

# THE SECULAR CITIZEN

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# FEAR



...politicians and the news media to create fear. ... because fear is the antithesis of freedom. The more fear you have in you, the less is the possibility of freedom. The more fear is there, the less is the possibility of rebellion. This is what a dictatorship does and not what a democratically elected government does. All will agree that at most time's the present government has thrown democracy to the winds and dictatorship prevails in imposing their own ideology especially where minorities and Dalit's are concerned ...

## Stany Alvares is President of Rachana



**Mangaluru:** Konkani community's acclaimed leader Joachim Stany Alvares has been elected as the president of the Rachana Catholic Chamber of Commerce and Industry for the year 2017-19. The elections were held recently at Valencia church hall.

Alvares hailing from Bondel is a youth leader and social activist who was also appointed as the general secretary of Dakshina Kannada District Congress Committee.

Alvares who is associated with Mandd Sobhann from last 23 years is also its vice-president and has been actively participating in Konkani and Tulu movies.



First time in the history of Church in Kerala 1350 priests..16 bishops and 2 Cardinals attending the Priest Residential retreat at Potta

## First ever Jesuit bishop ordained in Ireland

**A** member of the Jesuit Order has been ordained a bishop in Ireland in a marked departure for the Irish Catholic Church.

Bishop Alan McGuckian, 64, was ordained Bishop of Raphoe on Aug. 6, the first ever member of the Jesuit Order to be appointed a bishop in Ireland. Two of his siblings, Fr Bernard and Fr Michael, are also Jesuit priests.

Archbishop Eamon Martin ordained the new bishop at the Cathedral of Saints Eunan and Columba in Letterkenny, Co Donegal.

In 2013, Pope Francis became the first Jesuit pontiff.

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**'Thought for the week'**

*life's challenges are not supposed to paralyse you, they are supposed to help you discover who you are.*

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**Cover : Fear:**

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**FEAR**

*by Don Aguiar*

There seems to be a constant manipulation by politicians and the news media to create fear. For example, I only just discovered that in India I am ten times more likely to fear of talking against our present government thrust in saffronising history and geography of our country than from any form of terrorism. What is behind all this?

It is from outside the electoral sphere that the VHP attempts to make interventions in Indian politics. As a religious organization it makes efforts to influence policy and change the course of politics. It is from this standpoint that it has attempted to build a critique of democracy and alter the conception of citizenship. It also critiques the Constitution of India and calls upon the Indian state to pay closer attention to 'Hindu interests'. Its identity as a religious organization is important for it to build a stand on political questions and influence public opinion. It has tried to cultivate a *sadhu* persona, one who has taken up the task of reform and revitalization of the Hindu religion and community, which over time has helped it build popular support. It is interesting that it has continued to strengthen its self-identity as a religious organization.

Everybody you have come in contact with has been imposing fear on you, because fear is the antithesis of freedom. The more fear you have in you, the less is the possibility of freedom. The more fear is there, the less is the possibility of rebellion. This is what a dictatorship does and not what a democratically elected government does. All will agree that at most time's the present government has thrown democracy to the winds and dictatorship prevails in imposing their own ideology especially where minorities and Dalit's are concerned.

With the BJP's Hindu right wing government in power after winning absolute majority in the general elections of 2014, the VHP has become vocal about its ideological beliefs. In the words of late Ashok Singhal, "In 800 years, a day has now come in which we can say we have a government which is committed to protecting Hindutva. Our values will be gradually established in the country... Hindus have come back to power in Delhi after Rajput King Prithviraj Chauhan lost it in the 12th century". This victory is seen by the VHP as the Hindutva victory for which VHP and the RSS had worked hard. The communally provocative speeches of VHP leaders in 2014 and 2015 clearly convey that they have regained much of their enthusiasm which had waned during 10 years of UPA rule. The VHP is hopeful that it will realize its ideological goals, especially the building of the Ram temple though it has not planned any agitation.

People have also called this "The Age of Anger," and when I look at the way people seem to express themselves these days, it often feels like it. Love seems far away. Is there a con-

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nection between this incitement to fear and the eruption of so much anger?

Life should be surrounded by love, not by fear. It is fear that creates anger. It is fear that ultimately creates violence. Have you seen that fear is only a feminine form of anger and anger is a masculine form of fear? Fear is a passive form of anger and anger is an active form of fear. So you can change fear into anger very easily, and anger into fear – very easily.

Very often in our country people say, 'We are feeling very afraid.' A sense of insecurity is creeping in as a result of the dominant mood created by some and the resultant intolerance and vigilantism. The very fact that Indianness of any citizen is being questioned is a disturbing thought. The fact that India has been a plural society for centuries and not for 70 years is under threat. This propensity to be able to assert your nationalism day in and day out is unnecessary, I am an Indian and that is it.

Religion, society and politicians seem to be a significant part of the same problem, and certainly not part of the solution. Sometimes many don't know where to turn. Fear is the root cause of hate, anger, violence.

The society, the religions, the state, all want everybody to be in a state of constant fear: fear of the known, fear of the unknown, fear of death, fear of hell, fear of missing heaven, fear of not making your name in the world, fear of just being a nobody. Everybody around you from the very birth is creating fear. No child is born with fear. Every child is born with freedom, doubt, rebellion, individuality, and innocence – all great qualities. But he is helpless, dependent.

But when you are grown up, you can see – you can try to peel the onion layer by layer – how fears have been created in you, how gullible you have been, how people have exploited your innocence. The priest had no knowledge of God, yet he deceived you and pretended that he knows God. He had no idea of heaven and hell, yet he forced you to be afraid of hell, to be ambitious for heaven. He created greed, he created fear. He himself was a victim of other people.

Don't move the way fear makes you move. Move the way love makes you move. Move the way joy makes you move – not out of fear, because all so-called religions and present governments are based on fear. Their God is nothing but fear, and their heaven and hell are nothing but projections of fear and

## Next Asian Youth Day will be in India!

Pope Francis sent a message on 06 August 2017, to the closing of the '7th Asian Youth Day'! More than 4,000 young Catholics from all over Asia and from India took part in the deliberations.



This year's event in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, featured talks and workshops aimed at a three-pronged strategy for Asian nations, namely: Building mutual respect; Caring for the environment; and, Learning to be Missionaries in a digital world! The Theme implemented this year is: "Joyful Asians Living the Gospel in a Multicultural Asia"!

As part of this 'multicultural aspect', and in an effort to address the growing fundamentalism in the area, the event hosted several encounters between Christian, Islamic and other religious and secular leaders.

Among the Catholic leaders who

attended was our own beloved Oswald Cardinal Gracias, Archbishop of Bombay, and a member of the Pope's "C9" council of advisors; when it was also announced that

India will host the next 'Asian Youth Festival'! The Pope's communication for this year's young gathering read:

"I pray that young people from across Asia will listen ever more attentively to God's call, and respond with faith and courage in their vocation."

"I invite you, the youth to turn to Mary, mother of God as a model of missionary discipleship; to speak to her as you would to your own mother, and to trust always in her loving intercession!" (cf. Luke 1:38; 46-55 & Acts 1:14).

—Dr. Hazel Colaso,  
(Ashburn, Virginia, USA).

greed. Rumi's statement is very revolutionary: 'Do not move because of fear.' All the religions say to people, 'Fear God!'....

You all have been living out of fear. Your relationships are out of fear. Fear is so overwhelming – like a dark cloud covering your life – that you say things which you don't want to say, but fear makes you say them. You do things which you do not want to do, but fear makes you do them. A little intelligence is enough to see.

What are you afraid about?' Don't listen to this question; that question is dangerous. That leads you into more and more verbal explanations; it is a camouflage, a distraction from the fear. Just go into fear itself, with great love for this experience. If trembling arises, tremble; if you feel shaken, then shake. There is no need to hide it.

Don't condemn yourself, that you are a coward; these are the tricks the mind plays. And the society which has made you very much of an expert in these things, immediately condemns something: 'You are a coward. Why are you trembling?', and immediately you start repressing that trembling. That repressed trembling will create a great disturbance in your being.

Let it happen: tremble joyously, enjoy the vibe of it, go into it totally and cooperate with it. Become trembling... be it, and a great realization will arrive. Trembling will disappear and you will be left with such peace, such great silence as one feels after a storm.

Don't hide, don't fight, and don't escape into explanations. Go into it! Go into the storm. And be afraid – there is nothing wrong in it. Fear is as human as love, as anger. Be human and welcome humanity in yourself. The old religions have been very condemnatory towards humanity. I am utterly in love with humanity, with all that is human. Because of the old religions' antagonism against humanity they created men of steel. They used to call them sadhus/saints. They were not real men, because they would not feel human fear, they would not feel human love and they would not feel human anger.

So use this fear as a great experience. Go into it lovingly, meditatively, watching, witnessing... without having any prejudice for or against. Go choicelessly into it without any like and dislike. Like and dislike are the disease of the mind.. Drop the disease, simply go into it, and great will be your experi-

(Contd.. on p. 5)



## Mumbai Potholes - undergoing a face change !

Normally when we open the morning newspapers we are used to reading depressing headlines. But what a pleasant surprise it was on the morning of Saturday 5th August 2017 when I opened the newspapers – right there on the Front page screamed the headlines, No potholes on city roads, only 'bad patches', says BMC. Hah ! All potholes had disappeared overnight ! And I thought to myself, did some master magician sweep across the city with a magic wand to make all the potholes disappear ?

Well, that seems like a fairy tale. It's time the B.M.C. gets real - they need to come out of wonderland !. Using a new terminology for the potholes and not going to take away the reality – the potholes will remain 'pot-holes'. And as long that is the case, people will continue taking 'pot-shots' at the B.M.C. The reality hurts, no doubt. Why, just a day earlier, even the Bombay High Court came down heavily on the B.M.C. on account of the potholes, while hearing a petition on the poor condition of the roads in the city. Justice Chellur even said. that

(Contd.. from p. 4)

ence and the realization out of it. And then instead of presently being a republic of revenge and hate ... democracy in its true form will hold forth.

As we complete the seventy fifth year of our independence let wise counsel prevail on the powers that be in ensuring that the minorities and the Dalit's and ethic following people do not have to now live in fear but live by the constitution in the true sense of a secular democratic country and in Tagore's vision – "Where the mind is without fear /And the Head is held high....." .

he would "personally go and see on which roads and how many potholes are there."

The citizens of this city would like to echo the question the High Court has put before the B.M.C., "How many more do you [BMC] want to eliminate before the next monsoon? The High Court bench has pointed out that at least 25 lives have been lost due to potholes in the city this monsoon. It is only when tragedy visits our home, that we understand what 'tragedy' really is.

—Melville X. D'Souza  
- Orlem, Malad West

## Biased writing of History

It is indeed shocking that internationally well-known facts of Mughal and Muslim History in India have been left out of the new History textbooks for schools in Maharashtra, as reported in some local newspapers. The bureau for production of History books, and its bosses in the State, do not seem to believe in the national motto, "satyameva jayate". However, in this day and age, the truth cannot be erased from the minds of people because anyone can have access to the internet, great works of art and architecture and other sources of authentic historical information. Besides, progressive teachers and students from good schools are expected to go beyond the prescribed text-books, through project-work, visits to places of historical interest, and other modern methods of teaching and learning. Yet, we must admit that in our country, where education is in such a sorry state, thousands of students will be compelled to accept blindly whatever the text-books say. It is a pity that they will no longer get exposure to a great

and magnanimous ruler like Akbar -- renowned for religious tolerance and for initiating inter-religious dialogue at a time when it was unheard of. Several Jesuit Fathers, like Rudolph Acquaviva, Montserrat and others, were invited by him to speak about their religion and lived at his court for many years. They were given all the facilities they needed to worship in their own way. Hindu leaders and other religious men too enjoyed the same royal patronage. Akbar even abolished the hated 'jizya tax' imposed on non-Muslims. If such a great and unifying figure can be presented only with one sentence, as a conqueror; and history books, across the country, are going to be written, henceforth, in a biased, politicized manner to favour only one community, an already fragmented country is sure to get further polarized, leading to widespread discontent, social unrest and communal conflicts in a country which trumpets before the whole world that it is marching towards progress and hopes to be a superpower in the near future. This dream can only be achieved through genuine 'national integration', promotion of a 'scientific temper' (as advocated by the Directive Principles of the Constitution), and objectivity in writing and reporting events in past and contemporary history.

—Joseph M. Dias,S.J.,  
Andheri (E), Mumbai.

### Important Announcement

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# Poached Eggs Are Insipid

**R**emember the young boy crunching Sachin Tendulkar's hand in the ad "Sunday ho ya Monday, Khate Raho anday" by the National Egg Co-ordination Committee? Long before the ad, I have been an egg fan. My dil hai Hindustani but my preferred breakfast is continental, in which an egg is a must. If it is a Sunday then add bacon, sausages and toast melba with marmalade!



by chhotebhai \*

it is for democracy and the rule of law – in both letter and spirit.

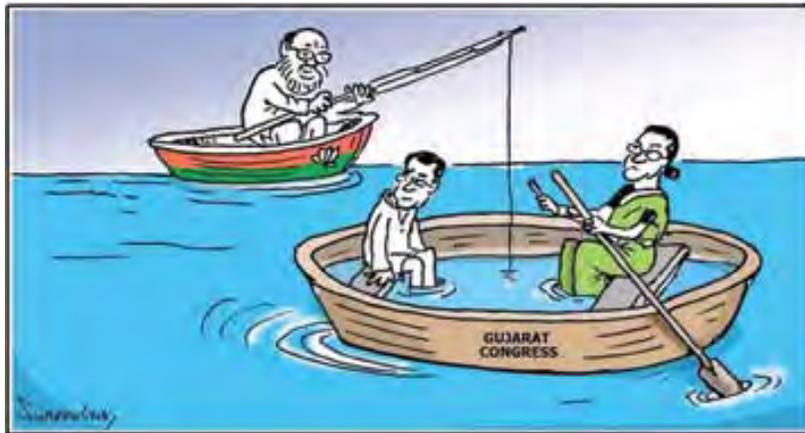
Over the last year, poaching of legislators has gone on unabashedly; beginning with Arunachal, then Uttarakhand, U.P., Manipur, Goa, Bihar, Tripura and lastly Gujarat, the home turf of the "invincible duo" of Modi and Shah. For a time it seemed that just nobody could stop the roll of the juggernaut and the role of Amit Shah,

However, the unabashed poaching that the BJP has indulged in, augurs ill for the future of the country; with some even contemplating to quit India before it is too late. It is well nigh impossible to prove that money would have changed hands, together with party affiliation. But the temptations of the loaves of office are more than enough to sway unscrupulous politicians. Then there is always the threat of raids from the CBI, Enforcement Directorate, Income Tax Dept etc. There could hardly be a politician who doesn't have some skeletons in his cupboard. So the coercive threats are real.

Even on a road trip I will stop at a dhaba that makes anday bhurji. I like eggs in any form – fried, boiled, omelette or scrambled. But I detest poached eggs, because they are insipid. So what if the Brits liked their eggs thataway.

From poached eggs let me move to political poaching, that seems to be the flavour of the season. The BJP that claimed to be the party with a difference, occupying the high moral ground on corruption, should now get the gold medal in the not so fine art of poaching.

The poaching buck had to stop somewhere, and early this morning (9th August) it stopped in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. Significantly this day commemorates the Quit India movement. Maybe it is high time that we Indians told the BJP to quit poaching. Till late last night pliable TV commentators were waxing eloquent about how cool and calm Amit Shah looked, and how depressed and harassed the Congress camp was. Then the tide turned. The bubble burst. The poachers were left red faced as Ahmed Patel scrapped through to win his Rajya Sabha seat. This is not so much a victory for the beleaguered Congress, as



in manipulating and manoeuvring defections. BJP supporters rubbed their hands in glee, while the much maligned "secularists" looked on in hapless horror.

There is an old saying, "Pride comes before the fall". This adage has been reaffirmed in the Gujarat Rajya Sabha elections. It should also be a wake up call for fence sitters like Sharad Pawar, and Nitish Kumar who has already made the switch. Hopefully it will also have a sobering effect on the two factions of the AIADMK in Tamilnadu.

Nobody can deny or belittle the BJP's massive electoral victory in the Lok Sabha elections of 2014 and in U.P. in 2017. They were clean winners. One must also appreciate the Govt's campaign for a Swatch Bharat and against black money. My support for the Govt ends there.

If, despite such fraud, coercion and inducement (words freely bandied about in the so-called "Freedom of Religion" bills) the Gujarat Congress could keep its depleted flock together and make a fight of it, then it is indeed a greater victory than that of one Rajya Sabha seat. It is a ray of hope that there is still some spunk in the Congress and other professedly secular parties.

Last night, during the TV debates, the silver tongued BJP spokesperson, Samvit Patra, kept asking about the whereabouts of Rahul Gandhi. Why was he missing in action? In hindsight one might hazard a guess that Ahmed Patel won precisely because Rahul Baba was not there; else there may have been one more botched operation for the Congress. Hopefully, we citizens won't have to think of quitting India if we can keep the political poachers and botchers at bay. And I can keep having my egg everyday, though not in the insipid poached way!

\* The writer is the Founder Convenor of the Kanpur Nagrik Manch.

# The Cow Seeks Its Independence!

**S**eventy years of independence from British rule! In the seven decades gone by India has achieved much to earn its place in the Sun. From the bullock-cart age to the Computer age to the age of internet, twitter, WhatsApp, Instagram and what have you, free India has come a long way. From barefoot teachers to 'each one teach one' campaigns the masses have made great headway in terms of literacy. As for all-round development, we've made great strides with individuals and groups of every hue from the point of view of language, culture and religion, making an immeasurable contribution to the strengthening of the body politic. And yet, as we commence our seventy-first year of independence the pendulum has suddenly swung to the other extreme with the insignificant animal called the 'cow' unwittingly, even unwillingly so to say, taking centre-stage for no valid reason whatsoever, the peace of co-existence turned into a myth overnight. Shobha De's piece in the Times of India [23 July 2017] that sought to plead 'No panga in my name please' is of a piece with the kind of situation that has developed besides serving as an eye-opener of sorts to the powers-that-be apart from the fact that it sure made both interesting and amusing reading! In fact the discerning reader cannot help but want to ask the PM and his self-styled gau-rakshaks as to whether they are aware that cows do exist beyond the boundaries of the Indian sub-continent, some of impeccable breed putting the Indian cow in the shade!

## Holy Cow!

Analytically, **considering that the cow is as much present in Western countries as it is in India, is it only the cow in India that is sacred to the Hindus?** What about the cows in other countries, like say in neighbouring Pakistan and Bangladesh? In other



by Ladislaus L  
D'Souza

parts of Asia, and in countries on other continents of the world? Aren't they sacred, too? After all, **a cow is a cow is a cow!** So, what has our globe-trotting PM done about the killing of those innocent, holy cows? Au contraire, he strangely seems to have no qualms about being hosted by and dealing with cow eaters abroad. Shouldn't he be seizing such God-sent opportunities to impress upon his hosts on the international stage that slaughtering the holy cow, be it for the hosts' family meal or for a state banquet for a guest, amounts to inhumanness to 'gau-maaji' and that they must forthwith put a stop to such a practice? If that is not done—it obviously can't be done!—one does not need court orders to realize that the cow related fracas taking place across the sub-continent below his very nose has no justification whatsoever. Obviously, lynching a person just because he either carts a cow and its mate, the bull, or slaughters it for beef, is senseless, even as the new trend poses a challenge to those in authority to prove unequivocally that they mean business when declaring unabashedly that taking the law in one's own hands in relation to cow protection will no more be tolerated but dealt with very firmly. Is the government willing to walk the talk?

## What does the cow have to say?

As a matter of fact, Mr Modi's un-called-for silence on the issue on his foreign jaunts amounts to grave

injustice to the holy cow at home. If a cow could speak, it'd have by now denounced what is going on in her name, especially considering that she is considered a 'mother' (Whose, one might make bold to ask!). Strangely and sadly, in the forward looking, progressive computer age, we have suddenly started regressing rapidly into the bullock-cart age with our anti-human thinking in relation to setting up the bovine species as some sort of super-gods/goddesses, the likes of whom are now being provided with concrete shelter at public expense as though stables have become sacrosanct to the point of government toying with the idea of declaring the cow as a national animal. Gosh! Whatever happened to the Bengal Tiger, one wonders!

## Food, a matter of personal choice

Now who hasn't heard of the idiom "One man's food is another man's poison"? Well in India we could say one man's holy cow is another man's protein! And Protein being my birth-right I shall have it! For us Christians the significance of the numerous birds and animals lies in the fact that the Bible teaches that all things were made by God for the good of man, and that perforce includes eating the food of one's individual choice, be it pork or chicken, mutton or quail, not forgetting beef! India being the land of many religions, banning a particular meat is tantamount to banning the consumption of food per se. This obviously is unacceptable, considering that food

(Contd.. on p. 22)

# Whether We As A Nation Are More Concerned About Mother Cows Than Our Elderly Humans?

by Eric D'Sa

We read at regular intervals these days in print and hear talked about on TV, the problems the senior citizens face in our country, due to breakdown of the joint family system and switch to nuclear families. People lament this is one of the outcome of westernisation of our ancient culture and it is taking its toll. At the same time the economic need to restrict family size to just two children, has been gradually accepted universally by most Indians and this change of mind set has come about within our life time. Hence, this global trend of having small families whatever may be the cause is here to stay. This and the fact that people are highly mobile in a world that has shrunk, has enhanced the problem of people getting old and living much longer than their fore fathers or mothers did in the past.

What do you call someone who is over 60 plus but not yet elderly? This stage of life, between being active at work and bed ridden, lacks a name. "Geriatrics" errs too much on the side of helplessness. "Sunsetters" and "nightcappers" risk being patronising. Perhaps "Owls" (Older, Working Less, Still earning) ring truer. A senior citizen sounds more gentlemanly. Branding an age category might sound like a frivolous exercise. But life stages are primarily social constructs, and history shows that their emergence can trigger deep changes in attitudes. Such change is needed if the questions that swirl around rising longevity are to get a fitting answer.

Before 18th century no country in the world including ours, had an average life expectancy at birth beyond 40. Today there is not a country that does not. India has reached an average age of 69. Since 1900, more years have been added to human life than in the rest of history combined, initially

by reducing child mortality and lately by stretching lifespans. Longevity is one of humanity's great accomplishments. Yet the scientists have not given up. They are working on human beings living beyond the rip age of 100 and that too with sound mind and body. But to do so needs money and that is the looming problem of the 21st century.

Hence it is seen as one of present society's great headaches. The problem lies in the increasing dependency of the old on the young. By 2100, the

## YOU THE CITIZENS DECIDE:

ratio of 60+ to "working-age" people around the world will triple. As the world greys, growth, tax revenues and workforces will decline, while spending on pensions and health care will increase. So, at least the idea that there is an urgent need to tackle this problem is now being accepted. The problem in our country, where the concepts of pensions and social security is new and unheard off, growing old without the age old joint family safety net, becomes an acute personal challenge.

Policy makers however tend to miss a bigger point. Those extra years of life are predominantly healthy ones. Many of the additional six years that a Indian child born in 2016 can expect to live, compared with one born in 1990, will be healthy, according to our health pandits. Too many governments and firms fail to recognise this fact, instead lumping all the extra years in the damning category of 60 and over. This binary way of thinking, seeing retirement as a cliff edge over which workers and consumers suddenly tumble, bears little relation to the real world. It also encourages unimaginative policy, whereby the re-

tirement age is occasionally moved as life spans lengthen. While in western countries where populations are shrinking and the ratio of number of working people to those that are not is reducing, the tendency is to delay the retirement age and keep people working longer.

This is unfortunately not the case in our country where the number of unemployed youth are increasing and the paying jobs are decreasing. The highly hyped demographic dividend of being a youthful country, is coming to haunt us. A million youngsters are joining the the workforce every month. A lot fewer jobs are being created for them. Election promises are there to keep. Something has got to give. Hence the recent trend of the governments, is to try and bring down the retirement age and use the new mantra of the less efficient worker being prematurely retired. Surprisingly this not seem to apply to our politicians.

A more radical approach would start by acknowledging that, in case of the well educated employees at least, many of the old are still young. Many of these who have reached 60+ want to work, but more flexibly. They want to spend money, too. In Western Europe it is estimated that the over 60s will account for 59% of consumption growth in cities. Marking out youthful old age as a distinct phase of life might have the required effect, prodding employers and policy makers to think differently about how to keep the healthy young old active. As life becomes longer, the word "retirement", which literally means withdrawal to a place of seclusion, has become misleading. At 60+ you are not clapped out, but pre-tired.

Unfortunately a large number of senior citizens in our country have had no time to alter their mind set, to a

(Contd.. on p. 9)

# The Catholic Church

*Excerpts of an article written by non-Catholic; Sam Miller - a prominent Cleveland Jewish businessman:*

"Why would newspapers carry on a vendetta on one of the most important institutions that we have today in the United States, namely the Catholic Church?"

Do you know - the Catholic Church educates 2.6 million students every day at the cost to that Church of 10 billion dollars, and a savings on the other hand to the American taxpayer of 18 billion dollars. The graduates go on to graduate studies at the rate of 92%.

The Church has 230 colleges and universities in the U.S. with an enrollment of 700,000 students.

The Catholic Church has a non-profit hospital system of 637 hospitals, which account for hospital treatment of 1 out of every 5 people - not just Catholics - in the United States today.

But the press is vindictive and trying to totally denigrate in every way the Catholic Church in this country. They have blamed the disease of pedophilia on the Catholic Church, which is as irresponsible as blaming adultery on the institution of marriage.

Let me give you some figures that Catholics should know and remember. For example, 12% of the 300 Protestant clergy surveyed admitted to sexual intercourse with a parishioner; 38% acknowledged other inap-

propriate sexual contact in a study by the United Methodist Church, 41.8% of clergy women reported unwanted sexual behavior; 17% of laywomen have been sexually harassed. Meanwhile, 1.7% of the Catholic clergy has been found guilty of pedophilia. 10% of the Protestant ministers have been found guilty of pedophilia. This is not a Catholic problem.

A study of American priests showed that most are happy in the priesthood and find it even better than they had expected, and that most, if given the choice, would choose to be priests again in face of all this obnoxious PR the church has been receiving.

The Catholic Church is bleeding from self-inflicted wounds. The agony that Catholics have felt and suffered is not necessarily the fault of the Church. You have been hurt by a small number of wayward priests that have probably been totally weeded out by now and a number of bishops who failed to act.

Walk with your shoulders high and your head higher. Be a proud member of the most important non-governmental agency in the United States.

Then remember what Jeremiah said: *'Stand by the roads, and look and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is and walk in it, and find rest for your souls'*. Be proud to speak up for your faith with pride and reverence and learn what your Church does for all other religions.

# St. Patrick's Coffee Table Book

**Bengaluru:** St. Patrick's Church, Bengaluru has completed 175 glorious years. To celebrate this milestone, a Coffee Table Book is to be launched on the 13th of August 2017, which unfolds the story of this dynamic Church (formerly a Cathedral).

This multi-coloured book of about 148 pages captures the history of St. Patrick's in all its uniqueness: right from the Grant of Land, the initial construction of the Church, its subsequent expansion and the architectural marvel that it presents today in the heart of central Bengaluru. You will also come to know of interesting historical details about the growth of this vibrant parish over the ages.

Designed and produced to the highest standards, the St. Patrick's Coffee Table Book will add lustre to any home, office, library, school, college, university or research center. The Coffee Table Book chronicles the origins and growth of the Catholic Church in Bangalore. It showcases rare photographs and contains detailed historical information that provide an excellent insight into everyday life in those early times.

The book is priced at Rs.1000 per copy.

## MATRIMONIAL

**MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic spinster (Born in April 1973), 5' 5" tall, looks much younger to her age, good looking, fair complexion with qualifications, B.Com. (Mumbai), M.B.A. Finance (Canada), M.B.A., (H.R.) and Diplomas in I.T. (NIIT), Comp. (APTEC), and Cert.Ind Acct. (I.C.A.), working in good position. Graduate / Post Graduate unmarried R.C. Bachelors upto 47 years, employed in good position and well settled in Mumbai or abroad. Contact email.: bellwether77@yahoo.com OR Mob.: 9892700617

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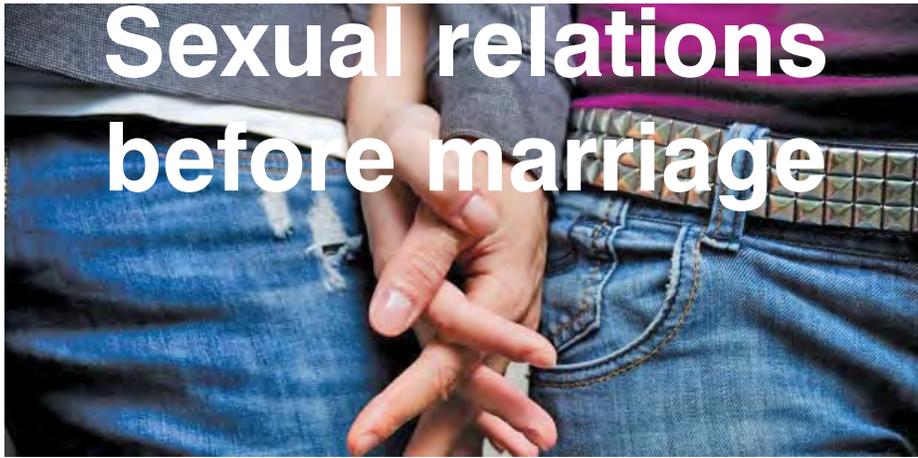
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# Sexual relations before marriage



by *Rtn. Calwyn D'Abreo*

In the abstract office of a Marriage Counsellor a conversation takes place with the intention to educate those who are seeking permanent fixtures as husband and wife to intentionally decide on sex between them before marriage.

They are routing for a 'trial run'. The lady and the man. Both in their early thirties and extraordinary positions in the corporate world brought them together after they met at an M & A seminar at the Taj Hotel.

The other submission that evolved from each of these two units of marriage prospectives as they encountered the future was a methodical implementation of rights and duties and the fracas and scuffle of sublime love and tenderness that would become erudite with the fashion of the times to come when genders will have no meaning,

Apropos of the initiative to have sex before marriage by the partners concerned the man spoke about wanting to experience the love of a real woman and not the plastic evolution of sun screen and 'push ups' that told a false tale. Will she call a hand made caramel custard dessert the 'you and me' love pop. Like how Jello moves when set well and shimmies when shook... is that going to be the 'she' in her, he wonders if all this will come to pass. The woman wanted to know what kind of a 'libido junction

'emanated from the sun burnt torso of the man. Was he an electric blue or was he a follower of Ashwagandha on weekends .... one after breakfast and the other at bed time. She was determined to find out if his yard stick was a recreation of a twig or a baton. She just wanted to know. Was he well equipped like Richard Burton in Beckett. At least his voice to anthemize an early morning flag salute. Is he the man she would share the stocks and shares page with. Was he all that equity he boasts about. Will he cook with her when 'louisa' is away on leave. She hates EDM music he likes it loud.... then what.

The proposition to live together as a "trial run" before marriage is a common opinion, but it is also deceptive. Permission given to both these units of responsibility to cohabit with each other for the trial run does not in any way ensure the pair of a relationship that will last and lead into matrimony. Sure, you may learn more about each other by feeling her emotional quotient and the decibels of his sonorous snore, but it doesn't ensure that your relationship – or marriage – will last if it ever has to happen.

There are other factors that are important to consider before you use her bath soap and she uses your Turkish towel.

Data has it that the younger you are when you chance upon a live in relationship and allow it to fructify into a marriage there is a frightful chance of an early separation. The age rationale

is more important to consider than the cohabitation part of the unison. The older the couple, the more mature they are meant to be and may have live in schedules often to culminate into a marriage as they fondly tickle the ivories of time on the harpsichord of experiences they have between themselves before they tie the knot. There are other arguments that can come to the fore and must be considered with the subtle nuances of experiences others have documented.

Each of these units of value are in full spectrum of their personal growth. They are meant to understand that often time she will have to quiten her determination to excel when the 'he' in her trial tenure sees it more important to escape the rudiments of a slow pace and move faster than the required speed. A memorandum of understanding is what is required at this juncture. You can cohabit and barbecue together but freedom of expression becomes a reality when two people with identical race horses are in tandem with time and the last post on the mile is what you must decide on and who should reach it first. Him or her.

***The commitment to stay together is of prime important.***

***Have you decided on the route you will follow, together.***

***Will you be committed to each other for better or for worse.***

It is not becoming a genius at cohabitation that is important, it is the manifestation of dual emotional vibrations that develops into feelings between two people, man and woman that will allow you to plead for a unison when two people become one single value of experience. The say a time will come when thoughts begin to merge. his and hers, so well that often times the man and the woman say the same thing as if they had the same thought at the same time. It could be a little episodic or gargantuan. Actually, size does not matter.

## FREEDOM ! –

# What it means to me

by: Dr. Jeanette Pinto

**G**od created this beautiful universe and human beings in it to be a Paradise of love and harmony in peace, justice, equality, caring, compassion and cooperation. He freely gave to mankind the gift of life and especially the intellect so that man has the choice to make decisions on his own. That simply means he gave mankind FREEDOM to enjoy life in all its fullness. But human beings by their self-centred attitude and arrogant behaviour have upset this delicate balance in God's world.

**Freedom has many definitions.** One can define freedom politically, religiously, economically, socially and also personally. When one can say that we have the ability to do things as we desire by wisdom, we call it personal freedom. To a young adult freedom may mean being free from the controls of their parents, teachers and superiors. Any control gives a feeling of suffocation. Freedom does not mean being free from everything, it means utilising given opportunities properly by not violating any rules and not harming others. One can be happy enjoying freedom in doing little things, like helping someone in need, going for a walk in the park, watering the garden and doing a lot of little simple things.

**Freedom to me means the power to speak, act or think unrestrained.** It is to be independent, to make your own decisions and have the freedom of choice, expression and opinion. For me freedom means gratitude. Freedom knows that my happiness comes from being in deep connection with myself, with my loved ones, and with God my Creator. This is because I don't need to want that, or seek it somehow. Connection is always there, whether in solitude, ill health, lack of sleep, in a messy situation or



when in difficulty.

**Freedom really starts with the principle of self-control.** Nobody has the legal right to inflict offensive harm on others therefore freedom includes self-defence because it empowers people to fight for their right. Freedom to me means existing with respect, dignity and amidst diversity. We need to respect others' rights, to think and act as they like without coercion. All people are unique and different. We can express our differences because of our freedom and thus create different opportunities, platforms for expression, friendships and career options to expand and improve our lives.

**On the eve of 15th August 1947,** Jawaharlal Nehru addressed the Constituent assembly at the Parliament, delivering his famed eloquent speech, *Tryst with Destiny*, announcing India's freedom at midnight. He said, "At the stroke of midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom." The announcement raised the spirits of all Indians all over the country. India finally realised a dream to be a free nation, free from oppression and domination under the British rule. It was a historic day as India finally shook off the shackles of British rule and became free.

Seventy years later Independence Day is a celebration of liberty and freedom, a day of glamour, glitz and glory which melts into oblivion as we move on to the next day. The rest of the year thereafter witnesses starvation, hunger, disease, hatred, rivalry, and oppression of sorts, tortures, kill-

ings, murders, and other inhuman acts being perpetrated. How have we become free? Where is peace to be found in this culture of violence that is prevalent?

### **What really then is Freedom?**

Freedom isn't just a word. It is an action. We live in a country where we have many freedoms; the freedom to speak out, freedom to worship, freedom to choose; and freedom to pursue what you want to do etc. Independence makes us equal and free. There is no Peace without Freedom. What about human rights, the rights of children, of women, indigenous peoples like the tribal, dalit and minorities? Have we lost sight of the 'dignity of the human person'? What about the empty talk of economic development, smart cities, Incredible India! Are these mere notions? Is India in the progressive or regressive mode?

**Here is the reality?** Thousands of our fellow Indians are languishing in ill-equipped jails, hospitals, homes and sanatoriums due to conspiracies, hate crimes, intimidation and political jingoism? Thousands are prisoners of silence, struggling with alternatives. There is no value placed on the preciousness of human life? There are brutal killings, political murders and vendetta all around. Sadly, we see that only a minuscule section of society lives in luxury with plenty of ill-gotten wealth and tons of corruption. Now tell me is that the Freedom we desired for our motherland?

### **God created us to be happy human beings.**

To make this come true we must enjoy the fundamental values of liberty, equality, justice, tolerance, respect for human beings and nature. Human life has dignity. What kinds of animals are we to hurl abuses, to hack and kill, to plunder and murder, and torture and butcher our fellow-

(Contd.. on p. 22)

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We now live in an age where every tool we need is laid out before us. The only thing that's necessary is for someone else to reveal that information to us.

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# Live the life you want to live

There comes a time in every one's life when you realise that you deserve to get something more out of your life. Do not try to ignore that feeling. We give you some tips that can help you have the kind of life that you want to live

**A**sk yourself. "Is my life the way I want to be?" If not, change your perspective from hopeless to optimistic.

**Be sure of what you want:** Unless you know what you want in life, you would not have the motivation to achieve it. So, the first step in leading life on your own terms is to be very clear about what you want from life. Have some clear and well-defined goals and figure out how to achieve them.

**Put your interest first:** In order to live the life you want to live, you have to be selfish sometimes. This does not mean that you should not care about others' feelings but know that your life is just as important. So, learn to give value to your priorities.

**Be adaptive:** Living the kind of life you want does not necessarily mean that you have to be rigid. Being flexible and adaptive to make the most of a given situation is just as vital. You must learn how to work around things and reach your goals.

**Don't shy, ask for help:** Know that you cannot achieve anything without a little help from your friends and family members. Do not let your ego get in the way. Be ready to seek help from those who can help you achieve your goals.

**Share your dreams:** Talking to others about how would want your life to turn out is very essential. Especially when things are not going the way that you would want them to go, share your pain and feelings with those who love you. They will be able to give you a better perspective on things and will

"If you don't make the time to work on creating life you want, you're eventually going to be forced to spend a lot of time dealing with a life you don't want."



help you overcome the challenges.

**Act, don't procrastinate:** Procrastination will not lead you anywhere. It may so happen that the opportunity might come knocking on your door but you still might end up not acting at the right moment. Be constantly aware of all the opportunities around you and make the most of them.

**Be strong:** To live life on your own terms, you need to be mentally, physically, and emotionally strong. Take care of your health and make efforts to have a calm mind.

**Stay positive:** Expect a few roadblocks on this journey of life. You need to be ready for the challenges that you might face while trying to live your life the way you want to. Do not let minor setbacks affect you.

## Thanksgiving



*Thanks to Divine Mercy, Our Lady of Vailankani, Our Lady of perpetual Succor and St. Anthony*

—Ms Rebecca M. Menezes, Vasai

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(State Your Petition) \_\_\_\_\_

My financial need is urgent. Be my

Light and Guide in this situation so that I may live with peace, love, prosperity and abundance and in the Praise of God.

Amen. (Promise Publication)

—Robert R.

**Thanksgiving**



May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be Praised Adored, Glorified and Loved today and every-day throughout the world, now and forever. Amen!!

*Ask St. Clare for three favours two impossible and say nine Hail Mary's and the above prayer for 9 days with a lighted candle and publish on the 9th day your request will be granted no matter how impossible it is*

—Judy Nazareth

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# RIZPAH and MARY- A Tale of Two Mothers

**D**ifferent writers have drawn attention to the similarities between Rizpah as she stood by those seven trees on the hillside, and Mary who stood by the tree upon which her Son was hanged.

Rizpah was a daughter of Aiah, or Ajah, the Horite (Genesis 36:24; 1 Chronicles 1:40; 2 Samuel 3:7). Saul took her as a concubine and she bore him, Armoni and Mephibosheth.

Like millions of women through the centuries, Rizpah, caught up in the holocaust of national strife and war, found herself bereft of husband and children and was left to fight a battle against loneliness and poverty. Saul broke an oath that had been made with the Gibeonites by Joshua.

A severe famine lasting for three years overtook the land of Israel, and David was divinely informed that the famine was in consequence of Saul's slaughter of the oath-protected Gibeonites. The seven sons of Saul should be hung up "before the Lord" in expiation for what had been done there. It thus came about that innocent children had to bear heavy punishment for the sin of their father. The five sons of Saul by Merab, and Saul's two sons by Rizpah were taken and hanged upon a hilltop for all to see. History affirms that innocent people suffer for the sins of their rulers.

Rizpah refused to leave them unattended unless they were buried in the family grave. She drove away the predatory vultures and wild animals and guarded the stinking corpses. Through the days and weeks she watched those broken bodies gradually blacken, decay and wither, and never relaxed her vigil. None could stay her from the act of mercy till David relented and acceded to her demand.

In the New Testament, Mary was an

innocent virgin living in Nazareth. She was vaulted on to the world stage by accepting the message of the Angel Gabriel. (Luke 1:21-8). Her cup of sorrow was filled to the brim. As a pregnant virgin, she faced being stoned to death. When she went to Judea for a family census, the doors were closed to her, and she bore the Christmas Babe in a Bethlehem stable.

After His first public message of the Good News, they led Jesus to be thrown off a cliff. In the 'Life of Mary', there is a beautiful picture of Mary watching from a nearby mountain top, as the crowd led Jesus to be thrown off a mountain cliff. But Jesus Passed through them unscathed. (Luke 4:29-30). Mary is known as 'Our Lady of the Fright.'

Mary followed Jesus to Golgotha and stood under the shadow of His Cross, as He Accomplished His Divine Redemptive Plan.

She held the unjustly criminally crucified body of the Bethlehem Babe in her arms. He was crucified outside the gates. (Hebrews 13:12).

She looks after us when fear surrounds us through our sins and weaknesses, even when we stray far from God.

Mary is the Daughter of the Eternal Father, Mother of the Eternal Son, and Spouse of the Holy Spirit.

While we celebrate her glorious Assumption as Queen of Heaven, we are confident that she will always be at our side. When Satan comes to claim us as he came to claim the dead body of Moses (Jude v.9), we know that Mary will 'pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen'

— Denis Khan

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# Reason to pursue Masters

**Pursuing a Post-graduation (PG) degree is time consuming and expensive but here are some reasons you should definitely pursue a Post graduation course**



ful schedules, deadlines and tough exam papers... all of these help one become a better team player, more confident, develop stronger networking skills and deal with high-pressure situations efficiently.

## **It Lets You Change Career Paths:**

A Master's provides you a specialization in a particular field, allowing you to diverge your career path from your undergraduate major and thus pursue your true passion. But do keep in mind that you would be required to give the university sufficient reason to accept your application if you're going for a change for field, like say from B.Com to an M.Sc. in Economics.

**Networking Opportunities:** In addition to a higher education, pursuing a Master's degree provides you great exposure through interactions with fellow mates from diverse fields, and also networking opportunities during seminars, guest lectures and business research projects.

## **Greater Respect**

- **A higher qualification would bring along greater respect both in society and amidst your peers. After having pursued a Master's course, with brighter career prospects, the next door neighbor or that far-off relative might think twice about nagging you with questions like, "What are you doing in life?"**

**M**any students are in two minds about pursuing a master's course after graduation but here's why should definitely go for a Masters degree.

**Better career opportunities:** A Master's degree makes you a qualified expert in a specific field, providing you a platform to apply for senior level/ expert positions in organizations and companies. The credibility and recognition that comes with this higher qualification also opens up a host of higher-paying job opportunities in global firms, both in India and abroad.

**Getting expertise in the field:** Going for a Master's course in the area of your interest would allow you to learn more about your field and pursue your true passion, in depth and extensively. Post completion, you would be an expert in your field. It's a great

investment for your future, and the experience you gain here is actually priceless.

**Higher Pay, Of Course:** Not only does possessing a Master's degree help in gaining access to higher level job profiles and opportunities, but with such senior positions come the consequent higher salaries and benefits as well. Your starting salary in the same industry can vary by a lot if you have a Master's degree.

**Developing Teamwork And Leadership Skills:** Teamwork and leadership are a part and parcel of any Master's course. Your course work would essentially require you to work with diverse study groups on projects and assignments. Such projects help you to be a collaborative team player at times and also require you to lead the team when required. Not only do such activities help in gauging oneself better but also improve one's communication and people management skills.

**Research And Analytical Skills:** A Master's course is a combination of theory and practice. Hence, it involves a lot of analysis, research and critical inputs on data, case studies and projects. In-depth research and analytical skills are acquired and honed during your coursework, and these make you even more attractive.

**Personality Development:** A Master's is not just about intellectual enrichment; it provides an environment conducive for overall personality development. The team projects, stress-

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# Inspiration!

## Keys to reinvent yourself

to live in your chosen town? Make it specific. Make a list of everything you need to do and a schedule for when you'll do it. Then do it and commit to

**Reinventing yourself doesn't mean taking baby steps to become a slightly different person -- it means diving into a new and improved version of yourself head-first**

**R**einventing yourself, whether you want to change your career, your outlook, or the way you view your relationships, is hard work, but it pays off tenfold. If you want to reinvent yourself, you have to make a game plan, address your flaws and never stop learning.

**Create a vision for your future:** Sit quietly, close your eyes, and imagine the people, places, or situations that you need to leave behind. Now, imagine the future that you want, whether it's simply a feeling, a group of people, or a situation such as a wonderful new job.

**Improve the way you think:** Reinvention starts at the mind. You won't be able to reinvent yourself if you're stuck in the same old thinking patterns. While you may have many healthy thinking patterns, you

could always improve some of the aspects of your thinking as you move forward in your journey.

**Prioritise your achievable tasks:** Reinventing yourself doesn't happen overnight. That takes dedication and patience. To make the transformation run more smoothly, you should dedicate at least one hour per day towards achieving your goals. That means that you need to prioritise your goal and tasks by creating to-do-lists and time management tools so that you get the most out of your team so that you can focus on reinventing yourself.

**Break it up into workable tasks:** What do you need to do, every day,

keep doing it, one day at a time.

**Surround yourself with visual reminders:** If you want to get closer to reinventing yourself, then you need to stay positive and motivated throughout this journey, even if you're not feeling energetic or hopeful on a particular day. Staying mentally strong means winning half the battle to becoming a better person. Surround yourself with images that remind you of your vision for your future. If it's a new job in a particular field, put objects or images from that field someplace where you'll see them every day. If it's a home, find a picture of a house that you love and put it near your front door.

**Get out of your comfort zone:** We're creatures of habit. But, breaking out your comfort zone forces you to have new experiences, meet new people and learn something new. Breaking your own mold can only make you stronger and more confident to reach higher levels in your professional and personal life.

**Improve your education**

- If you really want to reinvent yourself, then you need to understand that reinvention is a never-ending process. Though you may reach your set goals, if you want to be an improved, well-rounded person, you should recognize that there is always more to learn. This will keep you from being complacent and will continue to drive your hunger for knowledge.



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# Let My Country Awake @70!



**E**xactly seventy years ago, it was freedom at midnight for millions of Indians, as the country made her tryst with destiny and awoke to a new dawn! India has certainly made rapid strides in several fields these past years (thanks to our freedom fighters, the members of the Constituent Assembly and many others); however, if one looks back at various happenings in the country, one cannot help but conclude that as a nation, even at the 'mature' age of seventy, we still have to awake!

In recent weeks, we have witnessed several glaring examples of how corruption, communalism, casteism and criminalization of politics have seized the nation with a stranglehold. The elections to the Rajya Sabha from Gujarat, was a blatant act of corruption by the current political dispensation, to buy up MLAs from the opposition, at mind-boggling amounts; the son of the BJP chief of Haryana, literally thought that he could get away for stalking a girl, due to his political clout; Medha Patkar was arrested in the midst of her hunger strike on behalf of the oustees of the Narmada Dam; India's new President and Vice-President are steeped in the ideology of the RSS; over sixty children in Uttar Pradesh, died due to lack of oxygen in a hospital. All this and more, as efforts are made to plunge the country into abyssal depths.

On August 9th, the 75th anniversary of the 'Quit India Movement' brought to mind the selfless sacrifices of Ma-

hatma Gandhi and the other freedom fighters who ultimately ensured that India won her freedom in 1947. It is a historical fact, that the Hindu Mahasabha, the RSS and their ilk refused to take part in the freedom struggle; very ironically, it is they who today control the destinies of the country,

they wax eloquent about the freedom struggle and since untruth is their forte, they even take "credit" for it, which in actuality, they deeply resented!

The Constituent Assembly, in November 1949, gave to the country a path-breaking and sacrosanct Constitution. En-

shrined in the Preamble are the core values of Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity whilst simultaneously guaranteeing the sovereignty, the secular and socialist nature of the country. Thanks to the visionary leadership of Dr. B. Ambedkar, this was 'the idea of India': which like a beautiful tapestry would preserve, protect and promote pluralism and respect the rights and freedom of every citizen

The country today is a far cry from what is envisaged in the Constitution. The rulers today seem to have no qualms of conscience in destroying democratic values. The situation of India's minorities for one, is going from bad to worse daily; in the last few months a Christian Pastor was shot dead in Punjab, a Muslim family was brutally attacked in a train in UP, sacred Christian objects and cemeteries were vandalized in Goa, young Muslims were lynched for allegedly carrying or eating beef; just last week,

the Government of Jharkhand issued a full-page advertisement (with public money) in some of the national dailies denigrating the Christians. The list is endless; the minorities in India have never had it so bad!

Since May 2014, there has been a consistent negation of Article 25 of the Constitution, which guarantees to every Indian the "freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion." One needs to revisit Narendra Modi's election campaign in the run-up to the 2002 election in Gujarat and particularly his promise to bring in an anti-conversion law once they assumed power. True to his word, on March 26, 2003 (and without any opposition) under his mantle, the 'Gujarat Freedom of Religion Act 2003' was passed and five years later in 2008, the rules necessary to govern the implementation of the law, were introduced. It is one of the most draconian laws of the country, which necessitate that anyone seeking to change his or her religion must first seek the permission of the District Magistrate. The Constitutional validity of this law was challenged in 2009 in the High Court of Gujarat and a judgement is still awaited.

The country is aware that the ideology of the RSS has never been in sync with the Constitution of India. There have been threats to repeal Article 370, a promise in the BJP manifesto and even a pronouncement from the PMO. On July 24th 2014, speaking on the floor of the Assembly in Goa former Minister Deepak Dhavlikar stated "I am confident that under the leadership of Modiji, India will develop into a



BY FR. CEDRIC PRAKASH SJ

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*Hindu nation. Prime Minister will work in this regard is what I feel".* When the BJP have the required numbers in both Houses of Parliament, they will certainly tamper with the Constitution of India or even perhaps change it drastically.

Education is gradually becoming a major casualty. There are several indicators, which point to this. These include: in some BJP-ruled states, Sikhs, Christians and other minorities are denigrated in school text books published by the Government; there are attempts to introduce text books by Hindutva hardliners; to make yoga and the singing of 'vande mataram' compulsory in schools; to 'sanskritise' the curriculum. The Government interference in prestigious institutions of higher learning like the JNU, Jamia and Nalanda lend weightage to the talk that the Government would ultimately want to nationalise education.

Freedom of speech and expression has all but disappeared in the country. Most media houses are corporatized and have to toe the line of the establishment. Any real issue in a BJP-ruled state like official corruption,

scams, scandals are easily swept under the carpet; whereas relatively minor issues in non-BJP ruled states hog the headlines! Anybody who thinks, speaks and acts differently is bound to be hounded, harassed and victimised. False cases are foisted on them; raids by vindictive Government agencies make life difficult for those who have the courage to stand up and speak out!

On August 10th, the last day of his decade-long tenure as the Vice-President of India and the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Dr. Hamid Ansari (a distinguished statesman and scholar) in his farewell speech, stressed that the Rajya Sabha was the creation of the Constitution that portrays Indian diversity; quoting former Vice-President S. Radhakrishnan he said, "*a democracy is likely to degenerate into a tyranny if it does not allow the opposition groups to criticise fairly, freely and frankly the policies of the government.*"

Significant words today! India at seventy is like a sleeping giant, which needs to awake NOW! We, the people of India, need to act fast to ensure that country gets back on the right tracks and also pray in the words of our Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore from his 'Gitanjali':

*"Where the mind is without fear  
and the head is held high;  
Where knowledge is free;  
Where the world has not been broken up  
into fragments by narrow domestic walls;  
Where words come out from the depth of truth;  
Where tireless striving stretches its arms toward perfection;  
Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way  
into the dreary desert sand of dead habit;  
Where the mind is led forward by Thee  
into ever-widening thought and action —  
Into that heaven of freedom,  
my Father, let my country awake".*

\* (Fr Cedric Prakash sj is a human rights activist and is currently based in Lebanon and engaged with the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) in the Middle East on advocacy and communications. Contact: cedricprakash@gmail.com

## Syro – Malankara Church

On Saturday, 05 August 2017, Pope Francis made several changes in the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church (SMCC), predominantly found in Kerala – God's Own Country! He established a new Eparchy, naming several new Bishops, and appointing an Apostolic Visitor.

The new Eparchy is Parassola, and its new Bishop is Naickamparambil. An Eparchy is similar to a Diocese. The SMCC is one of the 23 "sui iuris" or "independent" Eastern Catholic Churches in full communion with the Pope, Bishop of Rome.

The overall Christian population in Kerala (2011 census) is 6.4 million or 18.38%, with the highest concentration in Kottayam-44%, Idukki-43% and Ernakulam-38%. The SMCC is the smallest denomination with only 5 lakhs members as compared to its elder Sister Church, the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church with 5 million members.

In spite of their minute presence, they manage more than 50 educational institutions, including 10 high schools. In addition it has various Religious Priests, Brothers and Sisters – Order of the Imitation of Christ, The Franciscans, Daughters of Mary Sisters, Sisters of the Imitation of Christ, and Sisters of the Sacred Heart! In Mumbai the SMCC have three Churches, Holy Family at Vikroli, St. Thomas at Borivli and St. Mary's at Andheri.

The Kerala Christians in spite of their minor differences, all claim origin to St. Thomas who arrived in the West coast of Kerala in 52 AD. 'Doubting Thomas' originally challenged the Resurrection of Christ, but then accepted Jesus in his famous confession of faith, "My Lord and My God" (John 20:28).

—Dr. Trevor Colaso,  
(Ashburn, Virginia, USA).

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**6647. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean RC Bachelor (Born in January 1982) Ht. 164 cms, Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Engineering, working as a Sr. Executive. Contact email : pereirapraveen@gmail.com OR 9833379899

**6641. MUMBAI :** Goan RC Bachelor, (Born in July 1982), Ht. 6' 1", Wt. 100 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Graduate, working as an Engineer, Contact email : melvinsaldanha20@gmail.com or 9820477618

**6637. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean RC Bachelor, (Born in February 1987), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. T.Y. B.Com., Hardware & Networking Diploma, working as a Technical Team Leader & Coordinator. Contact email : bipinsw52@gmail.com

**6636. MUMBAI :** East Indian RC Bachelor, (Born in September 1983), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E., working as a Technical Lead. Contact email : joy.dominic@gmail.com

**6630. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean RC Bachelor, (Born in July 1983), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 85 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., Post Graduate, working as Associate Manager. Seeks any Roman Catholic good family background. Contact email : riya.anthony11@gmail.com OR. Mob.: 8390022313

**6626 GOA :** Goan RC Bachelor, (Born in March 1970), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 75

kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. BL/LLB., Self Employed. Contact email : gdsouza07@yahoo.com

**6625 MUMBAI :** Goan RC Bachelor, (Born in November 1979), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 61 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Sc., B.ed., Teacher by profession. Contact email : martin.007.2010@gmail.com OR Mob.: 9892657905

**6622 MUMBAI :** Mangalorean RC Bachelor, (Born in January 1984), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 85 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working for Bank. Contact email : calva\_86@yahoo.co.in

**6621 MUMBAI :** Tamilian RC Bachelor, (Born in September 1970), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as an Event Manager. Seeks good looking fair girl. Contact email: rosario.thefernandoco@gmail.com

**6619 MUMBAI :** Goan RC Bachelor, (Born in September 1985), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 82 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA Finance, woking in MNC. Contact email : josh99.joshva@gmail.com

**6618 MUMBAI :** East Indian RC Bachelor, (Born in December 1989), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 56 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Edn. M.Sc., working as a Resource Manager. Contact email : fernandesclyde176@gmail.com

**6616 MUMBAI :** Goan RC Bachelor, (Born in October 1980), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 80 kgs, Tan Complexion, Edn. SSC, working as a Graphic Designer, hardworking, smart. Contact email : velgomes3@gmail.com

**6613 MUMBAI :** Goan RC Bachelor, (Born in May 1984), Ht. 5' 11", Wt.80 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn . MCA,

working in Leading IT firm. Contact email : bardeskar.agnel11@gmail.com

**6612 MUMBAI :** Mangalorean RC Divorcee, (Born in October 1970), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 66 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. HSC., Service. Contact 9167419437

**6610. MUMBAI :** Goan RC Bachelor, (Born in October 1981), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 64 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. IT Engineering, working for Leading Engineering Company as a Solutions Architect. Contact email : krod1681@gmail.com

**6605. MUMBAI :** Gujarati RC Divorcee, (Born in June 1963), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 85 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Sr. Accountant. Contact email : parmar777@gmail.com

**6598. MUMBAI :** East Indian RC Bachelor, (Born in September 1984), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 85 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Post Grad. Diploma , working as a GM-Marketing. Contact email : gomes.gavin@gmail.com

**6597. MUMBAI :** Goan RC Bachelor, (Born in April 1978), Ht. 5'4", Wt. 68 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Customer Support. Contact email : augustinelobo\_78@yahoo.com

**6596. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in January 1980), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 72 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, SSC. ITI, NCVT, working for offshore industry as marine technician, having own house. Contact email : lezzrocks@gmail.com

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**6752. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic spinster, (Born in February 1985), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Good looking, Edn. MBA (HR), working as a Chief Manager in Insurance Company. Contact email : genesia\_17@yahoo.com

**6748. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic spinster, (Born in March 1987), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., with Dip. in Software Testing, working as a Test Engineering Specialist at a MNC. Contact email : thomasdsouza18@gmail.com

**6712. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in February 1988), 5' 1", Wt. 55 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Sc. Microbiology, working as a Quality of Map products. Contact email : anupereira@yahoo.com

**6642. MUMBAI :** Goan/Mangalorean Roman Catholic Divorcee, (Born in September 1979), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Customer Service, Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : rowmonteiro@yahoo.com OR 9820792115

**6640. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1980), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 85 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.B.A-HR, B.Com., 1st class, working as an Asst. to Vice President. Contact email : rodrigues2631@gmail.com

**6639. MUMBAI :** Protestant Spinster, (Born in June 1981), Ht. 5', Wt. 50 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A. Journalist, Working as a Fashion Designer. Contact Mob: 9820250350

**6638. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1989), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 57 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Com., Bank Of-

ficer. Contact email : noronha2305@gmail.com

**6635. MUMBAI :** East Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in January 1990) Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn.M.Com., B.Ed., Teacher by profession. Contact email : judithds1901@gmail.com

**6633. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1989), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E., Computer Science, working for Foreign Bank. Contact email : mendonca17edward@gmail.com

**6632. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in November 1989), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., working as a Travel Counsellor in MNC. Contact email : denverr89@gmail.com

**6631. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1983) Ht. 5' 7", Wheatish Complexion, Ph.D., from American University, working as a Senior Healthcare Consultant in a MNC Mumbai. Kindly reply with details and full length photograph to mendoncaedwina@gmail.com

**6628. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1992) Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E. (Electronics), working as an Asst. Engineer. Contact email : dsz.roshan@gmail.com OR

**6627. MUMBAI :** Goan RC Spinster, (Born in December 1988) Ht. 5' 4', Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Graduate with Diploma in Interiors. working as a Interior Designer. Contact email : virlib2209@gmail.com

**6620. MUMBAI :** East Indian RC Spinster, (Born in August 1987), Ht.

5' 5", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Post Graduate, working for Foreign Bank. Contact email : beann\_lam@rediffmail.com

**6617. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean RC Spinster, (Born in November 1992), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 60 ks, Fair Complexion, Edn. MMS / MBA working as a HR in MNC. Only Child. Seeks a groom below 28 years, preferably Mangalorean. Contact email : amd19901992@gmail.com

**6615. MUMBAI :** Goan RC Spinster, (Born in March 1981), Ht. 154 cms, Wheatish Complexion, Educated, working, Contact email : valarie.estibeiro@gmail.com

**6614. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean RC Spinster, (Born in September 1983), Ht. 157 cms, Wt. 69 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Sc., working as a Lab Technologist in **Doha Qatar**. Contact email : nishlasrado@gmail.com

**6611. MUMBAI :** Goan RC Spinster, (Born in January 1988), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. BMS, studing EMBA, working as a Sr. Analyst., Contact email : alliancecaldeira.nc@yahoo.com

**6609. MUMBAI :** Goan RC Spinster (Born in October 1988) / 5 feet / 58 kgs, B.E. and MBA, working for reputed IT MNC as Sr. Analyst seeks alliance from professionally qualified RC Bachelors upto 33 years, well settled with sober habits and good family background. Pl reply with details and recent full size photo to ashil2628@gmail.com OR 9819950120

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Indian? The self-centeredness of our generations has even crippled the earth; we have lost sight of the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainable development. We are left to wonder and merely ponder. But we have Hope to face these and newer realities.

Freedom to me means to see joy and happiness on the faces of all our peoples who enjoy the basic necessities of food, shelter and clothing; including the poorest of our country? It is for me to know that every Indian child receives a basic education; and that the air resonates with the laughter of young men and women who are provided job opportunities. It is for the girl child and women to be empowered and not to be sexually abused. For me it is that the orphan children, the differently

(Contd.. from p. 7)

is one's inalienable birthright and that for certain fringe groups like the dalits beef is a staple diet. How then can a government, of whatever persuasion, be it in any state or at the Centre, discriminate between those who worship the cow and those who eat its flesh? When! O when will we be willing to give the cow the freedom due to decide for itself whether to be enshrined in a temple and worshipped, or housed in a gaushallah and milked dry, or perhaps feted and fatted in the Presidential palace or to simply allow itself to be sacrificed for the good of its human protector?

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change that has come about in their family life. Being part of a large joint family in a close nit community provided the safety net. Even when the families became smaller, the parents still felt their one or two children would still will be their safety net during their retired life. As a matter of fact many spent all their financial savings to give them the required foundation. Even these days you see couples saving for their children's college education which is understandable, but also for their big wedding. With the best of intentions at times, the children are not able to earn a decent income to look after themselves and their own families. Hence they struggle to look after their ageing parents, especially when they fall sick. The millennial generation as these youngsters are called these days, have their own challenges and priorities.

The concept of old age insurance, building sufficient capital invested in suitable safe accounts that provide one required income to neutralise inflation, has not taken roots in India. The situation worsens when the inflation reaches double digit and starts eating into their meagre savings. So we are in a stage where there are millions of senior citizens with no tangible savings and for one reason or the other lacking the family safety net of financial support. Their retired life instead of being a period of relaxation and happiness, is turning into a nightmare. The advise that they should save for their long stretching retired

life has come too late for them.

Hence when these poor senior citizens hear some one like Subramaniam Swamy demand as an MP, that GOI levy a surcharge of 1% on all petrol purchased at petrol pumps for looking after Gau Rakshaks, it must be like rubbing salt on their wounds. The amount estimated works out to around Rs. 4000 crores a year, not a small amount. Some of the state governments are already spending a large amounts of money on these cow shelters. Instead they could with such money easily build low cost senior citizens homes, dignity homes etc which will give the poor senior citizens, especially the widows a chance to live within their financial means. Providing modest shelter, health care, some whole sum food and more importantly a community living, is not beyond means of GOI. The question is whether it is more concerned with Mother Cows than with Elderly Humans? YOU THE CITIZENS DECIDE.

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S/o. Late Fredrick & Late Christine (Kitty) Fernandes

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Died : 26-07-2017 at Mumbai

How Little we knew that night,  
The sorrow the next day would bring,  
The call was sudden, the shock severe,  
To part with one we loved so dear.  
No farewell words were spoken,  
No time to say goodbye,  
You were gone before we knew it,  
And only God can tell us why.

Everyday in some small way,  
Memories of you come our way,  
Though absent, you are always near,  
Missed, loved and always dear.

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