiled and said, "Read something no one else is reading, think something no one else is thinking, and do something no one else is doing.

## 4. Looking Back

Today, I interviewed my grandmother for part of a research paper I'm working on for my Psychology class. When I asked her to define success in her own words, she said, "Success is when you look back at your life and the memories make you smile.

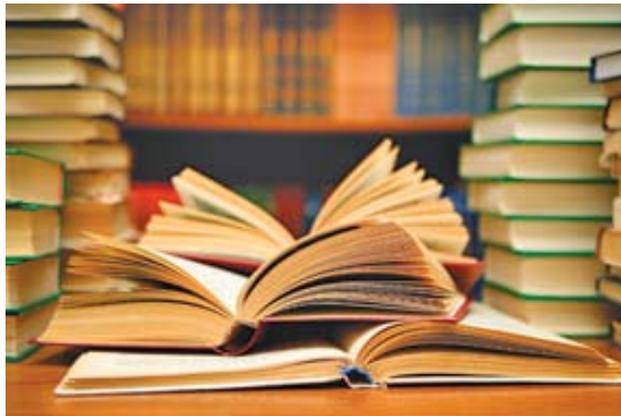
## 5. Try and U shall know

I am blind by birth. When I was 8 years old, I wanted to play baseball. I asked my father- "Dad, can I play baseball?" He said "You'll never know until you try." When I was a teenager, I asked him, - "Dad Can I become a surgeon?". He replied "Son, you'll never know until you try." Today I am

a Surgeon, just because I tried!

## 6. GOODNESS & GRATITUDE

Today, after a 72 hour shift at the fire station, a woman ran up to me at the grocery store and gave me a hug. When I tensed up, she realized I didn't recognize her. She let go with tears of joy in her eyes and the most sincere smile and said, "On 9-11-2001,



you carried me out of the World Trade Center."

## 7. LOVE CONQUERS PAIN

Today, after I watched my dog get run over by a car, I sat on the side of the road holding him and crying. And just before he died, he licked the tears off my face.

## 8. A DOOR CLOSES TO OPEN ANOTHER

Today at 7AM, I woke up feeling ill, but decided I needed the money, so I went into work. At 3PM I got laid off. On my drive home I got a flat tire. When I went into the trunk for the spare, it was flat too. A man in a BMW pulled over, gave me a ride, we chatted, and then he offered me a job. I start tomorrow.

## 9. LOOKING BACK

Today, as my father, three brothers, and two sisters stood around my mother's hospital bed, my mother ut-

tered her last coherent words before she died. She simply said, "I feel so loved right now. We should have gotten together like this more often."

## 10. AFFECTION

Today, I kissed my dad on the forehead as he passed away in a small hospital bed. About 5 seconds after he passed, I realized it was the first time I had given him a kiss since I was a little boy.

## 11. INNOCENCE

Today, in the cutest voice, my 8-year-old daughter asked me to start recycling. I chuckled and asked, "Why?" She replied, "So you can help me save the planet." I chuckled again and asked, "And why do you want to save the planet?" "Because that's where I keep all my stuff," she said.

## 12. JOY

Today, when I witnessed a 27-year-old breast cancer patient laughing hysterically at her 2-year-old daughter's antics, I suddenly realized that I need to stop complaining about my life and start celebrating it again.

## 13. KINDNESS

Today, a boy in a wheelchair saw me desperately struggling on crutches with my broken leg and offered to carry my backpack and books for me. He helped me all the way across campus to my class and as he was leaving he said, "I hope you feel better soon."

## 14. SHARING

Today, I was traveling in Kenya and I met a refugee from Zimbabwe. He said he hadn't eaten anything in over 3 days and looked extremely skinny and unhealthy. Then my friend offered him the rest of the sandwich he was eating. The first thing the man said was, "We can share it."

***Cheers to life!***

# Inspiration!

## Time Saving Tips

**We can never get back the time that has lost. Here are some of the true time-saving tips**

**T**ime is the most valuable thing in life. It influences every single moment and every step we take in life. To manage time is to manage life. It's possible to use little tricks that will help us stop wasting our precious time.

### Say 'No' to rush hour

Most of the people are frustrated with the amount of time they waste in commuting for work. By doing a few simple things, will make commuting easy. Carefully plan your route and mode of transportation before leaving home. Arrange your things as much as you can the night before, so that you can leave home on time without any last moment hassle.

You can avoid most of worst traffic by leaving early from home. It will also give you extra time to relax and catch up with your pending work. While driving back home, try to avoid traffic time.

### Restrict social media

Although social media has made lives easier in various ways but at the end it is one of the biggest ways to waste precious time. The temptation to postpone our important work while we are busy with Twitter, Facebook and more is very common. To control it, stop checking such sites constantly. Instead, restrict your viewing time to five minutes, not more than three times a day.

### Use Technology

In this technology oriented world, while using computers or laptop less typing equals more time. There are



softwares that reduces the number of keystrokes. They not only simplify repetitious tasks like adding up signatures, writing unvarying letters but also save hours in the long run.

### Delegate work to kids

Initiate by delegating work to all the family members and especially to kids. This will not only reduce your work pressure but will also make them responsible. Above all this, everybody, will have plenty of family time left to spend with each other.

### Stay close to workplace

Do not ever choose to stay far from work place. Even if the rental and home prices are low we do not realise it how much hidden cost we spend on commuting.

Not to forget the booming prices of gas and transportation that can add up huge amount to your monthly expenses. It is better to move and have higher housing costs and gain an hour every day.

### List and prioritise task

Always keep a paper or note pad handy. Even you can opt for to do list fridge magnet. Keep a pen nearby to it and write all the important work as it comes to your mind. With a list in hand we can shop more efficiently and can save the time. While making list, prioritise items, place most important things at the top.

### Simplify the morning

The best way is to get ready for morning the night before. Try to set out everything possible from preparation of breakfast ingredients to clothes, from backpacks to lunches. Do this all before going to bed.

It will leave you with fewer things to think about when you wake up. Also pack work or school bag the night before, keep wallet, keys by the door in a basket or at one place.

### Few other tips

- Restrict TV watching and playing games as they easily eat up huge amounts of our leisure time without any benefit.
- Every day we waste almost over an hour in messaging. So, next time call rather than texting.
- To save time opt for online banking and automatic bill pay.

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**MANGALORE** : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 36 years, Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 69 kgs, Handsome, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.A., Having own business and accommodation. Contact email : proposal564@gmail.com OR 9535051204 **(Regd. No. 6534)**

**MUMBAI** : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 33 years, Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 69 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., Wheatish Complexion, Working with Disney Cruise line, Well settled. Contact email : joseph\_almeida15@yahoo.in OR 98925 81515 / 98338 31515 **(Regd. No. 6533)**

**MUMBAI** : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 41 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Admin. Controller in **DUBAI**. Contact email: dsouzarobin25@gmail.com OR Tel : 22-24983066 **(Regd. No. 6358)**

**GOA** : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 31 years, Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 60 kgs, Very Fair Complexion, Edn. 3 years Diploma in Catering, working as a Chef at a Supervisory level. Contact email : chefsavio83@gmail.com OR 8652744565 **(Regd. No. 6363)**

**MUMBAI** : Mumbai born, Mangalorean RC Bachelor 40, handsome, Post Graduate, good family background. Financially well established, very practical, having own business and flat in Mulund. Fair Complexion, Height 5' 9", Built on heavy side. Looking for a spinster who is willing to be his Life Partner. Send full details and latest photograph by email : amithanand@theoremsol.in **(Regd. No. 6416)**

**MUMBAI** : Mangalorean RC parents, residing at Navi Mumbai, invite alliance for their bachelor son 29/6', M.S. (Electronics) from RMIT, Australia. Australian citizen, working as Asst. Manager, in Australia, seeks alliance from qualified RC spinster upto 26/5'4" and above with good family background and Christian values. Please contact : wwlewis86@gmail.com / 022-27422720 **(Regd. No. 6357)**

**MUMBAI** : Tamilian Roman Catholic bachelor, aged 32 years, Ht. 165 cms, Wt. 67 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E. (Civil), working as a Structural Engineer (Associate). Contact email : winall2891@gmail.com OR 9920045798 / 9167710057 **(Regd. No. 6222)**

**MUMBAI** : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 28 years, Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 55 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. HSC +

Profession in Hotel Management. Professional in Food & Beverages. Only Child. Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : agnesd85@yahoo.co.in OR 9833283285 **(Regd. No. 6415)**

**PUNE** : East Indian Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 33 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 66 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Dy. Manager. Contact email : warren\_4153@hotmail.com OR 9960493092 **(Regd. No. 6471)**

**MUMBAI** : East Indian Roman Catholic Divorcee, aged 45 years, Ht. 5' 9", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. BE/MBA., working as a Software Professional. Contact No. 9819406433 OR email: examinerboy@yahoo.com **(Regd. No. 6347)**

**MUMBAI** : A R.C. Goan Widower age 70 no encumbrances, owns spacious flat, in perfect good health seeks matrimonial alliances from widows / spinsters above 60 years. Contact email : rick6522@gmail.com OR 7208966328 **(Regd. No. 6344)**

**MUMBAI** : Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 29 years, Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 85 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E.IT & MBA IT, working as a Business Analyst. Contact email : briansavio86@gmail.com OR 09820744043 **(Regd. No. 6467)**

**USA** : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 29 years, Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E. (I.T.), working as a Software Consultant. Contact Email : rahul.ferns@gmail.com OR 9833932407 **(Regd. No. 6463)**

**MUMBAI** : Goan RC Bachelor 58 years, looks young, 5' 7", slim, wheatish, B.Com., own flats financially very well settled in Mumbai. Seeks educated, presentable lady upto 50 years. No. Bars. Email : geryc1956@gmail.com OR 09820636316. **(Regd. No. 6301)**

**MUMBAI** : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 42 years, Ht. 6' 4", Wt. 98 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. HSC., working as a Steward in Oil Tanker - Foreign Ship. Contact email : 285victor@gmail.com OR 7798325784 **(Regd. No. 6380)**

**MUMBAI** : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 32 years, Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 65

kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as an Asst. Retail Manager in Cruise Lines. Contact email : denzil.l.pinto@yahoo.co.in OR 9167613412 **(Regd. No. 6376)**

**MUMBAI** : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 30 years, Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 62 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Sc. B.Ed., Teacher by profession. Only Child. Seeks preferably Goan teacher with B.Ed., qualification. Contact email : agnesmenezes107@gmail.com OR 9821315887 **(Regd. No. 6419)**

**MUMBAI** : Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 40 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. SSC, working as a Lab. Technician in Dubai. Currently in Mumbai contact email : clementd818@gmail.com OR 25741993 **(Regd. No. 6334)**

**MUMBAI** : Tamilian Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 40 years, Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E. Electronics, Self employed, having own house. Contact email: cyril.khanna@yahoo.com OR 9867070056 **(Regd. No. 6322)**

**MUMBAI** : Anglo Indian Roman Catholic Bachelor aged 37 years, Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 75 kgs, fair Complexion, Edn. Bachelors in Business Administration, Diploma in Electronics, currently pursuing MBA in projects. Working as a Senior Operations Manager. Contact email : vanderhidebrian123@gmail.com OR 8655770778 / 9920207250 **(Regd. No. 6298)**

**MUMBAI** : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor Edn. 8th std., having own accommodation, working in Catholic school as a Peon, drawing good salary, aged 47 years, Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Seeks a suitable match. Contact Mob.: 9892134950 **(Regd. No. 6294)**

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# Brides



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**MUMBAI** : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 27 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 65 kgs, Beautiful, Very Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., IT., Masters in Media Art & Animation & Editin. Working as an Editor. Contact email : simonsjl@vsnl.com OR 99870 82211 **(Regd. No. 6535)**

**BANGALORE** : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, Only Child, aged 40 years, Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 58 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.A. Communication, working as an Assistant. Contact email : ashajob@hotmail.com OR 9880869797 **(Regd. No. 6532)**

**RAJASTHAN** : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 27 years, Ht. 5' 7", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working for Railways as a Confidential Assistant to Sr. DCM. Contact email : casrdcm@gmail.com OR 09829980087 **(Regd. No. 6525)**

**MUMBAI** : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 24 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 49 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Com., working. Contact email : dsouzaavi29@gmail.com OR 9920113059 **(Regd. No. 6442)**

**MUMBAI** : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 28 years, Ht. 5'5", Wt. 68 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Com., working as a Sr. Associate. Contact email : olgapin123@gmail.com OR Tel.: 9867449604 **(Regd. No. 6441)**

**MUMBAI** : Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 32 years, Ht. 5'4", Wt. 64 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Risk Analyst. Contact email : jesmetal@hathway.com OR 9821925913 **(Regd. No. 6440)**

**MUMBAI** : Mangalorean/Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 29 years, Ht. 5'6", Wt. 56 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E. Comp. MBA., working for MNC. Contact email : sybil8.lobo@gmail.com OR 9920309470 **(Regd. No. 6439)**

**MUMBAI** : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 26 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., Nurse, working as a B.Sc. Staff Nurse in **SAUDI**. Contact email : sybilalvares18@gmail.com OR 9657035849 **(Regd. No. 6437)**

**PUNE** : Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 27 years, Ht. 5', Wt. 50 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. T.T.C., B.A., perusing B.Ed., Teacher in Convent School. Contact email : prachir369@gmail.com OR 9823120272 **(Regd. No. 6433)**

**MUMBAI** : Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 26 years, Ht. 5'1", Wt. 48 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., (Banking & Insurance) working as a Consultant. Contact email : rosemarybharda@yahoo.com OR 9224780162 **(Regd. No. 6414)**

**MUMBAI** : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 25 years, Ht. 5' 2", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Post Graduate (HR), working as a Junior Officer. Contact email : natasha.lima25@yahoo.com OR 9920930518 **(Regd. No. 6410)**

**MUMBAI** : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 29 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. BMS, M.Com., MBA., working as a Asst. Manager, Contact email : silverbells1960@gmail.com OR 28931512 **(Regd. No. 6409)**

**MUMBAI** : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 28 years, Ht. 5' 1", Wt. 57 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., IT., MBA working as a IT Engineer. Seeks a well settled boy. Contact email : m.rodricks24@gmail.com OR 9821596241 / 26424190 **(Regd. No. 6408)**

**MUMBAI** : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 28 years, Ht. 5', Wt. 46 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., MBA working as a HR. Contact email : picardo.princijaj@gmail.com OR 9833077789 **(Regd. No. 6406)**

**MUMBAI** : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 32 years, Ht. 5'5", Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. TYBA., working as a Receptionist. Contact email : mascarenhasprescilla@gmail.com OR 9930953353 **(Regd. No. 6405)**

**MUMBAI** : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 26 years, Ht. 5'4", Wt. 56 kgs, Fair Complexion, goodlooking and graceful, Edn. as Interior Designer & works as an Interior Designer. Seeks an well educated, working Goan Bachelor. India/ Abroad. Having a good status. Contact : +918689890839 and email : mary29paul@gmail.com **(Regd. No. 6403)**

**MUMBAI** : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 28 years, Ht. 5', Wt. 64 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. HSC., Teacher by profession. Contact email : juliejoedesa@

gmail.com OR 9709614000 **(regd. no. 6343)**

**MUMBAI** : Goan RC Spinster, aged 30 years, Ht. 5' 4', Wt. 52 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.B.A. in Finance, working as an Executive. Contact email : md279197@gmail.com OR 9619374254 **(Regd. No. 6318)**

**MUMBAI** : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster aged 29 years, Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 51 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., coms, B.Ed., Teacher by profession. Contact email : violet\_361@yahoo.com OR 9969663045 **(Regd. No. 6273)**

**MUMBAI** : Mangalorean Born again Christian Spinster, aged 28 years, Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M. Com., working in Dubai. Contact email : elle\_2k7@yahoo.co.on OR 00971-555404182 / 9833747558 **(Regd. No. 6271)**

**MUMBAI** : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 26 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 57 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.A., working in Private Firm. Contact email : jmae26@yahoo.co.in OR 9819440647 **(Regd. No. 6269)**

**MUMBAI** : Mahrastrian Protestant Spinster, aged 29 years, Ht. 5' 4", Fair Complexion, good looking, Edn. B.A. LL.B., Advocate by profession. Contact email : ruch\_20jan@yahoo.in OR 7738674508 **(Regd. No. 6268)**

**NAVI MUMBAI** : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 35 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., presently working in U.K. Contact email : criscyalphonso@gmail.com OR 9594749903 **(Regd. No. 6258)**

**DUBAI** : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 26 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. BMS, MBA Finance, working as a Bank Officer in Dubai, Contact email : pdsouza.acb@gmail.com OR 08970986766 **(Regd. No. 6256)**

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## Odisha Catholic school student tops India's tenth grade exam

Bhubaneswar: A student of a Catholic school in a remote village in Odisha made history when he topped the tenth grade under the Indian School Certificate Examination.

Abineet Parichha of Little Flower School, Balangir secured 99.2 percent with 100 marks each in mathematics, social science and computers, 98 marks in Science and English and 96 in Odia, the state language.

"Dream marks indeed. I was expecting to score above 95 percent but didn't expect to be all-India topper. I want to pursue my career in cosmology," said Abineet, son of Sukant Parichha, a businessman, and Purnamasi Parichha, a homemaker.

## The Church of Punjab united, beyond the Indo-Pakistani border

To overcome divisions, differences, political tensions that exist between India and Pakistan and rediscover the common roots, in the sign of culture, faith, fraternity: with this spirit the Diocese of Lahore, capital of Pakistani Punjab, organized a jubilee pilgrimage in Indian Punjab at the end of April, visiting the neighboring Indian dioceses and "making an experience of unity, sharing, communion and fraternity", remarked to Fides Archbishop Francis Sebastian Shaw of Lahore, who led a delegation of 16 diocesan priests.

## Madurai Archbishop's political stand becomes

### controversial

As Christian began to oppose a purported move by the Tamil Nadu Bishop Council's decision to support the DMK-Congress alliance, it has come to light that the support recommendation was of one archbishop, and not of the council.

"The Bishop Council has not given its nod to the appeal signed by Madurai Archbishop Anthony Samy Pappusamy. A few people who are interested in gaining political mileage and offices are behind the appeal," said former IAS officer M.G. Devasahayam, who is also the convener of the Joint Christian Action Council and Forum for Catholic Unity, Chennai.

Objections from the community took the form of a petition to the Council, based on the grounds that the religious leadership of Catholics had never resorted to this kind of diktat in the past and should never do so in the future, reported the Hindu newspaper.

## Indian prelate tops delegation to Taiwan president's inauguration

Taiwan: The Vatican will send an archbishop to lead a delegation to attend Taiwan President-elect Tsai Ing-wen's upcoming inauguration.

Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced on May 5 that Archbishop Joseph Chennoth, the Vatican's apostolic nuncio to Japan, will join the May 20 ceremony.

The Indian archbishop had been the Vatican's charge d'affaires to Taiwan from 1995-1999.

The Vatican has a long-standing practice of sending an envoy from

a nearby country to attend Taiwan's presidential inauguration, Anna Kao, director general of the Foreign Affairs Ministry's Department of European Affairs, told reporters.

Of the 22 countries with diplomatic relations with Taiwan, the Vatican is the only one in Europe.

## Politicians throng bishops' houses in poll-bound Kerala

Thiruvananthapuram: With May 16 drawing near, candidates and party honchos of all hues and shades are making the proverbial beeline to call on the church leaders in Kerala.

Outwardly, the Churches remain non-chalant, stating that they themselves have little political ambition and the faithful should go by their conscience in casting their votes.

Almost all the top leaders and candidates have visited Cardinal Baselios Cleemis and other bishops.

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