

# THE SECULAR CITIZEN

A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY

Vol.24 No.7 ■ Mumbai, February 16, 2015 ■ Rs. 5



## Give Back to Your Community ...



## Model Bank Thane Branch – ATM Inaugurated

**Mumbai:** Model Co-operative Bank Ltd., inaugurated its 3<sup>rd</sup> onsite ATM-cum Debit Card at Thane Branch on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2015. The ATM was blessed by Fr. Allwyn D'Silva, the Parish Priest of St. John the Baptist Church.

Mr. Albert W. D'Souza- Chairman; Mr. William Sequeira – Vice



Chairman and Directors – Mr. Paul Nazareth, Mr. Lawrence D'Souza & Adv. Pius Vas were present at the programme. The inaugural function was well attended by Shareholders, customers & well-wishers.

## Therattil Couple Honoured



Social activists from Mumbai Mr. Johnson Therattil and Mrs. Alice Johnson Therattil Ex- Mumbai Municipal Corporator were honoured with an Achievement Award on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Feb., 2015 at the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of KERALA IN MUMBAI Publications. The Award is presented by Dr. K. Jayakumar I. A. S. (Ex-chief Secretary State Govt. Of Kerala.) and present vice chancellor Thunchath Ezhuthachan – Malayalam University of Kerala. The Award is conferred in appreciation of excellence in the chosen fields of profession and contribution to society.

## Kerala-based priest bags 'Best Gospel Magician' award

**Kochi:** Father Saju Mathew, vicar of Immanuel Mar Thoma Church, Houston, US, has been selected for this year's coveted Merlin Award instituted by International Magicians Society for the 'Best Gospel Magician' category.



Dubbed as the Oscar in the field of magic, the award will be given to him in Houston on March 21.

This is the first time a clergy is being considered for the award. Magicians P C Sorcar, Gopinath Muthukad and Samraj had also received the prestigious award, reported manoramaonline.

Father Mathew said that he was very proud to be chosen for the award. "During my seminary days itself, I had a passion for magic. Earlier, I used magic as a means for imparting Biblical stories and moral lessons to children. But later I got enough venues to present magic at various parishes," he said.

Father Mathew is a native of Chachipunna at Pathanapuram in Kollam district. He completed his Bachelor of Divinity from Mar Thoma Theological Seminary, Kottayam.

## Thought for the week

*Our life is like a thought. Often a thought comes but if we don't capture it, its gone - gone forever, never to return.*

## Contents

- pg. 3 - Does The Christian ...
- pg. 4 - Tragic Situation...
- pg. 6 - An Open Letter to the Prime Minister Modi
- pg. 7 - Reader's Views
- pg. 8 - Church Joins National ...
- pg 10 - Attack on Christian Churches
- pg 11 - Views on News
- pg. 12 - Give Bank to Your Community...
- pg. 13 - Be A Mentor In Your Community
- pg. 14 - Providing Clean Drinking Water for 20 Paise
- pg 16 - I am No Nammo Fan
- pg 18 - Food For Healthy Vision
- pg 13 - Inspiration!
- pg 20 - Matrimonials
- pg. 22 - The SS Troopers

#### Subscriptions Rate:

One year (anywhere in India) Rs. 250  
Three years (anywhere in India) Rs. 700  
Five years (anywhere in India) Rs. 1000

One year (outside India) Rs. 2500

#### E-paper Edition

sent anywhere in the world (by email)

One year Rs. 600 or US \$ 15  
Two years Rs. 1000 or US \$ 25

Cover : Give Back to Your Community (article on pg. 12)

## Advt. Tariff

Over all size 21.5 cms x 27cms ● Print area 18 cms x 25.5 cms	
Full pg. back Colour (19 cms x 24 cms)	Rs. 15,000
Center spread colour(39 cms x 23.5 cms)	Rs. 15,000
Full pg. inside Cover colour(18 cms x 24 cms)	Rs. 10,000
Full pg. inner colour (18 cms x 24 cms)	Rs. 8,000
Half pg. Colour (18 cms x 12 cms)	Rs. 5,000
Full page B/W (18 cms x 24 cms)	Rs. 5,000
Half page B/W (18 cms x 12 cms)	Rs. 3,000

## Small Size Ads B/W

12 x 12cms Rs. 2000 ● 6 x 24cms Rs. 2000	
18 x 6cms Rs. 1500 ● 6 x 12cms Rs. 1000	
6 x 6cms Rs. 500	

## Matrimonial Classifieds:

- Rs. 500 per insertion (for 35 words) (includes box no.)
- Rs. 1500 for 12 insertions. (1 year The Secular Citizen FREE)

## Does The Christian Community Have No Rights? The State Alas, Turns A Deaf Ear

by Artika Raj

**A**s reports come in of the Christian community protesting outside the Sacred Hearts Cathedral in Connaught Place, asking the government, the Home Minister Rajnath Singh, and the PM Shri Narendra Modi to answer why after 5 churches getting vandalised in Delhi, there is still no statement from the corridors of power that be – today is a sad day for us. Today is a sad day for me as a citizen. As an Indian.

As I watch my fellow countrymen holding up placards that say 'Thank You Jesus, I am An Indian', 'United We Stand, Divided We Fall', and 'Sikh-Isai Bhai-Bhai', I am moved beyond words that things have come to such a pass that a non-violent protest sees the police imposing Section 144 (preventing 5 or more people from assembling) in the area, causing much more mayhem than if they would just let the protesters voice their genuine concerns. Concerns of a minority that need to be addressed. How does the head of a democratically elected government sit quietly and let things come to such a pass that a whole section of our 'secular' society feels threatened to live in a home and a country they have been born and brought up in? A nation they belong to and love as much as anyone else. It is indeed very sad that they must stand up and articulate this love, pushed into a corner to vouch for their Indian-ness. They are being forced to demand for rights that are unquestionably theirs. Freedoms that are theirs by right.

Forgive me if I ask this most politically incorrect of questions – would the government today have been as quiet and unmindful, offering cursory police investigations as pacification, if only one Hindu temple had been vandalised like the Churches have been? We all know the answer to that. And it is a reflection of the dark times that are upon us, if we don't realise this sooner, that this silent acknowledgment of the answer but not speaking up against this wrong, threatens the very foundation of the secular credentials our forefathers built this country upon.

As young boys and girls of school going age, grey-haired old gentlemen and women, pristine white-scarfed nuns are jostled and pushed about, reading glasses fall askew, one shoe of a pair is left alone behind... standing-by are buses waiting to whisk them away to far off locations so as to shut down their protests. Meanwhile in other parts of the city, election campaigning in equal if not larger numbers rages on as Delhi goes to elections this weekend. Promises galore of things that shall be done when such and such will come to power. But for now, it is the numbers and the seats that matter, the loudest debates are on these, while a peaceful protest is muffled.

The politics is on while humanity is being slowly silenced. And pain is all I feel.

(youthkiawaaz)

# Tragic Situation...

by Don Aguiar

**W**hen it rains it pours and for our beleaguered community it has been a Biblical deluge of miseries for a while now. Nothing lasts forever – empires, dynasties, life itself. That’s what makes the passing of the many things our community was looked up to including sporting activity which was nothing short of true greatness in the history of our parishes, our community and our country as poignant – and so human. It’s not that we did not know it was coming.

A very scientific study conducted in India shows that pastoral care in the mainline churches is definitely defective, and that this is particularly true of the Catholic Church. The tragic paradox is that it is the Catholic clergy that gets the longest training compared to the pastors of other churches, and it is the Catholic clergy that is expected to be more committed because it is a celibate clergy—at least that is the claim. All our pompous buildings and glamorous celebrations seem to be futile. Nay, they are part of the problems we are facing.

The Cardinal, *vide* Pope Francis requirement on the implementation of a Sports Ministry in the various Archdiocese worldwide, was very keen on starting a Sports Cell in the Archdiocese of Bombay and got a team comprising of laity and priest to prepare the document. This team took plenty of pains to consult the DYC, the ABE, the clergy and religious, professionals and the parishes in order to come up with an all inclusive and progressive document. All these priests and religious consulted had expressed their support for the implementation of this cell and had cooperated excellently with this team in helping them make this document. The senior clergy were happy that such a bold step has been proposed by the present Oswald Cardinal Gracias and said that this reminded them of the late Valerian Cardinal Gracias who had taken many bold steps for the benefit and progress of the community.

The completed document was

sent to the Cardinal for his views/comments and for him to have a meeting with this team to discuss and be explained the queries he had in this document before he puts it up at the priest / ABE principles meeting for acceptance and implementation.

In the past our community participated, controlled and dominated sporting activity on and off the field as well in all sporting associations BUT at present the other communities have overtaken us and are controlling and dominating this activity and our community presently can hardly boast of any sportsperson to reckon with or being a high ranking member or even a member in any of the sporting associations.

Inter-faith relations are growing increasingly important in India today, where we still see ourselves as a threatened minority. These relations mean more than just celebrating religious feasts together. They also relate to the way in which we see inter-faith marriages; engage in inter-community projects for common welfare; and are able to discuss our respective religious traditions in public and without apprehension, in order to expand our ‘democratic space’. Today the rapid changes in Indian society are reflected in our Catholic community – inter-faith marriages, non communication within the family or breakdown of the family unit, under employed or lack of employment, increasing rate of divorce, etc.

It is the lay people in our diocese, in our parish, who need the clergy the most. If the clergy are eager to be in solidarity with people, then it is their parishioners in their parishes and schools who need their solidarity the most.

Keeping this in focus and that the clergy will adopt an attitude of helpfulness and empathy as members of the same family as with the laity, this document took into consideration all age groups for this cell which was for not only games and tournaments at parish and school level but also at professional level and at training potential and talented sportspersons to be se-



lected to play for the country as well as being professional and would directly or indirectly result in employment or entrepreneurship for our youth and adults, a possibility of finding their life partner during the many competitions, networking and interactions wherein it will decrease the percentage of inter-faith marriages and divorces and increase communication within the families and the community at large which would hopefully result in the much needed requirement that will nourish the body with dedicated activity. Fill the heart with love. Strengthen the intellect with knowledge and lead to a much healthy community. It would also instill in the community a feeling of competition where they can rate each other on wide ranging parameters like discipline, attendance, team building and performance and leadership qualities including honesty, selflessness, unity and positivity.

The idea for the parish was that sporting events would bring the family and the parishioners together and give a boost to the SCC’s and parish cells and associations due to them interacting and networking with each other in team building for participating. For the ABE schools it would be the picking of players showing talent and potential and sending them for training particularly for the under fourteens. For the seminary besides healthy sporting competition, clerical assistance and planning and for the DYC the youth and the adults it would give them a chance for healthy competition as well as in training to be professionals or referees or even being put up for elections to one on the many sporting associations/bodies.

This document called for commit-

(Contd.. on p. 5)

**(Contd.. from p. 4)**

ment from the Cardinal to trickle right down to the different levels of the clergy and religious and to the laity for the success in putting into action the implementation of a sports cell. It was expected that the parish priest and ABE principles would shun negativeness and fully realize the opportunity of being in a responsible position in their respective parishes and schools and work towards a common vision as when you work for a larger purpose it unlocks your potential, makes you creative and energetic.

It was a surprise that the Cardinal without asking this team for any clarification, etc. put up the proposal of a sports cell for acceptance and implementation in the parish at the parish priest and ABE principles meeting. For reasons best known to all present at the meeting the proposal was opposed, the document not discussed and Cardinal accepted although it was what the Pope decreed - the implementation of a sports cell in all the archdiocese - There is a natural tendency for the birds of the same feather to flock together, but that might not augur well. The Cardinal and his clergy cannot take a 'one-size-fits-all' approach to the community. Shared causes are the key virtue required for the community. Here the personal relationship of the Cardinal with his parish priest and ABE principals is critical to advancing shared causes - What does matter - and causes great concern - is that the opposition of implementation of a sports cell in the archdiocese by the parish priest and ABE Principals had been hailed as the 'accident' by the powers that be that must become 'real'.

Ask yourself, when was the last time your parish priest, ABE principle or your bishop showed himself accountable for the functioning of the unit (parish, diocese) committed to his charge? Not just financially accountable, but responsible for the planning and execution of projects undertaken?

To be a priest or religious is an important thing & it must be looked at seriously. There must be commitment and effort. They must remember that people are observing their performance not only in the Church but even out-

side. Some people will appreciate you, some will criticize you. In both the cases you are the beneficiary.

One will motivate you, while the other will improve you.

This sea saw brings to the fore in our community the culture of silence, courteousness and hypocrisy in the name of humility, obedience and loyalty in order to let drudgery set in with selfishness, resulting in the non implementation of any activity that will benefit our community and the reason why the other communities after copying and adopting our models have progressed and overtaken us.

Time takes its toll on the best of us; it's the brutal suddenness with which the end came that has left this team who took pains to prepare this document for the Archdiocese in such a daze. Long before, the community had been kept abreast of this situation; the obituaries had begun to flow. An era had ended. It was a lump-in - the-throat moment for the committed sportspersons of our community as well as those who wanted our community to regain its true greatness and its past glory.

Our community including sports fans and Clergy tend to be fickle - swinging from one extreme to another - heaping praises one moment and ridicule the next. But when you see true greatness of our community finally laid to rest the overwhelming emotion is one of sadness.

The Cardinal communicated to this team who had taken pains to prepare the sports cell document - "I am sorry". One of the team members - a clergy - graciously responded saying - "Don't be, you have given us so much. It was lovely while it lasted." One could have said it better rather than indulge in the culture of courteousness, hypocrisy "There was a time when the leaders of the Catholic hierarchy were seen and respected as community leaders where they worked for a larger purpose. That time seems to be over."

If making money is a major concern of the Catholic clergy without any commitment and effort, if there is so much injustice within the Church, if Catholics are leaving the Church, then the people most responsible for this tragic situation are our bishops / priests.

When in office they are seen spending a lot of their time and energy in the "work" of attending functions, functions that do not really require their presence. As a result many very important pastoral and community duties are neglected. It is not enough to have a mobile. We ourselves need to be mobile.

I am convinced that the above should have been said long ago and said by many more. I shall not go into all the reasons why people in the Church do not speak out when they should. But I do wish to say that this culture of silence, courteousness and hypocrisy is not Christian, and therefore not good for the Church, and it does not serve the mission of Jesus. Sad to say, some of us encourage this unchristian culture in the name of humility, obedience and loyalty. We seem to be much more worried about our personal survival and the survival of our institutions and not much concerned for the Church of Jesus. We need to wake up to our situation and take the necessary remedial steps.

We invite readers for their response, comments, feedback, experiences, etc., in a fortnight on this important issue for placing the same before the community.

If the interest of the community is your concern, we welcome your views on this important issue :

email it to: [secular@vsnl.com](mailto:secular@vsnl.com) / [secular@sezariworld.com](mailto:secular@sezariworld.com)

or by post/courier to:

The Secular Citizen - 99, Perin Nariman Street, 1st Floor, Fort, Mumbai 400001,

## **JACK OF ALL STALL**

### **Reliable House for Religious Goods**

Gloria Church Bldg.,  
263, Dr. Ambedkar Rd.,  
Byculla, Mumbai - 400027  
Tel.: 23725963, 23749358

Estd: 1951

Prop. B. D'Souza

# An Open Letter to the Prime Minister Modi

## Honourable Prime Minister

I must say at the very outset that for the first time I voted for the BJP candidate in both the Parliament and Assembly Elections. Because I saw sincerity in your promise of taking India on the swift path to development. You also seemed to suggest that the progress of India would be inclusive, encompassing every section of Indian society.

But the events that have unfolded in the last few months most definitely belie these promises.

- **Your much hyped promise** to bring back the black money stashed abroad has fallen flat. You are now totally silent on the issue.
- **You promised to clean up** the administration and wake up the sluggish bureaucracy - the bane of India's administra-

tion. We do not see any change here. When we go to any Govt Office we experience the same lethargy and red tape that we have witnessed for years.

- **The Common Man is beset** with rise in prices of essential commodities and transport fares. This is not the development we voted for.

But what is most worrying is the rise of the ugly head of Hindu Fundamentalism in the country in such a short time. Forced & Allured conversions under the banner of 'Ghar Vapasi' go against the very grain of the Indian Constitution. Your supporters in the Sangh Parrivar accuse the Christians of converting through allurements. THIS IS NOT TRUE. There is a law in the Indian Penal Code that makes it an offence that is punishable. To date, no Christian has been convicted by this law. This law is strong enough and there is no need for any other Anti-Conversion Laws or debate on this matter. The rabble rousing conducted by the Sangh Parrivar in this matter have already led to the vandalising of 5 Churches in the Capital which is a crying shame for this beautiful, secular & tolerant nation. Not to mention attacks been orchestrated on churches, priests & nuns every single day in some remote parts of India that does not get reported.

Your silence in this matter cannot be missed. You have an opinion on every issue but you don't seem to voice it here. Your silence shows compliance to these ugly happenings. When our revered leaders came to meet you regarding this issue, you were absolutely cold and showed no signs of even attempting to do anything to end this madness.

My question to you Sir is : How can you expect any development in this country when there is such turmoil??? Who would want to come and invest in this country in such a cli-

mate??? These guys are sabotaging your whole plank of development??? Can't you see it???

As Prime Minister of this country you took the 'oath of office' of defending the Constitution. Are you not breaking this promise by depriving the citizens of this country their fundamental right to practice & propagate their own religion???? If you cannot ensure this as Prime minister, then I am afraid that you will have to step down.

I would like to tell you Sir, that the Christian community is a peaceful community. We will protest strongly without using violence. We are very respected in this country and in the world for our great contribution to this country. Every respectable Indian I am sure will stand up to defend us.

My humble appeal to you Sir, is to reign in these divisive forces. You can do it as you have the mandate of a large number of secular Indians. Let us all work together to build a strong & united India. Then only, will development follow. President Obama alluded to this in his last speech before he left India. You called him your good friend. Please do not ignore the advice of a good friend. You will be doing it at your own peril. You have a God given opportunity to be remembered as the person who changed the destiny of India. Surely you do not want to be remembered as the person who divided & weakened this great nation. The ghost of Godhra continues to haunt you. You would not want another ghost to haunt you for the rest of your life.

I pray that you heed my sincere appeal. And finally I would like to add that in the next election, if I have to choose between my security or development. I will, like all sensible Indians, choose my security.

I close with good wishes & prayers for your success in bringing India to the path of all round progress.

Yours sincerely  
**Fr. Anil Rego**

## FERNANDES PROPERTY SOLUTION

### DAHISAR

@ 9700 PER. SQ. FT.

### MIRA ROAD

@ 6500 PER. SQ. FT.

### VASAI

@ 5000 PER SQ. FT.

Contact :

022 28123473 /

9920258471 /

9322632712.

## Plight of former Priests & Nuns

The news item “Former priests and nuns to pitch for their dues” (Secular Citizen, January 19, 2015) made an interesting and thought provoking reading. It was heartening to note that Catholic priests and nuns who have left seminaries or convents are going to meet in Kochi on 28th February, demanding social acceptance and protection. It is true that hundreds of priests and nuns have left priesthood and nunhood after some years as they felt disillusioned or marginalized in their pursuit of truth. Now after their departure, they are left with no job or no support from the relatives and the community. The ex-priest K.P. Shibu has rightly pointed out that the ex-priests and ex-nuns have also to face social boycott as leaving priesthood and nunneries is portrayed as something sinful.

The reason for social boycott or scorn of the ex-priests ex-nuns is that the Indian Catholics have attached too much importance to the priests and nuns in their lives. The false doctrine “In persona Christi”, taught in the Catechism of the Catholic Church is also to be blamed for this scenario. This Latin phrase meaning “in the person of Christ,” imbibes in the tender minds of children that the priests and the bishops act in the person of Christ, the head in their leadership of the Church. This doctrine also makes the priests feel proud and superior over the laity. In reality, the fact remains that nobody can take the place of Jesus Christ and despite Church’s teaching, the priests and the nuns are no superior to the laity. But our priests and bishops have declared themselves to be Jesus Christ. Naturally, when they fall, they become object of boycott and scorn. It is therefore requested that the ex-priests and ex-nuns gathering at Kochi should also focus on humanizing priesthood and nunhood.

—*Vincent Bagul,*  
*Mumbai*

## Last Prophet Of The Old Testament

LETTER with reference to Dr.Trevor



Colasco's comments

Sir, I thank Trevor Colasco for having taken the time to weed out five episodes not mentioned, according to the good doctor. However, I am pained to point out the reasons why they were, actually there with the exception of 'Divine Mercy' :

The Visitation was given in length, Luke.1:13-15/Lk.1:20/Lk.1:60.

The Messenger was mentioned, ref.Malachi.3:1

Voice in the Wilderness, Acts.13:23  
Theophany, if he meant Theology, it was all there.

NOW

Dr. Colasco should, in future be aware of the writer's (whoever it might be) awareness of his paper's 'space effort' and to conform to the best writing and research put into, let's say 500 words, with the exception of Lead articles or those subjects, topical or provocative for reader's reaction.

For myself, I did my best to portray the Baptist in the best possible light, in the shortest possible 'space' (it was still continued on page 18), and mind you, there were no advertisements or illustration on page 17. I might have said much more.

—*Melvyn Brown*

## 7,000 Christians faced threats in 2014

**T**he Mumbai-based Catholic Secular Forum (CSF) says it has documented 120 attacks on Christians and their institutions across India in 2014, with over 7,000 Christians facing threats.

The Hindustan Times said the CSF report, made available to the newspaper, lists five murders across India in little over a year.

Madhya Pradesh (23) and Chhattisgarh (19), both BJP-ruled states, along with Congress-ruled Karnataka (14) account for nearly half of all incidents across India.

Between December 2013 and December 2014, 7,000 Christians faced threats, violence and displacement. These included 1,600 women and 500 children. 300 members of the clergy and community leadership were also targeted during this period.

The report also expresses concern over certain moves of the Union government such as making Christmas 'good governance day' and foreign minister Sushma Swaraj's call to make Bhagwad Gita the national book of India.

Joseph Dias, general secretary of CSF, told HT that the details of the report had been shared with human rights groups across the world. The CSF's annual reports and their global reach offer some clues into the circumstances that led President Barack Obama to call for greater religious tolerance in India.

The CSF's 2013 report, which counted 4,000 offences against Christians in India, was used by Indian Christian groups in California to lobby for minority protection as one of the terms of reference for India-US talks. In a February 2013 memorandum, these groups sought a "house resolution that would make human rights and justice for religious minorities a priority in US-India talks."

Former judge of Bombay and Karnataka high courts Michael Saldanha told HT, "Representatives of countries such as France, UK, Australia, Italy as well as the Vatican have approached us for information. These countries have then proceeded to take these matters up with the Indian government."



# Church Joins National Peace Movement

by Dr. Jacob Kani OFM Cap.

At a time when the country is discussing more seriously the growing violence, strife and unrest in the society caused by vested interests of both religious and political forces, the Committee for Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution of Rotary International District – 3040 of Indore, Madhya Pradesh has organised a three-day National Peace Convention in Indore, from 30 January to 1 February 2015.

The first of its kind in India by any Rotary International District, the Peace Convention was attended by about 300 persons from all walks of life and from various states across the country. They included Rotarians, social activists, educationists, NGO representatives, priests and nuns, and students. The participation of people from all religious faiths reiterated the urgent need for the coming together of the people of good will for cultivating and nurturing peace in the place of violence and strife, and working together for possible prevention of conflicts through adequate and effective resolutions.

Fr. Varghese Alengaden, a Rotarian and the Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the Peace Convention, explained the rationale behind this unique initiative: “The purpose was



to gather people from all walks of life and propose concrete plans to promote peace initiatives in the country, prevent conflicts in the name of religion, caste and region and find concrete ways to resolve them permanently.”

## “Gandhiji’s values are the soul of India”

While delivering the keynote address on the first day of the convention on 30<sup>th</sup> January, Shri Tushar Gandhi, social activist, author and the great grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, delved deep into the relevance of Mahatma

Gandhi in promoting peace and conflict resolution. He explained that where violent methods fail to bring in lasting results, non-violent methods of Gandhiji will bring forth the desired results as it happened in South Africa, Poland and elsewhere in the world.

Gandhiji had no ego problem and openly invited his opponents, including Nathuram Godse, to direct talk and discussion in an attempt to resolve conflict, and turned even an insult into a gift, said Tushar Gandhi. “Peace and non-violence is not a philosophy. On 30<sup>th</sup> January, when the Mahatma was assassinated, peace and non-violence became immortal,” added the Mahatma’s great grandson.

In his address, Ashok Mahajan, the Chairman of Rotary Foundation, India said, “We need an India without slogans, a place of peace and all inclusive development”. Peace and national integration can be brought through love and service, he added.

On the second day of the Peace Convention on Saturday 31 January, Shri Eduardo Faleiro, former External Affairs Minister, spoke on the role of South Asia Union to promote peace and prosperity. There is an urgent need to strengthen the bilateral relations among the member countries for the promotion of peace, he said.

Shri Chinmay Mishra, social activist and writer, discussed the causes



(Contd.. on p. 9)

(Contd.. from p. 8)

and solutions of militancy. Where people's rights are not taken care of, there militancy comes up. We need to identify the contributory factors of the rise of militancy, and involve the people, NGOs and public opinion to address the 'structural violence' and lead a people's movement as Gandhiji did to solve it, he said.

Mrs. Anuradha Shankar, IPS, (IG, CID, Bhopal), spoke 'Preserving the National Heritage of Pluralism for last- ing Peace and Integral Development of India'. "Gandhiji's values are the soul of India" which needs to be preserved, she said.

Dr. Jill Carr-Harris, Social activist in Asia and Africa, spoke on Human Development and Promotion of Peace. The goal of development must be peace, she said. "Taking away the re- sources of people for development is taking away their peace", she said. Citing the examples of some commu- nities in Latin America she said that they have achieved peace through Gandhiji's method of non-violence. We need to give the space for the marginalized people to live in peace and offering the community's solidarity will go a long way for its realization, she added.

Ms. Medha Patkar, social activist, spoke about the economic empower- ment of the poor, which is a prerequi- site for the promotion of peace and conflict resolution. She pointed out that it is the displaced people, farmers etc. who raise the conflicts, and there are no real channels of conflict resolution, she said. She deplored the 'poverty line' approach to measure the welfare of the people and instead suggested the 'wealth line' approach. Based on the Directive Principles of the Constitu- tion, there must be social and eco- nomic empowerment to ensure peace and conflict resolution, asserted.

Fr. Jacob Peenikaparambil, CMI spoke about the urgency of peace edu- cation in schools and colleges to ad- dress the issue of violence.

On the third day of the conven- tion, a panel session of spiritual leaders of major religions emphasized the role of spirituality as the source of peace.



**Tushar Gandhi**

Spiritual leaders representing Hindu- ism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Bahai and Zoroastrianism presented each religion's teachings and practices that advocate peace and conflict resolu- tion.

### **National Peace Movement**

The first three-day National Peace



Convention ended on Sunday, Febru- ary 1 with the adoption of a Peace Declaration.

The delegates volunteered to launch a National Peace Movement in the country based on Gandhian values and methods in an attempt to counter the growing culture of violence and divisive tactics of vested interests in both political and religious fields. The Convention also decided to hold the National Peace Convention every year from now on January 30, the day of Mahatma Gandhi's martyrdom.

The presence and participation of Bishop Chacko Thottumarikal SVD of

Indore diocese, many priests, nuns and students from different states along- side the Rotarians, social activists, busi- nessmen and professionals in this Peace Convention organized by a Ro- tary International District makes this convention a trend setter and bench- mark event in the pursuit of peace and conflict resolution in the country. The coming together of civil society organi- zations and church organizations on a single platform for strategic planning and joint actions for peace building and conflict resolution has opened a new chapter in the process of nation building and national integration. More focused plans and determined actions in this regard involving the Church in India and the country's civil society organisations will go a long way in determining the course and path the country will take in the years ahead.

This is a chance and opportunity for the Church to be visible and pro-

active in the mainstream society; it is a reminder for the Church and her per- sonnel to come out of the slumber and self-complacency and act as the leaven and salt in the society so that its light will be visible to one and all, leading to due acceptance, appreciation and acknowledgement of the existence and services of the Church in the Indian soil. Such a meaningful and fruitful collaboration of Church and civil soci- ety will herald a new era, which will be marked in glittering letters in the mod- ern history of India.

# Attack on Christian churches

**D**emocracy has been murdered in the National capital city of Delhi after the brutal crack-down on a group of peaceful protestors of Christians, which included priests and nuns protesting outside their church in Delhi against the series of attacks and arson on their churches in the past 2 months. It is a blot on the govt at the centre that such incidents should take place with increasing frequency ever since the BJP was voted to power at the centre and the Home Ministry choosing to remain silent over such acts of vandalism on places of worship. It is also a blatant violation of the fundamental rights of citizens enshrined in the Constitution to express dissent through peaceful demonstrations. Although the Home minister has promised to conduct an impartial inquiry into the matter, of what good is it when the Delhi police have stated that such incidents were merely acts of simple theft, burglary and trespassing. We as a secular and democratic nation should feel ashamed that such things should be happening in our country. Where is the unity in diversity and national integration that we take pride in and never fail to proclaim to the outside world?

—A. F. Nazareth, Alto Porvorim.

**Readymade Wedding Gowns, Christening Sets, First Holy Communion Dresses & All other Wedding Accessories and Thermocole Decoration, also Available at**

**White Rose**

Sharaf Manzil, 1st Floor, 650, J.S.S. Rd, 2nd Dhobitalao Lane, Mumbai 400002

**Tel.: 2207 4223**

Emails: davidprinters@gmail.com / bryan@vsnl.com

# State Level People's Convention held in Ahmedabad on February 7th & 8th 2015

**A**hmedabad witnessed a unique event on February 7th and 8th 2015 as a two-day State Level Convention brought together more than 500 women and men from all over Gujarat. They were local leaders; mainly adivasis, dalits and other backward communities (OBCs). They had come together to highlight their many grievances, to increase their bonding and in solidarity to say to those who attempt to control their lives and destinies, that they can no longer be taken for granted.

The theme of the Convention was "Chaalo Lokshahi melaviye" (Come let us ensure People's Rule: Democracy)

In his inaugural address to the Convention, Fr. Francis Parmar, the Provincial of the Gujarat Jesuits emphasised that the four pillars of justice, liberty, fraternity and equality should never be compromised. He called upon the people to be united so that they can achieve their goals; to be truly effective, he asserted, one needs to have the commitment to struggle to the very end.

The highlight of the programme was a Public Hearing presided over by Mr. Girish Patel, Senior Counsel of the Gujarat High Court and the doyen of the human rights movement of Gujarat. The other jury members were Dr. Sudarshan Iyengar, former Vice-Chancellor of the Gujarat Vidyapith and Mr. Rohit Prajapati, environmental activist. Several local leaders representing various communities from across Gujarat made submissions about their pathetic conditions; these included issues related to 'jal-jungle-jameen' (water, forest and land), their right to shelter, their right to livelihood and work, atrocities on dalits and on women; the way their land acquired by the big corporations and mega-projects like that of Ukai and issues related to PESA and Panchayati Raj.

Mr. Girish Patel exhorted the huge gathering to come out in the open and

together to demand their legitimate rights. "The rights belong to the people and the Government must realise this", he said. "The judiciary has consistently failed the poor, the marginalised and the other sub-altern groups of the country."

Several other eminent personalities and activists addressed the Convention; these included Mr. Hemant Shah, Mr. Anand Mazgaonkar, Mr. Mahesh Pandya and Ms. Trupti Shah. Added to the bonding of a memorable convention was a delightful programme consisting of adivasi dances and various plays which focussed on different social themes.

The Convention concluded with an resolution which unanimously says, "We, leaders and other concerned citizens of Gujarat (representing 750 villages of 34 talukas and urban slums of Surat and Ahmedabad) at the conclusion of a State Level Peoples' Convention held in Ahmedabad on February 7th & 8th 2015 on the theme "Chaalo Lokshahi melaviye" (Come let us ensure People's Rule: Democracy) resolve that: there are several issues which afflict us greatly; these include our forests' lands, displacement, the north bank of the Ukai, non-implementation of the PESA law, the tardy delivery of justice on atrocities to the dalits; the deliberate injustice by several Panchayats; the unresolved questions regarding housing for the poor in the cities – are just some of them. We, therefore strongly condemn the total inaction on the part of the Government. We call upon the Government and their relevant institutions to act promptly and to ensure that we get our legitimate rights and the justice due to us."

This Peoples' Convention was held under the aegis of PEOPLESJ (Promoting Effective Organisations, People's Leadership for Equity, Solidarity & Justice) which is an initiative of JESA-Gujarat.

—Fr. Cedric Prakash

## Obama's "Conditions Apply" Message?

The Americans, come what may, will not compromise on their core own national interests, even if they have to tell a thing or two to their hosts either covertly or overtly or even saying Af Taliban are not terrorists. Bonhomie notwithstanding, the underlying message of the visiting Barack Obama's speech was as loud as it could possibly be. The Nuclear deal which was stuck due to certain sticky issues was reported to have been cleared only to be questioned by American officials. Even the insurance liability clause is ambiguous. The defense agreements will undoubtedly help the American industries as well. The war on terror with a message to Pakistan [though not named] was more in the nature of an advisory to proscribe certain elements / organizations and to bring the 26/11 perpetrators to book. Could he have said that America will block all aid or impose sanctions? No! America still needs Pakistan. If he was serious he should have been more forthright. During his last visit he also made similar noises but did nothing.

The American President devoted half of his 40 minute speech to lecture the Modi government on the need to ensure that there is complete freedom of religion to choose, practice, propagate etc without any hindrance. He invoked Mahatma Gandhi and went on to 'remind' his host that these values have been enshrined in Indian constitution which every government has to uphold. To dilute its impact he gave example of his own country where some disgruntled people question his own religion since his name has Islamic connection. It is reported that certain elements back home in America, which have strong anti-Modi views on 2002 riots, had to be appeased. In doing so, he over-stepped perhaps not realizing that it could be perceived as interference in India's internal affairs. The Indian government and the BJP party were literally floored with such public statement which could have been conveyed to the PM during their one-to-one meeting. The party spokespersons who normally dominate TV debates, refused to participate.

**One thing is clear - the whole world viewed the 'Ghar Wapsi' episode engineered by some of the affiliates of the Sangh Parivar and Hindu Mahasabha with concern. It has to be**

## IEWS on NEWS

**remembered that over 40% of the world population is Christian and any attack on them, in any part of the world, will have repercussions. Narendra Modi for his stoic silence on the issue is taken note of by the world – Even NYT editorial has questioned this. Obama's message is clear that all the bonhomie has this 'conditions apply' tag, howsoever small the print may be! He made a pointed remark in Washington on his return when he said "The acts of intolerance experienced by various religious faiths in India would have shocked Mahatma Gandhi". Did these latest remarks have anything to do with attacks on Churches in Delhi and Togadia's latest defiant exercise in West Bengal? Obama is being termed a Church stooge by the VHP. By the way, if there is religious intolerance here there is racial intolerance there which could have upset Martin Luther King. Isn't it?**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Mourning The Dead

In recent years, unlike in the past, mourning for the dead has been diluted to a great extent. It does not mean that those who lose their beloved do not care. On the contrary, people have learnt to take control of their emotions which found manifestation in public in the past. Even the attire the Christians mourning family wore had to meet societal approval. The widows donned black sarees / dresses with no jewelry etc. Other family members were more measured in their outward mourning. Of course this also prevailed in Hindu Society with widows in the olden days shaving their heads etc. All this was for society to see rather than self deprecation or sacrifice. Now the mourners are more composed and obviously mourn within. No show. There was a time when it was more pronounced which to some extent was a result of social concern. People were afraid that society will think otherwise if there was no sign of public mourning. People in the process shed tears forced tears. Now nobody really bothers about what others may think.

While the people in general have come to terms with themselves in times of personal tragedies, our politicians appear to be 'shattered' with the loss of their colleagues in Parliament, Assembly



by Marshall Sequeira

and even Municipal Corporations. Every time some Parliamentarian, past or present, breathes his or her last, the Parliament or Assembly as the case may be is immediately adjourned after paying homage to the deceased with prepared speeches, one after the order, even if they do not mean what they say.

What needs to be considered is whether it is necessary to adjourn the House in the first place? Surely, there must be eulogies for the deceased politician who may have been a leader in his own right. But once this formality is over, the House must stick to its set agenda which is to govern the country. Actually, the members must sit longer and work harder to complete as much business as possible as a mark of respect for the deceased – not to enjoy a holiday. Of course, exceptions must be made for unfortunate death of say the President, VP, PM, Speaker and may be even a sitting cabinet minister. It costs a lot of money for a day's functioning of the Parliament. When the House is adjourned it is a huge loss to the exchequer. This is something that the poor country like ours can ill afford especially when the nation is on a threshold of taking a centre stage in world politics.

**Narendra Modi is undoubtedly a hard working leader. He has galvanized the bureaucracy to work hard for long hours and has even promised to work an hour longer than them. He is sincere in his approach. With the attendance of government servants being monitored for maximum productivity, he has made a statement for the nation to follow. If only PSUs had to follow suit as there is commitment deficit in most of their employees. Work hard the PM says all the time to the new generation. There is no alternative he emphasizes. Should he then not stop this archaic practice of adjourning the House for the day every time some past or present leader dies. By working on that day, you can pay better homage.**

# Give Back to Your Community ...

We all have the power to do something to make life better for others. No favor is too small. No dream is too big. What will you do to help your community become better for everyone?

**O**ur community thrive on our success when we give back a portion of what we have. Giving back does not always mean throwing money at a situation. I believe that time and effort are the most important gifts that we can give anyone. Use some of these tips to help better your community.

## Mentor Someone

Mentor a child at your local elementary, middle or high school. You can even mentor someone who is interested in your career field. Sharing your journey with another can really help them in this journey we call life.

## Sponsor a Class

Contact your local school and see where you can help. Sponsor a class by providing books, electronics, or whatever they need that you can provide. If you do not have the funds to buy items, you can put together a collection drive to get more of the community involved with helping each other.

## Teach a Free Class

Do you have a talent such as dance or writing? The neighborhood needs your talent and expertise. Give back by offering a free or extremely cheap class at your local church or Recreation Center.

## Start a Recycling Initiative

How many times have your driven around your neighborhood and seen plastic bottles and papers on the ground? Too many times right? It is time to change that. Contact your local recycling company. Many will give out free collection bins. Ask your neighborhood where the will allow you to set up neighborhood collection spots. Once these are set up, let your neighbors and greater community know that this option is available.

## Give What Your Community Needs



Each community is different. Therefore, they all need different things and services. Ask local schools, associations and leaders what they really need. Then ask neighbors and business owners what they would like to see change for the better. If your community is affluent, see about neighboring communities.

## Plant a Community Garden

We are living in a world where it has become easier to access fast food than it is to get fresh fruit and vegetables. Let's change that. Start a community garden on your property or ask neighbors and community leaders for spaces where gardening would be possible. Ask for help from local schools and businesses. You can even get a schedule going for different tasks so that no one has to do all of the work.

## Organize a Bill Pay Fund

It is no secret that many people are behind on bills. Lots of the people do their best by working extra jobs, but it is still not enough. I heard of neighbors in Detroit who came together to help out struggling families by paying their light bills. It started a chain reaction, and now, many families are able to keep their lights on. Take this initiative and run with it. Do good for those around you.

## Change a young person's life today and transform their potential for tomorrow



Be a Mentor to a school student who is poor in his/her studies in a Mentorship program

Be a Mentor to a mentally retarded person and encourage his/her spirit in bringing happiness in their life.

Mentor a youth who is entering or re-entering a skilled or professional career.

Mentor deserving professional men and women in achieving their goals successfully.

**If some one in a business rut or having trouble taking his business to the next level, one need to reach out and connect with someone who can help. Chances are, it'll not only impact your business in ways you never thought possible, but it will also make you a better person.**

**Mentoring doesn't just benefit entrepreneurs and business owners though. It's also beneficial for business professionals looking to advance their careers.**

# Be A Mentor In Your Community

## What is a Mentor?

**A** mentor is defined as a “wise and trusted confidant” or an “influential supporter.” Mentoring is a one-to-one or group relationship that helps a child reach their full potential. Most people can recall a person, in addition to their parents, who had a meaningful and positive impact on them – someone who was their mentor. Mentoring is a powerful way for young people to develop competence and character and plays an important role in a child’s life.

If you are still trying to figure out what new goal you want to accomplish, here is a wonderful suggestion for you: **Become a Mentor for a deserving person in your community.**

**Why a mentor?** Because this way you will be contributing to your community, you will be helping those who one day will be the future: our kids.

As a mentor you can give someone the opportunity to learn, grow and dream big. Mentoring is a great way to give back to your community and help build brighter futures for children, youth and women across the nation

As a mentor you’ll share your wisdom and life-experience to help boost confidence among your mentees, equipping them with essential life- and career-skills and the tools to realize their dreams..

**The need for mentoring and business development support is critical in a country like India, where women make up only 3% of senior management positions and only 8% of all small and medium-sized enterprises are run or owned by women. Mentoring can increase the number of successful women entrepreneurs in India, who are growing businesses that create wealth and much-needed jobs.**

**A** good mentoring relationship allows both mentor and mentee to develop new talents and build self-awareness. In business settings, the mentee can become more in-tune with a corporate culture, and the mentor can hone leadership skills.

**You have a big opportunity in front of you—to not only impact life of our youth, but to transform their potential for tomorrow.**

## Famous Mentor Relationships



Mentoring isn’t a new concept and it’s not reserved only for startup entrepreneurs or the average white-collar business professional—mentoring relationships have existed all throughout history and continue to be established by many of the today’s most successful business people. Here are some examples:

**Alexander** The Great was mentored by **Aristotle**  
**Plato** was mentored by **Socrates**  
**Thomas Jefferson** was mentored by **George Wythe**  
**Warren Buffet** was mentored by **Benjamin Graham**  
**Marc Benioff** was mentored by **Steve Jobs**  
**Marissa Myers** is mentored by **Larry Page** and others

**Mentoring someone outside your work place** can introduce you to new tools, techniques, ideas, and ways of working. While you’re mentoring and accelerating their learning, you can simultaneously be doing that for yourself and learn from them. If you’re in business, you could learn about social enterprise. If you’re in government, you could learn about cross-sector collaborations.

Sharing your expertise through mentoring helps develop your leadership, collaborative, and problem-solving skills.

If you’re retired, help someone thrive. Give them the benefit of the insight and perspective you’ve gained from your years of coping with change, challenges, and people. Have you had an extraordinary experience? Share your unique knowledge. Maybe you’ve worked for an e-commerce launch, a retail business or a cross-sector initiative but it never really got off the ground — someone could benefit from hearing from you about why.

**Like most other things in life**, it “takes a village” to succeed as a startup. Entrepreneurs are constantly breaking rules and making mistakes in an effort to drive their businesses forward. For this reason, having a mentor is invaluable.

you always find yourself in situations where you “don’t know what you don’t know” but you have to stay in motion and make decisions regardless. Without a savvy guide, in the form of a mentor, you may wind up making crucial early mistakes that would have otherwise been avoidable. The smaller your company, the faster you need to move, often without enough information to make perfect choices.

## Providing Clean Drinking Water for 20 Paise



Smaat has constructed over 2,800 water ATMs so far in 11 states of India benefitting over 75,00,000 people.

By 2015, they want to cover the entire country with their technology and by 2020 they want to make sure that no one in India dies due to a water-borne disease.

**S**maat India is enabling rural India to have access to clean drinking water in just INR 0.20 through innovative water ATMs. The technology takes only a few minutes to convert contaminated water into pure water.

Karunakara M Reddy had seen water scarcity since childhood. Coming from a small village in Andhra Pradesh, struggling for clean drinking water was a common thing. He had seen other children skipping school to get water from far away places. He himself would come back from school and fill up water for the cattle and other household chores.

Not wanting others to face similar challenges, he started a social enterprise, Smaat India Pvt Ltd., which is providing access to clean drinking water in rural areas at affordable rates.

The affordable technology called the Water ATM takes only a few min-



utes to convert unclean water into safe drinking water. It can produce 3,000 litres of clean drinking water in just one day and has a life span of around 10 years. The villagers can avail the pure water at just 20 paise per litre from the closest water ATM.

The construction of the entire set up takes around 90 days and costs Rs.7,50,000 to Rs.25,00,000 depending upon the size of the plant and quality of the raw water. The cost of the construction and set up is borne by public representatives like MLAs and other government bodies.

## Church warns parents to guard children against 'selfie'



**Thiruvananthapuram** – A month after asking the Catholic laity to stand against inter-caste marriages, Kerala Catholic Bishops Council (KCBC) has now issued another warning. The Church wants parents to guard the children against new danger zones, which include, “exhibiting oneself through selfi and forced conversions of youth through love affair for the purpose of re-launching them as terrorists.”

In a circular to be read out in Churches in Kerala on February 8, the KCBC, a platform of Catholic Bishops, said “we should realize the growth of danger zones, both physical and spiritual.”

It said parents should take care that their children do not fall into unholy relations. “the trend of children exhibiting themselves through whatsapp and selfies is on the rise. By showing themselves to everyone, these children become prey for the voraciously eagle-eyed persons. Parents should take special care in this regard. It should be ensured that children should not deviate from the righteous path.”

“Extremism and religious fundamentalism are growing in our state. There is an increase in the trend of youths and children being trapped in love affairs and taking them into terrorism and other danger zones. Hence, children should be taught to grow in Catholic faith.”

The circular issued by the KCBC Commission for Vocation has urged the laity not to discourage children from dreaming about priesthood or nunhood. Those who try to belittle such dreams of children are waging a war against the interest of the Catholic Church, said the circular.

# Catholic Trust Calls For Protest Against Attacks On Delhi Churches



**T**he Bombay Catholic Sabha, a non-political organisation registered as a public trust, has called Mumbaikars to gather at Azad Maidan on Monday at 3 pm. There is set to be a peaceful protest against the repeated attempts of church vandalism and desecration of religious places in Delhi.

Dolphy D'Souza, spokesperson, Save Our Land and former president, Bombay Catholic Sabha, said that it is a call to all communities to close the ranks and prevent something like this happening in the city of Mumbai and the state of Maharashtra, reported DNA.

D'Souza said that whether it is in the form of 'Love Jihad' or 'Ghar Wapasi', the 'divisive approach' of Sangh Parivar's fringe elements pains the community. He added: "Ever since the new dispensation has taken charge at the Centre, attacks on minorities have increased in all forms of harassment and intimidation by fringe elements of the Sangh Parivar."

Since the season of Advent last year, there have been 5 attacks on churches in various parts of the city. "Over the last two months there have been systematic attacks on churches where our sacred objects have been



desecrated. No culprit has been identified. It is a methodology to provoke disruption and even in the mass protest held at Delhi, the peaceful protestors were assaulted. Why is the PM silent on this?" asked D'souza, who has urged various religious communities and citizens to gather and protest at the maidan.

He added that the protest will have speeches by community members and the idea is to have a peaceful solidarity protest so that attacks like these don't happen again.

**Wedding Invitation, Christening,  
First Holy Communion, Mortuary  
Cards & Religious Goods**

Contact:

**David & Company**

Sharaf Manzil, 1st Floor, 650,  
J.S.S. Road, 2nd Dhobitalao Lane,  
Mumbai 400002

**Tel.: 22019010 / 2205 7394**

Fax: 2206 0344

Emails: davidprinters@gmail.com /  
bryan@vsnl.com

# I Am No Nammo Fan

***But as elder brother i can guide him and train him - Dr. Leo Rebello.***

If Morarji Desai, a Gandhian, honest and strong Administrator, much competent than Modi, could fall in 2.5 years, I submit that Modi is not expected to last more than 2 years. You may repeat that. From Delhi results we will know soon.

*The reasons why I am not his fan or follower are as under:*

- 1.. He is not Secular or Sanatani. He is Hindutva-wadi and supports 'Ghar Wapsi', which will divide and weaken the country rather than uniting it or making it strong.
- 2.. He does not believe in Socialism, but Capitalism, which is the bane of Holistic Development of India and the World.
- 3.. He talks of Ram Rajya. But his myopic vision stops only at building another Ram Mandir in Ayodhya when several Ram Mandirs already exist there.
- 4.. He said that he will bring back all the Black Money stashed in the foreign banks in 100 days. Now 7 months have passed and the way things are going, it looks like that BJP too will not bring back black money, because the Will is missing. Some of the BJP bigwigs too have accounts in the foreign banks?.
- 5.. Is American CIA and Mosad of Israel have taken over India's surveillance? which does not portend well for our freedom.
- 6.. Modi was considered as persona non grata in USA till the last minute. It is ONLY after he became the PM that USA started wooing him and he has fallen prostrate before Barack Obama.
- 7.. Development does not mean only industrialisation. Free enterprise is not Freedom to loot the nation by chosen unscrupulous industrialists.
- 8.. When 66 years later basic amenities like Roti, Kapda, Makan, Toilets and Clean Drinking Water have not reached every village. When illiteracy is high, and our children are dying of hunger, I cannot be his fan.

9. When our Airports, Railways, Roads, Communication Networks are being privatised and we are being brain washed through the Idiot box with paid news, sorry I will not be his fan.
10. When our rich seed bank is being destroyed with monster seed of Monsanto, which Europe and other countries have banned, no I am not his fan.
11. When our forests and Adivasis are being ousted from their land and it is given to Vedanta and such mercenary companies, we are not emerging as a Great, Rich Nation, but Slaves of the decadent West.
12. When we have seven recognised systems of medicine and now the Govt. has started a separate AYUSH ministry (which was my suggestion), and he does not recognise my worth, how can I be his fan?
13. Modi also has a Dictatorial tendency.
14. When People of Bhopal Gas Tragedy are still suffering, why is he dealing with Nuclear Reactors when world is changing to safer energy generation?
15. When BRICS has been formed and when we should make success of it, Modi prostrating before USA is not acceptable. Modi must know the US policy, that whichever country it aligns with, after squeezing it dry, it destroys that country.
16. India must implement my idea of SAARC Union on the lines of Euro-

pean Union, to emerge as Asian Giant along with China and Russia, for taming the World's two worst Terrorists – namely, USA and Israel. But he is following them.

17. Modi should also remember that earlier one East India Company looted us for over 200 years. But atleast they gave us infrastructure like Railway, Roads, Radio and English to compete with the world. But they destroyed our education, our Agriculture base, our superior AYUSH — cheaper, safer and very effective. And when they left this country they divided us into Hindustan and Pakistan and into over 5000 castes and subcastes, on which Modi has no solution to offer.
18. Modi should also remember that politicians can be defeated during elections, but corrupt Bureau(c)rats, corrupt judges ruin the country and you cannot hire and fire them like in USA.
19. If his Govt too sells Padma Award or makes nominations to Rajya Sabha under eminent persons category by accepting crores, how is it different than the Congress?
20. I, however, feel that Modi if profiled and trained properly can grow from a puppet leader to a very good leader. For that he will have to follow my Manifesto which was sent to him.
21. If he does not do that, I give him max two years as PM. If Morarji Desai, a Gandhian, honest and strong Administrator, much competent than Modi, could fall in 2.5 years, I submit that Modi is not expected to last more than 2 years. You may repeat that. From Delhi results we will know soon.



## Mac Queens®

Catering & Banquet Hall

**Create memories that last a lifetime with our Open Air Roof Garden. Be it Weddings, Anniversaries, Birthdays, Corporate Events, or any other get-together, we add smiles to your celebrations in style!**

Mac Ronells Bungalow, 1st Floor, St. Andrews Road, Pali Hill, Bandra West, Mumbai - 400 050  
☎ 9920355757 / 9167751155 • Email: Info@macqueens.in • Web.: www.macqueens.in

New York Times editorial:  
**‘Modi’s Dangerous Silence’**

**Full text of the Editorial published in the New York Times on February 6, 2015:**

What will it take for Prime Minister Narendra Modi to speak out about the mounting violence against India’s religious minorities? Attacks at Christian places of worship have prompted no response from the man elected to represent and to protect all of India’s citizens. Nor has he addressed the mass conversion to Hinduism of Christians and Muslims who have been coerced or promised money. Mr. Modi’s continued silence before such troubling intolerance increasingly gives the impression that he either cannot or does not wish to control the fringe elements of the Hindu nationalist right.

Recently, a number of Christian churches in India have been burned and ransacked. Last December, St. Sebastian’s Church in East Delhi was engulfed in fire. Its pastor reported a strong smell of kerosene after the blaze was put out. On Monday, St. Alphonsa’s Church in New Delhi was vandalised. Ceremonial vessels were taken, yet collection boxes full of cash were untouched. Alarmed by the attacks, the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of India has urged the government to uphold the secular nature of India and to assure its Christians they are “protected and secure” in their own country.

There is also concern about the mass conversions. Last December, about 200 Muslims were converted to Hinduism in Agra. In January, up to 100 Christians in West Bengal “reconverted” to Hinduism. Hard-line Hindu nationalist groups, like the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), make no secret of their support for a “homecoming” campaign designed to “return” non-Hindus to the fold. More than 80 per cent of Indians are Hindu, but Pravin Togadia of the VHP says his organisation’s goal is a country that is 100 per cent Hindu. The only way to achieve that is to deny religious minorities their faith.

The VHP is reportedly planning a mass conversion of 3,000 Muslims in Ayodhya this month. The destruction of the Babri Mosque there in 1992 by Hindu militants touched off riots between Hindus and Muslims across India that left more than 2,000 people dead. The VHP knows it is playing with fire.

Mr. Modi has promised an ambitious agenda for India’s development. But, as President Obama observed in a speech in New Delhi last month: “India will succeed so long as it is not splintered along the lines of religious faith.” Mr. Modi needs to break his deafening silence on religious intolerance.

## The Caregivers Burden

The ‘23<sup>rd</sup> World Day of the Sick 2015’ quoting from *Sapientia Cordis* (Wisdom of the heart)— theme of the Pope’s message: “I was eyes to the blind, and feet to the lame” (*Job*, 29:15), portrays the unique role of the ‘Caregiver’!

This service, when it is protracted, Pope Francis cautions, can become tiring and burdensome. So, besides the sick, we must not forget the actual caregivers –family members, aayahs, wardboys, nurses, general physicians and consultants.

Caregivers have been described as “hidden patients!” This ‘Caregiver Burden’ is used to depict the physical, emotional and financial toll of furnishing quality care. This is often stressful and challenging, because caregivers are at an increased risk of depression and anxiety. Counselling and strategies to combat these strains and pressures should be provided to caregivers.

Studies indicate that Dementia including Alzheimers is present in 10% of individuals above 65 years and in 47% over 85 years. About 80% of these cases are treated at homes at an average of 70 hours of care per week. The financial cost is also irksome; for by the 1990 dollar amounted to \$34,517 annually for a caregiver.

Just as there is a ministry for Prisons, the Archdiocese should mobilize a ministry for Caregivers! “What are human beings that You are mindful of them, mortals that You ‘care’ for them? Yet, You have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor” (*Psalms*, 8:4-5).

—Dr Trevor Colaso

*4 Ever and Ever*

*The Perfect Dress for Every Bride!*



*Gorgeous Wedding Gowns, Tiaras,  
Bridal Jewellery & accessories,  
Bridesmaid & Flower Girl Dresses,  
Elegant Evening Gowns*

Call now on +91 9820016277

Also, visit [www.4everandever.in](http://www.4everandever.in)

# Food For Healthy Vision

**Antioxidants have been found to help present eye conditions like macular degeneration. But you don't need to take vitamins or supplements to get them: Just load up on fruits and veggies!**

**M**any people are facing a vision problem that can't be cor-

rected so easily: age-related macular degeneration (AMD). AMD is a leading cause of blindness in people over age 60 and while the signs of AMD may not show up until late in life, much of the damage occurs decades earlier. While some people seem to develop the condition no matter what they do, there are a few lifestyle choices—such as quitting smoking and wearing sunglasses—that may help to protect against the disease. But research also suggests eating a nutrient-rich diet may help to prevent the development, or delay the progression, of AMD. What can you eat today to protect your eyes? Find out here.

## Up Your Antioxidant Intake

Studies show that people with low levels of antioxidants are more likely to develop age-related macular degeneration (AMD) than those with higher levels. Antioxidants that seem to be especially protective against the disease include vitamin C (in citrus fruits, kiwi and broccoli), vitamin E (in vegetable oils, nuts and avocados) and lutein and zeaxanthin—nutrients that abound in dark leafy greens, such as spinach, kale and collards.

## Eat (Whole) Eggs

Egg yolks are also rich in lutein and zeaxanthin, but many of us avoid eggs because we're worried about their cholesterol content. Research led by Thomas Wilson, found that when people ate eggs regularly—as many as two daily—they significantly increased the levels of lutein and zeaxanthin circulating in their bodies without



boosting LDL (“bad”) cholesterol levels. Unless your doctor advises otherwise, go ahead and enjoy eggs regularly.

## Help Yourself To More “See” Food

A recent analysis suggested that people who ate at least two servings of fatty fish (such as salmon, sardines, mackerel, herring or trout) per week were about one-third less likely to develop advanced AMD than those who didn't. So commit to eating more fatty fish, and don't stop there: shellfish, such as oysters and crab, provide good amounts of zinc, another nutrient that's found in the retina and may also help protect against AMD.

## Consider A Supplement

Although it's always best to get nutrients from food first, supplements are showing a lot of promise in combating AMD. Reports from large-scale clinical trials suggest that, in high-dose supplement form, several nutrients may help to reduce the risk of AMD significantly. If you have any AMD risk factors, talk with your eye-care professional about taking an “eye health formula” supplement.

## What is macular degeneration?

**Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is a deterioration or breakdown of the eye's macula. The macula is the part of the retina that is responsible for your central vision, allowing you to see fine details clearly.**

# Aesop's Fables

**W**e have all read Aesop's fables at one time or the other. If you have not, read them. Some of the fables worth mentioning are 'The Ant and the Grasshopper' and 'The Fox and the Grapes'.

Now who is this Aesop that wrote so many fables? According to Willis Parker, he was a strong personality. His contemporaries credited him with every fable ever heard, and his successors with every fable ever told.

Not every fable, however, that has been linked to Aesop is his own creation. In fact, there are many fables attributed to him that for a variety of reasons couldn't possibly be his own.

Aesop lived during the fourth century B.C. He was born a slave, and in his lifetime two different masters owned him before granting him freedom. As a freed man, he became involved in public affairs and travelled a lot, telling his fables along the way. The popularity of Aesop is also shown by the fact that Plato records that Socrates decided to versify some of his fables while he was in jail awaiting execution.

—*Jubel D'Cruz, Dombivili*

## Subscriptions for The Secular Citizen

Renewal as well as New, can be sent through Bank Fund Transfer to any one of the following banks:

Bank: HDFC Bank  
Branch : CST - Mumbai VT  
Account Name: The Secular Citizen  
Account No. 03552000006744  
ISFC code: HDFC0000355  
or

Bank: Citizen Credit Co-op Bank Ltd.,  
Branch : Colaba, Mumbai  
Account Name: The Secular Citizen  
Account No. 00000000100489  
ISFC code: CCBL0209003

Please inform us through email: secular@vsnl.com or through phone: 22693578 after transferring the same.

# Inspiration!

## Meeting A Deadline

Not meeting deadlines can spiral into project or career failure. Yet deadlines are one of the most vexing pieces of the time-management puzzle. But there are ways to manage your deadlines,

**Care about deadlines.** This is the first step, as many people are very lax about deadlines. You have to be very serious about meeting them, and make them a priority. And make breaking a deadline a cardinal sin in your freelance book. Once you've done this step, the rest is just logistics.

**Keep a list of projects & deadlines.** If you care about deadlines, you'll write them down, and have one place that you check often to make sure you know what's due and when. I use a simple online list, but you could use paper. Which tool you use doesn't matter, as long as you use it.

**Communicate a clear deadline.** Be sure that you and the client are in agreement with a specific deadline, including time of day (and factor in time zone differences as well). If the deadline is fuzzy, you will have trouble meeting it. If the client doesn't give you a deadline, you need to ask for one.

**Work in a cushion.** It's wise to build in a cushion for your deadline. To get a clear idea of how long a project will take, break it down into smaller pieces (see below for more). If you aren't sure exactly how long each of those pieces takes, break them down into even smaller pieces. And for each piece, add a small cushion to your time estimate. Then add up the time estimates of all the pieces, and you'll have a cushion built in. This will allow for delays, and if you finish early, the client will be pleased.

**Have a clear outcome.** You and the client should both agree on a clearly defined outcome. Don't skip this step, or you could be sorry later. If you turn in a project that's not what the client

wanted, you'll have to do extra work, meaning that you'll miss the deadline. If you're not absolutely clear what the outcome should look like, ask some questions of the client until you are clear.

**Break down the project.** This is standard advice for any project, of course, but that's because it works. Don't try to tackle an entire project. Tackle one step at a time. Again, you'll want to break it down into smaller steps, give a time estimate for each step. Each step should be small enough that it takes an hour or less, so it's not too intimidating.

**Focus on the first step.** Now that you've broken the project down into smaller steps, just focus on the first one. Don't worry about the rest for now. Give the first step your full attention, and get going. You'll feel satisfied when you complete it, and can check it off your list. Then focus on the next step.

**Block off adequate time.** When you're going to work on a step, be sure to have it blocked off on your day's schedule. If you're not blocking off time for your most important tasks, you're probably not getting the important stuff done. However else you work during the rest of the day, for your freelance projects, block off a good amount of time for each step, and treat it like a doctor's appointment -- you can't miss it.

**Have a start and complete date for each step.** When breaking down a project, give a start and complete date for each step, so you can get a good feel for the timeline of the project, and whether you're on schedule or behind. It also keeps you on track if you know when each step should be started and completed.

**Communicate with each step.** Once you've completed a step, send the completed step to your client if possible. Sure, it won't look like a completed project, but you can show that



you're making progress, you keep yourself on track, and you can get feedback communicated from the client. Better to know early on that you're headed in the wrong direction than at the end of the project.

**Don't overcommit.** One of the biggest causes of missed deadline is that a freelancer commits to more than he can handle. Learn to say no if you cannot commit to finishing a project on time.

**Learn from mistakes.** If you bust a deadline, take a few minutes to analyze what went wrong and how you can avoid that in the future.

**Stay up late.** If you planned badly, or just procrastinated, and you're up against a tight deadline, do whatever it takes to meet it. That means staying up late and working long hours if possible.

**Negotiate and meet a second deadline.** If you absolutely cannot make deadline (you probably overcommitted), you should contact your client and negotiate a second deadline. It's much better to do this than to let the deadline go by without any communication. Whatever you do, be sure to meet this second deadline. Two missed deadlines in a row is bad news for a freelancer's reputation.



Studio fernandes  
CUSTOM DESIGN

MEN'S APPAREL, FORMALS & ETHNICS

Shop No. 1, Harmony CHSL, I. C. Colony,  
Holy Cross Road, Borivali (W), Mumbai - 103.  
Tel.: 022 - 2894 0451 | Cell : +91 - 96643 04393

# Grooms



# MATRIMONIALS

**MUMBAI** : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 27 years, Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 86 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., IT, MCM, working as a Associate Developer. Only Child. Seeks a educated girl. Contact email : peterlobo.lapetero@gmail.com OR 9969477179 (**Regd. No. 6278**)

**MUMBAI** : Goan Roman Catholic Divorcee, aged 65 years, looks much younger to his age, and good health, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish complexion, Edn. SSC., Retired, well settled No issue. Seeks a suitable match aged below 40 years widow or Divorcee having one child. Contact email : francisfernandes346@yahoo.in OR 9820432560 (**Regd. No. 6048**)

**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 OR Mob.: 7738071111 (**Regd. No. 6047**)

**MUMBAI** : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 34 years, Ht. 6' 2", Fair Complexion, Handsome, Edn. B.Com., & HTL Management, Working on Cruise Line as Supervisor, Seeks an educated, simple, Mangalorean girl above 5' 5", Email : marprop111@gmail.com (**Regd. No. 6045**)

**MUMBAI** : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 28 years, Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 78 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. HSC + 3 yrs Hotel Management working as a Sr. Rest. Manager. Contact email : stanleef77@gmail.com OR 9920047343 (**Regd. No. 6044**)

**MUMBAI** : Mangalorean RC Bachelor, aged 30 years, Ht. 6', Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com + IATA working as a Manager for Emirates in Dubai Seeks a humble, godfearing, educated girl. Ht. above 5' 5", age below 27 years. Contact email : rebeccasald@gmail.com OR 9619639323 / 26372210 (**Regd. No. 6040**)

**MUMBAI** : Goan RC Bachelor, aged 28 years, Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Working as Marine 2nd Engineer seeks a suitable match. Contact email : annalui19@yahoo.in OR 022-24446040 (**Regd. No. 6039**)

**MUMBAI** : Goan RC Bachelor, aged 37 years, Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 68 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn.B.Com., Working as a T.L. Operation. Having own house. Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : mq\_2775@yahoo.com OR 9821952841 (**Regd. No. 6035**)

**MUMBAI** : Goan RC Bachelor, aged 32 years, Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 64 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E., (Comp.), working as a Software Engineer. Contact email : barretto.elton@gmail.com OR 9004500088 (**Regd. No. 6034**)

**Hyderabad** : Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 29 years, Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA, PGDM, working as a Sales Head in Abroad. Contact Email: michelle.dominica@mylan.in OR 8008001552. (**Regd. No. 6024**)

**MUMBAI** : Goan RC 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 OR 9096466322 / 8600528122 (**Red. NO. 6020**)

**MUMBAI** : Mangalorean RC Bachelor, aged 29 years, Ht. 6' 1", Fair Complexion, Edn. BE and Masters in

**Members are requested to inform us when they are settled, so that publication of their details can be discontinued.**

Computers (IT) from London, working in an MNC (IT) in Mumbai, Seeks an educated, simple, mangalorean girl. Contact email : johnsonquadros@yahoo.co.in OR 28618926 / 9920631575 (**Regd. No. 6014**)

**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** : 34 yr old mangalorean divorcee, church marriage annulled, no children, dentist by profession, own accommodation, own private clinic in mumbai, looking for spinters/divorcees upto age 32, mangalorean / goan. Contact email : job314mi4@gmail.com OR 9920059033. (**Regd. No. 6008**)

**MUMBAI** : Goan RC Bachelor, aged 37 years, Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA., working as a Sr. Mobility Specialist International HR in Dubai. Visiting Mumbai in December. Contact immediately Email : terencedsilva1230@gmail.com OR 9869319466. (**Regd. No. 6005**)

**U.S.A.** : Mangalorean RC Divorcee, aged 56 years, Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 68 kgs, fair complexion, Edn. Undergraduate in US, working for Hospitality Industries, Currently in Mumbai Contact immediately. Email : gerryvegan58@yahoo.com OR 8693031883 / 9619034057 (**Regd. No. 6279**)

Address your replies to :

**Regd. No.**

ROYAL CHRISTIAN FAMILY,  
99, Perin Nariman Street, 1<sup>st</sup>  
Floor, Fort, Mumbai - 400 001.

**To Place Your Matrimonial  
Advertisement Call:  
2269 3578 OR 2265 4924**



# MATRIMONIALS

**NAVI MUMBAI** : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 34 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., presently working in U.K. Visiting Mumbai in the month of January 2015. Contact email : criscyalphonso@gmail.com OR 9594749903 **(Regd. No. 6258)**

**UDUPI** : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 25 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. BMS, MBA Finance, working as a Bank Officer in Dubai, Contact email : pdsouza.acb@gmail.com OR 08970986766 **(Regd. No. 6256)**

**MUMBAI** : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 31 years, Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 70 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working for a Bank as a Team Leader. Contact email : diana\_lobo10@hotmail.com OR 9870111964 **(Regd. No. 6252)**

**MUMBAI** : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, Only Child, aged 33 years, Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 57 kgs, Fair and good looking, Edn. B.Com., working for Banking Organisation in Fraud Dept., Contact email : annmdsouza09@gmail.com OR 8983236758 **(Regd. No. 6249)**

**MUMBAI** : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 28 years, Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 57 kgs, Fair and good looking, Only Child, Edn. GNM+Pc. B.Sc. (Nursing), working as a well known Hospital in Mumbai. Contact email : lseema30@gmail.com OR 9820203722 **(Regd. No. 6247)**

**MUMBAI** : Punjabi CNI Protestant Spinster, aged 28 years, Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 54 kgs, Fair complexion, Edn., B.Com., working as a FM Team Coordinator. Contact email : minti\_masih@yahoo.co.in OR 9665169956 **(Regd. No. 6244)**

**MUMBAI** : Tamilian Roman Catholic

Spinster, aged 46 years, Ht. 5', Wt. 42 kgs, fair and beautiful, Edn. SSC., working as a Beautician. Contact email : pmsmarshall1937@gmail.com OR 9167912492 / 9637129065 **(Regd. No. 6243)**

**MUMBAI** : Maharashtrian Protestant Spinster, aged 23 years, Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 53 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Diploma in Journalism, working as a Joournalist. Contact email : sathepanvel@gmail.com OR 9004684468 **(Regd. No. 6242)**

**MUMBAI** : Maharashtrian CNI Protestant Spinster, aged 26 years, Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Sc., B.ED., Teacher by profession. Contact email : barse.nirmala@gmail.com OR 9930888768 **(Regd. No. 6241)**

**MUMBAI** : Tamilian Roman catholic Spinster, aged 29 years, Ht. 5', Wt. 50 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. 12th std., working as a sales girl in Big Store. Contact Mob.: 9665414592 **(Regd. No. 6240)**

**MUMBAI** : Parents of R.C. Spinster 24 yrs, Fair Compexion, 5' 2", B.Com., MBA (Fin.) pursuing her B.Ed., also working for her fly business. Seeking alliance from well qualified bachelor upto 29 yrs, preferably from business background. Reply with recent photo to : joygomes2014@gmail.com **(Regd. No. 6239)**

**MUMBAI** : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 26 years, Ht. 5', Wt. 48 kgs, Fair Complexion, good looking, Edn. B. Com., Working with TCS. Contact email : byareeta\_scorpio1988@yahoo.co.in OR 8879868217 **(Regd. No. 6238)**

**MUMBAI** : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 28 years, Ht. 5', Wt. 68 kgs, Fair Complexion, good looking, Edn. B.Com., Working for Dimond Company. Contact email : dsouzanancy87@gmail.com OR 9987769662 **(Regd. No. 6235)**

**MUMBAI** : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 32 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E.

Elex / Telecom. Working as Technical Support Engineer in a Software Company. Contact email : dsouzawalter@rediffmail.com OR 9892627425 **(Regd. No. 6233)**

**MUMBAI** : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 36 years, Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 85 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as an Assistant Manager Training. Contact email : joycepintoplacyda@gmail.com OR 08898078210 **(Regd. No. 6232)**

**MUMBAI** : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 25 years, Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 45 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Supervisor in Bank. Contact email : misstressajames001@gmail.com OR 099796887644 **(Regd. No. 6226)**

**MUMBAI** : Mangalorean RC Spinster, aged 32 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 48 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E., MBA Marketing, working as a Sr. Manager. Contact email : dnavin@gmail.com OR 9820104238 **(Regd. No. 6212)**

**MANGALORE** : Mangalorean RC Spinster, aged 24 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 52 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E., Student. Contact email : bridec14@gmail.com OR 0824-2218794 **(Regd. No. 6209)**

**MUMBAI** : Goan RC Spinster, aged 38 years, looks much younger to her age, beautiful, Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., LLB., working as a Leal Head in American Company. Contact email : polysacks@hotmail.com OR 9930813123 **(Regd. No. 6208)**

*Address your replies to :*

**Regd. No.**  
ROYAL CHRISTIAN FAMILY,  
99, Perin Nariman Street, 1<sup>st</sup>  
Floor, Fort, Mumbai - 400 001.

**Please renew your membership  
at lease a month in advance  
before its expiration date.**

**Royal Christian Family**  
Helps In Choosing  
The Right Life-Partner  
**Serving Since 33 Years**

# The SS Troopers



BY CHHOTEBHAI

**N**ormally I enjoy tempting and teasing people into reading what I write. But this time I will lift the veil of mystery in the very first para! SS stands for Socialism and Secularism. The Troopers, not unlike the Nazi Secret Service (SS), are those who are advocating the removal of SS from the Preamble of the Indian Constitution.

“Oh it was actually a mistake. This was an old version of the Constitution, and the words inadvertently got omitted from the Republic Day ad”. Thus spake the wise, but not so simple, mandarins of the Central Govt. So why make such a shenanigan over a slip up? As the old saying goes, “A slip of the tongue is no fault of the mind, and he who remarks is most unkind”. The moot question though is – was this a minor slip up, or a deliberate act of provocation? Subsequent events point to the latter.

Soon after the Opposition decried the “slip up”, NDA partners like the Shiv Sena stridently proclaimed that SS was

not required in the Constitution. Other right wingers went so far as to say that if these words were not in the original Constitution adopted in 1949, then the 42<sup>nd</sup> Amendment that incorporated them in 1976, was an afterthought; and therefore not essential to the Constitution. Hence SS could be dispensed with. Now does not this seem like a deliberate act of provocation, to elicit a sharp reaction, a debate, and then a course correction?

This same pattern was earlier followed for “conversions”. First came the “Ghar Vapsi”, followed by swift denials by the Govt. Even swifter came the demand for a debate on conversions and the need for enacting a strong anti-conversion law! Are we seeing the light?

Namo and his core strategists are not easily prone to error, more so at the Republic Day, where they were showcasing India before Buddy Barak. One is therefore constrained to conclude that there is a method in the madness.

Why had Indira Gandhi incorpo-

rated the SS in the Constitution? Those were the days of the Emergency. She wanted to nationalize the banks, bring in the Urban Land Ceiling Act, and remove the right to property. Socialism therefore, was the garb under which she undertook these reforms. Perhaps she also perceived a threat from growing religious fundamentalism. Hence the countervailing force of Secularism. In hindsight one must admit that the SS played a critical role in transforming India from a feudalistic society to a modern one.

Back to basics now. The Preamble of the Constitution states that India is a “Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic”. What follows is even more significant. It seeks to secure for all its citizens:

“JUSTICE, social, economic and political;  
LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship;  
EQUALITY of status and opportunity;  
And to promote among them all  
FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the nation”.

Hence, if we see the Preamble as a whole, we find that the SS is essential and integral to the goals that the nation has set itself. Of the four above, it is again noteworthy that the last three – Liberty, Equality and Fraternity, are in fact the clarion call of the French Revolution.

What is the origin and actual meaning of Secularism? I trace it to the Pharisees who tried to entrap Jesus by asking him if it was proper to pay taxes to Caesar. Jesus’ response to this was, “Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s” (Mat 22:21). During the French Revolution, where the monarchy and religious hierarchy were equally despised, secularism took the form of separation of Church and State; something that France and much of Europe zealously guards to date.

(Contd.. on p. 23)

## Thanksgiving



**Thanks to Holy Spirit, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Mother Mary and St. Jude for favours granted. Praying for more favours**

—Mrs. A. N. G. Menezes, Thane

(Contd.. from p. 22)

This is different from our Indian brand of secularism. As Vice-President Hamid Ansari recently stated, it means the Indian State has no religion; hence it treats all religions equally.

Is this true of our country? Are we really secular? To a large extent, yes. But there are glaring aberrations. When the State spends crores of rupees on Kumbh Melas or Haj subsidies, it can hardly be termed “secular”. If Govt programmes begin with religious rituals like bhoomi pujans, if Hindu deities are found in every police station and Govt premises, and temples can spring up at will on public land, then such acts are a threat to Indian secularism.

Such seemingly innocuous acts of State sponsored religion send out a subtle message to religious minorities in India – that they are second-class citizens in the land of their birth. This sense of discrimination in turn nurtures feelings of resentment, leading to anger and violence. That then stimulates a vicious circle of violence. The Govt, be it at the Centre, in the States or even Municipalities, needs to be attentive to these rumblings, and actively promote secularism in both letter and spirit.

Some recent events unfolding across the country are also indicative of growing intolerance, something that even Buddy Barak was constrained to comment upon. We have rationalists being killed, writers being threatened, deroga-

tory and abusive language being used, and Hindu women being exhorted to have more kids. Right under the PM’s nose we have had five churches in New Delhi being vandalized. Yet Namo maintains a stoic (sorry, strategic) silence. BJP stalwarts like Arun Jaitley have dismissed



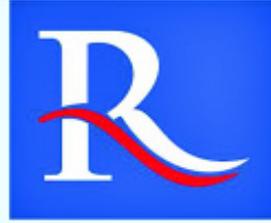
these developments as stray incidents in an otherwise tolerant India. My foot! As the old saying goes – one incident could be an accident, two incidents could be a co-incident, but more than that is pre-planned.

What goes for Secularism is equally true for Socialism, if we really want our country to be founded on the principles of Justice, Equality, Liberty and Fraternity.

Our Prime Minister needs to be reminded that economic development can never be at the price of social discord. If we sow the wind we will reap the whirlwind, as both Indira and Rajive Gandhi’s gruesome assassinations remind us. Namo may have *vikas* (development) as his mantra, but it can never be achieved by the *vinash* (destruction) of India’s delicately woven social and religious fabric. The SS Troopers are not going to let go so easily, so those who do value SS need to dig in their heels for the long haul ahead.

\* The writer is the Convenor of the Kanpur Nagrik Manch. This piece is based on his presidential address at a seminar on the subject held on 5<sup>th</sup> February at Gandhiji’s statue, Phoolbagh, Kanpur.





# RELIABLE INDUSTRIAL PARK

## AMBERNATH (W)

Industrial Plots  
Also Available



An Ideal Location For  
Small Scale Industries

### PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Spread over 5 acres
- Total units : 185 Nos.
- G+5 storey (A,B,C&D Wings)
- Unit area - 2099 sq.ft. onwards
- Loans available through financial institutions/banks

### MIDC BENEFITS

- Get easy approvals for all industrial clearances
- Clear legal titles that enable immediate operations
- Easy access to all your business related activity
- Easy availability of water and electricity

### INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITY

- 50' Wide internal cement road
- Provision for individual water supply (MIDC)
- High density street lights
- Fire hydrant systems
- Ample space for HCVs movements
- Heavy duty lifts & Passenger lifts
- Ample car parking space
- 16.2 ft floor height with mezzanine floor
- Trimix concrete flooring
- Toilet provision in all units



Registered Office : Reliable House, Opp. Huma Mall, LBS Marg, Kanjurmarg West, Mumbai - 400 078.

**Mr. Rahul Tyagi** +91 9167181451  
 E: rahul.tyagi@reliablespaces.com

**Mr. Raj Shahi** +91 9930699983  
 E: raj.shahi@reliablespaces.com