

# THE SECULAR CITIZEN

A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY

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## Why the World is Silent ?



# Our New Government

It is over 5 months since the new Government came to power at the Centre. Has there been any substantial change in the country? Have the 'ache din' promised during the election campaign arrived? What is unmistakably noticeable is that a 'personality cult' of the new PM is still being vigorously promoted, day in and day out, by most of the media, especially the social networking media. Even "Teachers' Day", which has always been devoted to honouring our teachers, was virtually hijacked to project the PM as the one and only 'supreme leader' of the country. The Centre has been busy with dramatic foreign relations gestures and numerous foreign trips by the PM, ostensi-



trips, no opportunity is lost to show the world that the country has only one unique culture and one major language of which all Indians ought to be proud. This is a powerful message being conveyed to reassure the constituency back home and the diaspora abroad which helped bring the new Government to power at the Centre.

 **Joseph M. Dias, S.J.**

bly to invite foreign investment for the country's development, but even more, to showcase the diplomatic skills of the PM as a 'world statesman'. On these



*Poshan Pinto*

*Master of Ceremonies  
for Weddings, Social Gatherings*

*&*

*Corporate Events  
(M) : 98920 49815*

On the home front, the secular, socialist, democratic and inclusive Nehruvian model of governance is being systematically dismantled with the abolition of the 'Planning Commission', the earlier consultative bodies of Government and the collegium system of appointing judges. No Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha has been appointed, and criticism of the PM is promptly stifled in many subtle ways. New governors too have been appointed in a hurry in most states. Thus, all three organs of government will now come effectively under the control of the ruling dispensation. The emphasis on adequate sanitation and toilets for all is, surely, the most welcome and long overdue step initiated by the PM. It remains to be seen whether it will be implemented, given the strong caste compulsions and prejudices still prevalent in our society against cleaning public places – a menial task reserved only for the outcasts. Another welcome move is that the bureaucracy is being shaken up and a good work culture introduced.

What is alarming is that strident voices are now constantly being raised by leaders and groups supporting the

ruling party, denouncing opposition groups and minorities as anti-national, even to the extent of openly attacking or threatening them and their institutions in many states. There has not been a word from the PM regarding these open displays of communalism, which browbeat all dissent and even consider the word 'secularism' as taboo. A set of new political icons, which appeal to the majority community alone, are being promoted through eloquent speeches. Through the HRD Ministry, History books and textbooks for schools are being re-written to propagate an exclusivist ideology. There is also greater interference in the affairs of universities and colleges making a mockery of all talk of autonomy and raising the standards of education. Mega projects which damage the environment are being cleared in all haste and licenses are being issued to corporates that exploit poor adivasis and tribals depriving them of their lands and livelihoods. The IB Report on the working of reputed foreign NGOs questions the integrity and loyalty to the nation even of those sincerely working to safeguard the environment and the welfare of the marginalized. What has become of the slogan, 'sabke saath, sabka vikas'?

Given this alarming scenario, one wonders where the country is headed. It is high time the minorities and the struggling masses become aware of what all these trends mean for them and unite to safeguard their legitimate rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution. The recent bye-election results in several states indicate that our people are slowly beginning to realize this.

## Thought for the week

*The will to win, the desire to succeed, the urge to reach your full potential... these are the keys that will unlock the door to personal excellence.*

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## Role and responsibility of youth in building up morden India

**Y**outh is the spring of Life. It is the age of discovery and dreams. India is of largest youth population in the world today. The entire world is eyeing India as a source of technical manpower. They are looking at our youth as a source of talents at low costs for their future super profits. If Indian youth make up their mind and work in close unity with working class people, they can hold the political power in their hands. Indian youth has the power to make our country from developing nation to a developed nation. Their dreams take them to stars and galaxies to the far corners.

Youth are the building blocks of a nation. It is a fact that the more stronger the youth, the more developed the nation is. The role of the youth in the nation-building occupies the central place. The countries which utilize their youth in as right direction are more developed. The energy and brightness of minds of youth act as torch-bearer for a nation. On the contrary, the countries which fail to realize the importance of the youth lag behind in every department of life. This is one of the reasons of the backwardness of Pakistan. Hence the youth lacks proper patronage. Developed countries are totally aware of the worth of their. They consider their youth as an asset. Most important, these countries cater to the needs of their youth and provide them education, employment, recreational activities etc. such healthy and competitive environment prepare the youth to lead the country through thick and thin. If youth is not in the right direction and is unconcerned about the future of the nation, it will become a burden for the nation. Consequently, it will not play any productive role.

The countries where the youth are agile and pay their proper contributions towards their nation are more developed. The entire success of a nation depends on the youth. It is the duty of the government to provide the youth with ample opportunities to play their role in an effective manner. Parents also have a major responsibility to fulfil. They must induce patriotic feelings in their young ones. The youth fraught with patriotism would lead the nation to the front. The youth have following role and responsibilities towards their nation.

- They must get proper and complete education.
- Take part in welfare activities.

(Contd.. on p. 4)

(Contd.. from p. 3)

- Spread awareness and education among the masses about their rights and responsibilities.
- Help other youths in building confidence and pursuing the field of interest.
- Guide newcomers in every field on right lines.
- Promotes the fair image of the country before the world.
- Serve the country with their skills and talent in various fields.
- To nip in the bud all the evils that are polluting our society.
- To reinvigorate the culture, trend and traditions of the society.
- Help the government in the implementation of policies.
- They can play a vital role in the elimination of terrorism.
- The young people are full of vibrant ideas. Their ideas can show the country a new path towards prosperity.
- Young people have energy to try out things and the patience to learn from mistakes. Giving them opportunities to plan, to decide and to work prepares them to face harsher realities in life.
- Young participation is important because youth are the country's power. Youth recognize problems and can solve them. Youth are strong force in social movements.

## Youth and the Church

The youth in the church play an equal role as the other members. As everyone in the church is to serve as a part of the body of Christ, youth play no lesser a role than elders in the community. 1 Timothy 4:12 states, "Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you teach, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity." (NLT) The youth are to live to a standard similar to that of any other in the church community. The role of the youth in the church is to serve, stand strong in faith, shine the light of Christ, and to go out to the world with the Good News, through words and actions.

# Church Pitches For 'Good Governance' Over 'Secular Parties'



The poster features a colorful background with a green hand icon in the top right corner. The text reads: "Maharashtra Swaraj Party Candidates" in bold, followed by the slogan "Swaraj is my birth right and I shall have it." in green. Below this, five candidates are listed in colored boxes: 167-VILE PARLE (Adv. Godfrey Pimenta), 175-KALINA (Adv. Vivian Dsouza), 177-BANDRA WEST (Adv. Shane Cardoz), 153-DAHISAR (Mr. Ashish Fernandes), and 166-ANDHERI EAST (Ms. Jancy Varghese).

## 162-Malad (W) ■ Tony D'Souza

Mumbai : For the first time in recent memory, the Catholic Church will urge its flock to vote for "good governance" rather than "secular parties" during the assembly elections. Up until the Lok Sabha polls in May, the leaders of the faith had made a veiled appeal for the Congress. The new mantra of good governance, however, is the new slogan of the BJP.

Archbishop Oswald Cardinal Gracias, the head of the Catholic Church in Mumbai, told TOI Wednesday, "We will appeal to voters to vote for good governance. India, and Mumbai of course, needs a government that promises inclusive growth, one that takes care of everybody. Yet, whichever party or candidate people choose to vote for, I exhort them to cast their vote."

A fraction of the priesthood had diverted its pitch to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) during the Lok Sabha election. They had told TOI that the Congress had not served their interests despite years of loyalty. But AAP is not contesting the assembly election. "It is a pity that AAP did not have the 'winnability' factor. I

have met them, they are such nice people," Cardinal Gracias said.

Last week, the East Indian Christians of Mumbai announced a new party, the Maharashtra Swaraj Party (MSP). Five of its candidates will fight as independents because the outfit is yet to be registered. The Cardinal said, "I don't think they will fragment the Christian vote except in certain places where East Indians stay together, perhaps the gaothans."

Cardinal Gracias enjoys the confidence of Pope Francis by virtue of being his advisor. He has met His Holiness frequently over the past year-and-a-half for he sits on several committees related to education, sacraments for church law, communication and liturgical translation. "Senior leaders in the Narendra Modi government feel it would be nice if the Pope visited India. But this trip calls for intricate planning and logistical support. Ours is a vast country so he may need to set aside a few days to tour four or five different cities," the Cardinal said.

TOI

# Telugu Bhasha Dinotsavam Celebrated

**T**elugu Department of Maris Stella College organized a Telugu Bhasha Dinotsavam to celebrate the birth anniversary of Sri Gidugu Rama Murthi on Wednesday, August 27, 2014 at Maris Stella College Auditorium.

The celebration was meant to show admiration to the great Telugu mentor Sri Gidugu Rama Murthi who had worked to empower, enrich and popularize a heartfelt devotion to the Telugu language.

The assembly of over five hundred college students who vowed their allegiance to the Telugu language, hailed the day as auspicious and resolved to develop Telugu literature and communication skills among the college students. In the wake of trends of modernism where English is used as a style language and the vernacular languages are undermined, the students were motivated to uphold their own local culture and symbols and be proud of their own ethnicity expressed through their mother tongue.

Acharya Krishna Murthy from Nagarjuna University chaired the meeting. Mr. Ramesh, lecturer from Andhra Loyola College and Sr. Sleeva Correspondent of Maris Stella College, and Dr. P. Usha the head of the Telugu department of the college spoke.

The speakers on the podium decried the treatment meted out to the Telugu language especially by the modern youth who choose to study in English medium having high hopes for future jobs in foreign countries rather than develop their mother tongue and work for their own country and fellow citizens. They also asked the students not to mix up languages but make correct use of the unadulterated Telugu in their conversations.

Calling Telugu language as the *music of the heart*, Acharya Rama Murthy chanted a few slokas and ragas in Telugu to impress the audience about the musical versatility of Telugu language and stressed the importance of

the native language to build up a healthy and harmonious society.

Mr. Ramesh interacted with the students and elicited from them responses in favour of Telugu language. The students promised that they would stand by Telugu culture and be loyal to their mother tongue. They would spread the message also in their families, teach it to their children and spread the word in their neighbourhood.

Acharya Krishna Murthy inaugurated the *Telugu Club* in Maris Stella College for the first time to improve the literary and communication skills among the students and Sr. Sleeva Thumma the correspondent of the college pledged her total support to the development of the club in the college.

Lekeya Barani, Ujwala, and Srawani made the day striking by their Carnatic dance performance at the

beginning of the three-hour convention in the College Auditorium.

Miss P. Vijaya Prasanna, a Telugu lecturer of the College proposed the vote of thanks. She was especially grateful to Sr. Sleeva, FMM and the college management for their whole hearted support to organize the day successfully.

by Sr. Benigna Menezes, MSI Vijayawada



# Maharashtra Swaraj Party

**M**SP (Maharashtra Swaraj Party) is "not a East Indian political party" but a party for all people of Mumbai who have been subjected to injustice, neglect & a "no time for you" attitude by the main frame political parties. It is a party formed initially by the coming together of Christian Activists who have been fighting for all citizens against the Govt/BMC for the corruption & misuse of tax-payers funds & resources (some of the Activists by default happened to be East Indian hence the mistaken notion that MSP is an East Indian party). Today the MSP is supported by all like minded individuals from all communities who are fighting injustice daily & look forward to the day when "Good Governance" will be delivered to the common man on the street

## SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA, KARJAT

### 79<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE

Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2014  
FEAST DAY Programme

Theme: MARY, WOMAN OF THE EUCHARIST



- 07.00 am : Mass Celebrant **Fr. Xavier** (Don Bosco - Karjat)
- 08.30 am : Mass Celebrant **Fr. Alwyn D'Silva** (Episcopal Vicar - Thane)
- 10.00 am : Mass Celebrant **Fr. Caesar D'Mello** (Episcopal Vicar - Bandra)  
Solemn Procession of Fatima Statue, followed by Feast Mass
- 11.30 am : Mass Main Celebrant **Fr. Barthol Machado** (Episcopal Vicar - Bhayandar)

2.00 pm to 4.00 pm : Marian Devotion, Praise and Worship, Eucharist Adoration & Mass. Animated by Fr. Donald Rodrigues & Legion Members

- 04.00 pm : Mass Celebrant **Fr Donald Rodrigues**  
(All services will be in Bilingual)
- 05.00 pm : Bhajans & Kirtans led by **Carlos Kasbe & Team**
- 07.00 pm : Fellowship Meal with the Neighborhood People

MONDAY Full day Fatima Devotional service from 9am to 4 pm

13  
Oct. 2014

- 9.00 am : Mass  
Unfurling of the flag, Novena, Message, Testimonies
- 12.30 pm : Mass  
Fellowship meal, Inner Healing Prayer, Adoration



For information on train timings: **Surendra** 9881846938 • For other General Information - **Victor** 9604886678  
For accommodation at **Gethsemane Prayer Centre** (3 Kms. away from the Shrine) **Alfred D'souza** 9820281099  
& **Mark Pinto** 9561500814/9833704510

**FR. CALISTUS FERNANDES, SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA,**  
NEXT TO KARJAT RAILWAY STATION, DIST. RAIGAD 410 201, MAHARASHTRA - INDIA.  
TEL: 02148 - 223839 • MOB: 09422095931 • EMAIL: calistusf@gmail.com / fatimakarjat@gmail.com

Feast program Sponsored by: **Veronica Edwin Miranda AND FLY MEMBERS, Dadar**

# Extraordinary synod on family

There is a mood of high expectancy and hope in the Catholic church and among the laity that the upcoming extraordinary synod on the family convoked by Pope Francis and scheduled to take place from October 5-19, 2014, in Rome, will help to remove some of the hurdles currently plaguing the church and families in their married life. Some of the doctrinal challenges facing the church are issues like contraception, cohabitation, same-sex marriages, single parent families, divorce and remarriage which need to be discussed from a larger perspective. Then there are problems faced by divorced and remarried couples and those who cannot remarry in church because the church refuses to annul their marriage. All these require a sympathetic understanding by the church. Unfortunately the Indian church's response to the Vatican questionnaire circulated in all dioceses on such matters, has been on the whole poor, as it failed to involve the laity in formulating the answers and the report it submitted to Rome. Nevertheless, Pope Francis hopes to address some of these hot button issues at the two Synods in October 2014 and October 2015, when pastoral guidelines will be formulated on the points discussed in the synod of 2014.

—A. F. Nazareth, Alto Porvorim

## " Good Morning Friends"

Cardinal Archbishop of Manila is reported to have advised his priests to do away with the habit of starting the celebration of Mass with the greetings " Good Morning Friends ". He does not see the need for such introductions as Mass is not a social function but a religious sacrifice. As Ladislaus D'Souza brought this subject ( Secular citizen July 21 ) I would like to express my opinion. In India this custom was introduced few years ago by some priests and it spreads all over. I feel that



it might have started by some priests or bishops who have seen and heard this custom in America and Europe. Similarly now even before the last blessing of the Mass when announcements are made or when the guest priest is introduced, or when performance of students is recognized by giving some awards, the audience clap their hands as if they are in a theater or a maidan. We can argue for and against this custom, but there are many who feel that Church is not to be taken like a theater or public meeting place. It is a holy place where the living Christ is wholly present and our voices, our gestures and all must be such bearing in mind the holiness of the place. To say that God is present in particular place does not in any way reduce his omnipresence. It is just not an informal group of individuals, but people of faith gathered to contact the divine and to Worship Him. We have to place ourselves in the right mindset as we gather to praise, worship and thank God.

One of the moments of high drama in the Old Testament is when Moses beheld the burning bush with the voice of God telling him " to put off your shoes from your feet for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." Is not this concept of "holy ground" valid these days? It is clear from the Scripture that there is supposed to be "holy ground" set apart for worship and we are expected to treat such places as truly holy. It includes dressing modestly, speaking respectfully, keeping silence, and having a holy behaviour when we are in God's house. The churches should not be taken as

ecclesiastical Malls for our convenience as it is the holy dwelling place of the Incarnate God. Let us not dilute the eternal truth and teachings with modern concepts and arguments or by becoming copy-cats.

—K C Thomas

## Climate Change (CC) on India

There was an "Inter- Faith Summit on Climate Change" sponsored by the UNO in New York from 21<sup>st</sup> Sep to 23<sup>rd</sup> 2014. But what impact has (CC) presently on India's fragile economy?

(CC) is going to hit the poor people real hard. The main effect of (CC) is 'Global Warming' with heat waves, cyclones, floods, erratic weather etc. Green-house gases like carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and suspended particulate matter are emitted by the burning of fossil fuels, coal, petrol and diesel and firewood. This contributes to atmospheric pollution leading to respiratory and cardiac diseases. (CC) in India is especially leading to increase in sea levels resulting in coastal flooding, damage to its infrastructure and hitting 'Beach Tourism'!

There are three important steps to stop or reverse (CC): Use fluorescent bulbs only. Minimize use of motor vehicles— Commute in electric trains and bicycles. And foremost, plant trees and halt deforestation. Trees give shade, cool the environment and provide life-giving oxygen—"Do not destroy trees; the trees are not your enemies" (*Deuteronomy*, 20:19).

—Dr Trevor Colaso

## Good Governance – A wake up call?

The Maharashtra Swaraj Party (MSP) parishioners should be congratulated for accepting the challenge of contesting the forthcoming elections. The Archdiocese of Bombay has about 122 parishes. The Catholic population is about five hundred and twenty five

thousand and seventeen (525,017) persons. Every parish has a Civic & Political Cell (CPC), and a Parish Youth Cell (PYC). The CPCs/PYCs are an integral part of the Parish Pastoral Committees (PPCs), along with the Small Christian Communities (SCCs). Every month a consolidated report is sent to the Apex Body by the PPC. In a five year period between elections, approx. 7320 (122\*60) monthly reports of the 122 PPCs. Cardinal Oswald Gracias will base his statements on these reports.

Some time back, John Dayal, President of All India Catholic Union, also commented on the alleged lack of support from the Church authorities.

The PPCs/CPCs should streamline their approach and turn away from church centered religiosity.

They should strategize their approach and assist the various NGOs/ individuals who are involved in tackling grassroots issues with the elected representatives at the National and State level.

This will protect the interests of the Minorities and the Educational Institutions from being exploited or marginalized by vested interests.

—*Denis Khan*

## A Continuous Cleanliness and Environment Pledges

PM Modi has inaugurated the Cleanliness Pledge—CP or 'Swasthatha Shapath'—a core Gandhian vow. This week long CP from Sep 25 to Oct 02 is a need to create massive public awareness, and to ensure participation and action for cleaning homes, government offices, schools, hospitals, work places, bus terminals, railway stations, monuments, rivers, lakes, ponds and other public places. There will be surprise inspections to confirm the effectiveness of the CP.

But I suggest that this CP and drive should be a 'continuous process';

## Goa Exposition Time Table



### MASSES

Masses will be held during the entire 45 day period of the exposition of the Sacred Relics. Masses will be in various Indian and foreign languages. The following are the Mass timings.

### Special Ceremonies

#### Nov. 22nd 2014

Inaugural Ceremony Solemn Pontifical Mass (only one mass on 22nd Nov at 9.30 a.m)

#### Dec. 3rd 2014

Feast of St. Francis Xavier Solemn Pontifical Mass at 10.30 a.m

#### Jan. 4th 2015

Closing Ceremony Solemn Pontifical Mass at 9.00 a.m

### ALL MASSES

#### Nov. 23 rd 2014

6 a.m, 7 a.m, 8 a.m, 9.15 a.m (English)

4 p.m, 5 p.m, 6 p.m (English)

#### Nov 24th 2014 - 2nd Dec 2014

#### Novena Days

6 a.m, 7.15 a.m, 8.15 a.m, 9.30 a.m,

10.30 a.m (English)

3.45 p.m, 5.15 p.m, 6.15 p.m (English)

#### Dec 3rd 2014

Feast of St. Francis Xavier Solemnity

4 a.m, 5 a.m, 6 a.m, 7 a.m, 8 a.m, 9

a.m, 10.30 a.m (Feast Mass)

4 p.m, 5 p.m, 6 p.m (English)

#### Dec 4th 2014 – Jan 3rd 2015

6 a.m, 7 a.m, 8 a.m, 9.30 a.m,

10.45 a.m (English)

4 p.m, 5 p.m, 6 p.m (English)

### NOVENAS

The novenas to St. Francis Xavier will begin on the 23rd Nov 2014 till 2nd Dec 2014 with celebration of the solemn feast on the 3rd Dec 2014. Masses will be in various Indian and foreign languages.

### CONFESSIONS

The sacrament Reconciliation will be celebrated everyday during the period of the exposition of the sacred relics in the Sacristy of Bom Jesus Basilica.

### VENERATION OF THE SACRED RELICS

The sacred relics will be venerated in the Sé Cathedral Church from Nov 23 rd 2014 till Jan 3rd 2015 (No kissing of the relics on 4th Jan 2015) from 6.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m.

*Sent by Agnelo Rodrigues,  
Wadala E.*

and, a day like the 2<sup>nd</sup> of every month or better still the Tuesday of every week be dedicated for this CP and its voluntary implementation.

Along with this CP the five 'Environmental Pledges' of St Francis, to care for God's creation and the poor—Pray, Learn, Assess, Act and Advocate, as ecologically explained by Fr Allwyn D'Silva in *The Examiner*, Sep 27—Oct 03, 2014, pg 7 could also be fruitfully performed.

Here I propose five 'Inner Cleanliness Pledges'. A concerted effort

should unceasingly be made to rid oneself and society of the interior impulses of corruption, violence, immorality, vices and bigotry, which some of its five external manifestations lead to mis-management, crime, adultery, addictions and discriminations respectively. So as the good word encourages: "Let us 'cleanse' ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, making holiness perfect in the fear of God" (2 *Corinthians*, 7:1)

—*Dr Trevor Colaso*

# “Mother Teresa, A Living Saint In Person!”

**D**ecades ago, when Mother Teresa was still alive, a non-Christian named Hariram, stunned at the sight of the kind of mission Mother and her sisters were performing, sang glowingly of her as “a living saint in person,.....bearing the living Cross!” 5 September 2014 marked the 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passing of that living saint of international renown into eternity and 19 October 2014 marks the 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her beatification. In the intervening period between her beatification and its 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary, other Indians have attained sainthood, the distinction of becoming the First Indian Woman Saint going to Sister Alphonsa of the Immaculate Conception. November will herald the canonization of Beati Kuriakose Elias Chavara and Mariam Theresa Chiramel. Early January 2015 is likely to see another holy believer of Indian origin being conferred sainthood. Significantly, with Pope Francis waiving the “one-more-miracle” requirement in the case of Blessed Joseph Vaz, one cannot help but question as to why Mother Teresa’s canonization continues to be held up for want of “one more miracle”. Indeed! Wasn’t her whole life a miracle?



to him by American Catholics and used by him on his visit to Bombay during the 38<sup>th</sup> International Eucharistic Congress. Characteristically, she raffled off this car for the purpose of funds to build a leprosy hospital in India. The warmth of affection between John Paul II and Teresa is legendary, with the Pope even going so far as to waive three years of the 5-year waiting period for the process of her beatification to be set in motion and eventually beatifying her himself. Not so with Pope Francis, apparently. What’s with him one wonders! Strangely, even a search on the internet for a picture of the saintly nun with him, taken if at all maybe during his Argentinian days, draws a blank. O well! He did say on his recent visit to Albania that if Teresa were his Superior, he would have been scared of her! But that’s neither here nor there! In fact, if he can waive the 2<sup>nd</sup> miracle requirement for Vaz, or for any *beati* for that matter, it’s obvious that it’s a mere technicality that he, as Pope, can very well dispense with in the case of Mother Teresa who, he claims, sat right behind him at the 1994 Synod and whose strength and “the determinedness with which she spoke, never letting herself be fazed by the assembly of bishops” he so admired.



## Is the Pope listening?

O Pope Francis! We all love you so, and you know it! We are certain that another like you will not come our way in our lifetime! But wouldn’t you, Holy Father, also agree that another gem of a saint like Mother, the Blessed Teresa of Kolkata, will not walk the earth again for a very long time to come? Santo Padre, just why do we need a miracle cure of some incurably ill person to prove the saintliness of someone whose holiness has so seized our consciences as to pose a challenge to the modern world!

faithful God! Not for nothing was she known as the ‘saint of the gutters’, with nothing but saintliness oozing from her hands and her eyes, her heart and her lips. Pray, what better miracle can we look for before having her declared a Saint!

## Multifaceted recognition

Encomiums and awards came her way with the same ease with which the kind of work she was involved in drew her. From the Nobel to the Bharat Ratna, Teresa, whose ministrations transcended social norms and taboos, defying the imagination of entire generations, earned due recognition without letting herself be overwhelmed by it. The high and the mighty bent their knee before her casket even as the I.K. Gujral government in India fittingly accorded her a State Funeral—a rare honour!

Past popes likewise were known to have had an open admiration for Mother Teresa, never shying away from demonstrating that admiration. Paul VI gifted this epitome of saintliness the white ceremonial Lincoln Convertible gifted

## Saintly to the core!

The fact is that while the cause for the canonization of Joseph Vaz depended on reports and testimonies that had the Church delve into the past 300 years, Teresa’s life has been an open book before the whole world ever since, in response to “the call within the call”, she left Loreto’s to serve the poorest of the poor in the slums and hovels of Calcutta. For over half a century, the world has been witnessing firsthand the miracle of love in action every step of the way that Mother and her Sisters and Brothers of Charity covered and continue to cover, be it in India or across the world. In all that she said and in all that she did she brought humanity the presence of the Messiah, the healing touch of the great physician, the mercy of the mighty healer-

# 'Make in India' Simply to Divert Peoples' Attention

**A**fter much hype, the Hon'ble Prime Minister - Mr. Narendra Modi launched MAKE IN INDIA Campaign, just before few hours leaving to US.

In the Lok Sabha Polls, 2014 the BJP had promised "Acche Din" to the people of this country and believing this populist slogan of "Acche Din" the people of this country voted BJP led NDA government to power. Today, 70% population of our country is still struggling to have one square meal a day. Millions are still living in hunger and poverty. Millions are jobless and do not even get Rs.20/- per day, which is the stark reality of Acche Din.

In contrast Acche Din has come for few rich and powerful Corporate Industrial houses and that the reason the Industrialists like Mr. Mukesh Ambani (Reliance) Mr. Cyrus Mistry (Tata), Mr. Aditya Birla (Birla Group), Mr. Kenicha Auawa (Maruti Suzuki) are all in praise for Mr. Narendra Modi for launching MAKE IN INDIA campaign.

The Prime Minister has assured huge concessions to the Corporates and Industrial houses in form of tax exemptions, excise duty and import duty. It is very clear that this government is obliged to please these Corporate houses who supported BJP during the Lok Sabha - 2014 election.

The manufacturing sector which contributes only 15% of Indias GDP growth is given priority over other sectors of economy.

The agricultural sector which feeds millions in this country, employing more than 25 - crore agricultural labourers, besides 8 - crore farmers are totally neglected. The government has failed to increase the subsidy

by Adv. Suhaas Naik  
President - AIYF - Goa State

given to the farmers to procure seeds and fertilizers. There is no support price given for agricultural products. The European Aircraft Giants like



Airbus, Samsung Electronics, Honda Motors, Mercedes Benz are in a pursuit to exploit cheap Indian labour and raw material available in abundance in this country with the help of BJP Government. The Government is all set to help these Corporates and Multinational Companies at the cost of common man. Millions are still awaiting for Acche Din. There is no relief for common-man middle class and working people of this country. The prices of essential commodities, food items of mass consumption are going beyond the reach of common-

man.

This slogan of Make In India is nothing but a systematic effort made to DIVERT the attention of people from real & general issues like unchecked price-rise, an employment, hunger, poverty & jobless growth.

The BJP led NDA Government is all set to dilute the existing Labour Laws and other Labour Welfare Social Legislations which were enacted in this Country as a result of glorious working class struggles. The pre-conditions to lay-off & retrench workers employing more than 100 and to close the company is also sought to be changed to favour the employers. The employment of contract labour and fixed-term

employment is sought to be made free for all the employers without any pre-conditions. Presently, the working class does not have any job security and with the present amendments, the employers would be given free hand to exploit the cheap labour in this Country encouraging hire-&-fire system.

The BJP led NDA Government is following the same policies of erstwhile UPA-II Government and has completely betrayed the common-man, middle class, working people, peasants and farmers.

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# Why the World is Silent ?

**A**s violent persecution against Christians around the world intensifies, one would ask, "Why is the world silent while Christians are being slaughtered in the Middle East and Africa?" Even leaders and organizations that should know the gravity of the situation better appear to be silent. It is observed that the United Nations has been mostly mum. World leaders seem to be consumed with other matters. There are no flotillas traveling to Syria or Iraq. And the beautiful celebrities and aging rock stars — why doesn't the slaughter of Christians seem to activate their social antennas?

The Church, and especially all Christians around the world, is supposed to understand the scale and the magnitude of persecution around the world their brothers and sisters are facing today and to lead the world in the fight against this sort of escalating oppression.

Christians are dying because of their beliefs, because they are defenseless and because the world is indifferent to their suffering. It is only the Jewish people who understand all too well what can happen when the world is silent. This campaign of death must be stopped.

Europe and the United States, have witnessed demonstrations over the tragic deaths of Palestinians who have been used as human shields by Hamas, the terrorist organization that controls Gaza. The United Nations has held inquiries and focuses its anger on Israel for defending itself against that same terrorist organization. But the barbarous slaughter of thousands upon thousands of Christians is met with relative indifference. In the Middle East and in parts of Central Africa, entire Christian communities are being lost in areas where peace had previously prevailed for centuries.

The terrorist group Boko Haram has kidnapped and killed hundreds of Christians this year — ravaging the predominantly Christian town of Gwoza, in Borno State in northeastern Nigeria.

**Christians are dying because of their beliefs, because they are defenseless and because the world is indifferent to their suffering.**

Half a million Christian Arabs have been driven out of Syria during the three-plus years of civil war there. Christians have been persecuted and killed in countries from Lebanon to Sudan and ISIS selling Christian Women as Sex Slaves as Militants overrun Qaraqosh.

The Islamic State in Iraq and Syria

**✍ Don Aguiar**

(ISIS) is not a loose coalition of jihadist groups, but a real military force that has managed to take over much of Iraq and uses money from banks and gold shops it has captured, along with control of oil resources and old-fashioned extortion, to finance its killing machine, making it perhaps the wealthiest Islamist terrorist group in the world. The general indifference to ISIS, with its mass executions of Christians, isn't just wrong; it's obscene.

When it comes to the use of military force, Americans tend to be in two camps: those who want to use overwhelming force to defeat their enemies and those who oppose the use of force for one reason or another. The limited use of force is denigrated by both sides. Foreign policy realists, on the other hand, see the use of military force as simply one among many tools of foreign policy.

It is this context that makes it so difficult for Americans to understand the Vatican's position on the use of military force, which is based on the just war theory.

The Vatican begins with a presumption against war. War can only be a last resort after all other avenues have been exhausted. Diplomacy and rec-

onciliation must be tried first. But "last resort" does not mean "never." Waging war requires a just cause, such as defending oneself or another from unjust aggression. But not every just cause is an excuse for the use of military might. Besides a just cause, the military intervention must cause less harm than not intervening. You do not destroy a village to save it. The use of military force must be proportionate, and everything possible should be done to avoid civilian casualties as it is believed military intervention would only make matters worse. It is hard to argue that the thousands of deaths and billions of dollars spent have made Iraq better.

Pope Francis opposed any American intervention in Syria because he did not think those actions fulfilled the criteria demanded by the just war doctrine. There is no evidence that American intervention would have done better in Syria than they did in Iraq, especially with a much smaller investment of resources. The just war theory says you should not wage a war you cannot win.

The Pope said something similar during his press conference on his way home from South Korea. In response to a journalist's question, he said:

In these cases where there is unjust aggression, I can only say that it is licit to stop the unjust aggressor. I underscore the verb "stop"; I don't say bomb, make war — stop him. The means by which he may be stopped should be evaluated. To stop the unjust aggressor is licit, but we nevertheless need to remember how many times, using this excuse of stopping an unjust aggressor, the powerful nations have dominated other peoples, made a real war of conquest. A single nation cannot judge how to stop this, how to stop an unjust aggressor. After the Second World War, there arose the idea of the United Nations. That is where we should discuss: "Is there an unjust aggressor? It seems there is. How do we stop

*(Contd.. on p. 15)*

## 6 Awards for Ryan School Group

**T**he Ryan International Group of Institutions was honoured with Six Awards for their continuing efforts in providing quality education at the Education World 2014 Awards held at Hotel Lalit, New Delhi. The Ryan Global School, Mumbai was awarded for being ranked in the Top 10 in the Best International School category in India while the Ryan International Schools at Jaipur, Surat, Shahjahanpur, Ludhiana and Nasik were felicitated for being among the best schools in their respective cities.

In addition to this, the group had a total of 37 schools in the Best Schools of India in various categories. The Ryan Schools have distinguished themselves by their focus on academic excellence and all-round development.

The Awards were received by the CEO, Mr. Ryan Pinto and Director Ms Snehal Pinto. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Ryan Pinto said, "We are very encouraged. Thirty seven schools of our group being ranked in the country reflects the commitment of our stakeholders to offer quality education to our children. I thank our Lord Jesus Christ for continuing to show us the way. I thank our team who contribute to the cause of ensuring excellence for holistic development of our students. In the



coming years we intend to relentlessly work to better our pedagogical practices and process to enable our students become lifelong learners."

The ranking was based on the several parameters such as individual Attention to students, Infrastructure, Value for money, Academic reputation, and Education quality among others. Most of the Ryan Schools were well matched to the criteria laid down by surveyors.  
—Ronida

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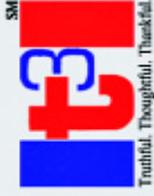
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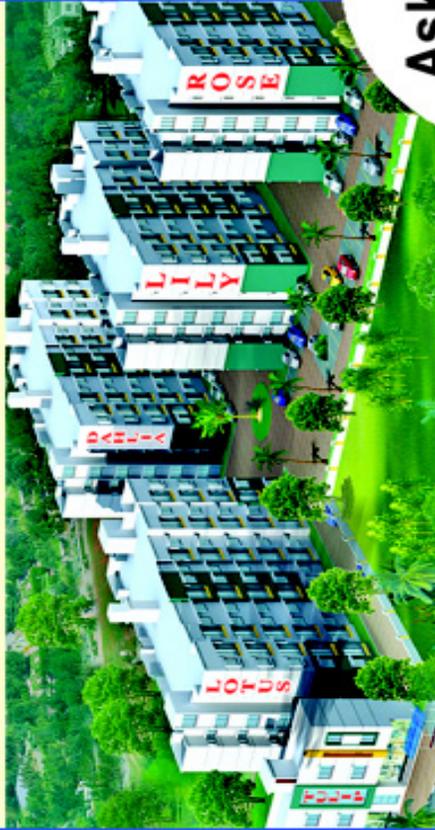


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## End Of Pre-poll Alliance Regime?

The way the four major players in the Maharashtra politics, have behaved for the past few weeks, gives a feeling that the days of 'give and take' have ended. For any credible alliance to sustain there must be coherence and the way this is being eroded it could signal the end of pre-election coalition era at least in Maharashtra. The much touted 'strong alliance' of the saffron outfits has ended when they should have been celebrating their Silver Jubilee. Both the parties are now free to spit venom during the campaign. The BJP boasted about the alliance with Bihar's Nitish Kumar which also ended similarly.

The Congress-NCP marriage has also ended, albeit, with lesser acrimony. Nobody wants to cozy up with a loser. Both are losers anyway. Sharad Pawar was keener to keep his options open in the post poll scenario. The Shiv Sena has given him elbow space as also the BJP. NCP which was formed without any ideology has been a fence sitter since inception. Pawar when he formed the party had fantasized his chances of becoming a PM. Like L.K.Advani his dreams will remain unfulfilled.

This time around, the Shiv Sena, unlike during the national elections earlier this year, took an aggressive stand though Raj Thackeray may not agree. This is the result of the big brother attitude of the BJP. The Sena's importance was under-played then. They considered it below their dignity to talk to Uddhav ignoring the fact that he is the President of his party. They authorized leaders to negotiate with Sena. This was insulting.

The Modi factor may be on the decline as the recent bye-elections have shown in many States. In the general elections, though BJP got 23 [27.2% votes] against 18 [20.8% votes] of Shiv Sena in Maharashtra the story in Mumbai and extended suburbs [Thane, Bhiwandi, Palghar and Kalyan] was different. The honours were shared with both getting 5 each. In 2009 elections which were also fought jointly the BJP vote share was 14.02% as against 16.26% of the Shiv Sena [MNS got 5.71%]. Both Senas polled 22.96%

## IEWS on NEWS

This time around, the MNS led by Raj Thackeray has been completely sidelined with nobody wanting to align with him. The dismal showing in the general elections made him an untouchable at least for the moment. Let us see with his new slogan 'Yes, it is possible' a variation of Obama's 'Yes, we can', whether he can turn the tide. He could be a king-maker under the changed circumstances. Ashmita pride may pay some dividends. Screening outsiders who enter Mumbai may not go well with the Northern constituency.

The Congress-NCP, even without an alliance, will make little or no impact. Their fate will be akin to the UPA in the last general elections. Whether we like it or not and their confidence in the fourth term notwithstanding, the role of Congress and NCP in Maharashtra appears to be over at least for the time being. At best individually, NCP could lend support should it become crucial. NCP hates to be 'out of power'.

**The BJP is paying for its arrogance. The Sena was given just one cabinet berth. The SAD too is being sidelined. At this rate the BJP will remain alone – friendless. Of course for the sake of power, they will side with anybody even the devil. The performance of the MNS will be worth watching. Uddhav did not want MNS to join the NDA when BJP made discreet attempts. The new hotline between MNS and the Sena will remain quite busy but Raj may not want to discuss anything from a position of weakness. But things can change after the polls.**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Sweet And Sour Dish

The just concluded visit of the Chinese President Xi Jinping has ended in a disaster the likes of which has never been witnessed before. The all powerful President of the most populated country comes on an official visit [and a few goodies] and organizes serious border incursions simultaneously. This is unprecedented. With this atmosphere, one could hardly expect any serious and well meaning bonhomie between the two leaders. Modi was forced to talk



by Marshall Sequeira

tough and it paid. The tension is cooling off.

The visit was obviously to counteract the fairly successful visit of the Indian PM to Japan where he secured an assurance of some 35 billion dollars [but no nuclear fuel]. China has always felt that they are free to do what they want and nobody should question them. China was also expecting Modi to visit China before Japan. Xi was expected to come with a bouquet of some 100 billion dollars and his visit was much hyped some weeks before it actually happened. What he actually came with is just a fraction of that amount – a mere 20% with a major chunk going to finance the Bullet train between Ahmedabad and Mumbai. The whole exercise seemed to be Gujarat centric.

China has always been very close to Pakistan and has been openly trying to encircle India by befriending smaller countries like Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Maldives etc. But it has taken umbrage at the move by India to befriend countries like Vietnam, Japan, and Indonesia etc with whom China has some bitterness over territorial issues. China is going to show its muscle power to India and make its displeasure public over the reported closeness with their adversaries, particular Japan. Like the USA, India needs to handle China with caution, considering the importance of China in world politics.

**While India is much stronger today compared to 1962, so is China with its vast military strength. It is easy to talk tough but if the push comes to a shove, the result could be ugly for this country especially at a time when India is trying to emerge as a global economic super power. China mercifully also realizes India's market potential. The 'congratulations' on the success of MOM has to be seen in that context. But both countries will keep the pressure on for ultimate political gains.**

# Novenas And Prayer-Vigils Heal Wounds

**N**ovenas are special prayers or services set in spiritual formation for a number of specified days, woven in the divine web of faith and trust beseeching God for His mercy, love and forgiveness. Novenas are made most often through the intercession of His Mother or the saints.



BY MELVYN BROWN

prayer of supplication. A Hail Mary, an Our Father would be correct. Finally, a closing prayer. A novena is for nine days, of public or private prayers, always with an intention. Some novenas are known for 3 or 6 days; some for 9 hours in

a single day. The origin of the novena started with the nine days of prayer when Mary, the Mother of Jesus and the disciples were together between Ascension and Pentecost Sunday.

The novena should not be broken when in a time frame. Some novenas can be for nine weeks. Novenas are made when people ask God for favours and make promises on its completion. To continue praying reminds us of what Jesus had said : "Ask and it will be given you; seek and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened." (Luke.11:9-10).

Vigils are kept (usually at night) in prayers with the sole purpose of focusing attention to urgent problems with varied patterns of devotion in services, asking for God's justice or assistance as the case might be.

**Novenas and Vigils** are always performed in faith and in trust. A novena for nine days would have meditation for each day. For example:

- Day 1. The acceptance of the Word of God. Luke 1:26-38.
- Day 2. About humility, Luke.1:48.
- Day 3. Meditate on charity. Luke.1:36-39.

- Day 4. A deep love for God. Luke.2:21, 22, 40.
- Day 5. Grateful for our gifts. Luke.1:46-49.
- Day 6. Gratefulness at the temple. Luke 2:22-24.
- Day 7. The acceptance of poverty with trust in God. Luke 1:48.
- Day 8. Prayer in the community. Acts 1:12-14.
- Day 9. Thinking about Mary our Mother. John 19:25-27.

Each day of the novena should have a short meditation on the Word of God. This is generally followed by a

*(Contd.. on p. 22)*

*(Contd.. from p. 10)*

him?" But only that, nothing more.

Here, Pope Francis has been criticized as being "reticent" as 200,000 Christians (and other minorities) are fleeing, hunted down by Islamist militants who crucify, behead and stone their enemies. Foreign policy realists will say that the Pope is naive. The only way that the Islamic State is stopped is with force, including bombs. And if they have to wait until the U.N. acts, it would be too late to save anyone.

The Pope is being extremely cautious because he does not want American hawks to say he is blessing American military intervention to destroy the Islamic State. Nor does he want Muslim extremists to say he is calling a crusade against Islam. He prudently errs on the side of caution and lets his diplomats fill in the blanks.

Limited military intervention pro-

vides time for the new Iraqi government to get its act together, especially by bringing the Sunnis on board. There is no American military solution to the conflict in Iraq. Only the Sunnis can defeat the Islamic State. This requires the intervention of the United Nations and not only one nation America. After all, it was the Sunni awakening that

defeated al-Qaida, not the American surge.

The Pope and the Vatican are looking at the United Nations to hold discussion and find a solution to end this campaign of death by the Islamic State on Christians and minorities but the silence of the United Nations betrays its very purpose. To save Christians and minorities from the campaign of death by the Islamic State the international community must act. This can include disarming the aggressor as this is a case of "humanitarian intervention," but it should be done by the international community and not unilaterally by one nation. In view of this the Pope and the Vatican should lead the world to fight against this sort of escalating oppression and that brings us to the question - Why is the world silent, while Christians are slaughtered in the Middle East & Africa?

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# Tweets From Space: 5 Things You Should Know About India's Mars Orbiter Mission

by Mayank Jain

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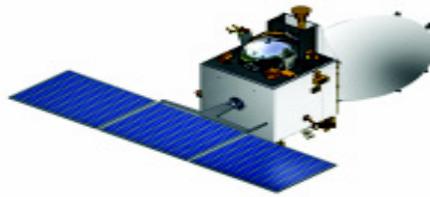
**India's Mars Orbiter: Rs. 11.25/Km**

That's the sum total of India's space mission: cheap, efficient and illustrious. Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) has entered the Martian orbit after being launched from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh by PSLV C25 rocket/carrier on November 5th, 2013.

After a long journey spanning 11 months and multiple maneuvers that re-launched the orbiter from earth's sphere of influence into the Mars' orbit, it has finally reached the position where it will begin operating and fulfilling the mission objectives. The major objective is to look for traces of methane in the atmosphere of Mars as has been detected by signals on Earth, but NASA's Mars rover hasn't been able to find any clue of the same so far. However, with India's mission in place along with NASA's MAVEN, hopes of a breakthrough have rejuvenated.

Here are the five things that you must know about India's Mars Orbiter Mission, affectionately referred to as MOM by our PM:

1. Jugaad' Innovation: They say that necessity is the mother of invention and similarly, deficiency fuels creativity. We are known for the ability to innovate and offer goods at cheaper prices while maintaining the quality; ISRO has thus added itself to the list which includes Micromax, Lava and similar enterprises. ISRO being an undervalued but over performing entity in the country's balance sheet, set out to achieve another feat through this mission. It is India's first interplanetary mission on a shoe string budget, but pre-



cision, right from the beginning made it happen. The project was approved by the government of India on 3rd August 2012 and costs Rs. 450 crores, much less than what it took Hollywood to make 'Gravity', a movie based on space missions and astronauts. The budget of the movie was almost \$100 million.

2. Looking for Methane: The 1350 kilogram payload launched from India is loaded up with analyzers, imaging devices and scientific instruments which

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Admissions will be given on first come first served basis. Those who are in the age group of 15 to 70 will be given the preference. Those who are interested to attend this course should contact Jose Salvador Fernandes for further details and registration. Cell no. 9881810832. Email: konknni@gmail.com.

will gaze into the planet and its surroundings to give back reports of the presence of methane. Apart from technological leaps like developing prowess to manage space missions, it will give India a peek into Mars' structural and atmospherically relevant history. The traces of gases detected in and around the atmosphere will prove useful in the study of the universe as a whole as well.

3. Successful at the First Attempt: According to NASA, out of the 57 missions to the red planet by different countries, only 21 have been successful. India is only next to Soviet space program, NASA, and the European Space Agency to send a successful mission to the planet. However, we are the first ones to do it in the first attempt. As explained by a Reddit user, putting it into the orbit in the first attempt is like hitting a grain of dust particle from across the world to a hole on the other end.

4. Only 4 Rupees Per Person: A lot of criticism about the mission stems from the fact that it did incur hundreds of crores and the amount could be utilized for public welfare in a country with 400 million people living in poverty. However, the cost of Mars Mission comes out to be just around Rs. 4 per person which is essentially 10% of a day's poverty threshold for the country. The cost in fact is too low for such an ambitious and successful (so far) exploration which holds multiple prospects for welfare at large.

5. Tweeting From Space: The Mars Orbiter also joined Twitter and interesting conversations ensued once it started sending tweets from space. NASA's own Curiosity Rover sent a greeting in Hindi to welcome it around and asked to keep in touch. The one of a kind exchange became a spectacle on social media and made sci-fi fantasies of talking rovers come true for a while.

# Are Computer Boon Or a Bane For Children?

**T**echnologies and inventions have revolutionized the modern era. In modern age, with booming techno world, the computers have extended their reach to everyone from children to adults and it has got everyone hooked onto it. As computers have become really affordable for families, nearly every household of middle and middle upper class family has one.

The introduction of 3-D games and the consistent use of it have left a negative impact on children's minds. Psychologists and sociologists believe that some of the violent game leads to imitation of violent activities in children. Thus we find a behavioral change in them. Evidences have been found regarding the addiction of these computer games. People aged between 25 to 30 years cannot retreat from this childhood activity within themselves.

Computers are a big boon to children as they not only help them with their education but also help them enhance their knowledge in many ways. But due to the presence of this electronic device, children have started spending more time in front of it as computer games have become a dearily thing to them. This has not only led to their health getting affected but has also put their social life on the backburner.

Computer influence has taken over children lives so much that today they prefer to play games on it rather than go out and indulge in some physical exercise by playing various sports. Such a thing severely affects a child's health as a lack of physical exercise could lead to health problems. Research shows that youngsters who spend their valuable time in playing video games fifteen hours a week are intended to be more aggressive in nature. A good example of this is my 14 year old cousin who was addicted to computer games at a very early age. His addiction confined him to his room for most of the day and he rarely went out to play some sport. This addiction proved to be harsh on him after a year when health problems such as pain in the eyes and inability to concentrate on



studies, started affecting him. The only treatment which the doctor suggested was for him to go out and involve in physical activities.

Together with the computers, internet today has more or less erased the physical boundaries between people. With online social networking fast catching on with children, social lives of children have been affected very much. Earlier children used to hangout with each other in groups, have fun playing board games with each other, etc. But now they prefer interacting with each other online. This has led to them becoming less active with the people around them and has also affected their personality. I had also experienced myself getting caught in the world of social networking which led me to become very introvert in nature.

It is necessary for children as well as parents to understand the dire consequences of this mind gripping machine. It not only halts the child's resistive power to the outer world but also the mental ability to think and response. To avoid children getting sucked into the world of computers so much so that it starts affecting them health wise and disconnects them from the real world, parents have to start advising them at an early age about the ill-effects of too much computing and they should take care that their children spends more quality time with their family and friends. In this way computer would not only help children have better worldly knowledge but also make them responsible adults in the future.

—Sara Khan

# Pros and cons of outer space explorations



**W**hile India's 'Mars Orbiter Mission' (MOM) has done India proud and is hailed as a landmark achievement in the exploration of outer space, besides putting India in the hallowed and exclusive company of US, Russia and the European space agency, questions are being raised whether it was worthwhile spending a whopping Rs 450/ crore on the project, when millions of Indians are living in penury. Even though the cost has been played-down by some, with calculations that show that it works out to less than Rs 7/ per km, which is less than the rickshaw fare in Mumbai and Delhi, the fact remains that such projects do not bring direct benefits to the common man who is least bothered whether methane or water has been found as indicators of earlier life on the red planet. We have also spent huge amounts on past experiments, but are also the beneficiaries of the satellites put into orbit, which warn us of weather changes, impending floods, cyclones and tsunamis. Communication has also been revolutionized through these satellites with the use of mobiles, internet and GPS tracking. The question now is whether we need to go further in the exploration of outer space with projects which entail huge expenditure and little benefit to the common man, and for what reason?

—A. F. Nazareth, Alto Porvorim.

# Every interview is a learning experience

**W**hile planning a career, the search for the first job is the most tiresome one. Everywhere you will be asked, "What experience do you have?" Without experience, you won't be given the job and without a job you won't gain experience. This issue can be resolved to certain extent by performing a part-time job.

Although, it may hardly fetch you an income, the experience and certificate you will receive will be beneficial to you in future. Now the question that arises is: "Where should I apply for a job?" The first instinct is to apply to all big companies. It is worth trying if you can join one of them. However you can also join a small or medium-sized company. Your chances of getting hired here are far greater; moreover you will get an all-round experience in such an organization. Subsequently, you can switch on to a bigger company and make your mark there.

The manner in which you apply for a job is of utmost importance too. Do not write your bio-data on a shabby paper. Your personality counts. If possible, get letterheads printed. If this cannot be done, then use a good quality paper and write or type out your bio-data legibly. Your name and address should be written or typed at the top. Do not forget to write the date on the application. A letter or application sans only gives the impression to the employer that the applicant is careless.

Address the letter to the con-



cerned person. His/her name, designation and the name and address of the Company should be correctly written. An application should not read like a railway timetable. Rather, it should tell the prospective employer briefly what you can do and how you will contribute towards his/her enterprise.

A couple of good references always help, but it should be provided only after obtaining the person's permission. Conclude the letter by offering to appear for the interview, if desired. This act displays your self-confidence and creates an opening for you to be considered as a prospective employee.

Before posting your application, ensure that you have signed it and all enclosures have been properly inserted in the envelope and it has been fully addressed and stamped. Any negligence from your part will result into the rejection of the application.

When you are asked to appear for

the interview, always go neatly dressed. Avoid picnic and party dresses and funny hairstyles. Although, dress and grooming are matters of individual taste, it is prudent to be dressed neatly in a well-ironed pant and a shirt, if you are a male or a salwar-kameez or a saree, if you are a female. Avoid wearing jeans and T-shirts.

Enter the boss's cabin only when called for. If there is no system of calling out names, tap the door of the cabin gently and enter only after getting a reply to the question, "May I come in, Sir?" or "May I come in, Ma'am?"

Greet the boss with a good morning or a good afternoon, depending on what time of the day you enter. Take a seat when asked to, and sit in a confident relaxed manner. These preliminaries make the first and lasting impression on interviewers. Do not reply in mono-syllables. Give full and accurate replies. Do not try to bluff or give incorrect or false information. You will soon be terminated if not immediately then at a subsequent stage. If you are unable to answer any question, be frank about it.

A question which is frequently asked by all interviewers is, "What can you do?" Avoid replying, "I can do anything." You must understand that you can't perform several tasks. Just highlight the skills you have and promise to learn quickly whatever else is required, and do your best. Ask questions about the job profile.

It is not necessary to possess an encyclopedia of knowledge because the interview is not a demonstration of your awareness. However, it is important to read the day's newspaper before you appear for the interview. This will enable you to answer questions without hesitation as you can impress the interviewer. Lastly, depart with a pleasant greeting. Never ask when you will receive a letter of appointment. Be prepared for a negative reply.



BY JUBEL D'CRUZ

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# Inspiration!

## Learn from Failures

**T**he toddler trying to match feet with his brothers, the tiny spider crawling up the mighty wall, the obese lady trying to control her diet, the small ant carrying its heavy food, an addict trying to give up his drug and a mediocre child trying to excel in academics—in order to achieve their goals everyone has to surpass failure. Sometimes the destination does not come easily to you. One has to work. Really hard. Whenever we are not able to accomplish a task, or achieve our goals and meet up to our expectations we are in a state of FAILURE. This state has the capability to plunge us into despair and disappointment. Failure is undeterred: the word itself is filled with the underlying connotations of negativity but the act of failing does not have to be. If handled well, failure can do wonders improving lives and ameliorating the person as a whole. Following things are worth learning from a failure:

### Nothing is permanent:

Failure tastes really bad when it hits. It

is unexpected: creates pain, despair and abominable lull. But time is a great healer. It never remains same. However, difficult it may be, it changes. Failure is not the ultimate end. Past



cannot be altered.

### Flush out unwanted opinions.

It takes lot amount of courage to accept one's mistake. We often come up with different explanations to save ourselves from bearing the guilt of our failure. We all are Escapists. Pampering our big fat ego is our real concern. This is the sole reason for permanent damage to various companies and even relationships. But if someone is responsible for our failure it is completely, totally and solely us. Rather than playing a blame game if we accept our mistakes with all humility we can rectify them and work towards achieving our goals.

### Take responsibility.

Beholding oneself responsible for one's failure intensifies the feeling of guilt and desire to succeed as well. This feeling acts as a catalyst and accelerates progress towards the ultimate destination. Hence all the inaction and delay ceases. It gears up, reenergizes, rejuvenates, recreates and reinvents. We are able to rediscover ourselves. A fat man turns to run faster when chased by a dog similarly once hit by a failure we tend to work faster with much more efficiency and less flaws.

### Failure helps to overcome fears

Some people fear heights, some deep waters, some fear crowd while others fear failure. Psychologists say, one can overcome one's phobia by facing it right in face. Hence when you fail you are living your greatest fear. Once you are over it, you become fearless.

### Taking failure as a positive thing

Sometimes if you don't get what you desire, it turns out into a blessing. We always have a choice to look things from different perspectives. Glass may be half full or half empty. One can choose to sit in dark or find your inner light and discover the most power pieces of yourself. Similarly, failure or crisis can be viewed positively as an invitation to learn something new, viewing the shakeup in your outer world as an enlightening opportunity to wake up your inner world.

Failure gives an opportunity to work harder on any goal. And as we know it tastes sweetest when it comes after much of hard work and labor. So whatever failures you had in life overcome them, don't let them dishearten you.

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**MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 30 yrs, wheatish complexion, ht 5'9", wt. 68 kgs, sober habits, Edn. B.E. (Mech), MBA, Employed with an MNC, seeks alliance from R.C spinsters with pleasant personality and strong moral values. Contact: [matriadvert8@gmail.com](mailto:matriadvert8@gmail.com) / 9869480235. **(Regd. No. 6163)**

**USA :** RC Bachelor 34 / 5' 9", working in the USA, with a reputed organisation on a senior position, M.Com (India), MBA (USA) has good family values god fearing, pleasing personality, family oriented and having own accomodation in the USA. Seeks life partner from a Roman Catholic spinster having good christian values and willing to settle in the USA.

Please send Bio-data alongwith thelatest photograph to [ovrille@gmail.com](mailto:ovrille@gmail.com) **(Regd. No. 6204)**

**USA :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Divorcee, aged 46 years, Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Masters in Engineering and Business. Working as a Vice President. Seeks a girl below 40 years. Contact email : [vinodmiranda@yahoo.com](mailto:vinodmiranda@yahoo.com) / [miranda.ronald20@yahoo.com](mailto:miranda.ronald20@yahoo.com) OR 9322191670 **(Regd. No. 6199)**

**MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Divocee, aged 44 years, Ht. 6', Fair Complexion, Edn. Undergraduate, working as a Security officer in Ship. Coming in the month of December, Seeks a suitable match. Contact 09480157258 **(Regd. No. 6198)**

**MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor aged 29 years, Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 67 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA, working as a Asst. Manager Marketing in Pune. Seeks a suitable match preferably Goan. Contact email : [s.alistair.a@gmail.com](mailto:s.alistair.a@gmail.com) OR 9892091909 **(Regd. No. 6197)**

**MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 35 years, Ht. 6' 4", Wt.80 kgs, Wheatsih Complexion, Edn. 8th Std., Working as an Asst. AC Technician in Dubai. Seeks a understanding and homely girl. Contact :

9022935415 / 9819257399 **(Regd. No. 5992)**

**MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Divorcee, aged 32 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt.57 kgs, Wheatsih Complexion, Edn. Graduate, having own business and accommodation. Only child. Seeks a understanding, honest girl. Contact email :

[livewide@gmail.com](mailto:livewide@gmail.com) OR 8652878111 **(Regd. No. 5989)**

**MUMBAI :** Mangalorean RC Divorcee, aged 45 years, Ht. 6' 1", Wt. 87 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn P.U.C., working as a A/C Mechanic in Kuwait. Mob.: 00965-65983992 / 00965-67724704 **(Regd. No. 6012)**

**MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 45 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. SSC, well settled. Seeks a suitable match. Contact Mob.: 9867764737 **(Regd. No. 6022)**

**POONA :** Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 35 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., + Certified Fumigation Operator, Having own business. Seeks a fair good looking girl willing to settle in Poona. Contact email : [nelsoncarvalho@rediffmail.com](mailto:nelsoncarvalho@rediffmail.com) OR 9096466322 / 8600528122 **(Regd. No. 6020)**

**MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 29 years, Ht. 6' 1", Fair Complexion, Edn. BE and Masters in Computers (IT) from London, working in an MNC (IT) in Mumbai, Seeks an educated, simple, mangalorean girl. Contact email : [johnsonquadros@yahoo.co.in](mailto:johnsonquadros@yahoo.co.in) OR 28618926 / 9920631575 **(Regd. No. 6014)**

**MUMBAI :** Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 44 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 50 kgs,

Wheatish Complexion, Edn. SSC., working as a Jewellery setter. Seeks a suitable match. Contact Mob : 9833046266. **(Regd. No. 6121)**

**MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 36 years, Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 78 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., Having own well established business. Conact email : [dollylopes@ymail.com](mailto:dollylopes@ymail.com) OR 9220566467 / 9892320912 **(Regd. No. 6120)**

**BANGALORE :** Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 30 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 78 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Tech., MBA, PGDM., working as a IT Sofwere - Business Analyst. Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : [osbon\\_prusty@yahoo.co.in](mailto:osbon_prusty@yahoo.co.in) OR 8123090908. **(Regd. No. 6158)**

**MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic 1st marriage annuled by the church, aged 37 years, Ht. 5.' 7", Wt. 80 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. HSC., Diploma in Hotel and Restaurants Management, Working in Front office Department, well settled. Seeks a simple, humble, godfearing girl. Contact email : [menezes\\_kenneth@rediffmail.com](mailto:menezes_kenneth@rediffmail.com) OR 9619089645 **(Regd. No. 6154)**

**MUMBAI :** East Indian Roman Catholic Divorcee, aged 33 years, Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish complexion, Edn. MBA., in Intl. Business from Newzealand. working as a Manager. Contact : email [bnipra@gmail.com](mailto:bnipra@gmail.com) OR Mob.: 7738071111 **(Regd. No. 6047)**

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# MATRIMONIALS

**MUMBAI** : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 29 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E., working as a Sr. Analyst in MNC. Contact email : joe51in@yahoo.co.in or 9322282297 **(Regd. No. 6203)**

**MUMBAI** : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 23 years, Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A. (Hons), B.Ed., M.A. (Part), Teacher by profession. Contact email : cancer5belita@gmail.com OR 9892499656 **(Regd. No. 6202)**

**MUMBAI** : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Divorcee, having 4 years son, aged 32 years, Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 80 kgs, Fair complexion, Edn. B. Tech (Eng), working as a Risk Analyst in Foreign Bank. Contact email : karenm@rediffmail.com OR 9833021161 **(Regd. No. 6201)**

**MUMBAI** : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 35 years, Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 45 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., working as an Executive in MNC. Contact email : zeenie28@yahoo.com OR 9594597319 **(Regd. No. 6200)**

**MUMBAI** : Maharashtra Protestant Christian Spinster, aged 28 years, Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 59 kgs, Fair Complexion, good looking, Only Child. Edn. B.Com., LL.B., working as an Officer in Bank. Contact email : vmbhide100@yahoo.com OR 9819369243 / 9969052200 **(Regd. No. 6196)**

**MUMBAI** : Mangalorean Roman Catholic spinster 1973 born, 5' 5" tall, 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 45

years, employed in good position and well settled in Mumbai or abroad. Contact email : bellwether77@yahoo.com or Mobile No. 9892700617. **(Regd. No. 6166)**

**MUMBAI** : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 35 years, Ht. 5', Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.A., working as an Executive. Contact email : dsm1909@rediffmail.com OR 9819800179 **(Regd. No. 6079)**

**MUMBAI** : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 29 years, Ht. 5'3", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com, working as a Client Associate. Contact email : a\_fernandes@ateindia.com OR 976939984 **(Regd. No. 6077)**

**MUMBAI** : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 25 years, Ht. 5'5", Wt. 67 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E. (Information Technology) working as a Software Engineer. Contact email : sharondrz@gmail.com OR 8655875558 **(Regd. No. 6072)**

**MUMBAI** : Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 32 years, Ht. 5'2", Wt. 55 kgs, Very Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA (HR) working as a Sr. GR Associate. Contact email : dianne.j12@gmail.com OR 9867098306 **(Regd. No. 6071)**

**MUMBAI** : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 25 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Sc. Maths, Professor. Contact email : alinbombay@yahoo.co.in OR 7738931958 **(Regd. No. 6070)**

**MUMBAI** : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 35 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., employed as a Secretary. Contact : Mob: 9833120168 **(Regd. No. 6010)**

**MUMBAI** : Goan R.C. Spinster, aged 30 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, B.Com., working as a SME, Seeks sober, well settled bachelor. Contact : email : magna.fernandes@gmail.com OR 9820264984 **(Regd. No. 6007)**

**MUMBAI** : Goan R.C. Spinster, aged 26 years, Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 60 kgs, Tan Complexion, Edn. B.Sc + PGDQA, working as a QA Personnel in Pharmaceutical, Seeks a good looking, under-

standing, responsible, well settled bachelor. Contact email : renmail1987@yahoo.co.in OR 9892394604 **(Regd. No. 6006)**

**AHMEDABAD** : Goan R.C. Spinster, Wheatish, slim, good looking, aged 29 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 49 kgs, Edn. B.A., PGDMFI, Pursuing MBA, working as a Senior Officer in Bank. Seeks a educated, well settled bachelor from decent and respectable family. Contact email : steffi8138@gmail.com / jerrypeter02@yahoo.com OR 079-22162694 **(Regd. No. 6004)**

**MUMBAI** : Mangalorean R.C. Spinster, fair, good looking, aged 29 years, Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 62 kgs, Edn. Post graduate (MBA), working as a Manager in MNC, Seeks a well educated and well settled bachelor. Contact Mob.: 9930441402 / 9769678734 Email: sjd0110@gmail.com **(Regd. No. 6003)**

**MUMBAI** : East Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 32 years, Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 58 kgs, Fair Complexion, good looking, smart, Edn. M.M.S., B.Com., working as a Manager - Marketing. Seeks a handsome, intelligent, well settled bachelor. Contact email : christophersequeira@hotmail.com OR 9167650179 **(Regd. NO. 6002)**

**QATAR** : R.C. Spinster, age 28, Ht. 5' 6", MBA, working in Qatar for an Oil Company along with her family, seeks alliance from tall, well educated bachelors (working on ship or abroad-Engineers), having strong catholic values. Please respond to email: vanspereira25@gmail.com OR 97466756066 **(Regd. No. 5990)**

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(Contd.. from p. 15)

For two turbulent millenniums the novena has been the dominant prayer devotion in the Catholic Church. The word, novena, comes from the Latin "novem" and means 'nine' –that's one of the reasons why novenas are for nine days and are a popular devotion – it should be mentioned 'not part of the liturgy'.

The number 9 in Christian and Jewish thinking was related to suffering and, grief, imperfection; making it a curiosity when 'man's imperfection turned in prayer to God.' (Catholic Encyclopedia). In connection with the number 9, St. Jerome wrote that the 'number 9 in Holy Writ is indicative of suffering and grief.'

Novenas have a sense of "urgency". The devotion asks the faithful to continue the prayers for the allotted number of days, in public or in private. St. Jude, in his letters to the early Christians wanted them to persevere in prayer regardless of the persecutions. He became known as the patron of "hopeless" causes. There is a novena in his name. Jude was the brother of James. Read, Jude Vs.20-21. And on completion of a novena it has become a Catholic tradition to make public expression of your gratitude.

Basically there are four types of novenas and they can fit into more than

one category. The first is the novena of mourning. For example, following the death of a Pope. The second novena is that of preparation. As in the case of Christmas or Easter. The third is based on prayers. The fourth are novenas of indulgence.

There are novenas when the same prayer is said for nine days or nine times in one single day, every hour for nine hours. Novenas are prepared to coincide with the feast day of a particular saint, or that of Our Lord, or Our Lady. It always ends the day before the feast. We should bear in mind that some novenas are not really "novenas" for the simple reason that the number nine has no part in it. Yet it keeps the label.

**The Novena to the Holy Spirit** starts on the day after Ascension Thursday and ends on Pentecost. That is a good and proper novena.

The most "efficacious" novena is the 54-Rosary Novena. This is a very powerful novena. You say 3 rosaries in one day and repeat it for 9 days, which makes it 27 rosaries. Now, you repeat the cycle for 2 more times –  $27 \times 2 = 54$  rosaries.

**The Novena to St. Philomena** begins 31st August and ends 8th September, eve of the Feast.

There are also Novena-Vigils for 9 hours. These vigils in combination with the normal novena are not so popular with the laity. Novenas to the Sacred Heart, Our Lady of Lourdes, St. John Bosco, St. Anthony, Our Lady of Vailankanni, St. Rita, St. Jude Thaddeus, St. Ignatius, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Mary Help of Christians, are a few of the many well-loved novenas.

### **We hear of Candlelight Vigils.**

"Vigils are the vanguards of change and hope", I recall reading. It helps to destabilize a situation and bring about change. At the same time having vigils helps to heal wounds, drawing the attention of those who matter.

Prayer-Vigils are more emotive – or spiritually charged. ALL-NIGHT vigils in churches for world peace and other causes are in vogue. Christians have a vocation to holiness.

In the Vatican Council's Constitution on the Church (Ch.V), Lumen Gentium, we are informed that every Christian is called by God to holiness. Prayers, novenas and vigils are the means for the people to accept whatever situation they are in life. Novenas are an exhortation to trust in God through His Mother, angels and saints. To be in the grace of God you are called to be one who strives towards sanctity. This happens when you offer prayers, intercede for those suffering, make novenas, and when the hour calls for collective prayer and witness, to join vigils. In this way we propagate and promote devotion, creating a culture that encourages the laity to pray and be proud as witnesses of their Catholic faith.

Novenas held in parish churches can create a wealth of spiritual blessing. Novenas are an act of progressive faith and devotion. Their homilies delivered and issues touched upon always inspires and motivates Catholic action in the pastoral sense.

**Vigil-Novenas** are rare, but have been a mirror reflecting God's love and special grace. Ultimately, prayers and the Sacraments are the most abundant wellspring of God's benevolence. The novena, vigil and intercessory prayers for the spiritual vanguard of the Christian faith and Catholic belief will remain with us for all time.

The Holy Sacraments are the eternal flames to keep alive the Church of Christ, and to carry forward the Word of God. So, continue praying and never lose hope and trust in Christ. Always bear it in mind that Novenas and Prayer-Vigils also heal our mental and spiritual wounds.

## **Matrimonials**

**PUNE** : Pune based R.C. Goan bachelor, aged 30 years, Ht. 6' 1", Fair Complexioned, Slim, teatotallar, well qualified having own house in prime location working for TCS as manager. Seeks suitable partner from R.C. Spinster with strong family values. Contact with full details and recent photograph on 09923334018. Email: lovette.dsouza@gmail.com

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# Church in the City



BY VERA ALVARES

***“For the first time in recent memory, the Catholic Church will urge its flock to vote for “good governance” rather than “secular parties” during the assembly elections. Up until the Lok Sabha polls in May, the leaders of the faith had made a veiled appeal for the Congress. The new mantra of good governance, however, is the new slogan of the BJP.” – A news report in a Mumbai Daily.***

**‘Good Governance’** is neither a new mantra, nor an exclusive BJP slogan. Away from the hierarchy’s reach, politically enlightened Christians have been propagating the same to their brethren at every opportunity and cause, pointing out that we need a government not only to safeguard our religious identity but also work for the welfare of all, especially the poor and marginalised. This opinion has been conveyed to the political parties time and again, only to be disregarded in their frantic race to grab power. So now we come full circle with the Church authorities openly advocating good governance over preference for secular parties.

The teachings of the Catholic Church include the Bible Verse, ‘And Jesus said to them, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” And they were amazed at him.’ - Mark 12:17. The church authorities explain to the flock that loyalty and service to the country is as important as being faithful to one’s religion. At election time Catholics are reminded that they are duty bound to cast their votes to elect worthy people to assure good governance of the country. Though Catholics have been loyal to the secular parties on the whole, the turmoil in politics has forced a major chunk of them to endorse politicians of integrity irrespective of their party affiliations. It is also true that the pattern of voting for a secular party by Christians arose from the need to protect the community and its institutions from hardcore fundamentalists who do not stop at mere violence to create communal disturbances in society. And History is witness to the fact that the fringe



groups run free to implement their hate propaganda during particular regimes.

So what were the tremors that shook the foundations of this firm and unshakable loyalty to ‘Secular Party’, particularly by the religious in the community that normally votes en masse for it? Archbishop Oswald Cardinal Gracias, the head of the Catholic Church in Mumbai, has clearly highlighted another course of action, retrieving the idea from the murky waters of community news and views! Have we been so ambushed on the well-beaten path that a church leader makes known a different route already chosen by the informed voters in the community?

For decades, the ‘Minorities’ were treated as the traditional Vote Bank of the Congress that took their support for granted in the mistaken belief that in the face of atrocities they would cling to the party for survival. Appeasement of some sections, unjust reservation for some and false assurances to some

others were the implements used to keep up the charade. Given the fact that the community was not politically savvy because of years of side-stepping anything as dirty as ‘politics’, Congress became complacent and negligent of the grievances and aspiration of the very Vote Bank that kept it in power for so long.

The indifference is so great that none from the community however highly educated and qualified, ever featured on the list of Congress candidates at election time! Besides the few puppets on the strings, there has been absolutely no representation of the community by the community in the governments. The excuse of coalition compulsion has been touted by the party as excuse for all its ills and misdemeanours, an excuse that holds no substance any longer. Complaints of lack of compensation, reservations, facilities for Catholics, the original land-owners in this Constituency have fallen on deaf ears. Throwing crumbs at the noisemakers to appease the whole community, empty words and promises that never get translated into actions is the only fare served with much pomposity. So the time has come to discard the tiny begging bowls and replace them with a charter of demands for inclusive growth of the community.

This disillusionment was evident when last week, the East Indian Christians of Mumbai announced a new party, the Maharashtra Swaraj Party (MSP). The EI Christians should be lauded for taking this bold step at this late hour as an attempt to right the wrongs done to all citizens under a corrupt and complacent government. However, let it be made clear that this new fledgling party is not for EI or Catholics alone but has been born to realise the hopes and aspirations of all ‘underdogs’ suppressed under the self-serving rule of the present regime!



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For booking / enquiries contact :

**Mr. Surendra Chauhan- 99306 99903 • Mr. Mukesh Devle -99306 99983**

**Architect**

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