

# THE SECULAR CITIZEN

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A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY

## Why Young People don't buy Cars and Apartments Anymore?

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The youth today has reconsidered the concept of success, which means: Successful people don't buy property – they rent.

Social interaction between people is crucial to whether they feel happy or not.

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# Dr Austin Prabhu gets 'Victor Rodrigues memorial award'

—Ivan Saldanha-Shet.

Well known US based Konkani writer, journalist and activist Dr Austin D'Souza Prabhu, was presented with 8th late Victor Rodrigues Memorial Konkani Literature Award at Infant Jesus convention Hall, Bikarnakatte on July 21, 2019.

After receiving the award Dr Austin said "I never desire awards or appreciation for my services. As a son of Konkani soil, I am doing my duty and trying to serve my mother tongue. In childhood itself I was attracted towards Konkani literature, and art. Wherever I went, I tried to bring the Konkani people together. Many supported me in my work. I thank them

"After retirement I started a Konkani weekly - 'VEEZ Konkani', it is now gaining polarity, it available in the internet and Daiji-world web. It has within 100 pages and publishes a detailed article on an achiever in the Konkani world. All matters of this weekly is handled by me alone. It is pleasure to serve my mother tongue in this unique way," Dr. Austin explained. "I thank Celine Rodrigues and Samanvaya for honouring me. This award will give me more energy for Konkani work." Austin concluded.

In his address, Rev Ronald Serrao pointed out that Late Victor Rodrigues was one of the greater writers of Konkani and still lives with us; Dr Austin D Souza Prabhu is a true fighter for Konkani.

In Mangalore, as youth, he did a lot for his 'Mai Bhaas'. He achieved many milestones in life and brought a good name for the community world wide.

Dr. AUSTIN D'SOUZA PRABHU : An extraordinary original Indian and citizen of USA, he has a rare honour of having a road named after him in US, among countless admirable honours and achievements. His contribution to his original homeland, to his community, to and his mother tongue Konkani, is evenly admired. Dr Austin Prabhu has numerous awards and recognition to his credit, he received "District 1A Citizen of the Year Award, 2018." Currently he is editing three e-magazines: Veez Konkani, Illustrated



Weekly Magazine, State of Illinois Lions and Leos Monthly Magazine and District 1A Governor's Newsletter. All three are popular e-publications. But, for him bringing out publications in a bunch has been an age old thing in which he excels. He did the same in difficult days in his youth in Mangalore. Son of Gaulbert & Rose D'Souza; Austin was born in Mangalore in 1950. He married Terry Pinto, a Mangalorean settled in Bombay (now Mumbai) in 1980, they have 4 children. Austin Baab is very popular where ever he goes and is an asset of the Konkani Community at large.



all, also my wife and children. They not only supported my Konkani service, but also appreciated it,"



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## Why Young People don't buy Cars and Apartments Anymore?

By Don Aguiar

**Nowadays**, the traditional measure of success – owning an apartment and / or a car – is out of date. An increasing number of young people around the world don't want to buy them.

Research shows that the so-called millennial generation, who are now 30-35 years old, rarely buy houses and even more rarely – cars. In fact, they don't buy super expensive things at all. In the USA, people under the age of 35 are called 'the generations of renters'

Why does this happen?

Some sociologists say the current generation of young people differs from their parents' generation. They have other values.

The youth today has reconsidered the concept of success, which means: Successful people don't buy property – they rent.

If you want to be considered successful, invest in experiences: travel, do extreme sports, build startups.

The point is that people don't want prosperity and stability – all they want is flexible scheduled and financial and geographical independence.

People have started to have no interest in material things.

Why own a car when you can take a cab? It's almost a personal car with a driver. And it's not more expensive that having your own car. Why buy a house in a beautiful place and go there for vacation, if you can find a place to stay through Airbnb in any corner of the planet? You don't have to overpay for rent or buy a property in a country you love. The same thing with real estate in your hometown. You don't know how long you will stay where you live.

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You can take on a mortgage for 40 years, or can accept the fact that you'll spend your whole life in a rented place. You'll probably change your job in the next few years. If you rent, nothing prevents you from moving closer to your office. According to Forbes, modern young people change jobs every three years on average.

The concept of ownership is no longer relevant.

James Hamblin, The Atlantic columnist, explains the phenomenon as follows: 'Over the past decade, psychologists carried out a great amount of research proving that, in terms of happiness and a sense of well-being, spending money on new experiences is much more profitable than buying new things. It brings more joy. Experiences help us make friends'.

Social interaction between people is crucial to whether they feel happy or not. Talking to others and having a lot

of friends makes you a happier person. But would people rather hear about how you spent a year in the wild country or about how many apartments you've already brought?

Remember that even a bad experience can become a good story. Material things cannot.

Buying things makes us worry.

There's one more thing. The things we own, especially if they are very expensive, makes us worry about their condition. If you buy a car, you'll flinch every time someone's alarm sounds outside. If you buy a house and fill it with expensive items, you'll be afraid of being robbed. Not to mention the fact that a car can be scratched or break down and a super expensive TV might break after a year of usage. But no one can take away the experiences you have.

Every purchase will go down in price over time.

Our parents weren't able to travel as often as we do. There wasn't the pos-

sibility to have so much fun. They didn't have so many opportunities to start a new business. Therefore, they invested in houses and cars and we don't want to do that. After all, every purchase, if it is not a house or an apartment, will depreciate over time. And if we think about how quickly real estate depreciates during crises, then everything becomes even more obvious.

Experience is the only thing that matters: it won't go down in price and no one can steal it.

More and more people who live in Metros like Mumbai, Pune, Delhi and Bangalore are shifting to the above mindset. The change is happening really fast. And experience has become the new age motivator.

Very soon youth in developing cities will understand the power of the above and adopt it. It's an evolutionary change, where we are moving away from Materialistic value to Higher Emotional Value to Life!

If we consider the Maslow's pyramid, this is a further step towards greater happiness.

If we consider what Buddha said - Detachment is essential to experience Bliss!

If you still depend on Materialistic approach to happiness... then this is a great time in the social evolution of society to experience the other side, without being considered a Rebel or having to break too many comfort zones!

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## Provide free parking space to motorists

The steep illegal parking fine levied by the BMC to motorists is too much. The civic body should first clean up the city's garbage and the drainage system and only then levy fine on illegal parking. They should also provide enough free parking space to motorists for parking their vehicles on the roads. The BMC and the traffic police are only robbing the common man of his hard-earned money.

—*Jubel D'Cruz,*  
*Mumbaia*

## Electoral Bonds

The sordid political drama in Karnataka has finally come to an end. In view of such distressing scenario in Karnataka & Goa in recent times and in other states on previous occasions, it's time to take a fresh look at the 'Anti-defection' Law. **Apparently, the Anti-defection Law does not seem to have deterred our opportunistic, power greedy, corrupt, self-seeking, elected representatives from hopping from one party to another at will, like changing diapers of little ones.**

In the corporate world, several companies have a system of securing a written Bond from prospective employees for a certain period, or when the company sends their employees abroad at company's cost. Why shouldn't we the citizens, demand that such a system be introduced in the political system? Every candidate should submit a bond at the time of filing their nomination, that

should they get elected, they would not defect from their party for a period of Five years (i.e. the Term of the House). **After all, it is our money that is being spent on their salaries, perks, foreign travel, etc.** Would you like to call them "Electoral" Bonds?

**If our democracy is to be saved, we need to take such corrective measures otherwise, the largest democracy would one day, become the laughing stock of the world.**

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

## The RTI Act cannot be politically fiddled with

As was expected the now Power intoxicated BJP is all out in its mission to weaken and dismantle the very democratic principles on which our great nation was founded.

The Right to Information Amendment Bill, 2019 introduced in Parliament is a very retrograde move with the sole aim to subvert the autonomy of Information commissions while diluting our nations' potent and widely used weapon for transparency and accountability in the functioning of the government. The biggest achievement of the RTI legislation is it tells the most powerful people that they are not beyond the reach of a common man within a short and fixed time span rather than the needless and unending procrastination. The impact created through this legislation can be seen through some important

landmark judgements as a result of uncovering many scams.

After decades of hectic lobbying, the efforts of civil society for getting the Right to Information law in place bore fruit on 15 June 2005 when the President of India gave assent to the Right to Information Act 2005. Over the years however the greater challenge has been the actual implementation of the Act. Unless the RTI Act is further strengthened Good Governance, Transparency in the Administration and Zero Tolerance to Corruption will never be a reality.

But instead of strengthening the RTI Act by attempting to allow the Executive to govern the functioning of the Information Commissions it will fundamentally weaken them and adversely impact their ability to function in an independent manner.

Is this retrograde step a cynical attempt by the powerful to make it more difficult for the common man to get to the truth and uncover any scams carried out by the very people entrusted to work honestly and transparently for the common good?

The 37th President of the United States of America Mr. Richard Nixon had in 1972 very rightly said "When information which properly belongs to the public is systematically withheld by those in power, the people soon become ignorant of their own affairs, distrustful of those who manage them, and - eventually - incapable of determining their own destinies"

— *Aires Rodrigues*

## All defectors must be disqualified

The Speaker of the Karnataka Assembly has set a good precedent by disqualifying the defectors in the assembly. They will not be able to contest elections till the expiry of the

(Contd.. on p. 6)

# Buying And Selling MLAs MPs Needs Legal Ban

Now here in the world this shameful custom is ever heard or practiced. Your elected M L A can not use his own consent or will to decide once elected from a certain party. In a civilized democracy such a criminal practiced should be banned. One ever hears this happen in France, Germany, U. K. or U.S.A. It is totally unheard of. Mr Carl Giesbers, 54, U.S. citizen says : How can our elected member decide all by himself about his shifting a party? In my country this is totally unheard of. A democrat or a Republican can not all by himself decide.... We the people, who elected him do matter - and matter a lot....." This is America. So is the case in England. No Labour Party Member can jump off and join the rival party. He just can not. Never heard neither seen there.

Ours - after years of journalism I can say that we have more a MOBOCRACY than a DEMOCRACY. We go by numbers. We have no moral or legal binding whatsoever.... The most common word used is HORSE TRADING..... A secret deal is made between this MLA or MP and the ruling party. An amount is fixed, the deal is done.... Scores of Congress members have jumped off from their sinking party to the floating party! No shame.. No law... No nothing. This is India. The ruling party because of its thumping. Crude majority and political power does any monkey trick to goof the silent, igno-



by Ignatius Dabhi  
Sr. Journalist

rant masses. Once in power, the elected member conveniently ignores the masses that elected him. His first and the only loyalty is his party. No country.... No public. Recently this trend has seen political turmoil in Goa, Gu-

jarat, Karnataka and elsewhere. The ruling party has enough funds and influence to buy any member. The ruling party should have some sense and respect for the people. Just yesterday who hung around Rahul, are eager to join the Modi band. Giving reason for his political jump, young Congress MLA, Alpesh Thakore says : I am joining the BJP so that I can serve better !!! "They need power to serve ! A time has surely come for Constitutional experts to bring a legislation to ban such a shameful custom. Those who elected Alpesh, have no power to call him back.... We must have such a law to prevent such criminal negligence of masses.... MLAs are taken out to some unknown resorts and kept away till the floor testing. Shameful and illegal. Very many political thinkers believe that India is totally unfit for democracy. Our masses are perpetually silent and ignorant.

Have a watchful look at the functioning of the Parliament. Ministers and leaders are conveniently absent from the sessions. A senior Congressman reacted to Modi's anger at absent ministers : First of all he - Mr. Modi should attend the sessions. He is hardly sighted... How can he travel abroad and remain absent from the House for days?"



(Contd.. from p. 5)

term of the Assembly in 2023. Some of the defectors who were aspiring to ministerial posts will now be left high and dry.

The anti-defection law needs to be similarly changed so that all defectors are disqualified for the full term of the house. Politicians are circumventing the present anti-defection law by resigning and contesting elections again from the same seat. They betray the trust of the people by switching parties with impunity, for personal greed. In addition, their action of resigning entails fresh elections which is a very expensive affair, which ultimately the taxpayer will have to pay for. If a new law is enacted which disqualifies all defectors, horse trading will cease to exist and stability of govts will be assured.

—Prof Robert Castellino  
Mumbai.

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# Save The RTI!

**A** massive people's campaign is currently underway in the country to save the 'Right to Information' (RTI) Act. The campaign which can be visited at [www.SaveRTI.in](http://www.SaveRTI.in) is also going viral on social media under the hashtag #SaveRTI – with several thousands of eminent and other concerned citizens already having signed it! The initiators of this campaign make a fervent plea to all the citizens of India to write immediately to the President of India requesting him not to give his assent to the proposed amendments to the RTI Act which have been passed by both Houses of Parliament. The introductory letter addressed to the citizens states, *“Under the Constitution of India as an Indian Citizen YOU are sovereign and are guaranteed certain Fundamental Rights. One of these Rights is Freedom of Speech, however to be Free to Speak you need to be Free To Know. It is this right that the present Govt is trying to curtail. The Right To Information act 2005 granted YOU powers to ask questions & demand accountability for the way YOUR taxes are being spent. It gave YOU the power to know details of the work done in YOUR localities, the decisions taken by YOUR govt. Unfortunately, the Right To Information Amendment 2019 just passed by YOUR MPs now threatens to take away YOUR power by making Information Commissioners dependent on THEIR whims. Taking away impartiality & independence so that everyone from the Central Information Commissioner to now dependent on THEM & therefore less answerable to YOU”.*

The letter to the President of India begins with the words, *“I am appealing to you not to sign the RTI amendment bill. I beseech you to send it back to the Parliament for reconsideration. This is a cherished right which has been codified by the RTI Act 2005. It has been rated amongst the best transparency laws in the world”.* Whether President Ram Nath Kovind, pays heed to this appeal (by not giving his assent) is, at this moment, anyone's guess! Strangely enough, as a former Member of Parliament of the Bharatiya Janata Party, President Kovind was a member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on 'Personnel, Pub-

lic Grievances, Law and Justice' that had minutely and very comprehensively discussed each and every section of the RTI Bill in five sittings before it became an Act in 2005. That Committee held the unanimous view that the Central Information Commission was a vital and core creation under the Act, which would be responsible for the execution of the RTI legislation. It therefore deemed it imperative to confer on the Central Information Commissioner (CIC) and the Information Commissioners the status equivalent to that of the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners respectively. The campaign whether it ultimately succeeds or not – is bound to have a long-term impact on the mobilisation of people's opinions in the country.

July 25, 2019 was indeed a black day for Indian democracy when 'The RTI Amendment Bill, 2019' was introduced in the Rajya Sabha and passed by it. Most of the opposition wanted it to be referred to a 'Select Committee' for further scrutiny- but this was rejected by the Government. In the voting that followed, the BJD, the TRS and the YSR Congress, played truant; they sided with the Government and provided them with the 'win' they desperately needed. It was extremely tragic for the people of India, that opportunistic politics, lust for power and not wanting to be accountable, has in effect destroyed an important instrument which had greatly empowered the citizens of India!

Earlier, on 19 July 'The RTI Amendment Bill, 2019', was introduced in the Lok Sabha and it was subsequently passed. The new Bill seeks to amend the RTI Act in order to empower the Central Government to unilaterally decide the tenure, salary, allowances and other terms of service of Information Commissioners. This of course is a subtle way of telling the Information Commissioners *“either you toe our line or out you go”!* Until now, those in the Information Commission were on par with the Election Commission and the Judiciary – with regard to their tenure, salaries etc. Making the members of this independent statutory body, another group of 'babus', will in effect undermine the autonomy of the Act. There will be just a few who will be willing to stand up to the brute power of the

State if their careers and remuneration are at stake. Until now several of the Information Commissioners were able to deal with queries in an objective way; sought and provided information free of fear or favour and in more ways than one upheld the dignity and the rights of an empowered citizen.



BY FR. CEDRIC PRAKASH SJ

Ironically, it is today the BJP and its ilk – who have left no stone unturned to make the RTI as toothless and redundant as possible. In spite of doing all they can to destroy several Constitutional and other independent statutory bodies in the past five years, some citizens have effectively used the RTI to expose their corrupt and other fraudulent acts of the current regime. So naturally, they are mortally afraid of the RTI. In a hard-hitting Op-ed in the 'Indian Express' (26 July 2019), AAP leader Manish Sisodia writes, *“An honest government would never be scared of information being made accessible. Even a corrupt UPA regime deserves credit for introducing RTI in the first place. But the Bharatiya Janata Party, a party that used RTI exposes against the Congress, and has now taken its place in the national political landscape, is ironically, terrified of it. This speaks volumes about the intent of this government. We are entering a disturbing phase, where the wheels of democracy are being forced to stop in their tracks.”*

With the Right to Information (RTI) Act coming into force on 12 October 2005-participatory democracy had come of age in India! It was indeed a red-letter day for the country. The UPA Government that taken over the reins of power a little over a year earlier, was making good its promise: of ensuring a more transparent and people-centred governance. The RTI was a significant step in the right direction. After all, democracy is a participatory process and a well-informed citizenry acts as its watchdog. Information dissemination and exchange is an inevitable part of a vibrant democracy. This helps maintain transparency at all levels. Till 2005, transparency was

(Contd.. on p. 10)

# WHETHER OUR POLITICIANS ARE WORKING TOWARDS CAGING THE RTI?

by Eric D'Sa

**T**he Right to Information (Amendment) Bill that has passed the Lok Sabha and the Raja Sabha is a twin attack on accountability and the idea of federalism. Downgrading information Commissioners can seriously damage the accountability of our babus. This unfortunate move of GOI will weaken the signature legislation of RTI, that has helped to reverse the opacity and bureaucratic disdain which makes governance inaccessible to the ordinary citizens. "Amendments" have haunted the Right to Information (RTI) community ever since the RTI Act came into effect almost 14 years ago. Rarely has a law been so stoutly defended by activists. It is not possible to pass a perfect law. But it was a popular opinion strongly held by most RTI activists that a demand for progressive amendments could be used as a smokescreen by the establishment to usher in regressive changes.

Nevertheless, the sword of Damocles of regressive amendments has hung over the RTI with successive governments. Amendments have been proposed since 2006, just six months after the law was implemented and many times thereafter. Peoples' campaigns, through reasoned protest and popular appeal, have managed to have them withdrawn. The proposed amendments tabled in Parliament on July 19, 2019 have been in the offing for some time now. In the form of the Right to Information (Amendment) Bill, 2019, they seek to amend Sections 13, 16, and 27 of the RTI Act which carefully links, and thereby equates, the status of the Central Information Commissioners (CICs) with the Election Commissioners and the State Information Commissioners with the Chief Secretary in the States, so that they can function in an independent and effective manner.

The deliberate dismantling of this architecture empowers the Central government to unilaterally decide the tenure, salary, allowances and other terms of service of Information Commissioners, both at the Centre and the States. Introducing the Bill in the Lok Sabha, the Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Jitendra Singh, asserted that this was a benevolent and minor mechanism of rule-

making rather than a basic amendment to the RTI law.

Why is there unseemly haste and determination to amend the law? Some feel that it is because the RTI helped with the cross-verification of the affidavits of powerful electoral candidates with official documents and certain Information Commissioners having ruled in favour of disclosure. It is unlikely to be a set of instances but more the fact that the RTI is a constant challenge to the misuse of power. In a country where the rule of law hangs by a slender thread and corruption and the arbitrary use of power is a daily norm, the RTI has resulted in a fundamental shift — empowering a citizen's access to power and decision-making. It has been a lifeline for

**YOU THE CITIZENS  
DECIDE:**

many of the 40 to 60 lakh ordinary users, many of them for survival. It has also been a threat to arbitrariness, privilege, and corrupt governance. More than 80 RTI users have been murdered because their courage and determination using the RTI was a challenge to unaccountable power.

The RTI has been used brilliantly and persistently to ask a million questions across the spectrum — from the village ration shop, the Reserve Bank of India, the Finance Ministry, on demonetisation, non-performing assets, the Rafale fighter aircraft deal, electoral bonds, unemployment figures, the appointment of the Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC), Election Commissioners, and the (non)-appointment of the Information Commissioners themselves. The information related to decision-making at the highest level has in most cases eventually been accessed because of the independence and high status of the Information Commission. That is what the government is trying to amend.

The RTI movement has struggled to access information and through it, a share of governance and democratic power. The Indian RTI law has been a breakthrough in creating mechanisms and platforms for the practice of continual public vigilance

that are fundamental to democratic citizenship. The mostly unequal struggle to extract information from vested interests in government needed an institutional and legal mechanism which would not only be independent but also function with a transparency mandate and be empowered to over-ride the traditional structures of secrecy and exclusive control. An independent Information Commission which is the highest authority on information along with the powers to penalise errant officials has been a cornerstone of India's celebrated RTI legislation.

The task of the Information Commission is therefore different but no less important than that of the Election Commission of India. Independent structures set up to regulate and monitor the government are vital to a democratic state committed to deliver justice and constitutional guarantees. The separation of powers is a concept which underscores this independence and is vital to our democratic checks and balances. When power is centralised and the freedom of expression threatened no matter what the context, democracy is definitely in peril. That is perhaps why these set of amendments have to be understood as a deliberate architectural change to affect, in a regressive manner, power equations, the freedom of expression and democracy.

The Commission which is vested by law with status, independence and authority, will now function like a department of the Central government, and be subject to the same hierarchy and demand for obedience. The decision of the government to usurp the powers to set the terms and conditions of service and salaries of an independent body must be understood as an obvious attempt to weaken the independence and authority granted by the law. Apart from Section 13 which deals with the terms and conditions for the Central information Commission, in amending Section 16, the Central government will also control through rules, the terms and conditions of appointment of Commissioners in the States. This is an assault on the idea of federalism.

All the provisions related to appointment were carefully examined by a parliament

(Contd.. on p. 9)



(Contd.. from p. 8)

tary standing committee and the law was passed unanimously. It has been acknowledged that one of the most important structural constituents of any independent oversight institution, i.e. the CVC, the Chief Election Commission (CEC), the Lokpal, and the CIC is a basic guarantee of tenure. In the case of the Information Commissioners they are appointed for five years subject to the age limit of 65 years. It was on the recommendation of the parliamentary standing committee that the Information Commissioner and CIC were made on a par with the Election Commissioner and the CEC, respectively.

The manner in which the amendments are being pushed through without any citizen consultation, bypassing examination by the standing committee demonstrates the desperation to pass the amendments without even proper parliamentary scrutiny. The mandatory pre-legislative consultative policy of the government has been ignored. Previous governments eventually introduced a measure of public consultation before proceeding with the amendments. In fact, both the United Progressive Alliance and the National Democratic Alliance put out proposed amendments to the RTI rules on the website for public deliberation. But the present regime seems determined to pass these amendments to the law itself without any consultation.

The reason is not far to seek. If the amendments are discussed by citizens and RTI activists in the public domain, it would be apparent that these amendments fundamentally weaken an important part of the RTI architecture. They violate the constitutional principles of federalism, undermine the independence of Information Commissions, and thereby significantly dilute the widely used framework for transparency in India.

You the Citizens need to be worried like the active RTI community's these days. But the sword of Damocles is double-edged. It is an idiom originally used to define the hidden insecurity of an autocrat. Questions are threats to unaccountable power. The RTI has unshackled millions of users who will continue to use this democratic right creatively and to dismantle exclusive power. The RTI has been and will be used to withstand attacks on itself and strengthen the movement for transparency and accountability in India. Eventually, the government will realise as with other autocratic governments, that while it might be able to amend a law, it cannot stop a movement.

## WhatsApp News

Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation\* (ST Buses) has launched free travelling for Senior Citizens of Age 65yrs and above.

- 1) 'All over Maharashtra 4000km free' in normal ST buses Per year.
- 2) It is necessary for the senior citizen to get a smart card from the corporation.
- 3) senior citizen to go to the nearest ST depot and meet station master for biometric verification.
- 4) documents required In original 'Aadhar card and election card'
- 5) working 'mobile number' for OTP
- 6) RS 50 for card RS 5 for form total 'Rs 55'. (online form available at the depot)

Timing 9am to 5pm Sunday off

Senior citizen will get the card after 30 to 45 days.

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## Write also Subsidy given to MPs MLAs is borne by the common citizens of the country

I am a senior citizen of my great country INDIA, where it is a tradition and culture to respect and regard the elders and definitely to the senior citizens.

Recently I purchased a train ticket. The applicable concession was given on the cost of train ticket. To my dismay, I noticed a remark on the ticket : "*Are you aware that 43% of your fare is borne by the common citizens of the country?*"

This is like giving a gift and then kicking by shoe on the face of the senior citizens.

I suggest Government of India to withdraw this gift, we will not mind. But will the govt give a bill to all those privileged persons who dine in the Parliament canteen with a bold print "**Are you aware that the subsidy amount of your food is borne by the common citizens of the country?**"? Also will the government please write to all MPs and MLAs and other government officials, while giving them free passes for travelling by train and aeroplane that the traveling cost is borne by the common citizens of the country? Will the government consider writing the same to all the above privileged citizens to whom so many subsidies are given in their walk of life? Will the government write to all ex-MPs, MLAs, Ministers etc the same Remark while paying them pension? There are so many issues.

However I am sure no body will post his opinion, neither the government will consider it fit to address this. This is the result of 1000 yrs of slavery in our own country.

—A Citizen

held hostage to red tape largely by an insensitive bureaucracy and an opaque political system!

The Right to Information (RTI) Act is in essence a codification of this important right of citizens. It is derived from our Fundamental Right to expression under Article 19. Any citizen therefore has the right to know from officialdom all opinions, advice, press releases, circulars, orders, logbooks, contracts, reports, papers, samples, models, data material held in any electronic form and information relating to governance. Section 4 of the RTI Act makes it mandatory for a public authority to disseminate certain information proactively. The RTI Act 2005 has enabled citizens to effectively have access to information (including records, documents, memos, e-mails).

The UPA through its commitment to the RTI gave a huge gift to the country! They failed miserably however in their ability to 'market' it and the two other rights namely the Right to Education (RTE) and the Right to Food (RTF) which they piloted and ushered in during their ten-year reign. Their inability to highlight their path-breaking achievements was a crucial factor for their massive defeat in the General Elections of 2014. The BJP on the other hand seized the RTI as an opportunity to expose corruption and other chinks of the UPA Government. Thanks to RTI, some corruption in high places was exposed and it ultimately resulted in the undoing of the UPA and particularly the Congress party.

Aruna Roy, the leader of the 'National Campaign for People's Right to Information' (NCPRI) and who has been instrumental in the passage of the RTI 2005, went hammer and tongs at the proposed amendments to the RTI and the surreptitious manner in which the Government introduced it in the Lok Sabha a few days ago. Roy categorically stated at a Press Conference in Jaipur, *"The bill proposing changes in the Right to Information Act (RTI) Act is regressive and aimed at undermining the independence of information commissions. It is a matter of grave concern that the amendments to the Right to Information Act (RTI) law were introduced in complete secrecy and in flagrant violation of the Pre-Legislative Consultation Policy of the Central government, which mandates public disclosure and consultation on draft legislation,"* She further added, *"owing to the undemocratic way of its introduction", the contents of*

*the draft amendments were not known by MPs, citizens and the media till the bill was circulated to members of the Lok Sabha on the eve of its introduction".*

For the BJP, their allies in the NDA and for the Central Government there were five significant orders passed by the Central Information Commission that would have propelled the Right to Information (Amendment) Bill 2019. Each of these orders clearly exposed the deep level of corruption that has become the DNA of the ruling party and its naked muscle to negate any challenge to their "authority". During the debate in the Rajya Sabha on the amendments it was Congress leader Jairam Ramesh who highlighted these five orders issued by the CIC. The five cases he mentioned to strengthen his arguments as to why these amendments were being brought in, were the CIC's order on disclosure of Prime Minister's educational qualification; the false claims made by the Prime Minister on bogus ration cards; the CIC's revelation on demonetisation that RBI disapproved it and the then RBI Raghuram Rajan giving the list of top NPA defaulters and value of black money brought back from abroad. Jairam was emphatic in saying, "The timing of the amendment is not so innocuous and innocent. There are five cases that have propelled the government to bring these amendments". He further alleged that the government was bringing in amendments in the Right to Information Act to take revenge on institutions as it exposes the "false claims" of the government.

Jairam also raised questions on the timing of bringing the amendments to the Bill which mandates timely response to citizen requests for government information. He said between 2003 and 2013, the then Chief Minister of Gujarat (Narendra Modi) would come to the Planning Commission and the body would ask him uncomfortable questions on the state of health and education in Gujarat. *"In 2014 the CM of Gujarat who became PM of India had his revenge and abolished the Planning Commission. Today, Prime Minister of India is taking his revenge with for these five cases,"* he said.

He went on to add that, *"These are the embarrassing cases for the government. The case about his educational qualification in Delhi Court. The Prime Minister has claimed four crore bogus ration cards were weeded out by his government whereas the RTI shows that the number of bogus rations cards was actu-*

*ally 2.3 crore. The CIC directed the Prime Minister office about the quantum of black money brought back from abroad. The PMO refused to share the details despite CIC order,"* The former union minister said that the real reason for the amendments in the Bill was to make the CIC "toothless" and to convert the information body to "Prime Minister office directed body". He also accused the government of giving misleading statements regarding its claim of strengthening the RTI Act and the CIC.

Further, Sisodia highlights what the RTI has done for democracy since it was made law in 2005 when he says poignantly, *"The wheels were turning in the direction of a deepening of democracy. The measure of progress of any democracy is the level of empowerment of ordinary citizens. When the state seeks to take away power from ordinary citizens, it is at the cost of democracy itself. The RTI movement was born out of the view that people are the masters and the government exist to serve them. For the five-year period after elections concluded, there was no mechanism to hold governments accountable. The RTI plugged this loophole. The RTI has now become the backbone of our democracy".*

Concerned citizens from all over the country and from all walks of life have been expressing their displeasure of how every facet of Indian democracy is not only being hijacked but being totally destroyed, by the BJP their allies and their ilk. Well-known RTI activist Anjali Bhardwaj tweeted, *"Sad day for democracy. The ONE law which empowers people to hold the government to account stands diluted. RTI amendment Bill passed by Parliament. We will now petition the President to return the Bill" and in a further tweet she writes, "#SaveRTI not over. Use petition in link to email President of India demanding that he not sign #RTI Amendment Bill".* It is a passionate appeal that no one who is concerned about the future of the country, should dare ignore. The ruling regime, who is just not concerned about the rights and freedom of the ordinary citizen, has just tolled another death-knell for democracy in India. We, the people of India, must wake up at least now, take a stand to #Save RTI and petition the President, before it is too late.

*\*(Fr Cedric Prakash SJ is a human rights and peace activist/writer. Contact: cedricprakash@gmail.com)*

# Does Jesus Disown His Mother?



**T**here is a very interesting and at the same time puzzling passage in the Gospels. It is about Jesus' Mother and brothers coming to meet him and his reaction. When his dear Mother Mary and his brothers come to meet him, Jesus does not seem to care for them! Instead Jesus in a way disowned them! For, he said pointing to his disciples sitting around him with rhetoric questions and a concrete answer: "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers? ... Whoever does what my Father in heaven wants him to do, is my brother, my sister, and my mother".



by Fr. Varghese Paul, SJ

All the 3 Synoptic Evangelists narrate the event of Jesus' Mother and brothers coming to meet him. (see Mt 12: 46-50; Mk 3: 31-35; & Lk 8: 19-21). The details of the narrations may differ from one to another. But one sentence specially appeals to me and it is expressed in the very same words by all the three Evangelists: Mathew, Mark & Luke. The sentence reads: "Whoever does what my Father in heaven wants him to do, is my brother and sister and mother".

Here Jesus is telling us a very, very important thing. Family relationship is very important. Kinship is usually very strong between parents and children, between the brothers and sisters; between close relatives. But kinship is not everything. There could be equally strong or even stronger relationship beyond kinship and family relationship.

Jesus is calling our attention to a kinship or relationship beyond the family bond. People are ready to give their lives to save the life of a friend with whom he/she has no kinship. There have been instances in history that saintly people like Fr Macmillan in Nazi concentration camp gave his life in the place of a family man.

There is a story of two soldiers who were very good friends. In the war front one of them fell down mor-

tally wounded. The captain decided to withdraw his troops from the war front for the safety of his soldiers saying that the mortally wounded soldier may be dead already. But the friend of the wounded soldier risking his own life went back and amidst firing of rockets crawled and dragged the wounded soldier to a safe bunker. The wounded soldier said to his friends, "I knew you would come to save me!"

Indeed the two friends shared a bond, a relationship, much stronger than kinship! Jesus is speaking about such strong relationship.

Jesus is precisely telling about such deep bonds when he tells pointing to his disciples, crowded round him in a big circle: "Whoever does what my Father in heaven wants him to do is

my brother and sister and mother". Here Jesus tells us what is real, true kinship, which is ever deeper than family bonds. Biblical scholar William Barclay commending on this passage of the Gospel points out 4 characteristics of deep relationship beyond kinship, family bond.

- 1) True kinship lies in common experience
- 2) True kinship lies in common interest
- 3) True kinship lies in common obedience and
- 4) True kinship lies in common goal

First, Common Experience: Young people in the same profession or enterprise struggle at the beginning to get to the top. They help each other, share both their joys and sufferings; their difficulties and problems and above all support each other. And then later years they recall such experiences with nostalgia as good friends do.

In para-Olympics games there was a race for the differently able children. One child practiced a lot to participate in the race. When the whistle blew the children started to run. A few meters on the race that particular child's legs

began to go different directions and he fell down. The other boys seeing their companion fallen all came back took the boy by hand and they all hand in hand reached the finishing line together! They all won the first prize! Christians have to common experience of being forgiven sinners through the sacrament of reconciliation.

Second, Common Interest: Religious Sister, Brothers & Priests all have the common interest of proclaiming Jesus in what they are and in what they do. In any one congregation, the members have particular interest according to the charisma of their congregation. So they have a deep bond among themselves than with those outside their congregation.

Third, Common Obedience: Jesus chose 12 simple, ordinary people as his disciples. But they were an extra-ordinary mixture! There was Mathew, a tax collector, who was serving the Romans in power in Palestine and hence he and all tax collectors were hated as sinners and enemies of the Jewish people. Then, there was Simon the Zealot, the freedom fighter. He belonged to the fourth group of Zealots after the Pharisees, Scribes and Essens. As freedom fighters Zealots were ready to kill the enemies and sacrifice their own lives.

If Simon and Mathew had met outside the circle of Jesus, Simon could have put a dagger into the side of Mathew! But now both have accepted Jesus as their Lord and Master and they have pledge their obedience to Jesus who has said, "You are my friends, if you do what I command

(Contd.. on p. 18)

# Making Life's Choices

In a school bag, the Rough Book will have the worst condition because it bears the load and responsibilities of all other subjects.

Only because of the presence of Rough Book.....

Fair Books of all subjects are found very neat and tidy, well maintained and decorated.

In our family also...

Because of presence of one rough book, who bears responsibilities for many subjects, individual fair books are enjoying their convenience.

Hats Off... to this rough book...

Who is the rough book in your family? Have you ever acknowledged their presence? Please do it before the rough book gets over.

Every single day, every single hour, every single minute we spend require decision making. Every minute thing in our lives involves decision making. It could be passive as a routine or thoughtful which may directly or indirectly impact our decision.

The simplest decisions you take, like clothes or choice of beverage in a cafe, do have a huge impact on the rest of your day. The point is every decision you make no matter how small it is, is very important. But, the major decision making you may ever encounter, are the ones related to your life.

Things like buying a house, studying for Masters, and getting married. I call those: The Life Changing Decisions. Once you take one of those, you're whole life will take a whole new different turn. Regardless of it being good or bad, but the fact will remain that things are going to be different.

People often say that they find it hard to make decisions. Unfortunately we all have to make decisions all the time. So let us all gather the courage to make a decision no matter what the outcome is and have the courage to leap.

A typical Indian mother went to visit her son working in the US. On arrival at his flat (Sorry apartment), she was shown her bedroom and was made comfortable.

At the dinner table she was surprised to see a very pretty Indian girl sharing her meal. She felt a bit mystified but held her peace. Her son introduced the girl properly, said she was sharing the apartment and the food was cooked by her. The food was delicious and the girl was

friendly and a good conversationalist.

The Indian mother felt a little mollified but was still uneasy. She could not sleep very well that night.

The next morning she cornered her son and demanded an explanation.

The son assured her that it was quite commonplace in the US for men and women to share an apartment: the girl had her own bedroom, and they had nothing funny going on between them.

Hmm... if you think this satisfied the Indian mother, you have another thing coming?!!

Her visit went off well and during that period, she also got quite close to the girl and liked her immensely.

Anyway at the end of her stay, just before she left, they had a diner in her honour. The girl laid out some silverware and outdid herself in the culinary department. The mother left the next

morning.

A month after that, she got a mail from the son saying, "Mother, there is something delicate I wish to mention to you. You remember the farewell dinner we had with you? And Sheila laid out some lovely silverware? There is a silver plate missing from that set, and we cannot find it anywhere. It was a gift from Sheila's mother and Sheila is a bit upset. Now, I am not saying you took it and I am saying you did not take it but I am just asking if you know anything about it.

His mother replied, "Son, tch, tch... what a suspicious mind you have! You gave me an explanation about Sheila's presence in your apartment. Now, I am not saying you are both "living" together. All I am saying is, if Sheila had been sleeping in her own bed, she would have found the silver plate under her pillow by now!!"

Don't ever mess around with your mother. Don't think you are smart!

As Doe Zantamata says - "Decisions, we can think about things, turn them over in our minds a million times, play out possible scenarios, but really when it comes down to it, you have to go with your heart and move forward. Maybe things will go well. Maybe they will turn out poorly. Every decision brings with it some good, some bad, some lessons, and some luck. The only thing that is for sure is that indecision steals many years from many people who wind up wishing they just had the courage to leap."

*Deanne Aguiar is a Bangaluru based practicing psychologist*



by Deanne Aguiar

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# Sorry Can't Make a Dead Man Alive

All of us at one point of time might have felt and do continue to feel that childhood was the best part of life. As we grow physically and as we progress in age so does our egos, pride and self-centeredness.

Most of us tend to forget the innocence, the fun, laughter and most importantly the concept of letting go.

Teenage they say is the most difficult phase in one's life, there seems to be confusion, a search for identity and moreover an urge for freedom. Most of the people I meet often complain that the teenagers today are unreasonable and they began comparing to their days. Well I beg to differ has I strongly feel though today's teenagers are rather difficult yet they are more broadminded and their attitude on certain issues of life is something which we have to follow.

One day as usual after finishing my work, I boarded the bus to return back home, usually the journey takes me about half an hour. I spend this time peeping out of the window if I manage to get a seat or else most of the time I just wait when someone would get up and I could grab the seat.

On that particular day I wasn't in my best of moods since I had a tiff with one of the persons close to me, we both were not in talking terms. Initially there were a little arguments and tears but as time flew it was getting back to normal, only difference was we weren't talking. Being close for quite some time and sharing some wonderful memories together, this silence had killed both of us. I was hurt, I wanted to sort out the issue but I dint know what I could do.

I did not want to initiate has it would hurt my ego. I waited that she would confront me, neither did she has she was even more egoistic than me. This situation had put me in dilemma, with

the same confusion I began to see out of the window blankly.

Just then I happened to overhear the conversation of two young college girls who were seated just behind me. Usually the bus is filled with college students and it is more of screams, discussions about any teacher, movies or dress etc. In a way I was bored of all these talks and when the noise would increase, I would just prefer to plug-in my earphones and look away.



by Sonal Lobo

But there was something unusual about this conversation that tempted me to listen. Hearing their conversation, it was obvious that they both had fought and were talking out to resolve the issue. One girl among the two of them seemed to

be very fussy and unwilling to give in, she was continuously abusing and simply asking how you could do this, you betrayed me, you were my best friend I did not expect this etc. To this the other girl did not to reply, she was very quiet and seemed to give no justification or explanation. She only quietly said I am sorry; please forgive me lets be the same again, immediately the other one angrily responded, sorry cannot bring the dead man alive. Listening to this sentence I vaguely recalled the memories of my childhood were most of us has kids had used this phrase to show our frustration and anger. Now I was eager to know what the other girl would reply; I was in a hurry since I had to get down in the coming stop. Like watching a movie and reaching the point of climax I was all ears. Finally, the other girl quietly said I know my sorry cannot bring the dead man alive but it can definitely bring to life your love and friendship for me which has died. I was awestruck at her matured reply. My stop arrived and once before getting down I turned and looked at that girl who barely was aged about 16 or 17, she looked plain and simple but the calmness and the patience she

exhibited left me speechless.

I don't know what had happened later one, I don't know even to this day if they were still friends or they had parted ways but this conversation of the girls definitely taught me so many things.

Having fought and almost in the verge of losing a precious friendship I decided it was time to initiate and ask sorry. I dint know what would be the outcome, whether we would reconcile, whether we would be same again the outcome was uncertain but I knew deep down that I would be happy that I had taken efforts to mend what was broken and I had given my best.

That very night after the dinner, mustering lots of courage I finally took my phone and typed the most difficult message, "I am so sorry, please forgive me if I have hurt you". I typed this line and I sent the message to my happiness immediately I get a reply back its ok, even I am sorry, let us be the same again.

Seeing this message, I jumped in joy, just a simple sorry had bought us back together. I was so thankful to those girls; their conversation had taught me the importance of saying sorry genuinely.

How many of us in our lives have lost precious relationships just because of our egos? How many of us are not willing to forgive and forget, trust me, saying sorry may or may not heal your relationship but at the end it will heal you. The guilt the shame the helplessness will all vanish away because you know at the end you have tried your best and that is all that matters.

If you wish to reconcile with someone today, just drop in sorry you never know the other person also may be in dilemma like you waiting to reconcile. Let us forget what had happen and let us look forward to what should begin afresh.

*Sonal Lobo, is a  
Bangalore based writer*

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May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored. Glorified Loved and Preserved throughout the World. Sacred Heart of Jesus thy kingdom Come.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us. St.

Jude worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude the helpers of the Hopeless cases, pray for us.

*Say this prayer nine times for nine days and Your prayers will be answered by the eight day.*

—Paskal V. D'Souza, Mangalore

## Prayer & Thanksgiving Prayer to the Sacred Heart



Oh Lord Jesus Christ, to Your most Sacred Heart I confide this intention (your request). Only look upon me, then do what your love inspires. Let your Sacred Heart decide ... I count on You ... I trust in You ... I throw myself on your mercy. Lord Jesus, You will not fail me.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, I trust in you.  
Sacred Heart of Jesus, I believe in your love for me.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, Your kingdom come.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, I have asked you for many favours, but I earnestly implore this one. Take it, place it in your open Heart. When the Eternal Father looks upon it, he will see it covered with your Precious Blood. It will be no longer my prayer, but yours, Jesus. Sacred Heart of Jesus. I place all my trust in You, Let me not be disappointed. Amen.

—A. V. S.



## Brinjal Masala

**Required:** ½ kg. small round brinjals; 2 big onions, chopped ½ coconut grated; 1 tbsp. urad dal; 3 kashmiri red chillies; 3 tbsps. coriander leaves, chopped; 1 tbsp. coriander seeds; ½ tsp. fenugreek seeds; 3 cloves; 2.5cms cinnamon; 1 lime size ball tamarind; salt to taste.

**For the seasoning :** 1 tsp, mustard seeds; a pinch of asafoetida; and 1 spring curry leaves.

**Method :** Slit the brinjals lengthwise, keeping the stalks intact, and keep them in salted water for ½ an hour. In a tbsp. of oil, fry the onions till golden brown and keep aside. Then fry urad dal, coriander seeds, and fenugreek seeds. Grind the fried ingredients coarsely with the coconut, cloves, cinnamon, red chillies and tamarind. Remove brinjals from water and stuff them with the ground masala. In a little oil, fry the stuffed brinjals till cooked and slightly crisp. Season with mustard seeds, asafoetida and curry leaves. Garnish with fried onions and coriander leaves. Serve hot with parathas.

### Some Useful Kitchen Tips

- Keep your wooden mixing board free grease by rubbing it over with half a lemon.
- Keep your rolling pin inside the refrigerator to prevent pastry from sticking.
- A round bottle can be used as a convenient substitute for a rolling pin in an emergency.
- Rub a new wooden cutting board with linseed oil so stains won't penetrate and the board will be easy to clean. Use the oil sparingly.
- To get rid of onion or garlic or flesh smell on cutting board, rub the surface with cut sides of lime, squeeze as you rub. Works for hands too.
- While wiping the dining table after meals, put a little salt on the damp cloth. This prevents files sitting on the table.
- A straight rolling-pin (belan) is easier to control and has more rolling surface than the usual loose-handle type hence it is better for pastry-rolling.
- When your metal tea strainer gets clogged, hold it over a flame. All the dried tea dust will soon start burning. Next, gently tap the strainer and you will find it clean and useful again.

# Down The Years ... Between The Ears

(Contd.. from last issue)

②

In that era when there were no computers, email, mobiles, WhatsApp or other forms of electronic communication, Vellara kept banging away at his manual typewriter with heart and soul, hearth and home. Our monthly magazine Vishal Jagruti was also published by him without fail. Former AICU Treasurer David Lobo had once said "Communication is the lifeline of an organization". Vellara lived that to the hilt. Menezes and I were indeed privileged to have him as our Secretary General.

Another major change that I had affected was to choose our own Ecclesiastical Advisor, as provided for in Canon Law. Normally, the CBCI would appoint a bishop, who had no time to attend our meetings. So I chose Msgr Lucio da Veiga Coutinho, the Delhi based Dy Sec General of the CBCI. It was a good working relationship. At the very first Working Committee meeting that he attended he remarked that the CBCI should learn from the AICU how to conduct meetings!

## BAPTISM BY FIRE:

I had little time to settle in to office. Two important events overtook us – the rape of three nuns in Gajraula, not far from Delhi, and the proposed all India dalit rally. George Fernandes was then a Union Minister. Menezes fixed an appointment and the entire Working Committee went to seek his intervention in the matter. A remark of his did cut to the quick. He asked "Why do you protest only when nuns are raped? What about so many other poor women who are raped everyday?"

I was fortunate to have two Members of Parliament as my Vice Presidents – Paul Mantosh of the ruling Janata Dal, and Peter Marbaniang of the opposition Congress. Together with Paul and Lennie Gonsalves, our Secretary for Women's Welfare, we visited Gajraula and met the U.P. minister and the Director General of Police.

Subsequently Coutinho called me urgently back to Delhi to lead a protest march from the Boat Club Lawns to the Prime Minister's residence. V.P. Singh left a cabinet meeting that was then in progress to meet us. He immediately called up Mulayam Singh Yadav, the U.P. Chief Minister, on the hotline and

## All India Catholic Union (AICU) celebrates its centenary in 2019

ordered immediate action. I was to meet the P.M. three times that month – the 2nd, 11th and 17th August 1990. On the 11th we had a meeting of Minority community leaders at Parliament Annexe. Paul had arranged for me to attend. At that meeting Ram Vilas Paswan, the Welfare Minister, introduced us to the P.M. as a force to reckon with.



by chhotebhai \*

This is because we had earlier presented him with 5 lakh signatures collected by Antony Ambat in Kerala in support of Latin Catholics being classified as Other Backward Classes under the Mandal Commission. As a rule, whenever we met Govt functionaries, we always took a strong delegation, if

not the entire Working Committee. In a democracy numbers count, and we used that to telling effect.

On the day that we had met the P.M. about Gajraula, Lennie had given a clarification call for an all India protest bandh. It was the first time in India that all Catholic institutions in India remained closed on a call given by the laity.

## DALIT RALLY:

We had just three weeks between our Delhi meeting, Gajraula and the rally on 17th August at the Boat Club Lawns. It was initiated by Prof Saral Chatterji and leaders of sister churches. However, because of his frail health, Chatterji asked me to lead the rally of about 130,000 persons from across the country. It was the biggest ever Christian show of strength in the capital. When we met the P.M. in his chamber in parliament during

the lunch recess I said to him in chaste Hindi (his ears pricked up) that we had waited 40 years for justice for the Dalit Christians. Singh said that he fully empathised with us, but his Govt was dependent on the outside support of the BJP, and if he acceded to our request his Govt would fall the very next day. That, I believe, is the closest that we ever got to getting justice for the Dalit Christians.

## CHRISTMAS SATYAGRAH:

At that rally I had declared that if we did not get justice we would not celebrate Christmas socially that year. Churches would not be lit up nor celebrations held, and the savings would be given for the Dalit Christian cause. I myself fasted for 7 days in the cold Delhi winter before Christmas that year, for this and other just causes. Posters were printed and distributed all over the country. The CBCI and several dioceses supported our initiative.

## CENSUS 1991:

The coming year was again a challenging one for us. It began with the national census. We felt that several Christians did not enumerate themselves as Christians out of fear. So we issued guidelines to all the units and backed it with a media blitz to create awareness about the need for standing up and being counted, quite literally.

## GENERAL ELECTIONS 1991:

Here again we had a major awareness campaign and several political parties included some of our demands for Dalit Christians, Christian Personal Laws and places of worship in their respective manifestoes. We held a seminar in Delhi attended by senior representatives of major political parties. Several units followed suit.

## CHRISTIAN PERSONAL LAWS:

Reform of Christian Personal Laws was also part of my election manifesto. We took it up in a methodical manner. Josanthony Joseph had prepared a detailed questionnaire since many people did not know the fine print. This again

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was circulated to all the units with the request to discuss the issues and send us their considered opinions. This survey held us in good stead later when taking on the obduracy of the CBCI.

For those who came in late, this refers to the laws pertaining to Marriage, Divorce, Succession and Adoption. They were archaic, gender discriminatory or just non-existent. The Indian Divorce Act was passed in 1869 and the Indian Christian Marriage Act actually came three years later in 1872! These British era laws favoured British males who married Indian women; and also had different provisions for various churches that then existed. If the circumstances have changed so should the laws. As for adoption, though Christian institutions cared for the maximum number of orphans, Christians did not have the legal right to adopt.

Our Secretary, Legal Affairs, Adv Jose Chiramel of the Supreme Court, prepared a detailed study of the changes required. We met Sri M.M. Jacob, Minister of State for Home, several times in this regard. But the CBCI would oppose our suggestions stating that divorce was against the teachings of the church. Finally Bp Bosco Penha took the initiative to call a joint meeting of all the stakeholders. The CBCI relented when we said that we were only referring to the civil effects of divorce. In course of time all these demands were met, but not by the Congress Govt.

#### **ST STEPHEN'S CASE:**

A burning issue that arose was the St Stephen's College judgment by the Supreme Court. It came to be known as the Fifty Percent Judgment. The mighty Catholic institutions felt threatened. I was asked to address a seminar on the issue in Mangalore. Thereafter we prepared a detailed paper that was printed and circulated to all our units. We also filed a revision petition in the Supreme Court, prepared by Chiramel. Unfortunately, despite hiring Ashok Sen, the former Law Minister, as our counsel, our petition was not entertained.

#### **DALIT STATUS:**

We commissioned a study on the status

of Dalit Christians in Tamilnadu in order to strengthen our case for their rights. However, I was not prepared to "prove" to the Supreme Court that they experienced untouchability in the church community. The remedy seemed worse than the disease.

#### **KONKAN RAILWAY:**

This was the biggest post-Independence railway project that would benefit millions living along the southwest coast. Two senior Catholic bureaucrats, including one in the P.M.'s office, called me to Delhi to ask the AICU to oppose the project on the rather specious plea that it would endanger some historic churches in Old Goa. I declined to play ball on two grounds. Firstly, I felt that the AICU was in no position to determine the cost to benefit ratio, socially, economically or environmentally. Secondly, opposing it on purely religious grounds would have been playing the communal card.

#### **SPECIFIC ISSUES:**

Other than matters of national import, we did not shy away from addressing local issues of perceived injustice that were brought to our notice in writing. We took them up with the concerned authorities. Some of these were the new naval base at Karwar, a cemetery in Jamnagar to which the army was denying access, the termination of two employees from a prestigious school in Kolkata, the Salvation Church, Dadar, Mumbai case before the Charity Commissioner etc.

#### **PLATINUM JUBILEE:**

The climax of my tenure was the celebration of the Platinum Jubilee in Mumbai in 1994. The theme of the celebrations was "Towards an Adult Church". The articles presented in the Jubilee Souvenir are gems of wisdom. Sample this prophecy from George Menezes. "The BJP will come to power and the church will be tempted to toe the Govt line to protect its position and institutions, as it did in Nazi Germany, and recently in Iran". Would that we heeded past warnings!

What standing AICU had in 1994 may be gauged by the galaxy of dignitaries/speakers at the event – Cardinal Simon Pimenta, Union Ministers P.A. Sangma

and M.M. Jacob, Dr Najma Heptullah, Dy Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha, Dr Rafique Zakaria, noted Islamic scholar, Teesta Seetalvad, champion of Human Rights, and Julio Ribeiro, former Ambassador and Director General of Police.

#### **INTERNATIONAL SCENE:**

The President of the International Council of Catholic Men (Unum Omnes) attended our Platinum Jubilee celebrations and was so impressed that he invited us for its next meeting in Vienna, Austria. George Menezes, the Immediate Past President, myself the incumbent, and Peter Marbaniang, the incoming President, all attended. The meeting was an eye opener. There were delegates from several countries, but they mostly represented elitist organizations like the Knights of Columbus or Knights of Malta. I did not come across an autonomous, representative national body like the AICU. Was the AICU then unique not just to India, but to the universal church? If so it is a matter of legitimate pride.

In that meeting I had proposed that this should not be an all male preserve and women should also be admitted. This was shot down by the so-called "developed" countries like the USA, UK and France.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

There is much for the AICU to be legitimately proud of as it celebrates its centenary. Yet we cannot rest on our laurels, for there are miles to go before we sleep. No doubt later NPs and other office bearers have contributed immensely to the AICU in unique ways. We should salute all of them. If I have missed out on some important figures in my narrative for the period under review I hope to be excused, as any such exclusion is purely inadvertent. I have had to rely entirely on my fading memory to compile this chronicle.

As it celebrates its centenary the AICU also needs to ask itself if indeed it has moved towards becoming an Adult Church as envisaged by the Second Vatican Council 54 years ago? May God abundantly bless all the past, present and future members of this august body.



# Inspiration!

## Relation insights everyone must know

*"Treasure your relationships not your Possessions.*

*—Anthony J S'Angelo (Author)*

**HUMANS ARE SOCIAL creatures and there is rarely a person who can live in total isolation. However, sometimes our relationships create many difficulties in our lives but you can avoid this situation if you understand some important things about the relationships that we create and maintain. Having said that, connecting with someone romantically, emotionally or even spirituality can be really amazing but there's a lot of work that goes into building a good relationship. Read on to learn a few insights that will save you a lot of pain in relationships of all kinds.**

**E**very relationship is unique and people come together for many different reasons. Part of what defines a healthy relationship is sharing a common goal for exactly what you want the relationship to be and where you want it to go. However, there are also some aspects and characteristics that most healthy relationships have in common. Moreover, when it comes to an individual it is very important that one assess the ups and downs, hurts and pains well in advance and has a clear mind-set to carry forward relationships of all kinds. It therefore becomes imperative to know of a few insight that will help you lead and maintain relationships without any worry or heart breaks

### **Every person brings in a lesson :**

People can come into our lives for a day, a week, a month, a year and of course more but each one is as significant as the other. Thank every person who came into your life, even if they caused you pain. After all, it's impossible to escape the truth that there are painful lessons in life and it is precisely these lessons that change

us the most. So, remember that every person brings with him a gift and your job is to unwrap it to find out what it is, regardless of if the wrapping is pretty or not.

### **View and outlook will always vary :**

We always see life from our point of view and not as it really is. There is no objective truth when it comes to people and the things they feel or think. Of course, there are things that are facts that can't be disputed but our perspective from where we are affects our ability to process such information neutrally. We always complicate life by seeing it through our own personal lens, which includes our past experiences and beliefs. If we have enough courage to remove the lens through which we look at the given situation, we may discover something worth seeing that we've not yet considered.

### **There is mostly a differences of opinion :**

You may be willing to do more for others than they are willing to do for you: Other people can surprise us, for better or worse and as long as we have expectations, they are bound to disappoint. So never do things for others just because you think they'll do the same back, rather do it because you just want to give yourself. If you expect to be rewarded, you aren't truly being kind. Just be who you are, without thinking about what you'll get in exchange and see how happy giving will make you.

### **Others are fighting their battles :**

Remember this fact because will help you to be patient, courteous, empathic and less judgmental. Life is hard for everyone and everyone has days that weigh harder on them. We may not always be able to show our best selves because, in the end, we are all human

beings. Try to notice what is happening to the people around you and even if you can't see what's bringing them down, remember that they might be struggling with difficulties that you

wouldn't be able to imagine because you haven't experienced them yourself.

### **Relationships require a lot of effort :**

Don't assume that just because someone has been in your life for years that they'll be there forever. Every human interaction requires effort, attention and concern and if you love someone else, you won't be afraid to show them these things. Spend time with the people you want to stay in your life and do your best to show them that they are important to you. Be with them in the good times and the bad times, celebrate your relationship together and thank them every day in one way or another.

### **Cut the drama in your life :**

No one has a store of inexhaustible energy, especially when we go through difficult experiences and periods in our lives. Which is why you have to save your energy for your goals and desires and generally - for the things that make you happy. You don't have to participate in any drama surrounding you, be it an argument in the family or political discussion at work, you simply need to refuse to take part. If you feel that you've been sucked into someone else's drama, take a step back and detach yourself from the situation.

### **THE CONSEQUENCES OF FEELING HURT**

Being overly sensitive to other people's feelings, actions and opinions can often put a significant strain on your relationships. In fact, your hurt feelings can pile up over time, which can ultimately lead to resentment, then anger, then sadness and finally a deep state of depression. Moreover, it will lead you to hold onto grudges, to seek revenge, to lose all faith and trust in people and to wallow in cynicism and self-pity.

## Car and the wife

If a man opens the car door for his wife, you can be sure of one thing either the car is new or the wife is.

•  
First the problem was you vote for any party the EVM vote for any party the Elected MLA goes to the BJP

•  
**Rita :** Why are Italian so good at making coffee?

**Dunita :** Because they know how to express themselves.

\*\*\*\*\*

•  
**Teacher :** John is climbing a tree to pick some mangoes. (Begin the sentence with mangoes)

**Student :** Mangoes, john is coming to pick you.

•  
A tailor master had just entered the bus when his phone rang. He took the call and instructed his assistant "*Tu haath kaat ke rakh, galaa main aakar katunga:*". Entire bus got empty at the next stop.

•  
**Son:** What's the difference between love and marriage?

**Father :** Love is blind. Marriage is an eye opener.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Federer :** India is world's largest market for tennis ball and rackets.

**Sachin :** Yes we love tennis but cricket is our first love.

**Federer :** You people play cricket with tennis balls?

**Sachin :** Yes



**Federer :** Then what do you do with tennis rackets?

**Sachin :** We connect batteries to it and kill mosquitoes.

## Secret agent Murphy

A secret agent was sent to Ireland to pick up sensitive information from an agent called Murphy. His instruction were to walk around town using a code phrase until he met his fellow agent. He found himself on a desolate country road and finally ran into a farmer. "Hello," said the agent, "I'm looking for a man called Murphy". "Well you're in luck," said the farmer. "As it happens, there's a village right over the hill where a butcher is called Murphy, the baker is named Murphy. In fact, my name is Murphy" "Aha," thought the agent, "here's my man." So he whispered the secret code "The sun is shining.... the grass is growing.... the cows are ready for milking." "Oh," said the farmer, "you are looking for Murphy the spy. He's in the village over the other direction."

\*\*\*\*\*

A stranger enters a store and spots a sign :

### DANGER BEWARE OF DOG!

Inside, he sees a harmless old hound asleep on the floor, "Is that the dog we're supposed to be aware of ?" he asks the owner.

"That's him," comes the reply.

"He doesn't look at all dangerous to me. Why would you post that sign?" "Before I posted that sign, people kept tripping over him."

\*\*\*\*\*

Out of gift ideas, a man buys his mother-in-law a large plot in an expensive cemetery.

On her next birthday, he buys her nothing, so she phones him, furious.

"What are you complaining about?" he fires back.

"You still haven't used the present I gave you last year."

\*\*\*\*\*

A woman walked up to an elderly man rocking in a chair on his porch. "I couldn't help noticing how happy you look," she said. "What's your secret a long happy life?" "I smoke three packs if cigarettes a day." he said. "I also drink a case of whiskey a week, eat fatty foods and never exercise." "That's amazing," the woman said. "How old are you?" "Thirty-six."

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you". William Barclay says, "There is no way of showing the reality of love unless by the spirit of obedience".

Fourth, Common Goal: The soldiers are trained to love their country and fight the enemy even at the cost of their lives. The soldiers may come from different background of castes, races, religions, cultures and languages. But their goal is concerned, the aim of their lives is concerned, they are a very united lot as if they have one mind and one heart! This is the secular world. But Jesus is speaking about the kingdom of God where "Whoever does what my Father in heaven wants him to do is my brother and sister and mother".

Let us come back to the Gospel passage. Mother Mary has a deep kinship with Jesus. Their close and intimate relationship is as Mother and Son. But as we can see, their relationship is not limited to family kinship but goes much beyond it. So Mother Mary understands well when Jesus says, "Whoever does what my Father in heaven wants him to do is my brother and sister and mother". Mother Mary has shown herself far excellent in doing God, the Father's will from the moment she said at the annunciation her "fiat", "I am the Lord's servant, may it happen to me as you have said" (Lk 1: 38).

Mother Mary is doubly related to Jesus, first, as Jesus' Mother and second, as a disciple sharing intimately in the mission of Jesus.

# Royal Christian Family MATRIMONIALS - @GROOMS

**7077. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in March 1987), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Manager. Contact email : leroy.fernandes@oyorooms.com

**6930. GOA :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in August 1979), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. SCC and Diploma in Electrical, Electrical Contractor. Contact email : cajetan1208@gmail.com

**6904. MUMBAI :** Converted Roman Catholic issueless Divorcee, (Born in April 1971), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 76 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., MBA, working as a Territory Manager. Contact email : sudeeptalukdar2003@gmail.com

**6982. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in September 1989), Ht. 172 cms, Wt. 68 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. C.A., working as a C.A., Contact email : jpereiranirrh@gmail.com

**6981. MANGALORE :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in February 1992), Ht. 187 cms, Wt. 90 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., in nautical Science, working as a 3rd Officer in Cruise Lines. Contact email : rodriguessamuel6@gmail.com

**6817. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in January 1989), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 75 kgs, Tan Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., B.I.S., working as a Sr. Software Engineer. Contact email : fernandesmelwyn08@gmail.com

**6815 MANGALORE :** Mangalorean RC Bachelor, (Born in January 1971),

**7034. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in June 1988), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 80 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.C.A., Software Engineer, working as an Asst. Manager IT Company, Contact email : vivian1548@gmail.com

Ht. 5' 7", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. PUC Diploma in Civil Engg., having own business, Contact email : wilmamenz@hotmail.com

**6813 USA :** Mangalorean Protestant Divorcee, (Born in March 1951), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. Medium, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBBS., MD., Doctor by profession. Contact email : fh2@mail.com

**6805 ABUDHABI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in February 1984), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. 12th std., + correspond B.Com., studied in Mumbai, working in Bank as Recovery Officer. Contact email : pawan.sana@gmail.com

**6847. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in April 1973), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 75 kgs, Tan Complexion, Edn. SSC, Having own business. Contact Mob: 9833176215

**6830. BAHRAIN :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in February 1988), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 97 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA, Marketing Professional in Public Sector. Contact email : rolsonvaz@gmail.com

**6829. AUSTRALIA :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Divorcee, (Born in March 1978), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Customer Support. Contact email : arthur.fernandes@live.com

**6828. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in June 1983), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 81 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Diploma in Electrical / Tele., working as a Site Engineer in Airport. Contact email : anthonylobo1983@yahoo.com

**6924. MUMBAI :** Mumbai born and broughtup Roman Catholic Keralite Bachelor, (Born in September 1984), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 72 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Sc. (I.T.), working as a Sr. Software Engineer in Foreign Bank. Contact email : dianamanuel320@gmail.com

**7028. ABUDHABI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in September 1985), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Diploma in Mechanical Engineer, working as a Stores Officer in Shipping

Company. Contact email : pjmpraveen@gmail.com

**7026. AMERICA :** Goan Roman Catholic Divorcee, (Born in March 1977), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 72 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Manager. Contact email : aydenoneil@gmail.com

**7025. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in May 1992), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 56 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E. (IT), working as a Software Developer. Contact email : kevin92ster@gmail.com

**6845. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in November 1982), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 67 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., working as a Internet Manager. Contact email : dsilvaahimsa@gmail.com

**6857. AUSTRALIA :** Mumbai born and broughtup Tamilian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in July 1988), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., IHM., Working as a Store Associate in **Australia** and is a permanent resident. Contact email : simonsigo31@gmail.com

**6751 MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in December 1990), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc. (Hospitality), working in UK Cruise Line. Contact email : asharcfernandes@gmail.com

**6750 AUSTRALIA :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1985), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Bachelor in Communication, working as a Media Analyst. Contact email : artemiamaria@gmail.com

**6746 MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in April 1987), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 78 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA / BE, Working as a Asst. Manager. Contact email : nestortauro@rediffmail.com.

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**6798 MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in November 1987), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 74 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. BE, working as a 2nd Engineer in Foreign Ship. Well settled, handsome, simple and humble. Contact email : marialewis198@gmail.com

**6793 MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in November 1987), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 85 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA., PG in taxation law, well employed. Contact email : linet.noronha06@gmail.com

**6789 MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in December 1989), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 81 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA in Human Resources, working as a Deputy Manager in Bank. Contact email : rego909@gmail.com

**6788 MUMBAI :** East Indian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in May 1987), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Diploma in Industrial Electronics, BAMAC., Having own business. Contact email : info@icmtraining.in

**6787 MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in August 1986), Ht. 6' 1", Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. 12th Std., born, broughtup, worked in Bahrain, currently settled and working in Mumbai. Contact email : schinderfernandes1986@gmail.com

**6786 MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in May 1981), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. BA working as a Sales Associate. Contact email :

saviortorres56@gmail.com

**6784 MUMBAI :** Roman Catholic Divorcee, (Born in April 1982), Ht. 6', Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA working as a Accountant. Contact email : getaustin@gmail.com

**6783 MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in June 1983), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Edn. H.S.C. working as a Dept. Manager. Contact email: faugustine992@gmail.com

**6781 MANGALORE :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in January 1989), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complex ion, Edn. MBA (Finance) working as a Corporate Officer. Contact email :

sudeshmascarenhas@gmail.com

**6778 USA :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in December 1989), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 65 kgs, Very fair Complexion, Edn. B.E. Electronics / Telecom Engineering, M.S. in USA, working as an Engineer. Contact email : jenniferdmello@gmail.com

**6777 MUMBAI :** Wanted Bride (Spinster, widow or Divorcee) Mangalorean or Keralite christian for a Bachelor Mangalorean R.C., Ht. 5' 9", Age 49 years (Born in April 1968), Own Business, own house in Mumbai & Mangalore. Girl should be min. HSC, Ht. above 5' 5". Contact email :

patberin@yahoo.com OR

Mob: 09322156322

**6773 MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in April 1989), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 76 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc. (I.T.), working as a Information Security Analyst, Contact email :

conyderic.andrade@gmail.com

**6771 CANADA :** Bombay born, broughtup and educated Kerlaite Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1987), Ht. 180 cms, Wt. 75

kgs, Fair Complexion, Handsome, Edn. B. Tech Computer Engineering, working as a Software Engineer. Permanent Resident Canada. Seeks a well educated girl from Canada, U.S. Or Mumbai. Good looking, ready to settle in Canada. Keralite / Mangalorean / South Indian. Contact email : anthony99ignatius@gmail.com.

**6768 MANGALORE :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Divorcee, (Born in August 1975), Ht. 174 cms, Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. HSC + 2 years Mechanical, working on Cruise Line. Contact email :

roshanpilar@gmail.com

**6766 MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in August 1973), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 68 kgs, Tan Complexion, Edn. SSC, working as a Mech. Fitter in Private Limited Company. Having own accommodation. Contact email :

maxielobo1973@gmail.com

**6764 MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in November 1977), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 76 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA PGDM, working as an Asst. Vice President. Contact email : shamlcoutinho@gmail.com

**6763 MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in May 1978), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. HSC, working as a Captain. Contact email :

harrydsilva3@gmail.com

**6756 MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in December 1977), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 78 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. 12th std. (HSC), working as an Admin. Assistnat in DUBAI. Contact email :

charlotteirani@yahoo.com

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**7074. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in January 1985), 5' 2", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.D.S., (Mumbai), Self Practising. Seeks a well settled qualified Or Professional bachelor. Contact : email : dabfern@yahoo.co.in

**7065. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1989), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 69 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Sc., & Dip. in Clinical Research, working as Business Process Lead in TCS. Contact email : mendonca\_luke@yahoo.co.in

**6985. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Divorcee, (Born in November 1984), Ht. 157 cms, Wt. 68 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Customer Support. Contact email : jokina10@rediffmail.com

**6901. DUBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic spinster, (Born in October 1993), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 63 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com + IATA, Working as a Asst. Office Administor, Contact email : rishalalbuquerque@yahoo.com

**6861. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1991), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., PG Banking & Finance, working as a Clerk in Bank. Contact email : michaelfernandes59@gmail.com

**6860. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1991), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.M.M. (Mass Media), working for IT in MNC. Contact email : lgp1891@gmail.com

**6859. KUWAIT :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in August 1986), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Sc., in Physiotherapy (Orthopedics), U.K. working in Kuwait. Contact email : nisha\_sequeira@hotmail.com

**6858. BHOPAL :** Mangalorean Ro-

man Catholic Spinster, (Born in March 1993), Ht. 5' 1", Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E. Computer Science and MBA in HRM working in Bangalore. Contact email : godwinsvd@gmail.com

**6822. KUWAIT :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in November 1982), Ht. 5' 4", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc. Post Graduate in Mumbai University, Teacher in Kuwait. Contact email : pereiralucy2017@yahoo.com

Tel: 00965-60402765 / 9867308911  
**6837. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1992), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 85 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA, Profession : Baker. Contact email : ludvinalobo@yahoo.com

**6814. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in February 1992), Ht. 5' 3 1/2", Wt. 47 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Com., NET, SET doing Phd., Lecturer by profession. Contact email : albanpereira1991@yahoo.com

**6780 GOA :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in March 1987), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 50 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.B.B.S., M.D. (Armenia), Doctor by profession. Working in DELHI. Contact email : samantha.saldanha07@gmail.com

**6779 MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1988), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 50 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.A. in Literature, Teacher by profession. Contact email : angelagurjao1@gmail.com

**6690 MUMBAI :** East Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1986), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 54 kgs, Fair Complexion, good looking, smart, intelligent, Edn. CS., LL.B., working as a Asst. Company Secretary. Seeks a suitable educated and well settled bachelor. Caste no bar. Contact email : joylinafaroz@gmail.com.

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

**6685 MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1968), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. S.Y. B.Com., having own business on DUBAI. Contact email : reachbernie@yahoo.com

**6528. DUBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1985) Ht. 5' 7", Beautiful and Fair Complexion, Edn. Masters in Health, Care (MHA), Employed as a Manager in MNC Dubai, is looking for a suitable alliance between the ages of 32 to 36 with a height 5' 10" and above. Kindly respond directly to the party by email : aara8185@gmail.com with your photograph.

**6032 DUBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1976), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 41 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., working as a Secretary. Contact email : track\_1976@yahoo.com OR 9730454857

**6129 MUMBAI :** Tamilian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1983), Ht. 4' 11", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working for Bank, Contact email daisy.dec1@gmail.com

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# Royal Christian Family MATRIMONIALS - BRIDES

**6497. POONA :** Tamilian RC Spinster, (Born in January 1982), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Com., working as a Sr. Manager. Contact email :

harryanthony.7@gmail.com

**6341 MUMBAI :** Protestant Christian spinster, (Born in April 1985), Ht. 5' 1", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., B.Ed., Teacher by profession. Seeks a groom from well settled, educated and good family background. Contact email :

georgethomas1353@yahoo.com

**6868. CANADA :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in January 1992), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. Medium, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.A., HR Toronto and International Business Management Toronto. Only U.S. and Candian Citizens from good family background apply. Contact email :

sugarlog2009@hotmail.com

**6651. DUBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1984), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Customer Support in DUBAI. Contact email :

dsilva.seema@gmail.com

**6504 KUWAIT :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster (Born in June 1980), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 58 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., Computer, Finance, Banking Marketing Course & Airlines Course completed, employed as a Travel Co-ordinator in Kuwait. Contact Email :

lucy777p@gmail.com Tel: 00965-60402765 / 9867308911

**6825 MUMBAI :** East Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born

in December 1986), Ht. 5' 5", Fair Complexion, Edn. Graduate + Masters working as a HR. Contact email : shobhna\_dsa@gmail.com

**6831. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1991), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 54 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as an Associate in Insurance Company. Contact email :

denisdsouza854@gmail.com

**6500 MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1975), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. S.Y.B.A., Pursuing TYBA., / ECCED (Teacher' Training Course), Teacher in a reputed Catholic School. Contact email : dmljanet@gmail.com or jdmello@rediffmail.com

**5828 MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Divorcee, (Born in March 1954), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. HSC., House Wife. Contact email :

veradsouza3@yahoo.com

**6381 MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1984), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Com., working as a Secretary. Contact email :

soareskaren14@gmail.com

**7065. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1989), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 69 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Sc., & Dip. in Clinical Research, working as Business Process Lead in TCS. Contact email : mendonca\_luke@yahoo.co.in

**7056. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1988), Ht. 4' 11", Wt. 51 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA in HR, working HR Field. Contact email :

nancyfernandes9@gmail.com

**7055. U.K. :** Tamilian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1988), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 62 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., working as a Staff Nurse in UK. Contact email :

o365acc@gmail.com

**7054. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in June 1986), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Masters in Finance and working in Mumbai. Contact email

: clamapinto@gmail.com

**7053. MUMBAI :** East Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in June 1987), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 63 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., Home Science, working as a Jr. Officer in Bank. Contact email : ayesha18j@gmail.com

**6482. K.S.A. :** Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1983), Ht. 160 cms, Wt. Normal, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc. in Chem/ PGDMLT, Pathology Lab Technician (Instructor) in KSA since 10 years, well settled, seeks a suitable match. Contact email :

mathew\_680@yahoo.com

**6185 MUMBAI :** Goan (Bardez) Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in January 1982) Ht. 5' 4", Fair Complexion., Edn. B.A., Dip. in Financial Management, Banking Exams, Working as Senior Manager for a reputed Private Sector Bank Seeks educated and well settled Roman Catholic Goan (Bardez) Bachelor between 36-40 years. Ht. 5' 7" and above. Contact email :

andy.franky@hotmail.com

**5619 DUBAI :** Mangalorean R.C. Spinster, (Born in November 1981), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Working in Govt. Hospital in Dubai as Specialist Doctor (M.D.) Seeks a well quified bachelor from Decent family. Kindly send the profile and recent photograph to Email :

alliance12313@yahoo.in

**5997 MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1974), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 70 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.D.S. Dentist by profession. Email : drcleona@yahoo.com

**6337. M.P. :** Protestant Christian Divorcee, (Born in July 1980), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 52 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E. (Computer Science), MBA (HR), working as a Senior Manager , MNC Mumbai. Seeks a match residing in Mumbai, having a decent qualification and well settled. Contact email : estherjoseph@rediffmail.com

## MATRIMONIAL

**7066. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in June 1987), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 78 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E., (EXTC) M.S. (International Business Management), working as a Consulting Manager. Contact email :

l2018anselm@yahoo.com

Address your replies to :

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

# Artificial Intelligence: God's Way To Teach Man Humility

In March 2016 I had been informed of the Dutchman Wiebe Wakker, when he left the Netherlands to complete the longest e-road journey in the world (62,800 miles) in his electric car, the "Blue Bandit" over a period of three years. Wakker was known to be a Dutch sustainability advocate who had wanted to push the idea of e-car technology for long distance driving as a viable way of transport.

After a courageous drive through 30 countries including Eastern Europe, Iran, Southeast Asia, India, many places in Australia and to end his journey in New Zealand, Wakker's mission turned out to be a historic success, paving the way for electric motors, encouraging smart manufactures to proceed with their plans. In the near future petrol pumps will vanish. Artificial Intelligence had made a clear victory again.

Recently a simple hologram broke barriers to duplicate the human experimenter, transport his image in ditto standing a few feet in front of him. And to add a new feature, the person as the image is able to speak in a foreign language not having any idea of the alien language, and in the same tone of voice, pitch and intonation of the human subject.

This is a mixed reality technology in real time. The mind blowing achievement was made possible with the aid of artificial intelligence, a small step in virtual reality to a great leap in the future by AI 'strong' capacity system, reaching ahead of human intelligence.

Welcome to the 4th Industrial Revolution.

The future is here. It exists today. We have reached the end chapters of world technological history when simulation of human intelligence processes is now possible in computer systems. These processes contain learning, reasoning and self-correction. A further application is when artificial intelligence will have systems for speech recognition (already available with Philips doing pioneering work

worldwide) and also machine vision (as with robots).

It will soon be possible when a 'strong' AI system will find and discover solutions without the help of humans. (Apple's Siri, a 'weak' form of virtual personal assistance can be controlled, but for how long ?

Hardware, software and staff payments can be high, so many vendors create platforms to include AI parts in standard offerings so that individuals and companies can experiment with.

Self-driving cars are on the anvil and we have a few workshops with major success in the field. Self-driving cars with computer vision, image recognition and deep learning skill in piloting a vehicle on the road even when it meets with pedestrian obstructions, have crossed the hurdles.

There is an assured possibility that the coal industries will soon disappear along with their evil god-fathers. Homes will produce and store e-energy during the day – the grid will store and dispense it to industries that use high electricity.

The outcome of this will stop drilling for oil. Both gasoline and oil companies will run out of business, and so will OPEC. The Middle East can be in big trouble.

In 1998, Kodak had 70,000 employees and sold 85% of all photo paper across the world. Within a few years their business model warped and folded. Kodak went bankrupt. A little later people avoided taking pictures on film. Smart phones took over making massive advancement in its racing technology.

Car companies will go bankrupt. Volvo, from 2018 have done away with internal combustion engines in their vehicles for this year's models, using electric or hybrid only, soon to phase out hybrid models. Engineers from Volkswagen and Audi are afraid of Tesla.

Distribution costs of electricity to become cheap and clean in domestic and

industrial use within the next two decades.

Auto repair shops will close down. A diesel engine has 20,000 individual parts – an electrical motor has 20.



BY MELVYN BROWN

In the United States of America young lawyers may not get jobs because of IBM's Watson, the machine gives legal advice within seconds with 90% accuracy – compared to 70% accuracy when done by humans. Stop – any need to study law?

Green electricity is the "in thing" in many countries. By choosing electricity it helps to make a bigger deal in four metrics; cost, availability, seasonality and planet-friendliness. There are also benefits from solar energy.

The possibility of widespread use of Artificial Intelligence has won acclaim for being more practical in use, much less in cost and an aid to the health industry. Watson helps nurses 4 times more correct than human nurses. We must thank God for the gift of wisdom He sends to humankind.

"For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's eyes. To this, Scripture says: God catches the wise in their own wisdom". (1Cor.3:19).

Artificial Intelligence is God's way to teach man humility.

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