

THE SECULAR CITIZEN

(Total pages 24)

A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY

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THE INDIA I KNOW

Let us Choose Reforms

...A vibrant community is important for democratic traditions and those who are peacefully seeking change are not anti clergy. The community has an 'inalienable right' in a democratic community like ours to argue peacefully and asking questions to the clergy or challenging their actions does not mean that one is trying to weaken either the clergy and their chief or their secular / diocesan order on the whole...

(Read on pg.7)



Thirteen people convicted of mutilating Christian professor

by Nirmala Carvalho



"We are pleased with the verdict. No one can resort to barbaric and violent actions for an alleged insult to Islam. This cruel and gruesome act was one of the most depraved I ever saw," said Sajan K George, president of the Global Council of Indian Christians (GCIC).

The Christian activist spoke to AsiaNews after a court convicted the people charged with attacking TJ Joseph, a Christian professor, and cutting off his right hand and part of his right arm cut off in 2010, after he was accused of blasphemy.

On Friday, the special court in Ernakulam (Kerala) found 13 people guilty in connection with the incident. Ten defendants were sentenced to eight years in prison, the other three got two years. In addition to jail time, the culprits will have to pay the victim damages of 800,000 rupees (US\$ 12,500).

The National Investigation Agency (NIA), India's federal police, led the probe. The prosecutor accused the defendants of murder, conspiracy and sedition, and asked for a life sentence for all of them.

The court found the accused guilty, but significantly reduced the sentence. For this reason, the prosecutor said he was "not satisfied" with the verdict and said he planned to appeal to a higher court.

In the past, the court had acquitted 18 other defendants for "lack of evidence". Five other suspects – including the main accused – are still at large.

Popular Front of India activists attacked TJ Joseph, a Malayalam literature professor at Newman College in Thodupuzha in July 2010 as he made his way home after church with his mother and sister.

The attackers claimed they cut off his right hand and part of his right arm to punish him for the "sacrilegious undertones" of an item on a questionnaire he had submitted to his pupils.

At the time of the attack, the teacher was out on bail. He had been arrested in April 2010 because of the questionnaire, which some Muslim groups deemed offensive to the Prophet Mohammed.

"TJ Joseph's attackers followed the 'Taliban model' of cutting off the hand," the GCIC president told AsiaNews. "They also wanted to strike at knowledge and development, represented by his work as a teacher."

AsiaNews

Christians ask state to return Andheri church



Christians in Mumbai are asking the Maharashtra government to make arrangements to return to the community their dilapidated 500-year-old St John the Baptist Church in Andheri (East).

The church, which opens only on the second Sunday of May every year, is currently the property of the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC), which acquired land in the area in the 1970s to set up the Seepz.

As the Church gears up to host the annual prayer service on Sunday, parishioners have written to chief minister Devendra Fadnavis, asking him the church be handed over to the Archdiocese of Bombay.

Since 2003, the local East Indian community has demanded the church be handed over to it for repairs. Built in AD 1579 by the Portuguese, the church is in ruins.

The letter to the CM says while the MIDC has, over the years, de-reserved thousands of plots of influential people, the plot on which the church stands has not been de-reserved.

Godfrey Pimenta, a member of the community, said a government-appointed panel had recommended in June 2014 the church be handed over to the Archdiocese and the cost of its restoration borne by the government.

Meanwhile, parishioners of the nearby St John the Evangelist Church, Marol, under which the crumbling church comes, have made arrangements to host around 2,000 Catholics from Andheri, Jogeshwari and Vakola on Sunday.

Source: Hindustan times

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'Thought for the week'

If you can change the reason why a man does something, you can change the man.

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THE INDIA I KNOW

by **Francis Lobo**

Recently I have come across a number of articles, some by foreigners who claim to have stayed a long time in India and some by Indians occupying prestigious professorial positions in US universities advising Indians how they should view India. I don't know which India they are talking about. With my 80 years existence in this country my outlook and attitude are 720 degrees out from what they write --- we seem to work on two different planes.

My approach to India has been shaped by my liberal family background. My education in a Jesuit institution run by foreign missionaries taught me respect for Hindus and the Hindu religion, not to embrace the elitist, celebrity and affluent culture, how to avoid petty conflicts and politics and not promote caste distinctions. This flies in the face of all we read about the wrong values propagated by Christian Missionaries

The main criticism of Indians is that they are "Defeatist". I was brought up in an environment where we were encouraged to excel. I carried this into working life where I was employed in an MNC I strove to achieve and beat International Standards in performance, yield, safety, savings, etc. I once opened the newspaper and there were three boys from my street in Pune who had made news --- one for a national award in acting, one for playing a significant role in Defense and the third for a senior appointment in the Reagan Administration in USA.

The writers state that Indians have a tendency to denigrate their own culture. My two brothers are teachers of yoga and ayurveda in Germany. I was brought up on Synagogue Street in Pune. and we were brought up to respect diversity. I am proud to say that on my street we not only had a Jewish Synagogue but a Parsi Fire temple at one end and a Christian church at the other with a Hindu temple, an Imambara and a mosque. In fact one wall of our house was the boundary wall of the mosque. We strictly observed the rule to stop all music when the call to prayer was heard

(Contd.. on p. 4)

(Contd.. from p. 3)

Caste, ethnic and religious considerations never came in the way of our relationships. In the engineering college elections were fought strictly on merit with a Jew, Muslims, Christians, Dalits being elected to run the various extra-curricular activities in the institution. I, a Christian, was Secretary of the Scientific Society.

I have seen the emergence of Independence and how the leaders of those days stood tall and commanded respect. No doubt history found their faults and short-comings but with maturity we accepted that we are all sinners and everyone needs understanding and forgiveness and this should not diminish their achievements. I find extra-ordinary qualities in a number of people around me. The leaders are among us and there is no need to propagate the elitist, celebrity, affluent culture.

I don't see the need to know Sanskrit to know about our ancient culture. I studied Latin in school but it didn't help me to understand Roman Law and literature. In fact I got a better understanding from translations and interpretations which have emerged over the centuries. It is putting an unnecessary burden on the students to make them learn Sanskrit and Vedic Texts. The concepts are better communicated through the mother tongue.

Though I had the opportunity to proceed to the best foreign university for higher studies I chose to stay in India. I have been brought up in a tradition where I see the misery around me, the corruption, the exploitation, as opportunities, as challenges to do something about, areas where I can contribute. I am happy to be living in the present times and facing the challenge of modern living. It is not that I have not experienced failure, disappointment, rejection, depression. But as I have been taught

**"When God closes
one door
He opens another"**



Thoughtfully Written

In spite of my busy schedule, I read your article and liked it very much. Much as we would not like it, today Gossip rules the world, and we are giving it the fire it does not deserve. I think the 3 filter test says it all. We may not be Socrates or have his wisdom, but definitely there is much to learn from this. We can at not afflict ourselves as well as the person being gossiped about unnecessarily.

I truly appreciated reading it. Very well thought out and written in today's context.

—Ronnie W. Pereira

Holy Cross Feast & Church

The article, Matheran and the Holy

—Dr Trevor Colaso

Cross Feast, by Don Aguiar, The Secular Citizen, 04, May, 2015, reminds me of the 'Holy Cross Church' my Colaco ancestors, along with some prominent Mangalorean families had built at Taccode, Moodbidri, Mangalore. This Church recently celebrated the Post-Centenary Platinum Jubilee (175 years) on Jan. 05, 2013. Dr Aloysius Paul D'Souza, the Bishop of Mangalore, addressing the gathering said, "the faith you have received from your forefathers has to be handed over to the next generation.

Taccode gave birth to three independent parishes: Shirtady (1928), Venur (1937) and Gantalkatte (1988). Thus, the parish priests from Taccode, exhibited an exorbitant missionary zeal, not only to spread the faith, but also to ensure the growth of Catholic communities in the fields of education, culture, higher standard of living, better job opportunities etc. The 'Mangaloreans' as we are called have proudly planted the 'Holy Cross of Christ' wherever they have emigrated, in Mumbai, India and aboard – "May I never boast of anything except the 'Cross' of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world" (Galatians, 6:14).

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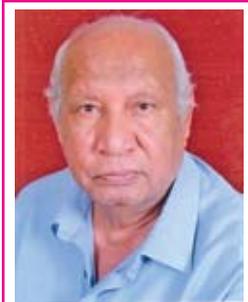
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'Minorities Targeted Under Modi Rule' — US Panel

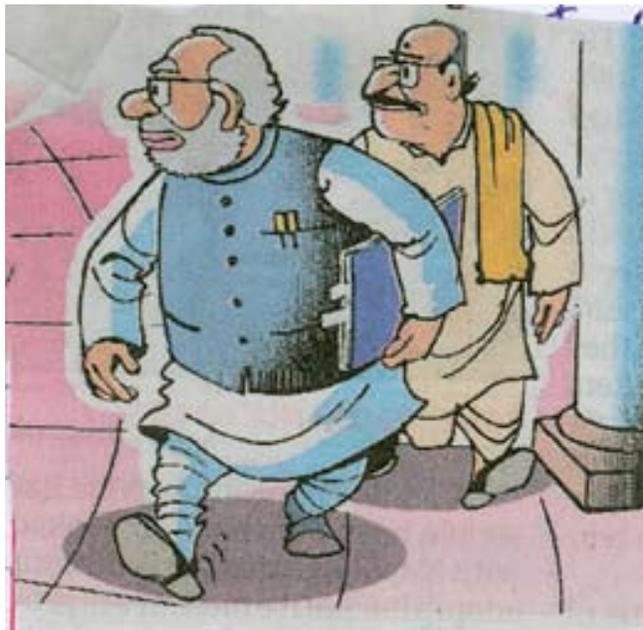


by Ignatius Dabhi
Sr. Journalist

Ever since the BJP came to power in India, religious minorities in India were exposed to 'derogatory' comments by member of ruling BJP men and it seems, it has become a fashion and a custom by the Hindu extremists to pass derogatory remarks against Muslims and Christians. It has been observed that RSS and BJP men, in order to shine out among the party cadres, leave no stone unturned to malign Christian service centres and Muslim voluntary organisations. "It is indeed very painful for us to be targeted, said a 68 year old nun who has spent nearly 50 years of her religious life, toiling in a primary health centre in north Gujarat's backward area. "We serve all. We treat all. Our serve motto is our love for our suffering brethren. We see Christ in them....," said Sister Maria Lucy. "I have been working among the tribals most of them following their tribal religion -" said a 68 year old Jesuit priest, "We have a school, a technical institute and a primary health centre. We train these tribals. Religious conversion is never our aim," said Father Thomas. He has been working in south Gujarat's Adivasi belt. And old Spanish nun, who spent 40 years in a primary health centre as a doctor said: "Humanly speaking it has been very tough and trying to serve these simple, poor people. The day in and the day out, imagine 40 years of my life here.... she had tears in her eyes. She came from a very wealthy family in Barcelona, Spain.

Sister Maria had been greatly loved and respected by the tribals. "When derogatory' comments are passed against us, we feel greatly hurt... Let it be so!" Sister Maria concluded.

The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) a federal government body that makes policy recommendations to the US President and the Congress,



stated that religious minorities in India were exposed to 'derogatory' remarks by Modi governments men. "What surprises me most is why good PM Modi keeps mum and why no immediate actions taken by the Home Ministry," says a social worker.

The US panel in its reports said Mr. Modi's assurance was notable "given the long-standing allegations that, as Chief Minister of Gujarat in 2002, Modi was complicit in anti-Muslim riots in Gujarat. Following the riots, the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's visit to Germany was cancelled and he rushed to Gujarat. Modi's US tourist visa was revoked by the US government for "severe violations of religious freedom in India, The USCIRF underlined that the Indian Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi, remains the only person known to have been denied a visa based on this provision.

The USCIRF 2005 report says that the accounts of minority representatives and NGOs based in India, have led it place in India on its Tier 2 list of countries for the seventh year in a row. The religious minorities in India frequently accused RSS, VHP and other Hindu

nationalist groups and individuals of intolerance, discrimination and violence against them.

"Let Hindu nationalists remember that patriotism to mother India can not be monopolized by them. We, Muslims and Christians are Indians and

we, too, love this country," said Falim Khan Pathan, a businessman

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The First Lay Principal of St. Xavier's College, Mumbai

Agnelo Menezes is a professor of Economics at St. Xavier's College in Mumbai, is appointed as Principal of the college. This the first time since the college founded in 1889 that a layman is heading the institute. In the past the college has always had a Jesuit priest as its principal

Menezes, better known as Aggie, a Professor in Economics since 2008, in the same college. He is also the head of the Masters in Public Policy program and coordinator of the social involvement program, as well as also a visiting faculty member at several educational institutions in the region. In addition, Menezes is a part of the Berkley Center's Catholic Social Teaching and the Global Future of Development project. His research interests include the Indian economy, urbanization, food insecurity, and microfinance. From 1989 to 2008 he was



Principal Agnelo Menezes

head of the Department of Economics at Dr. T. K. Tope Night College of Arts and Commerce in Mumbai. Menezes holds a B.A. in Economics from St. Xavier's College, M.A. in Economics from Mumbai University, and Ph.D. from Mumbai University, where his thesis was on "Social and Economic Geography of Urban Poor: Rag Pickers in Mumbai."

Agnelo says the impression that vada pav is the common man's food is correct but increasingly there is "co-option." This means that though the poor depend on/have vada pavs, now the rich also consume it. In fact, he says that if the elitising of vada pav with joints such as Jumboking continues, it may soon be out of reach for the common man. Menezes also says that he notices such a shift in most goods and services being offered today.

Principal Agnelo Menezes (58) is son of a clerk who doubled as a carpenter at St Paul's Church in Dadar, Menezes grew up in the chawls of Parel in central Mumbai.

On being asked whether his new role would impact his teaching, he said that while he will not be giving up teaching the load will reduce to accommodate his new responsibilities.



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Let us Choose Reforms

by Don Aguiar

One of the most honest statements from a clergy official of the Archdiocese of Bombay in recent times came from the inner circle of the clergy team who said big reforms are not applicable to a community like ours. At a recent event, he said, "If you look around the world, big dramatic reforms happen around crisis." He also added, "Big reforms are not easy to happen in a community like ours that follows the principle of democracy. In democracies, you have multiple veto centers, multiple decision-making centers and it is very difficult to push through decisive change and if you look at our community at this juncture, we are not in crisis."

There you go. All you big change seekers, the party is over even before it started. The inner circle of the clergy and their chief has, in effect, said they don't want to rock the boat. Things won't change much and things won't change fast. For the community it will continue to be pray, pay and obey while for the clergy and their chief who belongs to the secular / diocesan order will still not have to take the "Vow of Poverty". In such perfect settings why would the secular / diocesan clergy who control the Archdiocese of Bombay want change as suggested by the community?

People in the community are turning impatient, their trust and confidence

have started to slip, and while none in the community will publicly criticize the clergy leadership, the profuse praise has certainly stopped. **The only thing going for the clergy leadership right now is the civic and political associations they have thrown their weight behind, who at least at present are struck more by power lust than the lust for responsibly and honestly helping the community. Any reasonably organized association from another community would be able to take on this power lust civic and political association, and this just without much difficulty. Look how easily the 'non interference' and 'I do not care' attitude labeling has stuck. Or how our Churches and institutions are attacked and damaged. Or how there is little certainty about the future of our community being able to practice and profess our religion and customs as guaranteed by our constitution.**

Sometimes, for purpose of amusement, the inner circle of the clergy and their chief asks, 'What reforms do you want us to do anyway?' Well, that is pretty

clear. They revolve around opening up and being transparent in the areas of church and parishes institutions finances and properties, building houses and infrastructure for the community on these properties, interact with the government in safeguarding the community interests, looking after the welfare of the community and making it easier for the community to do business and live a peaceful and prosperous existence, which in turn creates jobs, growth and raises revenues for welfare projects.

I think the intention is there. Many in the inner circle of the clergy and their chief are extraordinarily capable people, fully aware of what it will take to restore the community's confidence and the like.

So why don't they do it? The issue is what the chief of the clergy stated. 'In a democracy, change isn't easy. Though the community people feel things need to change, everyone has a different idea of what that change is. I might think a more cautious approach is better.'

And since our community is closet socialists, trusting a more cautious setup is proving difficult for our community. Abuse can occur both in socialist and cautious systems, but a cautious set up does tend to get people impatient. However, it appears that the inner circle of our clergy and their chief would prefer that the community would rather have lesser opportunities and be in a familiar, oppressive system than trust a
(Contd.. on p. 10)

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Where there is no justice, there is no peace



Vatican City, 12 May 2015 (VIS) -

“Peace is built day by day. ... It is not an industrial product, it is an artisanal product. It is crafted every day with our work, with our life, with our closeness”, said Pope Francis yesterday to the children of the Peace Factory, the Italian association that aims to promote multi-ethnic integration and to raise awareness among spiritual leaders, politicians and in education so that they use a language of peace.

Francis answered the very direct and concrete questions posed by thirteen of the seven thousand children who filled the Paul VI Hall. Some were very personal: for instance, a girl asked if, like her, the Pope ever argued with his siblings or other members of his family. “We have all argued with someone in our family”, replied the Pope. “It is part of life, as one sibling wants to play one game, another wants to play a different one ... but in the end the important thing is to make peace. ... Do not end the day without making peace. At times I may be right and the other may be wrong. So how can I apologise? I don't, but I make a gesture of closeness and the friendship continues. ... I too have argued many times, even now... I lose my temper. But I always try to make peace. It is human to disagree. The important thing is that it does not linger, and that there is peace again afterwards”.

Another child asked if the Pope ever tired of being surrounded by so many people, and if he too needed some peace every now and then. “At times I would like to be calmer, to rest a little more, it is true”, he admitted. “But being with people does not take away peace. ... What takes peace away is not caring for one another.

Jealousy, envy and greed take away peace. But being with people is good, it does not stand in the way of peace! It tires me a little because it is tiring and I am not a young man ... but it does not take away peace”.

Other questions were more general, such as that of an Egyptian child who asked why people in positions of power did not help schools. “It is a question we can expand”, answered the Pope. “Why do many powerful people not want peace? Because they live from war, from the arms industry. Some powerful people earn from the production of arms, and sell weapons to one country that fights against another, and then they sell them to the other. It is the industry of death! And they earn money in this way. As you know, greed causes so much damage: the desire to have more and more money. When we see that everything revolves around money

– the economic system revolves around money and not people – we make sacrifices and make war in order to defend money. And for this reason many people do not want peace. They earn more through war. They earn money, but we lose lives, we lose culture, we lose education, we lose many things. An elderly priest I met years ago used to say, ‘the devil enters via the wallet’”.

The Pope explained to another child who asked for a definition of peace that “peace firstly means there are no wars ... but it also means that there is friendship between all, that every day a step ahead is made for justice, so that there are no more children who are hungry, that there are no more sick children who do not have the possibility of receiving healthcare. Doing all of this means making peace. Peace involves work, it is not about staying calm and doing nothing. No! True peace means working so that

everyone has a solution to the problems, to the needs, that they have in their land, in their homeland, in their family, in their society”.

“In your opinion, will we all be equal one day?” was another of the questions. “We can answer this question in two ways”, replied the Holy Father. “We are all equal – all of us – but this truth is not recognised, this equality is not recognised, and for this reason some people are, we can say, happier than others. But this is not a right! We all have the same rights. When we do not see this, society is unjust. It does not follow the rule of justice, and where there is no justice, there cannot be peace. I would like to repeat this with you: where there is no justice, there is no peace!”.

The meeting concluded with a chorus of seven thousand voices, repeating with the Pope, “Where there is no justice, there is no peace”.

Forwarded by Dr. Leo Rebello

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Make 'Poor' In India,

Is That What The Amended Labour Law Is Aiming For?

by Richa Priyanka

It came as no surprise that when reformed Labour Laws were proposed by the Ministry of Labour and Employment under the NDA led government, they were directed more towards the empowerment and autonomy of industrialists (most of who backed the party during elections), than for the protection of workers and labourers employed in the country.

“Whatever is happening now is part of a plan to erode the protection of the workers. It is a very deliberate strategy as the PM has promised foreign industrialists and big corporations in India that they should “Make In India” because that’ll offer them high-quality-low-cost labour. The only way to ensure low cost labour is to overwork and underpay them and ensure that they cannot unionize, that they cannot organize to protest,” says Kavita Krishnan, a political bureau member of CPI ML and the secretary of All India Progressive Women’s Association (AIPWA).

The new code received severe opposition by various trade unions all over the country like Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh’s Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh, who also complained that they weren’t even consulted once during the formation of the Wages Bill. Further, parties such as AAP and Communist Party of India, led by the Trinamool Congress, have gone so far as to term the bill “anti-labour” and believe that the reform would demean the already poor status of workers in India.

Randomization Of Minimum Wages

In the absence of the National Floor Level Minimum Wage, as was set previously under the Minimum Wages Act 1948, the minimum wage set in differ-



ent states will be arbitrary. Because of this, the states where the working class movements are weaker will be able to reduce the minimum wage to even below the minimum threshold. This is a severe problem in India, as there are a vast majority of workers available in the country who will be ready to work on extremely low rates because of the grasp of consuming poverty, and a lack of power to protest.

Laying-off Of Staff

The government claims that they will be able to create more jobs by laying off more workers, but, that is an absurd logic. “Hire and fire means that you will continuously be able to create disposable workers, you’ll dispose of one worker and create another worker. And you would claim to have given a job to both the workers, but, what you are doing actually is that you are rendering both of them insecure,” says Kavita.

Facilitators To Inspect Functioning

Instead of inspectors, or as the ministry had termed earlier as “social security officers”, facilitators will supply information and advice to employers and workers concerning the most effective means of complying with the provisions of the code. “The objective is to project a friendlier image to employers. The facilitators’ functions and powers are also proposed to be in keeping with this image,” said a person close to the development of the new code.

Difficulties For Trade Unions

It is going to be more difficult to form new trade unions as the new code suggests that a trade union shall have no more than two outside members while all the others should be company employees. Further, it does away with Section 23(2) of the Payment of Bonus Act 1965 which permits the trade unions to legally access audited accounts and balance sheets of employers. Rendering all the rights in the hands of the employers will threaten the security of the employees in India.

While most of these rectifications seem to be targeting the security of workers, some are required to make the law hassle-free for the industrialists. “India has long been criticized for its strict labour laws and burdensome business regulatory environment,” says the World Bank. Being the country with the largest population of under-utilized labour forces in the world, the stringent rules make it difficult for employers and industrialists to expand their businesses in a labour intensive fashion, while the industries keep growing in a capital intensive manner.

The reformed code is quite insufficient to strengthen Indian business standards, and might end up worsening the state of labour in the country.

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(Contd.. from p. 7)

new system. Until that mentality changes, which means until the entire clergy and their chief change, there cannot be reforms. The risk of shoving in change the clergy and their chief are not ready for is simply too high. The only time it happened was some years ago, when we had a crisis, and that is somehow the only time our community and clergy become one and listen to reason.

This takes me to my trip to Chennai a few weeks ago, a lesson worth sharing, where I had the pleasure of eating what were without question the best idlis that I ever have had. This was at a small stall in Cuddalore going by the name of Shri Idlis. This place is a little shack on a small road in a desultory residential colony and is basic enough not to have any sign that displays its name. The idlis were divine, the upma even more so, but they had run out of dosas, which is what they are really famous for.

Like many other stalls of this kind there were clear codes to be followed – they were open only for breakfast – once they run out of batter, they shut shop for the next day and idlis that become cold are not served to customers. They have been in operation for around 30 years, were used to receiving guests from all over the world, but they couldn't be bothered to add a bench for people to sit down.

All over India there are these wonderful places, most of these places have no branches, little by way of marketing and almost every single day they run out of food to serve. They serve

absolutely brilliant food and they all have one thing in common – they know when to stop..

If we do want big reform, many tiny changes are required in the mindset of our community and the clergy and their chief. The rich vs poor, land owners vs tenants, outsiders vs desi conflicts that we have created in our heads deny us the belief that win-win situations are possible but the need is to know when to stop... and follow clear codes... just like the wonderful eating places do for maintaining their clientele, getting good reviews enabling them to increase their clientele and keeping their staff vibrant by ensuring democracy, goodwill and the welfare of their staff.

A vibrant community is important for democratic traditions and those who are peacefully seeking change are not anti clergy. The community has an 'inalienable right' in a democratic community like ours to argue peacefully and asking questions to the clergy or challenging their actions does not mean that one is trying to weaken either the clergy and their chief or their secular / diocesan order on the whole

All this doesn't mean the inner circle of the clergy and their chief doesn't have to do anything. They promised change, and they have to somehow deliver on it. Some risks for the community's good will have to be borne – what else is a bold inner circle of the clergy and their chief anyway?

Yes, our community and the inner circle of the clergy and their chief want change but are scared of it at the same time. The trick is to come up with creative solutions that lead to reform and minimize damage. Interacting with the government in safeguarding the community's interest and making transparency in areas of Church and Parish institutions finances and properties for example, is a less of an issue than building houses and infrastructure for the community, and perhaps that could be taken up first.

A few big items, along with proper communication to change mindsets, would do us all good. Giving up, being too cautious or going too slow won't.

Sometimes, in life, not taking a risk is the biggest risk.

Perhaps the mistake the chief of the clergy made was to project himself as a cautious leader the community always wanted. The truth is: Much as we may all like to believe in the myth of the cautious leader, in reality we are looking for benevolence, simplicity, a leader who can hold together so many disagreements. That is the challenge. We are only a community in idea. Actually we all pull in different directions No, there is nothing wrong with that. We hold together because we are all so unlike each other. It's our diversity, our plurality our multiple mysticisms that bind us together.

Each of us in our community represents a unique identity, a different culture, a different background, a different caste, language and yet coming together to build our amazing community. For a great community the future will not be built on uniformity or on forcefully erasing differences but by celebrating them. If the chief of the clergy can lend shape to that, we will have the community we want, where we can all have our own share.

A community that will help us all to be what we are. Irrespective of what we believe in, where we come from, what we eat, what we wear, the language we speak, the cast we belong to, the saints we worship, the gender we are, the calling we pursue. Nothing will matter but the fact that we all stand proudly under one flag/leader, unafraid of what we are.



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VIP Culture Redefined

Some television channels have started a concerted campaign to highlight the prevailing VIP culture in our country – metropolitan cities or small non-descript towns in the hinterland. While this comes to the fore in big cities and picked up by media quickly, it is generally accepted in small places. These channels have been devoting a lot of time debating on how this discrimination can be stopped. As usual, the politicians and other filmy lot supported by page three socialites, feel there is nothing wrong. Those who have an axe to grind within such clustered group may take a stand saying it has to stop.

Do they not abet VIP culture devoting days together to cover the Salman issue? One channel deployed 25 reporters to cover the bail hearing of the actor for the whole day. Was it that important to know whether the actor came out in the balcony who peeped out? Was this not done just because he is a superstar? The only issue was whether he got bail or not and one reporter could do it. They were so much engrossed in the Salman case that most of them even forgot to report the results of the general elections in the UK, not some banana republic. Media mostly takes up 'sensational' news [and not necessarily important news, mind you] which increase the TRPs. Before talking about the VIP culture, the media should check if VIPs are actually the creations of the media.

Superstar Salman Khan's hit-and-run verdict brought the VIP issue to the fore once again. Within a couple of hours of the verdict, even by sitting late, the High Court grants interim relief on the plea that the full judgment copy was not made available. Courts do not provide copies immediately and therefore to cite that reason [and to be accepted by the learned court] was surprising. How the battery of best lawyers in town managed it became the hot topic of the day. To cap it all, the actor was a free man again within hours on the first hearing of the bail application. The same lawyers saw no urgency in seeing that the case did not linger for 13 long years. They managed to actually delay it.

There are lakhs of cases pending obviously for want of time for the judiciary to hear and dispose them off due

VIEWS on NEWS

to acute shortage of judges at all levels. Again, there should be some way in which unnecessary litigation is avoided. Today, we have cases filed for the silliest of things. PILs are becoming bitter. Private litigations come in the garb of public litigations. Who decides on the priority? Only matters of public interest should have precedence over all other cases. The big ticket lawyers should not be allowed to bulldoze their way and get things done. Most litigants have no access to such legal luminaries.

There is a system where Doctors serve in rural areas initially and later even Specialist Doctors work in public hospitals attending to poor patients who cannot afford private treatment. Should the same thing not apply to the lawyers as well? The Bar Councils could play a pivotal role in ensuring that even the top lawyers devote at least 10% of the time on the government panels for free legal aid to the poor and take up their cases. This should apply at all levels from the lowest court to the highest court of the land.

We also hear that prisoners languish in jails even after they serve their terms for not being able to pay the fines, some of them for more than five years. The Government should waive all such fines, on the merits of each case, and set them free if they have served their terms. Alternately, fines collected from those who can afford, should be converted into a "Prisoners Assistance Fund". Use this money to pay the fines of those, due to poverty, are not able to do so. It will serve multiple purposes. The convicts will be free on completion of the prison terms, authorities will save money on their lodging / boarding and other convicts will have more leg space.

Police Force to reckon with

An honest policeman Sunil Toke faces hell for not being part of the 'bribe culture' in the Traffic department in Mumbai. He complains to the higher authorities and is 'advised' to seek transfer – in short "be a part of it or get out but do not upset the apple cart". He writes to the Commissioner with documentary evidence and whe keeps quiet



by Marshall Sequeira

hoping that the issue will die out. This is surprising. Frustrated the guy complains to the Chief Minister who must have told a thing or two to the CP who moves with lightening speed to order a probe. Why did he wait for the CM's nudge if he abhors corruption?

Elsewhere policemen connive with organized gangs to extort huge sums by falsely implicating young models in cases of sex trade. It is not one or two but dozens of police personnel gang up. A male model was picked up by some eight policemen and it now transpires that it was a well planned operation. A young female model was similarly trapped and robbed of cash and other belongings. There are cases of policemen raping complainants in police stations and chowkies, not forgetting the likes of Paraskars.

In the north it is worse. Policemen drag suspects on the road with a rope or hammer them black and blue in public. They rough up drivers who do not obey their supreme orders. Recently, a traffic policeman threw bricks at a lady driver of a two wheeler because she asked for a receipt for the fine paid. She suffered a fracture. Of course he was suspended and a criminal case filed against him. There must be thousands of other cases which are not 'captured on videos' and therefore the errant policemen go scot-free. This is a highly frightening situation for law abiding citizens of the country. Can this be tolerated?

People have now to reckon with such dangerous force. This needs to be changed. Policemen charged with misuse of their power should be tried by fast track courts with double punishment so that quick signal is sent down the line. Even the higher ups must face the heat if things are to improve. Why should action be not taken against those who ignored Toke's complaint? They should be equally accountable if not more. Police reforms must address these issues seriously.

The Need To Keep Abreast With Technology



Most of the businesses out there actually fail because of the fact that they do not adapt and they do not grow. It is really important that you always think about options that are available for making everything more profitable. Small businesses have a 50% chance of failing before 2020 and this is mainly because of the fact that they do not adapt.

Running a business is as exciting and fulfilling as it is stressful and challenging. It can be difficult for small and medium-sized enterprises to succeed amid stiff competition. Businesses that stay updated with the latest technology, gain a competitive edge. Technology broadly encompasses scientific breakthroughs that lead to better solutions.

Increase in productivity: Technology allows small businesses

BUSINESS

to automate major functions, thus leveling the playing field and allowing them to compete with larger companies.

Improved Communication:

Small and medium-sized enterprises as well as established and thriving

companies always need to stay in touch with clients, investors, partners and employees.

Technology allows them to do this and more by enabling them to connect through a wide range of mediums, which include email, mobile technology, video conferencing and so much more. They can send and receive all sorts of information without drastic geographical limitations.

Better Customer Experience:

There are plenty of equipment and applications that enable businesses to reach out to their target demographic and engage with customers. While it might seem costly and time-consuming to keep up with the latest technology, its initial drawbacks are certainly overshadowed by the benefits.

Thanksgiving



Thanks to St. Anthony, Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, St. Jude and Ven. Fr. Agnel for the favours granted

—Mrs Hygienia Coutinho, Thane



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Is Hillary Clinton The Champion 'Everyday Americans' Are Looking For?

by Anisha Padma

On Sunday April 12, Hillary Rodham Clinton (HRC) made an announcement that she was running for President of the United States. The video announcing her candidacy, features a diverse array of what Clinton deems to be everyday Americans, ranging from an elderly white woman tending to her garden, a single mother and her daughter moving to a new school district, two Latin American brothers opening a new business, an interracial couple finishing home renovations, and a gay couple preparing for a wedding. All of these individuals are represented as entering a new chapter in their lives, something that Hillary Rodham Clinton hopes to achieve as well, with her mission to win the highest office in the land.

With my interest piqued, I glanced curiously through her campaign website, noting various elements which are clear appeals for votes within distinct demographics.

For example, on the front page of the website, there is an "en español" option. Clinton is clearly trying to appeal to Latin American voters, who typically lean towards Democrats. However, they may not be so quick to vote Clinton into office unless she offers viable solutions regarding immigration reform in the United States. This is not to say that the most pressing issue facing the Latin American communities in the United States is immigration reform, but it will influence how she will fare within this voting bloc.

A decade ago, on the John Gambino Radio Show, she denounced the employment of illegal immigrants, but on Tuesday, May 5th, sang a different tune. She spoke at a high school with a majority of Latin American population in Las Vegas and said, "Hard-working immigrants

who contribute to the economy and to their communities should not be thrown away," according to Anne Gearan of the Washington Post. Has Clinton really come full circle, or is this simply another political stance that is convenient for her presidential run?

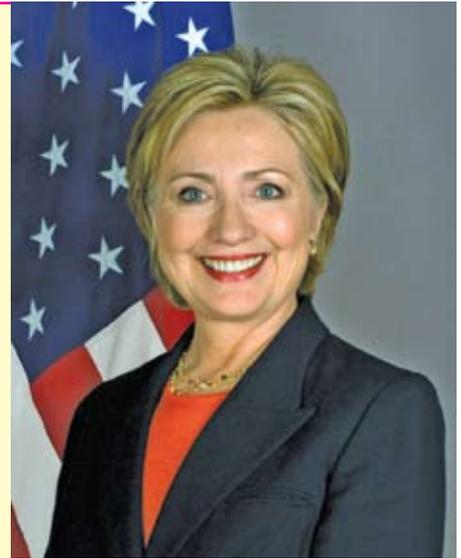
In the section titled "Hillary's Story" on her website, we get a brief glimpse of the narrative that she wants her voters to know. It highlights her father's military service, her family's humble origins, the intersection of her faith and social justice, her efficiency as First Lady and Senator, her humility to tackle the role of Secretary of State, and finally her new role and honour as a grandmother. This biography attempts to attract voters ranging from those with military backgrounds, to those who participate in social activist work.

But unfortunately, after reading this, it is very hard to get a sense of what Clinton really is willing to advocate for.

If we look to her donor base, we see that it is comprised of very wealthy entities such as Goldman Sachs and J.P. Morgan. If these institutions are funding her, how willing is Hillary really to battle income inequality?

On April 15, there was a massive rally called "Fight for 15" across the nation which called to raise the minimum wage to \$15. Although there were several prominent Democrat politicians such as Elizabeth Warren who vocalized support for it explicitly, Clinton simply posted a cryptic tweet in with some haphazard support of the necessity of living wages. Another Democratic contender for 2016, Bernie Sanders, released a statement that said, "I want to applaud the workers who are organizing today in the fight to raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour".

If HRC wants low-wage labourers to vote in her favour, then she needs to be more vocal of efforts such as



Hillary Rodham Clinton

Fight for 15. Journalist, Doug Henwood, thinks we shouldn't hold our breath. He says, "She would pretend to listen; she's great at these listening tours...I don't expect that she'd be all that receptive."

And so, with Hillary Rodham Clinton dominating the sphere of influence for Presidential hopefuls, it is very unclear what kind of policies will exist as a result of her leadership. Though she is a fresh face and breaks the legacy of men holding control of the White House, the election of Clinton may not lead to any ground-breaking social change. She still receives money from large, wealthy donors. She has been complicit in gearing the Democratic party towards a neoliberal agenda. She changes her stances on very important issues which does not give us relief on where her true intentions lie. Unfortunately, Bernie Sanders will need to run a brilliant Public Relations campaign in order to muster half of the support that Clinton has rounded up. There simply is no other Democratic candidate with the level of name recognition as Clinton.

Clinton states her impetus for running is, "Everyday Americans need a champion. I want to be that champion." But can Clinton really be the champion of the low-wage earning laborer with equal gusto as the tech millionaire in the Silicon Valley? Does she believe that she truly represents the diverse United States, or for that matter, do we?

Role of Youth for A Cleaner and Greener Environment



There are rules, laws, conventions made for protecting the environment but there is no effective implementation. For this implementation youth play a vital role. Young people constitute a large part of our nations population and young people will have to live longer with the consequences of current environmental decisions than will their elders. Future generations will also be affected by these decisions and the extent to which they have addressed concerns such as the depletion of resources, biodiversity loss, and long-lived radioactive wastes.

Young people can play an active role in protecting and improving the environment. They can change their lifestyle and how it affects the environment. They can make their homes, schools and youth organizations more environmentally friendly by adopting environmentally friendly practices, recycling of different materials as well as preserving resources such as water and electricity. Engaging youth in environmental protection not only creates direct impact on changing youth behaviors and attitudes, but possibly influence their parents, relatives and families.

Youth are back bone of the nation. They can change the future of the society with their well being and courageous behavior.

The environment is simply defined as our surrounding, including both living and non-living things and youth are the young people.

By applying the greening knowledge at home and schools, we can help to market city, a greener city. Discarding computers, electrical appliances and

rechargeable batteries can seriously harm the environment. Youth role is to implement recycling programs for used computers and electrical appliances.

What can wise as youngsters do to contribute in the protection of environment?

1. Close the running tap water, when not needed.
2. Use the dishwasher, when the dishes are full. Try to avoid using it more often i.e. for each single plate.
3. Try to be cautious in using water. Turn off taps when not used. By this way, it is estimated every home can save more than a gallon of water, which is very high when combined in a local.
4. Turning off Lights and saving electricity as much as possible is also a way to go green. During the daytime, it is good to open windows and screens to let sunlight in and fill house with warmth. After all, sunlight is essential for body in the form of vitamin A.
5. The local power company would be able to provide a free presentation on how to make the home a better energy efficient home.

Going Green with Recycling and Reusing

1. Giving away unwanted or unusable materials to free service organizations is a better way to start going green.

2. Reusing the furniture would save some extra money spent on newer furniture.
3. Recycling paper, plastics, glass and metals could also be done by making use of the local trash pickup service.
4. Instead of simply throwing older items, one can use his creativity in creating the essence out of them.
5. Choosing reusable water bottles in comparison with plastic bottles every month is a nice way to avoid using plastics and reusing the water bottles. They may be expensive at the beginning, but once getting used to it, they would prove worthy providing health and hygiene besides going green.

Going Green with Transport

1. Carpooling or vehicle pooling is the best way to save environment from three or four times the pollution.
2. Maintaining the vehicle regularly and providing it for service near a service station would help minimize its pollution output.
3. Many companies have started offering the plan 'Work while you are at home'. Enjoying this benefit not only saves green, but also enables one to spend quality time together in a family and allowing to save costs of travelling and fuel.

Choose The Right College

What do you do when you get accepted at two very good colleges and you have to choose between the two? Making the right choice in such a situation is very important

Choosing between two good colleges is a very difficult task. Here are some things you should consider making your choice

Meet Peers

Thanks to the digital age, meeting your possible future classmates is easier than ever before! All you need to do is search for your college or look it up on Facebook and find a group. You'll start getting to know people who you might be taking classes with for the next four years, and if you like some from one school more than the other, that will definitely make deciding on which college to go to easier.

Talk to Professors

Other students aren't the only ones who you'll be spending the next four years with, you also have professors to deal with. See if there are some professors you really like and want to take their class at one college. Also, ask them why they think you should choose their #college over another one. A future professor's perspective is a great one to have!

Explore the Area

When you go to visit your colleges, make sure you check out the surrounding area. See if there are some nice outdoor activities you could take part in, restaurants you'd like, or a hangout spot you could see yourself studying at with your friends. You need to make sure the area you live in is one you'll love and enjoy for your college years. Make sure the area is



quite safe. You may have to stay late in college.

Sit in on Classes

If you have the opportunity, make sure you sit in on some classes. Not only will you get a vibe for what the professor's teaching style is like, but also a sense of what the classroom atmosphere and student body is like. Are the classes big or small, do people ask questions, are there open and respectful debates? These are important questions to tackle before you decide on a school.

Pros and Cons List

Sometimes, the best thing you can do is organize your thoughts on paper.

Make a pros and cons list for each of the colleges and see which one comes out with more pros. Try to be objective— don't actively try to balance out the list to make your decision harder on yourself. Rather, just let the ideas flow until you have two complete lists, then compare!

Seek Advice

It always helps to get other opinions, especially when you're stressed and flustered about what to do. Ask your parents, siblings, teachers, and friends what they think you should do. They know you pretty well and know where you'll succeed, so ask them for input and, if the overwhelming majority is in favor of one #college, maybe you should factor that into your decision.

Some more tips

- Find out NAAC ranking of both colleges
- Compare the fee structure of both the colleges for the past few years
- Find out which college provides greater scope for extra-curricular activities

Read **THE SECULAR CITIZEN**

Online at:
www.issuu.com/secularcitizen

Good Leadership, Good Politics And Good Governance

In “Deus Caritas Est”, Pope Benedict XVI clearly stipulates that “the direct duty to work for a just ordering of society is proper to the lay people they should participate in many different economic, social, legislative, administrative and cultural areas which are intended to promote organically and institutionally the common good the mission of the lay faithful is to configurate social life correctly, respecting its legitimate autonomy and cooperating with other citizens according to their respective competence and fulfilling their own responsibility”. Four decades earlier, St. Pope John XXIII in his world famous “Pacem In Terris” called upon all men and women of good will and particularly the Catholics to be more engaged in social and political life in order that we have a more just and peaceful world.

We the faithful of the Church of Divine Mercy Parish followed our parish priest Fr. Norbert Lewis who led the parish prayer for the welfare of our Nation through exposition of Blessed Sacrament and offering of Holy Eucharist a few weeks ago. The lay faithful almost “bombarded” Lord Jesus with the following specific petitions.

FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE: When our Republic of India was born in 1950, the Indian people solemnly resolved to constitute our country into a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic and to secure to all its citizens justice (economic, social and political), liberty (of thought, expressions, beliefs, faith and worship), equality (of status and of opportunity) and fraternity (the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the nation). On this reflection, we prayed that the Indian people should enjoy all the values expounded in our Constitution of India.



by S. Santiago

FOR LIBERATION OF THE POOR AND DOWNTRODDEN:

The talisman prescribed by Mahatma Gandhi, Father of our Nation as a preferential criteria of good governance was “you recall the face of the poorest and the weakest you may have seen and ask yourself, if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him. Will he gain by himself anything by it? Will it restore his control over his own life and destiny? Will it lead to swaraj for the hungry and spiritually starving millions? On the basis of this talisman, we prayed that the governments, political parties and civil society workers ensure the progress and liberation of the poor and the oppressed.

FOR GOOD POLITICS: Politics is not just political parties and elections. Good politics is about the process that involves decisions that affect the life of the people. It is about mechanisms, institutions and human and moral values in that process. It is about authentic participation of people in making policies and action programmes. On the basis of this important thought, we prayed that the stakeholders in our country's politics - the political parties, parliament, legislature, bureaucracy - ensure and guarantee integral human development of our people.

FOR GOOD SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: We particularly prayed that people of India may be liberated from

the scourge of 3 Cs - caste, corruption and conflict (killings, militancy, insurgency, terrorism) and that our people are empowered to free themselves from

the scandals of caste and communism, to be vigilant against corruption in our families, work places, community living complexes and in society at large as well as to safeguard the democratic and secular fabric of the Indian Nation.

FOR GOOD LEADERS: Good leadership is the pivot of good governance and good politics. Poverty, deprivation and oppression of the weaker sections of people are the result of vested interests, dishonest - manipulating - selfish leaders. Development, peoples' progress, liberation are all gifts that come from dedicated leaders who uphold in action honesty, hard work, inter-religious amity, secularism and human rights of all people. We intensely prayed for Lord Jesus to bless our country with good leaders at all levels of family, community and society at large.

Lord Jesus came to the world to give life to all people - life in all its fullness (John 10:10), to preach the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to the captives, to give sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed (Luke 4:16-19). May this mission of Jesus Governance be the source and inspiration of good leadership, good politics and good governance in our country in the new political regime the people of India have now chosen for themselves.

Ancient Indians system of Ayurveda believed in utilizing everything nature had to give to promote an all natural healing remedies for a healthy lifestyle. One such herb of India with worldwide fame and known for its amazing healing properties and medicinal value is Neem.

Neem, commonly known as Margosa in English or "Aritha" in Sanskrit, is known as the free tree of India as it is found almost everywhere. It is part of every Indian home due to its many applications and is considered to be sacred. Everything from this tree can be used in one way or the other. The bark extrudes a fluid called neera, green leaves, branches, small white flowers that blossom in spring to the oval fruits that contain one seed each that contains oil.

External Health Application:

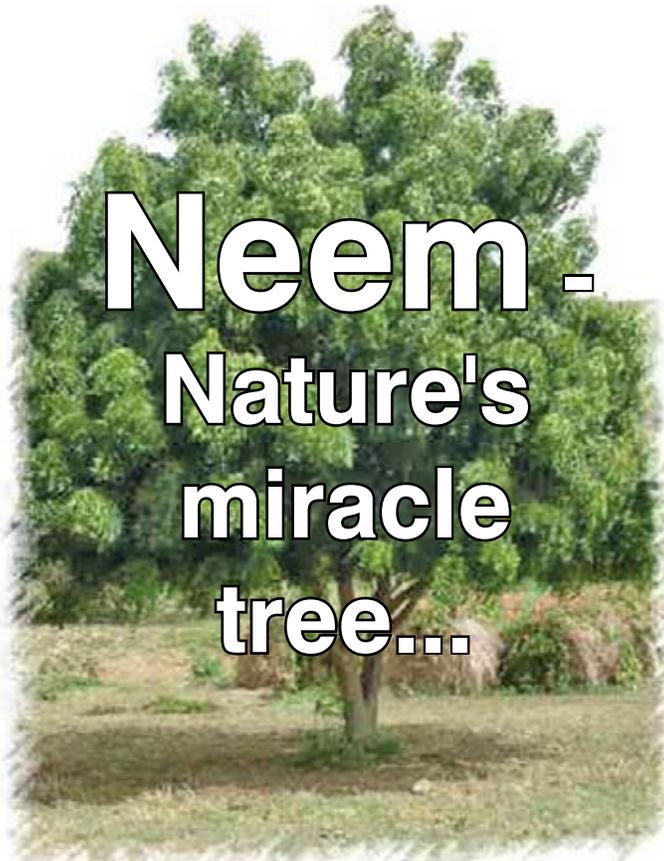
Applying Neem powder or oil topically helps in healing wounds, burn injuries, itch, rash, infection or allergy. Taking bath with Neem helps the body counter mild infections. Its tropical application can relieve acne, eczema and even ringworms. The oil is extensively used for hair loss, greying hair, dandruff or lice. Its local application of arthritic conditions like rheumatoid arthritis, gout, osteoarthritis, lower back pain and muscular-skeletal pain has had good results.

Internal Health Application:

Chewing on a Neem twig has been a common practice in India to prevent gum disease and maintain strong and healthy teeth. However, as the twig is very bitter, it is now utilized in Neem toothpaste that helps prevent cavities, gingivitis, tooth loss or toothache.

Neem is beneficial in with indigestion, constipation, bad taste in mouth, de-worming, gastritis, is a blood pu-

Neem - Nature's miracle tree...



rifier, detoxicant and cures urinary tract infection. It helps in maintaining proper secretions of liver; works as an anti-inflammatory and pain relieving agent, suppresses fever and relieves cough.

Beauty Application:

Adding boiled Neem water to bath helps rid of skin infections, acne and white heads. In this form it makes a great skin toner to clear scars, pigmentation and blackheads on face.

Boil Neem leaves with small segment of orange peel in a bit of water. Add honey, yogurt, soy milk to for a smooth paste and apply to face to clear skin problems and also to reduce appearance of pores.

Pesticide Application:

Neem has been used as a natural pesticide because of its remarkable property to fight pests and other organisms that are harmful for agricultural and household purpose. It is considered to be the most wonderful discovery for humans. It acts as anti-bacterial, anti-parasitic, anti-fungal, anti-protozoan and anti-viral. Mixing some drops of Neem oil, with lotion; and, applying on body, would be an excellent mosquito repellent.

Despite all the health benefits, Neem is largely ignored by urban folks in favour of more synthetic ingredients. However, as more and more research is being done on Neem outside India, we are finding ourselves coming back to this very ancient yet very useful, simple and miraculous tree that was cherished by Ayurveda over 5,000 years ago!

—Agnelo Rodrigues
Wadala E

Thanksgiving

I was not getting the right job for a long time. I prayed to St. Cajetan, Patron of the unemployed and job seekers. He answered my prayer. I thank him for the favour granted.

—Sylvester D'Souza, Vasai



Class Attendance

Humour!

School Name: **Life**

Class: **40th Std** (All students are above 40 years)

Anger - Present sir
Anxiety - Present sir
Boredom - Present sir
Desires - Present sir (in full volume)
Frustration - Present sir
Monthly EMI - Present sir (in full volume)
Office Tension - Present sir
Sadness - Present sir
Worries - Present sir
Uncertainties - Present sir
Happiness - ??? (no sound)
Happiness - ???
Happiness - Absent sir
Peace of mind - Absent sir
Contentment - Absent sir

Class teacher: In life, there is nothing called sadness. Either Happiness Present or Happiness Absent.



Life is very simple to live, but many find it difficult to be simple.

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Brilliant words -
"The amount of money that's in your bank at the time of death, is the extra work you did which was not necessary"

So Just Enjoy life!

Health Benefits Of Honey



Over thousand years, honey is known to exhibit surprising healing powers. Here are top 10 health benefits of natural honey that will further increase your liking for this sweet nectar.

- Honey can be used as an instant energy booster.
- A glass of milk mixed with honey is a well known remedy for better sleep.
- Honey, being an antibacterial, helps to kill bacteria.
- honey can be used to soothe mouth ulcers and to fasten the healing process
- Honey stimulates the growth of good bacteria (probiotics) in the intestine which help in digestion.
- Some studies show that honey has potential anti-cancer properties. It may be used as a supplement in cancer therapy.



INSPIRATIONS The Bridal Studio

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- *Glamorous Headwear*
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Inspiration!

Make Marriage Flourish

If your marriage is struggling, invite God to be a part of it. It just might make all the difference.

Marriage can be a wonderful thing, especially when a husband and wife take their vows seriously and truly learn to love honor and cherish one another. But even in the best of marriages, there will be times when couples won't always agree.

To get any marriage to flourish, invite God to be a part of it. God will do all he can to help your marriage. All that is required of you is to ask him for it. These nine things you can plead to God for in prayer that can help your marriage.

God's guidance

Not only does God see the bigger picture, but he knows your heart and the heart of your companion. He knows your thoughts and your motivations. Ask for God's guidance and listen to his spirit before making your decisions.

An understanding heart

Many conflicts arise in marriage because of a lack of understanding. It is difficult to put ourselves in the place of another because we are not them. Because of this, it is important that when we are asking God for help, we ask him to give us an understanding heart. We need the ability to understand our spouse so we are more able to relate to them.

Wisdom

Wisdom is not just having knowledge; it's being able to make good judgments.



In marriage, it is important that we gather all the facts before we make any judgment calls. Open communication will give you knowledge and as you pray for wisdom, you will be able to use that knowledge to make good and fair judgments calls.

A spirit of peace

Contention can destroy any marriage. Asking God for a spirit of peace will help give you the ability to face conflict without the contention. It will give you the desire to correct the problem without wanting to seek revenge. When you face contention with a spirit of peace, you're better at listening.

A disposition to see good

When you are living with someone, it

is easy to start seeing all their faults. It is difficult, however to see the good qualities of a person if you are constantly focusing on the bad. Ask God to help you see the good in your spouse. The good qualities become your focus and the things that annoy you tend to get smaller and smaller.

Attitude of gratitude

Showing gratitude for your spouse is one of the greatest things you can do for them. Ask God to help you show gratitude, not only for who they are, but for what they do for you.

A willingness to forgive

In every marriage, there are going to be times when your spouse is going to do something that you are going to have to forgive him for. The truth is, if you want your spouse to forgive your weaknesses, it is important that you are willing to forgive his. Forgiving is not always easy, but if you ask God for help, you will have the ability to forgive and to be forgiven.

The capacity to love

Love keeps your marriage together. When everything around you seems to be falling apart, it is the love that you share with your spouse that will help you keep things together. When your marriage starts to struggle, ask God, above all, to help you love your spouse.

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Grooms



MATRIMONIALS

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

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 29 years, Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 80 kgs, Fair complexion, Edn. M.Sc., Advance Computer Networking, working as a Networking Engineer. Contact email : grettadsouza53@gmail.com OR 9833418836 (Regd. No. 6328)

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 32 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 63 kgs, Fair complexion, Edn. 12th Sc., + Navatical Studies, working as 3rd officer in Merchant Navy. Seeks Only Goan girl. Contact email : ferns1244@gmail.com OR 9920884799 (Regd. No. 6327)

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 31 years, Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Handsome, Edn. B.A., PG-HR, working as a HR-Manager, Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : frank_4_f@yahoo.co.in OR 9820470506 (Regd. No. 6270)

MUMBAI : Goan Christian Bachelor, aged 31 years, Ht. 6' 3", Wt. 85 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA., working as HR Professional. Contact email : valsafonso@gmail.com OR 9819295981 / 9867036662 / 9920733493 (Regd. No. 6267)

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 31 years, Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 78 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. SSC, working on Cruz Ship. in Europe. Contact email : francis.dsouza@gmail.com OR 9769259694 / 9892873474 (Regd. No. 6264)

MUMBAI : East Indian / Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 37 years, Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 80 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., LL.B., & French Courses, working as Lawyer in a Law Firm in Fountain. Attending

the High Court and City Civil. Seeks a presentable and sincere match. Contact email : lawfully yours@hotmail.com / delaney_s@hotmail.com / sybil_sylvester@yahoo.com OR 8108648725 (Regd. No. 6260)

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 29 years, Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 78 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Electronic Engineer and MBA, Working as a Consultant in Limited Company. Contact email : henry.fernandes53@gmail.com OR 7738365149 (Regd. No. 6259)

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 33 years, Ht. 5' 7", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. PGDRM, working as a Manager. Contact email : larsen316@gmail.com OR 9819068603 (Regd. No. 6213)

RAJKOT : Anglican Protestant Bachelor, aged 31 yeas, Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 63 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., MBA working as a Manager. Contact email : evie100984@gmail.com OR 9662671103 (Regd. No. 6211)

MUMBAI : Goan Widower, aged 45 years, Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. SSC., HSC, Working Mechanical Technician in Abroad, having 9 years daughter. Currently in Mumbai. Contact email : cola_mick@yahoo.com OR 9702148869 (Regd. No. 6210)

DHARWAD : Goan RC Bachelor aged 36 years, Ht. 6', Wt. 79 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Masters (Navitical Science), working as a Merchant Navy Chief Officer. Having Flat in Mumbai. Contact email : ephremf@gmail.com OR 9768153407 (Regd. No. 6205)

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 31 years, Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 64 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com. , working for Bank.

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

Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : joeldsouza@rocketmail.com OR 9833129976 (Regd. No. 6164)

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

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

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 37 years, Ht. 6', Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. HSC., Dip. in A.C. Mechanic, working as a AC Technician in Muscat. Contact Tel.: 23733750 Or 968-99694267 (Regd. No. 6113)

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, aged 33 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Chartered Accountant, working as a Chartered Accountant in a Pharmaceutical Company. Seeks a sutiable Mangalorean girl. Contact email : ronaldroshan2003@gmail.com OR 9870248167 (Regd. No. 6105)

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MATRIMONIALS

MUMBAI : Christian Spinster, 29 years, Ht. 5', Wt. 47 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. F.Y. B.A., working for HR Firm. Contact email : janeqotherapy@gmail.com OR 9867447645 (Regd. No. 6335)

MUMBAI : Tamilian Roman Catholic Spinster, 26 years, Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 45 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA (Marketing), working for Pvt. Ltd. Company. Contact email : joseph.catherine17@gmail.com OR 9869024018 (Regd. No. 6332)

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, 26 years, Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBBS, Doctor by profession. Contact email : crickslick@gmail.com OR 9892629974 (Regd. No. 6331)

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, 30 years, Ht. 5' 1", Wt. 56 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., MBA (Finance) working as an Asst. Manager in Bank. Seeks a suitable match. Contact Email : oldgoa2012@gmail.com OR 9869765169 (Regd. No. 6330)

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 32 years, Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., Teacher by profession. Contact email : nel2012@rediffmail.com OR 9870332639 (Regd. No. 6329)

MUMBAI : Tamilian Protestant Spinster, aged 28 years, Ht. 5' 1", Wt. 48 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Post Graduate, working as a Manager in Bank. Contact email : ratnam.rachel@gmail.com OR 9833425894 / 9869308405 (Regd. No. 6315)

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic spinster, aged 24 years, Ht. 5' Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatsih Complexion, Edn. M.Com., working as a Sr. Execu-

tive. Contact email : anithad1103@gmail.com OR 9833286267 (Regd. No. 6304)

MUMBAI : Karwari Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 32 years, Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 57 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. CA, working as a Manager in Nationalised Bank. Contact email : esha.debbie@gmail.com OR 022-25542147 (Regd. No. 6303)

MUMBAI : Karwari Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 40 years, looks young, Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 59 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA, working as a Manager in Petroleum Company. Contact email : carolng@hpcl.co.in OR 022-25542147 (Regd. No. 6302)

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 32 years, Ht. 5', Wt. 55 kgs, Fair Complexion, good looking, Edn. SSC., self employed (Hair Stylist). Contact email : 4.saviola@gmail.com OR 9769598323 (Regd. No. 6300)

MUMBAI : Tamilian Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 30 years, Ht. 5' 1", slim, Fair Complexion, good looking, Edn. B.Com., CFA, working as a Manager in Financial Company. Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : simon_sigo@yahoo.co.in OR mariaselvamsigo@gmail.com Or 9821139079 / 9920178739 (Regd. No. 6299)

MUMBAI : Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 30 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, good looking, Edn. B.Com., MBA Diploma in Jewellery, working as a Manager. Seeks educated, established, from good family background. Contact email : philu159@yahoo.co.in OR 9823910490 (Regd. No. 6297)

MUMBAI : RC Goan Spinster, B.E. - Computer Engineering, studing Executive MBA, Completion in Aug, 2015, Working for reputed MNC in Pune but has permanent residence in Mumbai. 26 yrs., 5 ft., wheatish, homey with good family background. Career minded and willing to relocate abroad. Please send details

and photo to email : ashil2628@gmail.com (Regd. No. 6296)

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, simple and decent, aged 29 years, Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 62 kgs, wheatish complexion, Edn. M.Sc., B.Ed., Teacher by profession. Seeks a well educated and well settled bachelor. Contact email : fritzydsouza@gmail.com OR 9833952113 / 8976343556 (Regd. No. 6295)

UDUPI : Mangalorean RC Parents of spinster daughter 26 years, 5' 4", Height, Wheatish, B.E. in Electronics and Communications. Working as Software Professional in BANGALORE, God fearing adn family oriented. Seek aliance from Mangalorean RC Bachelors, well educated and settled, age below 32 years. Please send detailed Profile and recent photograph to email : saldanhaej@yahoo.co.in OR 0984 588 8703 and 0820 258 3452 (Regd. No. 6216)

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic 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 Roman Catholic 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)

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rao19@yahoo.com OR 9619522154 / 9969114346 (Regd. No. 5988)

POONA : Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 33 years, Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 55 kgs, Fair Complexion, Beautiful, Edn. B.A., B.Ed., PGD.P.M. working as a HR Executive. Contact email : prav-
doll@gmail.com OR 9765411451 / 9881201988 (Regd. No. 5987)

HARYANA : Goan Roman Catholic Divorcee, aged 41 years, Ht. 5' 1", Wt. 56 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA, working as a Sr. HR Consultant. Seeks a suitable match. Contact email : d.dsouza@metso.
com OR 9899501960 (Regd. No. 5986)

DUBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 37 years, Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 41 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., working as a Secretary. Contact email : track_1976@yahoo.com
OR 9730454857 (Regd. No. 6032)

MUMBAI : Bombay Roman Catholic Goan Spinster, 31 years, Ht. 5', Wt. 49 kgs, I have done my MBA in finance and am working as a research analyst and consultant in Bombay. I am a very practical and logical person. I believe in striking a balance between work and personal life. I love travelling, trekking and fitness. Looking for someone well educated, mature, sensible and jovial. If you find my profile interesting, Contact me email : miss.dynamic09@gmail.com
OR 9594090936 (Regd. No. 6068)

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 26 years, Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 56 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., Animation (Dip.) working as a Animation. Contact email : pro-
fileb9@gmail.com OR 9819680299 (Regd. No. 6062)

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 24 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 53 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Graduate in Interior Designer, working as a Interior Designer. Contact email : alexmichaelpaul@gamil.com
OR 9322145137 (Regd. No. 6060)

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 33 years, Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 58 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E., (Computers) working as a Software Engineer. Contact email : catalyst.nirmala@gmail.com
OR 9820445461 (Regd. No. 6058)

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 30 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E., (Electronics), working as a Technology Lead. in IT Company in USA. Contact : laetitia.viegas@
gmail.com OR 25886316 (Regd. No. 6030)

NAVI-MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 31 years, Ht. 5' 1", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B. Com., employed as an Admin., Contact Email : sonaldabhi0@
gmail.com OR Mob: 9820579253 (Regd. No. 6011)

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

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

MUMBAI : Goan R.C. Spinster, aged 26 years, Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 60 kgs, Tan Complexion, Edn. B.Sc + PGDQA, working as a QA Personnel in Pharmaceutical, Seeks a good looking, understanding, responsible, well settled bachelor. Contact email : renmail1987@yahoo.co.in
OR 9892394604 (Regd. No. 6006)

AHMEDABAD : Goan R.C. Spinster,

Wheatish, slim, good looking, aged 29 years, Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 49 kgs, Edn. B.A., PGDMFI, Pursuing MBA, working as a Senior Officer in Bank. Seeks a educated, well settled bachelor from decent and respectable family. Contact email : steffi8138@gmail.com / jer-
rypeter02@yahoo.com OR 079-22162694 (Regd. No. 6004)

MUMBAI : Tamilian Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 26 years, Ht. 5', Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., Working in Hospital in Administrative. Contact email : anharichard@gmail.com
OR 9769277062 / 9819315925 (Regd. No. 6291)

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 25 years, Ht. 5' 1", Wt. 54 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.A., working as a HR & Admin., Contact email : pearlcfrl@
gmail.com OR 9867118077 (Regd. No. 6288)

MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 29 years, Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 45 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Sc., Service. Contact email : nmd2612@
yahoo.in OR 9869959289 (Regd. No. 6287)

LONDON : East Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 37 years, Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 55 kgs, Fair Complexion, good looking, Edn. B.Pharm (Mumbai), M.Sc. (London) working for MNC in London. Due for U.K. Citizenship. Visiting India every six months. Seeks a handsome, well settled and educated any Roman Catholic Bachelor. Contact email : blossomcolaco@
yahoo.com OR 9326463210 / 9011869244 (Regd. No. 6286)

MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, aged 27 years, Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 72 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.D.S., Dentist by profession. Seeks a Godfearing and highly qualified bachelor. Contact email : drmercyj@gmail.com
OR 022-28936063 (Regd. No. 6145)

World's Tallest Cross

St. Augustine, Florida

The plaque at the base of the world's tallest cross, which is 208 feet high, says that it "marks the approximate site where in 1565 the cross of Christianity was first permanently planted in what is now the United States." That's right -- Jesus arrived in America here first, over a half-century before the Pilgrims even touched their toes to Plymouth Rock.



"The Great Cross" (as it's known) was erected in 1966 to mark the 400th anniversary of that momentous day. It's built of 70 tons of stainless steel plates, packed with concrete in its lower third to prevent toppling by hurricanes. It's part of the Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche, and its height was designed so that everyone near St. Augustine could see it, and be reminded "of the religious beginning of our nation," according to the plaque.

One problem with The Great Cross is that it's built on a point of land jutting into Matanzas Bay. This makes its greatness difficult to appreciate from the parking lot, where it looks like just another steeple topper in the distance. It was the first of America's giant crosses, and it's still loftier than all that have followed it. But it's spindly thin, while more recent heaven-scratching crosses have been built beefy, and right next to freeways so that passers-by can easily be awed.

The Great Cross is illuminated by powerful spotlights at night, eliminating the need for a blinking red light on top, a secular law that has reportedly kept all subsequent tall crosses, mindful of their dignity, under 200 feet

Food and relief material for Nepal earthquake affected people



In support of Earthquake affected people in Nepal many organizations and associations came forward from Mumbai and Navi Mumbai. Sunil Parwani and friends have brought together many business and Social Groups for this cause, support in the efforts. M/s. Protocol Marine Services Pvt Ltd, provided its vehicles, managed stuffing of cargo and played a prominent role in association with Bombay Goods Transports Association, Lions Club of Mumbai, Dampati Plastics, Dimensions – Global Christian Chamber of Commerce, BCS – Bombay Catholic Sabha, Kaunting Foundation, Chand Pariwar Foundation. All are part of this exercise for a cause. Till date 3 trucks are dispatched to Nepal with essential commodities. Among the active participants include Freddy Mendonca from Dimensions and Protocol Marine Services.



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—Gladys Menezes



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