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Corona, Criticism And Constructive Cure And Continuous Care

Lock down, distancing, face mask, hand wash with soap etc are advised by W.H.O. and not by any government. It is very difficult to control and make understand ordinary people about the deadly covid viruses that affects due to unhygienic conditions especially in a populated country like India at time government of rich like USA, Western countries didn't take it a serious disease, took action only after so many deaths including China the preparator of this deadly virus. It is also difficult in a democratic country like India to aware people which has a majority of wagers, vendors and other lower income people who fights for both ends meet. (4) at a time when our country is facing so many political problems, terrorism from Pakistan, violence by certain mobs, community organizations its a tough time for any political parties that rule our country to afford all facilities on a wartime effort, but should be done only if the opposing political parties cooperate on national interest and not make covid issue a vote bank politics, unless the whole world is free from this dangerous virus that can be culminated by a new drug ..while pitying with lakhs of human deaths domestic animals.

Government is trying at a war-footing level to help poor people. But falling under 2nd income country, it is a tough job to feed every stomach. We can't send these people back to there homes because of obvious reasons. They are being provided 2 meals a day which is far better than nothing. But I guess people reporting this news expect the authority to be perfect and maintain an immaculate record. For the sake of vilifying and blaming the government our leaders have brought up this issue in spotlight and have made a huge deal out of it. In this epoch, we all are living in a state of compromise and we need

to optimize our needs. So, I guess these efforts by the authority is enough and sufficient. India is divided into two groups. The first group fears COVID-19 and is hiding safely. The other is fighting unemployment and consequently hunger. There is no emotional connection between these two groups. Once this COVID-19 fear will be over, the social division will be wider and darker. The first group should not have forgotten that the second group is the workforce that provides comfortable and hassle free life during normal time.



C.K. Subramaniam

Construction companies are generally cash rich. They can very well feed these workers for some more time. They should know that they will have to call back these workers only once their activities pick up. They have no reasons to be uncertain about when their activities will be allowed to begin. It is not going to take several months or years. The government is aware of all these sufferings and needful is being discussed, planned and done on continuous basis to see that the wheel of economy is put back on track as fast as possible. Construction sector most probably is on the priority list of the government being fully aware that large number of workers are involved in this. The construction companies must avail of this time to build confidence amongst their workforce. Not even the confidence, the sector should also think for providing reasonable food to their workforce at this hour of crisis and may make better return out of this once business gets started.

Our appeal to the government is to put money into the hands of the marginalised. The minimum a person earns is not less than 5K per month and putting 500 per month in the account is just pittance. Carry out 100% testing

in extremely congested pockets because social distancing is a luxury for 6 people or more staying in one small room and 10 rooms like that sharing one or two wash rooms. Ration to be provided on producing Aadhar card or any other ID issued by government. Just lock down will not be enough to tackle this pandemic. Rampant testing is needed to identify the affected persons and curing them. Urgent steps are required to address hunger and bring the dislocated people to the their residences. Let both centre and state governments not wait for the last moment May 3 to activate the economy and the preventive steps to save life. Plan out and execute appropriately. So long as Corona virus is there, there will be criticism and unless we carry on with constructive cure and continuous care we are not going to achieve anything significant at this hour of crisis.

C.K. Subramaniam is a freelancer for the last 50 years

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Israeli firm starts treating COVID-19 patients with placenta cells

Israeli scientists who claim a single placenta can treat 20,000 coronavirus sufferers are hopeful after beginning the treatment, as some of its first patients have shown improvement while their company's shares have skyrocketed.

Pluristem Therapeutics uses placentas to grow smart cells, and programs them to secrete therapeutic proteins in the bodies of sick people. It has just treated its first American COVID-19 patient after treating seven Israelis.

The treatment is waiting on regulatory approval, but Pluristem is receiving approvals on a patient-by-patient basis in Israel and the US, hoping to gather enough information for full approval. In Israel it has worked so far at three hospitals under a compassionate use program, and at Holy Name Medical Center in New Jersey it was allowed to administer cells under the Coronavirus Treatment Acceleration Program, an emergency mechanism for possible therapies.

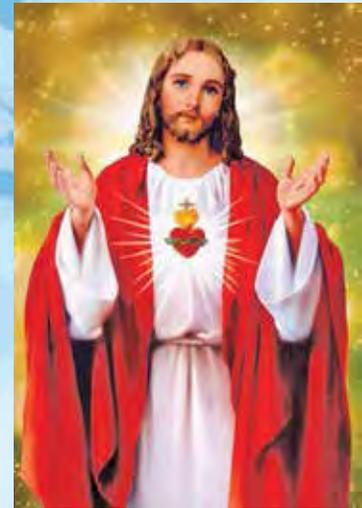
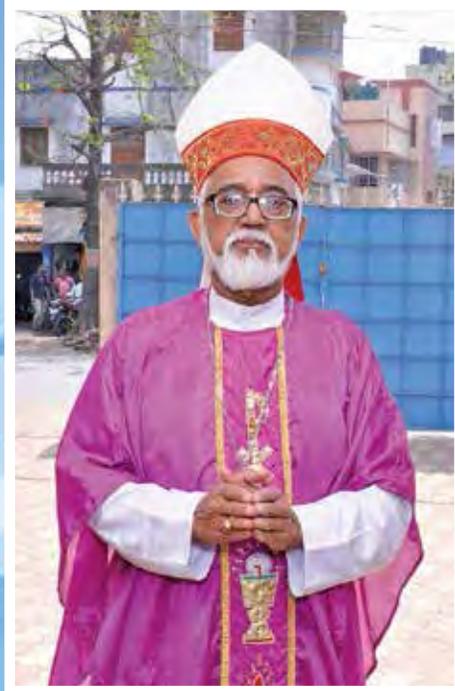
Treatment consists of 15-milliliter doses of cells — known as PLacental eXpanded cells — administered in simple inter-muscular injections. Once in the body, Yanay said that the cells become like “a small factory that generates therapeutic proteins.”

The Israeli coronavirus drug reportedly with a 100% success rate even among severely ill patients is being tested in Israel and in the United States for the first time. Company CEO and president Yaky Yanay said that a trial will come soon and, once conducted, he hopes that “approval can be very fast.”

Yanay stated that Pluristem, which is based in Haifa, will carry on treating people using patient-by-patient approvals while working as quickly as possible for full approval by regulators.

75TH BIRTHDAY WISHES

*Thank you, God,
for the Gift of
Bishop Salvadore.
Continue to bless him
with light, laughter
and Your love.
May these wishes be
a reflection to our
Bishop of how many
lives he has touched
and inspired.*



A Life in The Presence of God

And at the Service of His people

**Most Rev. Dr. Salvadore Lobo
Bishop of Baruipur Diocese, Kolkotta**

Most Rev. Bishop Salvadore Lobo was born on April 30, 1945 in Shirva in the Diocese of Mangalore (now Udupi), to Francis Thomas and Sabina Lobo. He is the eighth among ten Children, four sons and six daughters of late Thomas and Sabina Lobo.

He joined the Archdiocese of Calcutta in 1964, and completed his studies in St. Joseph Seminary in Mangalore. He was ordained a priest on March 19, 1973. After his ordination he was served as Rector of the Minor Seminary known as Vianney Hall. He served at the Regional Seminary Morning Star for 15 years as professor of Canon law and Ecumenism. After six year as the Rector of the Minor Seminary. Dr. Salvadore was appointed as the parish priest of Sacred Heart Church at Morapai in June 1979. His dedication and sincere service enabled additional responsibility as the Treasurer of the Diocese while still being the Morapai. He continued to shoulder successfully both responsibilities till 1983.

Fr. Salvadore's ability in handling responsible positions helped him to serve Treasurer, Procurator, Chancellor,

and Secretary to Most Rev. Linus Nirmal Gomes S.J. Bishop of Baruipur, and in 1984 he was made Vicar General of the Diocese.

After serving for four years as the Vicar General. Fr. Salvadore was deputed to St. Peter's Seminary at Bangalore for a two years course in Cannon Law in 1988. After completing the course he went back to Baruipur and was appointed at the parish priest of the Sacred Heart Church at Thakurpur in Calcutta in 1990. He was appointed Bishop on 29th January 1998.

Bishop Salvadore Lobo has been well-known for his work with Mother Teresa since 1975. He has been well known for preaching retreat both in India and abroad. He was appointed head of Tribunals for the beatification process of Mother Teresa

Bishop Salvadore is a simple, jovial and quite, he is interact with any type of people. He is a Spiritual Director of ICPA.

Good wishes from Brother, Sisters, family and well-wishers

Affectionate Greetings from Natalia and Raymond Lobo, Mulund - Mumbai



Maintain social distancing with animals too

In the United States of America a few days ago, a tiger was showing the symptoms of Coronavirus and tested positive. Not just this, some Malaysian tigers and a lion were ill and the zoo authorities suspected them of suffering from Coronavirus. That's why, people were not allowed to enter the zoo. This shows that animals are also in danger because of this virus. If yes, then it will be more dangerous for humans. Apart from this, our home pets such as dogs and cats can be infected by Coronavirus too..The virus came from animals to human and can be transferred easily from human to animals. The continuous meeting with pets can be dangerous for human beings. If someone is a patient of Coronavirus, he or she should neither sit near humans nor animals. They should maintain social distancing at all possible cost.

—Jubel D'Cruz,
Mumbai

Send them home

It is high time the PM & CM's be serious and decide to send the immigrants to their native places .The state Govt. is also tensed because of them .They want to go home and stay with their fly.I had twitted earlier but you are giving Nelson eye

— Herbert D. Barretto,
Mumbai

Why target tablighi jamaat alone?

By now the media has made the

Markaz Nazimuddin event as the measure cause of the spread of Coronavirus in India. My understanding is why target tablighi jamaat alone? The Delhi police and Central Government are also responsible for the mishap. The Meeting at Markaz Nazimuddin on 13 to 15 March was an international event. it was announced months earlier. All permissions were taken. Foreigners who attended obtained visas. The foreigners came through the airport of Delhi and were screened according to the government regulations. On 16th March the meeting got over and out of approximately 9000 attendees, thousands left the Markaz for home. Only about 2600 were left behind in the five storey building. The centre is busy throughout the year with religious activities. On 25th March our Prime Minister announced lockdown in the whole country and the authorities at Markaz shutdowned the centre, informed the police station which is in fact Just the next door. The markaz authorities had buses ready to disperse the crowd but the permission requested was not given to them till 28 of April. It was too late. In the meantime a lot of fake news was spread about the Maulana and the happenings in the centre.

Hence Delhi police, central government and to some extent Delhi government are also responsible for this mishap. Hence my question is why target Markaz Najimuddin alone? According to M. S. Khan, the official advocate of markaz, It is a conspiracy against Muslims, to divert the public attention from the mismanagement on the part of the government regarding lockdown in the country. Media has gone to the extent of saying that one third of the Corona affected people are due to Markaz event at Najamuddin. Unfair!

—Fr. Michael G
Samaj Shuddhi Abhiyan, Vasai

Coronavirus Fallout

The coronavirus has certainly brought the whole world to a halt. Almost all three nations have been brought down to their knees, leading to Lockdown.

A Lockdown surely is certainly not easy to overcome. It has affected a whole lot of people all over the world. The question is how would people spend their time, being at home all day and night. We are seeing reports of how people are overcoming the lockdown - some are happy to be with their spouses & children, others are trying out new receipes, those who have never done, are now doing sweeping or swabbing or dusting, others are exercising, dancing, singing and a whole lot of other activities, besides of course "working from home".

A few days ago, I came across something which I thought was quite unusual, in another part of the world. While glancing through an Irish newspaper (called The Irish Examiner), a news item captioned, "**Virus bringing back tradition of writing**", caught my attention. The report goes on to say that in this lockdown period, the postal department in Ireland was busy sorting out "**postcards**" from children to their grandparents, residing separately away from their place. Apparently, they are missing their grandparents and were unable to visit them. They may not be tech savvy and so perhaps this may seem like a great and ideal way of communicating and keeping in touch with them. **And it's interesting to note that the coronavirus is bringing back the tradition of writing to each other, which we all thought was dead.** There's nothing like reading the written word. I recall reading somewhere that, '**the pen is the tongue of the mind**'.

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

WHETHER THE CONTINUING LOCKDOWN WILL INCREASE THE NUMBER OF CASHLESS INDIANS AND AS SUCH IS IT TIME TO INTRODUCE THE CONCEPT OF UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME?

by Eric D'Sa

The research studies of inequality in the country using the demonetisation data has shown that 1% of Indians held 62% of all currency in circulation whereas the top 0.1% held as much as 33% of the above. Hence the study showed that rest of Indians held very little of the cash in circulation.

Based on the same study when the 21-day national lockdown imposed by the government ends on April 15, it is very likely that the bottom 47 percentile of India's population will run out of cash. Estimates are based on the World Bank's poverty line of \$3.2 a day for a lower middle-income country such as India, assuming people are spending just to survive. It is also likely that the population between the 47th percentile and up to 87th percentile will have only half the cash they had before the lockdown began.

For poor Indians, besides having cash to meet their family food requirements, they need it to pay back to money lenders or landlords they have to deal with; which has meant in the past having the choice between freedom and slavery. Money gives them choice; the freedom not to have their labour exploited. The above Inequality of cash, a basic economic instrument, gives us a picture of how unequal our society is. The Gini coefficient, a common measure of inequality, of cash holding in India is as high as 0.71, where 0 indicates perfect equality and 1 indicates perfect inequality.

Even inter-district and intra-district cash inequality in our country is very high. The top 10% districts held 764 times more currency than the bottom 10% districts. It is unsurprising then that the districts at the top are situated in Tier I and II cities. In fact, the bottom 60 districts, mostly comprising hill and tribal districts, held only 0.2% of all the cash. Also, 60% of all districts analysed, i.e. 359 out of 607 districts in India, reported a Gini coefficient greater than or equal to 0.7, which means that even within districts, cash is concentrated very unequally. In absolute numbers, there

are 10.9 million cash-rich Indians in the top 1%.

Currently, a humanitarian crisis is unfolding in India, where the poorest Indians have been returning to their homes by foot, in packed vehicles, hungry and cashless. They are come to be known as circular workers who rotate between their villages and cities where they can find some work. However, due to the great inequality of cash, it will not be long before these workers are forced to migrate back to cash-rich centres again, despite lockdowns and fears of a deadly virus. The urgent need

YOU THE CITIZENS DECIDE:

for them to get back to their villages was due to their ability to survive there with the help of local friendly money lender and the possibility of getting some work under the MGNREGA scheme.

When India begins to pick its pieces together after the total lockdown is eased, it will be looking at a grim situation where roughly a whopping one billion people of a population of 1.35 billion will be starting with zero or near zero cash. Much of this population is engaged in the informal economy. Along with cash, they will also lose the very little strength they had to negotiate for fair wages, decent working conditions, and basic human rights.

Even for the struggling corporate sector, there is no good news. When their operations restart, nearly 50% of consumers will have not much money to spend. The Indian economy is very likely to experience multidimensional pressures. The slowdown in the economy had already reduced the demand for luxury goods. This will worsen the situation further. In Karnataka one of the minister admitted on TV that the demand for items such as vegetables had comedown in the cities. This in return was effecting the local farmers.

Again for years now on an average 1 mil-

lion children below the age of 5 years in our country die due to poverty, malnutrition, hunger and neglect (girl child). Will this Covid 19, long lockdown and joblessness worsen the situation? It should not come as a supply to anyone this figure will double. Time will tell. Given the dire economic situation, what is being proposed by economists is to remonetise India. This would mean a direct cash transfer in stages of ₹2.5-lakh crore just to replenish people's exhausted cash coffers. The ₹1.7-lakh crore stimulus package announced in India by the Finance Minister is well intentioned but poorly thought out. The increased entitlements of ration and the supply of free gas cylinders will help to bolster food security, but it is not enough?

If we consider the cash components such as the increase of ₹20 in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act wages or the transfer of ₹1,500 over three months via Jan Dhan accounts, it will barely compensate for the forced loss of jobs. The stimulus package then in no way addresses the imminent liquidity crisis forced upon one billion people. Inequality reproduces more inequality. If a majority of Indians lose their cash reserves, they will fall into income traps where real wages will diminish and lost wages can only be recovered by longer working hours. More people will fall below the poverty line.

A targeted ₹2.5-lakh crore cash transfer will put money directly in the pockets and purses of the population up to the 87th percentile; ₹1.34 lakh crore will be for the poorest 500 million Indians, whereas ₹1.2-lakh crore will replenish the reduced cash reserves of the rest of the population up till the 87th percentile. Now is the right time for the government to remonetise and make cash available through banks. The free food provided as rations , more manual jobs provided by the MGNREGA scheme and cash provided by the UBI scheme will help the country to get back to the new normal after the present lockdown. Finally we the Citizens will have to decide how the hunger of the poor can be mitigated by each of us during these difficult days.

Corona virus and God's punishment?

It is difficult to understand how a leading light of the Catholic church could in his Easter message to the faithful explicitly state, that the worldwide pandemic caused by the killer Corona virus which is infecting and killing millions all over the world, is not the result of God's punishment to mankind, because God is a loving and merciful God. On the flip side, satanic forces are misinterpreting holy scripture and whipping up feelings of doom by linking the pandemic to the destructive work of the earthly beast, in 'Revelations' and his number '666'. As Christians we do not dispute the fact that God is a God of love, compassion and forgiveness to the repentant sinner. Good Friday sums it all, when God's love and redemption of mankind was accomplished through the death of his only son Jesus Christ. But a loving God can also be a punishing God, as witnessed throughout the Old Testament, replete with cases of God's wrath and punishment for those who disobeyed his commandments and indulged in the worship of false Gods. The corona virus pandemic could well be one such case of God's punishment for sins committed. The ways of God are difficult to understand---much more difficult to pontificate.

—A. F. Nazareth,
Alto Porvorim

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Estd: 1951 Prop. B. D'Souza

A Universal Basic Wage!

In an Easter Letter dated 12 April 2020 to members of 'Popular Movements and Organizations', Pope Francis suggested - (Some excerpt see below). He also made a request for world leaders to forgive the debts of poor countries.

"This may be a good time for employers to consider a 'Universal Basic Wage'; which would acknowledge and dignify the noble and essential tasks given to employees, who live day to day without any type of legal guarantee - street vendors, recyclers, small farmers, construction workers, dressmakers, caregivers, and you who work in the informal sectors. You have no steady income to get you through these lockdowns! - Yet, it would ensure and concretely achieve the Christian ideal, that no worker is deprived of their rights!"

"The COVID-19 pandemic is often referred to with 'war-like metaphors'! You are truly an invisible army, fighting in the most dangerous trenches; an army whose only weapons are solidarity, hope and community spirit! To me you are 'social poets', because from the forgotten peripheries where you live, you create admirable solutions for the most pressing problems affecting the marginalized!"

"I especially appreciate women who cook for soup kitchens, who care for the sick and elderly and yet bring up the children in the true Catholic faith! Our Heavenly Father watches over you, and supports you in your commitment. You have known crises and hardships. Yet you manage to transform with modesty, dignity, hard work and solidarity, a promise of a new life, for the unborn, your families, your communities and the nation."

—Dr. Hazel Colaso,
Bandra (W), Mumbai.

Rescue, Rapport, Remedy!

Easter Sunday completes the three Resurrection "R's":

Recue: - God recuing his people from the bondage of slavery in Egypt (Exodus 20:2ff); and eventually from the captivity of sin! - "If Christ had not been raised, your faith is futile, and you are still in your sins" (1 Corinthians 15:17).

Rapport: God restores us to a right relationship with Him and our neighbor - a Maundy, from the Latin, Man datum - "A new commandment I give to you: That you love one another ..." (John 13:34-35).

Remedy: God's saving grace continues through the Holy Spirit and the Church - By the participation especially in the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist, the "Bread of Life" (John 6:35; 50-51).

The Cover Title of the combined issue is all about "Promise of a New Life", The Examiner (04 -17 April 2020). Our beloved Oswald Cardinal Gracias, Archbishop of Bombay had revealed in 'Hope in the Hour of Hopelessness': "God alone is our oasis in the desert, to grow in our dependence on His mercies through prayer and the Word of God; and to call the Spirit for protection from assaults of the devil."

In the same edition, 'A Resurrection Response', by editor Fr. Anthony Charanghat, who commented: "God is at work in the world, seeking healing and wholeness, inspiring physicians, researchers, nurses, health-care givers, first responders and compassionate friends." ... Hence, our resurrection response should be one of a human-Divine participation and collaboration."

—Dr. Trevor Colaso,
Bandra (W), Mumbai.

Urgent! Request To Reconstitute Committee To Study Impact Of Covid-19 & Suggest Measures For Revival Of State Economy

Dear CM and other officials

This is to submit our firm objections to the composition of the subject committee, since it severely lacks representation of our critical economic sectors and will fail to meet its objectives unless its composition is revised. We urge you to reconstitute the committee immediately on the following grounds:

1. The committee is presently composed mostly from representatives of industrial corporations, financial institutions and the government. The failure to include representatives from the diverse economic sectors of our State will render the committee incapable of studying the economic impact of the current COVID-19 pandemic and suggesting measures for revival of the economy of the State.
2. The most important socio-economic sectors such as community and small farmers, traditional fishing community, tribals, industrial workers, women, education, health and environment are totally unrepresented in the present committee. Without representatives from these diverse and important economic sectors being included in the committee, it will be impossible for the objectives of the Committee to be fulfilled.

3. It is more evident today, during this pandemic, than ever before, that food, water, clean air, health, equality, education and environment are much more important to our economy and society than industries and concrete structures. This pandemic has exposed the fragility and unsustainable nature of unbridled “top heavy” development without serious thought to what really sustains Goa, namely Her environment, agriculture, fisheries and workers in these sectors. Hence, it is absolutely crucial that the committee be composed primarily of representatives of these economic sectors, as detailed in the concluding paragraph of this letter.

4. The present crisis has led to severe economic hardships for the poor and working classes. Lakhs of persons have lost their livelihoods and means for sustenance in Goa, such as daily wage workers in various sectors; carpenters, craftsmen, artists and other skilled workers; motorcycle pilots, small guest house owners, shack owners and other self-employed persons, etc. Therefore, the focus of the economic revival must be for the restoration of the livelihoods of these and other persons from the working classes and for the mitigation of economic deprivation and hardships as an immediate goal.

5. Planning and decision making has to be a bottom up process, with people's participation included as a crucial and integral part. Therefore, it is essential that the findings and recommendations of this committee (even on being reconstituted) are placed before the people at large for their suggestions and inputs, before deciding the way forward for the revival of the State economy and for the lifting of the present restrictions.

In view of the above, it is imperative that
a) the committee must be reconstituted

so as to have proper representation of all critical sectors of our economy,

- b) the informed consultative processes with the public must be initiated.
- c) that the immediate need for mitigation of economic hardship and deprivation must be addressed.

We strongly recommend therefore that the composition of the committee be revised to include: (1) representatives of community and small farmers, such as tenants associations, (2) representatives of traditional fishing communities, (3) representatives of tribals, scheduled castes and other backward castes and other marginalised sections of society such as transgenders, (4) representatives of workers from both the organized and unorganized sectors such as barbers, cobblers, taxi drivers, motorcycle pilots, domestic workers, garbage collectors, construction workers, sex workers and contract workers, (5) representatives from the health sector with expertise relevant to the ongoing pandemic, (6) representatives from the small-scale, responsible tourism sector, (7) representatives of civil society, environmentalists and sociologists, (8) representatives of small and medium enterprises and self-employed persons, including small shop owners, artists, vegetable and fruit vendors, bakeries, carpenters and other local cottage industries, (9) representatives of seafarers, and (10) representatives of the Government. At least half of the committee members must be women. The recommendations of the committee must definitely be placed before the people for their suggestions before decisions are taken and implemented.

—Abhijit Prabhudesai
and over 133 individuals and groups

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April 14, 2020: What A Day!

**Fr. Cedric Prakash SJ*

In the midst of the lockdown, Tuesday **April 14, 2020**, was indeed a very special day for India! It was a day that certainly brought into focus the grim realities and difficulties which “*we the people of India*” are currently facing due to the pandemic, but it was day on which we also had the opportunity to realise how serious things are in the country, on other equally important and critical fronts. The day also threw up positive possibilities for emulation, for celebration and for change! Let’s have a glimpse into that day:

April 14, 2020: Birth anniversary of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. This great visionary, who was born in 1891, contributed immensely to the country. He was an economist, jurist, social reformer, politician and scholar par excellence. Ambedkar was against every form of discrimination and fought relentlessly for the rights of Dalits and other underprivileged sections of society. As the main architect of the Constitution of India, he left no stone unturned to ensure that we have a Constitution based on justice, liberty, equality and fraternity of all. In his last speech to the Constituent Assembly on 25 November 1949, he emphatically said, “*We must make our political democracy a social democracy as well. Political democracy cannot last unless there lies at the base of it, social democracy.*” More than at any time else, India desperately yearns today for an Ambedkar in her midst.

April 14, 2020: New Year Day! It is a day on which we once again celebrated India’s cultural diversity and rich pluralistic traditions. It was ‘New Year’s Day’ for so many different people of our country; it was ‘Puthandu’ for the Tamils; ‘Pohela Boishakh’ for the Bengalis; ‘Bohag Bihu’ for the Assamese; ‘Pana Sankranti’ for the Odias; ‘Vishu’ for the Malayalees. It is the first harvest festival for several in Northern, Eastern and Southern In-

dia. This year however, the pandemic was a great dampener; nevertheless the prayers of all, were for a brighter year ahead.

April 14, 2020: Baisakhi! Though it began on the previous day, it continued on to the next. A true festival of spring celebrated both by the Hindus and Sikhs in Punjab. It also marks the solar New Year. For the Sikhs, it is the day on which the Khalsa way of living was born. The festival commemorates the formation of the Khalsa panth of warriors under Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Sikh guru, in 1699. Significantly, be it to the protestors in Shaheen bagh earlier or now to the migrants affected by the pandemic, the Sikhs have been reaching out with love and generosity to those who are most in need, through their ‘langars’ and other acts of charity.

April 14, 2020: The Prime Minister spoke! Once again and for the fourth time since 19 March. PM Modi told the nation that the lockdown would continue till 3 May! He congratulated all for their efforts and said that all should observe a seven-point programme. The address was high on rhetoric and emotion (Modi is a master speaker in Hindi and knows how to garner empathetic support). However, his words woefully lacked substance and a direction for a nation in crisis. There was no plan to deal with the millions of migrant workers who are stranded all over the country because of the sudden lockdown from the night of 24/25 March; there were no plans for the small farmers or for that matter the SMEs; not a word of increasing the Testing Centres or for the procurement of testing kits or ensuring that the Doctors, nurses and caregivers would be protected and kept safe with the necessary Personal Protection Equipment (PPEs) and other medical safeguards. Again no mention of other vulnerable groups, be it the police personnel on duty or for that matter the

old and sick, women and children. (Ha! the people of India were told that they had to respond to those in need!). No direction to the Banks or other financial institutions. Above all in the interest of transparency, the PM should have told the nation how much money has already been collected in the special fund he has created and for the purposes it is being utilized for at the moment. In short, it’s the people’s responsibility only!

April 14, 2020: The Surrender of Human Rights Defenders. Gautam Navlakha and Anand Teltumbde surrendered to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on blatantly fabricated charges in the context of the Bhima-Koregaon violence of January 2018. Some others are already in jail on similar charges. Both wrote open letters before their arrest. Teltumbde said, “*at the fag end of my life, I am being charged for the heinous crime under the draconian Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. An individual like me obviously cannot counter the spirited propaganda of the government and its subservient media. The details of the case are strewn across the internet and are enough for any person to see that it is a clumsy and criminal fabrication.*” In his letter Navlakha wrote “*I can now begin to face the actual legal process, which accompanies cases where provisions of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act are invoked. Such Acts turn the normal jurisprudence upside down. No longer is it the axiom that “a person is innocent unless proven guilty”. In fact, under such Acts, “an accused is guilty unless proven innocent”, Draconian provisions of UAPA are not accompanied by stricter procedures regarding evidence, especially electronic, considering the stringent punishment provided for under the Act; the procedures, which otherwise provide tighter rules regarding*

(Contd.. on p. 10)

(Contd.. from p. 9)

evidence, are instead made elastic, Under this double whammy, jail becomes the norm, and bail an exception. In this Kafkaesque domain, process itself becomes punishment.” Navlakha and Teltumbde together with the others languishing in jail, are symbols of resistance in India; of people who are determined to preserve all that is sacred and good in the country. At the same time, it shows the abysmal levels those in power can stoop to and how pliant the judiciary has become today.

April 14, 2020: Freedom of Speech Throttled. Well-known journalist and the founding editor of the web portal ‘The Wire’, Siddharth Varadarajan was expected to appear in Ayodhya after an FIR was filed against him. The Uttar Pradesh police had booked Varadarajan earlier this month over comments on twitter, claiming that the day the Tablighi Jamaat event was held in Delhi, Yogi Adityanath had insisted that a Ram Navami fair will take place as usual. The FIR also mentioned his remark questioning Yogi Adityanath's participation in a religious ceremony at the Ramjanmabhoomi site in Ayodhya during the nationwide lockdown to contain the spread of coronavirus. More than 3,500 leading media personalities and others from civil society released a powerfully-worded joint statement condemning the action of the UP police, stating that ‘The Wire’ could not be charged as it had done an *“entirely factual story on COVID-19 and religious events”*. The statement went on to add, *“This attack on media freedom, especially during the COVID-19 crisis, endangers not just free speech, but the public's right to information.”* Because of the lockdown, Siddharth expressed his inability to be present in Ayodhya, so in a last moment ‘saving-their-face’ act the UP authorities agreed to accept his side of the story by email. The case is not yet closed!

April 14, 2020: The Plight of Migrants. Thousands of migrant la-

bourers congregated at the Bandra Railway Terminus in Mumbai hoping that some trains would be made operational to take them back to their towns and villages in northern and eastern India. It was indeed a pitiable sight to see the footage on the electronic and social media: despair and starvation written on their faces. Ever since Modi first announced the national lockdown with just about a four-hour's notice on 24 March, the plight of the migrants issue has been a ticking time bomb. Rail and public transportation is suspended. They are far away from their homes with no work, no food and without any daily wages. Some of them began a long, long walk of hundreds of miles with their meagre possessions, a few days ago. That

Corona and Myths

Now-a-days, Coronavirus is one of the major issues around the world. Most of the countries are fighting against this deadly virus. There are many myths on social media such as how to fight against this virus. It is suggested that by eating Allium you will be cured from this virus, or it is prescribed that this virus doesn't attack people in hot atmosphere, or this virus attacks only children who are less than five years of age and people who are over fifty years of age, or one can boost one's immune system and lower one's risk of getting COVID-19 by eating sweet potatoes and taking certain vitamins and supplements, or taking colloidal silver, or you can avoid the virus by drinking warm water or tea every 15 minutes. These myths are creating a big problem for illiterate people. The issue is that people start treating themselves by following these wrong prescriptions and as a result they end up facing a lot of problems. We, as a nation, must not spread such type of myths, because this creates problems for people who follow these prescriptions. The government must take a stern action against those who spread such myths on WhatsApp and other social media sites.

— Jubel D'Cruz, Mumbai

they gathered at the railway station in such large numbers, desperate to go home, is indicative of how difficult the road ahead is going to be for those, who are literally the ‘life-line’ of our nation

April 14, 2020: Easter Tuesday for the Christians. The Gospel of today reminded us of the encounter which Jesus has with Mary Magdalene outside the tomb from which he has risen. He commissions her to be the one to give the “good news” to the others. Good news of hope and newness. In the Gospel we are told *“Jesus said to her, “Stop holding on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am going to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’ “Mary went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord, “and then reported what he had told her.”* A clear call to each one of us to witness to good and to do good!

April 14: Another time, Another Century. On 14 April 1865, Abraham Lincoln, the sixteenth president of the United States, was shot at in a theatre, whilst watching a play. On 14 April 1912, the famed unsinkable ship ‘The Titanic’ hit an iceberg in Newfoundland. The rest is history! Important lessons for all of us today!

But are we listening and learning to what 14 April 2020 has to teach us, as a people and a nation? Gautam Navlakha, ends his letter (mentioned above) with the words of Bob Marley, the Jamaican singer, songwriter and musician

*“Won't you help to sing
These songs of freedom
‘Cause all I ever have
Redemption songs
Redemption songs.
These songs of Freedom.....”*

14 April 2020: What a day indeed!

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

Bracing for a New World Order

The Corona Virus has brought about a paradigm shift in the lives of all the people globally. Powerful nations thought they were invincible. Perhaps America was confident it is too powerful, with the arsenal in their stocks, to be impacted by the tiny virus. Overconfidence and arrogance dictated and determined their approach to the impending disaster until it was too late as Trump's own advisor Dr Anthony Fauci has said much to the embarrassment of his boss Trump who hates being challenged. Now he blames the W.H.O. When did he start listening to such organizations? America may be financing them more than others, but treat them with contempt. Only those organizations which agree to remain subservient to the Americans, gain their favour. Unfortunately, the false sense of superiority [money power] has been misplaced as history has shown – be it the Vietnam War or the Afghan War [not once but twice]. If America has succeeded in suppressing a foe it is not by direct confrontation but by blackmailing other nations [who have no problem with the foe] to enforce the sanctions. In the process, they are trying to play the role of the UN making it virtually United Nations of America - U.N.A. When you want something you request and not threaten any country and then farcically say thank you. India had to bail out America and 12 other countries with its priced drug HCQ to fight the virus. All others are genuinely grateful. India also shared its salutation "Namaste" with the rest of the world.

It is ironical that the virus has struck the most advanced countries with vengeance with half a dozen such countries accounting for over 80% of the cases. It is just as well that they have the most advanced healthcare facilities and the resources to quickly augment the needed infrastructure to face the calamity. Just wonder what would have been the death toll if the calamity of such magnitude had to befall a thickly populated nation with very meagre means. The African nations which are mostly financially challenged have by and large been spared except a few of them with low intensity.

With half the humanity under lockdown, there is helplessness. How long this will last is hard to say. History is replete with such pandemics dragging on for years taking a huge toll on humanity. The Spanish flu of 1918-20 claimed

VIEWS on NEWS

some 17.4 million lives by a conservative estimate. The 1855-60 [third] plague which engulfed all the continents, perished as many as 12 million lives in India and China alone. The 21st century has not been very kind to the USA. 2009-10 Swine flu claimed anything between 1.51 to 5.75 lacs there while the flu claimed some 80,000 in 2017-18. Today, in mid-April it is nearing 40,000 [out of global deaths of over 1.60 lacs] in America with New York City alone with 15000 deaths so much so disposal of the corpses is becoming a big problem; the highest on a single day was 4491 deaths in USA.

There is no sign of any slowdown just yet and even if it does, this dreaded virus has the tendency of reappearing even in the successfully treated cases. This is likely to impact the lives of people across the world irrespective of their social or financial status. They all will have to tread carefully while the fear will continue to rule their lives. No one will be able to throw caution to the winds any longer. Their habits will undergo change and people will be more disciplined. On the brighter side, this perhaps is the opportunity for reformation. Those addicted to smoking, drinking and substance abuse, have a chance to turn a new leaf. If they could do without it for the entire lockdown duration, surely they can continue doing so. By the way, the de facto No.2 Amit Shah the powerful Home Minister is silent. He used to talk non-stop during Modi : 2. Even the RSS boss has not been heard of late – rather unusual. Someone said – Until recently we used to fight over the issue of who will 'stay' in India. Now God has taken over that responsibility to decide on who will 'live' not only in India but in this world.

Truncated Paschal Triduum

For the first time in history half of the Lenten season was adversely affected by the Corona Virus. Normally even those who do not regularly go to Church always attend the Holy Week Services. Watching and following all the Services on small screens was a whole new experience. While there was no direct personal connect between the Celebrant and the congregation surely there was spiritual connect. The faithful sitting in the comforts of their homes did not really miss



by Marshall Sequeira

anything - not even the Confessions. I doubt if more than 10% go for Confessions anyway these days. A small prayer for self confession was circulated on the social media and people gladly followed even hopefully by those who never go for Confession. In the absence of regular Communion, the Spiritual Communion was another new concept. Different Churches across the world had adopted different ways of reaching the faithful. Some of the European countries saw Priests with Blessed Sacrament walking through the streets blessing the people with holy water. People standing in their balconies devoutly paid their reverence. Elsewhere Eucharist was celebrated atop a Church for devotees in its vicinage to follow it. This I felt was really innovative. People stood in their homes and followed the Service. The Pope too blessed the Catholic Community from the Basilica standing alone – something unthinkable in ordinary times. The Pontiff was visibly sad.

While Catholics from advanced countries were indifferent, the regular Lenten Services were missed by the regular devout Church goers who like to participate in person. Catholics from poor nations are more religious. It is either by choice or perhaps out of fear rather than love of God. There is a marked decrease in foot-falls in Churches – more in Europe and America. With acute shortage of priests, who knows, in the years to come, unaffordable Churches/Parishes may become defunct and redundant. All services including Confessions and Sunday school [except Nuptials] will be available through electronic media [Apps]. Lay people will conduct baptismal / burial services. Finally, amidst gloom, high point of this Lenten season was the decision of the Catholic Church in Sri Lanka to forgive the bombers of the last year's Easter Services. It was reminiscent of Pope John Paul II in 2010 forgiving his assailant Mehmmed Ali Agca. Both these acts of real mercy showed Christianity at its best.

All About The True Cross

There is always a moment in time when a person wonders about the True Cross and whatever happened to it, despite its great spiritual value. Not many among pious people of the faith know about the history of the Salvific Cross.

This reminds me of the entrance antiphon for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross:

“We should glory in the Cross of
Our Lord Jesus Christ, for he is
Our salvation, our life and our
Resurrection, through him we
are saved and made free. “

The Cross, Christ died on becomes a celebration of God's greatest work: His Salvific death on the Cross and His Resurrection through which death is defeated and the doors to Heaven open.

In the vicinity of Jerusalem there were many tall trees which grew wild. The tree for the Crucifixion Cross was chosen from the dogwood tree which was strong, heavy and durable. Ancient scholars imagined the cross made for thieves and murderers were of a cheap wood easily available in the area of Judea.

Legend says that Pilate's wife had suggested using the wood from the dogwood tree which produced the best and long-lasting life. This was the outcome of her second dream. The first dream she had was to free Jesus at his trial. She told her husband the man Jesus was an innocent man. At that stage of the trial Pilate was helpless as the crowds wanted

to crucify Christ.

Her second dream, she informed Pilate was to find the best wood available for the cross, it would be of immense importance to Christians in the future she said. And so it turned out that the Governor of Judea ordered a cross made from the dogwood tree.

300 years after the crucifixion a search began for the True Cross conducted by rich Jews and a few anti-Christian Sanhedrins. They desired to find the True Cross and to destroy it before the Christians laid claim to it. The True Cross had mysteriously vanished.

Saint Helena, mother of the Emperor Constantine, under divine inspiration traveled to Jerusalem in 326 in the quest of the True Cross. The Emperor's mother could not be dissuaded from her mission.

After many days of her stay in Jerusalem, Helena was not able to locate anyone who would know of the True

Cross. At the end of the second week of her stay in the city of David, an old man by the name Judas mysteriously appeared and led the Emperor's mother to the place where the True Cross had been hidden under the temple of Venus in Jerusalem.

After an excavation at the spot the True Cross was found. It was a great moment of joy for the Emperor and his mother.

Emperor Constantine had two big churches built on Calvary: the Basilica and a Shrine. The dedications took place in 335. The Basilica was named Martyrium and the Shrine was called Calvarium.

Almost 500 years later a Persian King, Khosran II invaded Jerusalem

and captured the True Cross from the Basilica Martyrium. The Persian invaders destroyed the Basilica and the Shrine; Looted, raped and slaughtered the inhabitants in a derish- dance of mayhem.

The wrath of God fell upon Khosran II and his blood thirsty hoards at the hands of Emperor Heraclius II who defeated the Persian psychopath in 629. The True Cross was restored to Jerusalem. The Basilica and the Shrine was rebuilt.

The True Cross is a Christian sign of God's total and unconditional love for humanity. The Cross is a symbol of peace, protection, forgiveness and love. The destiny of Jesus Christ was the Cross. We look up to the Cross. We pray to Christ on the Cross. The Cross took our sins away through Christ nailed to it.

It is said that the Emperor Heraclius carried the True Cross on his back and went to put it inside the Basilica but, for some strange design a supernatural force stopped him from entering the Basilica regardless of how much he tried to wave aside the invisible force.

A passing mystic who had witnessed the struggle, went up to the Emperor and told him to take off his crown and the rich clothes of a king which he wore. The mystic advised the Emperor to wear a simple garment of white. When the Emperor did as he was told he easily carried the Cross into the grand Basilica.

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross is on the 14th September. By the year 720 the celebration of the True Cross became universal. The church of the Holy Sepulcher was built by the Crusaders in 1149 to house the True Cross.



BY MELVYN BROWN

Economic Fear Drawn-Out Slump As Losses Deepen

by Don Aguiar.

The world is almost certainly ensnared in a devastating recession delivered by the coronavirus pandemic.

Now fears are growing that the downturn could be far more punishing and long lasting than initially feared – potentially enduring into next year and even beyond – as government intensifies restrictions on business to halt the spread of the pandemic and as fears of the virus reconfigures the very concept of public space impending consumer-led economic growth.

The pandemic is above all a public health emergency. So long as human interaction remains dangerous, business cannot responsibly return to normal. And what was normal before may not be anymore. People may be less inclined to jam into crowded restaurants and concert halls even after the virus is contained.

The abrupt halt of commercial activity threatens to impose economic pain so profound and enduring in every region of the world at once that recovery could take years. The losses to companies, many already saturated with debt, risk triggering a financial crisis of cataclysmic proportions.

Stock markets have reflected the economic alarm. The S&P 500 fell over 4 percent on Wednesday, as investors braced for worse conditions ahead. That followed a brutal March, during which a whipsawing S&P 500 fell 12.5 percent, in its worst month since October 2008.

This is already shaping up as the deepest dive on record for the global economy for over 100 year. Everything depends on how long it lasts, but if this goes on for a long time, it's certainly going to be the mother of all financial crises.

The situation looks uniquely dire in developing countries, which have seen investment rush for the exits this year, sending currencies plummeting, forcing people to pay more for imported food and fuel, and threatening governments with insolvency — all of this while the pandemic itself threatens to overwhelm inadequate medical systems.

Among investors, a hopeful scenario holds currency: The recession will be painful but short-lived, giving way to a robust recovery. The global economy is in a temporary deep freeze, the logic goes. Once the virus is contained, enabling people to return to offices and shopping malls, life will snap back to normal.

ECONOMISTS FEAR DRAWN-OUT SLUMP AS LOSSES DEEPEN. Worldwide recovery could take Years as with families going on merely deferred vacations. Factories will resume, fulfilling saved up orders. But even after the virus is tamed, the world that emerges is likely to be choked with trouble, challenging the recovery. Mass joblessness exacts societal costs. Widespread bankruptcy could leave industry in a weakened state, depleted of investment and innovation.

Households may remain agitated and risk averse, making them prone to thrift. Some social distancing measures could remain indefinitely. Consumer spending amounts to roughly two thirds of economic activity worldwide. If anxiety endures and people are reluctant to spend, expansion will be limited — especially as continued vigilance against the coronavirus may be required for years.

The psychology won't just bounce back. People have had a real shock. The recovery will be slow, and certain behaviour patterns are going to change, if not forever at least for a

long while.

Rising stock prices have in recent years propelled spending. Millions of people are now unemployed, while wealthier households are absorbing the reality of substantially diminished retirement savings.

Now anywhere you look in the global economy we are seeing a hit to domestic demand on top of those supply chain impact. It's incredibly worrying. It will likely take two to three years for most economies to return to the pre pandemic levels of output.

The great fear for developing countries is that the economic shocks have actually hit most of them before the health shocks have really began to hit.

If Chinese manufacturing comes back who exactly are they selling to? How can global growth not take a long term hit? Worldwide recovery could take years as the public remains averse to risk.

Experts are predicting huge down fall of Economy due to the Corona. But for sure they do not know anything about the value of human motivation and determined efforts.

If experts were to be believed, after the total destruction in 2nd World War Japan had NO future. BUT the same Japan in just 3 decades or so, made US cry at the market place. Israel should have been wiped out from the world map by the Arabs, but the fact is different. As per the rules of Aerodynamics, the Bumble Bee can NOT fly. But it flies, because it does not know the rules of Aerodynamics.

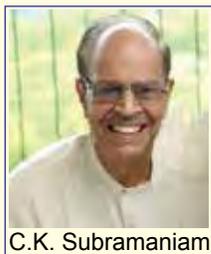
The corona crisis is no different. There is no doubt that, we will defeat the Corona hands down and The Indian Economy will bounce back in a great manner.

Pandemic Pandemonium

In this latest crisis, no country can expect to come away unscathed. But we would have surely learnt a lot. And only time will tell if we used the lessons well and it was all worthwhile. But COVID-19 is a new threat. Many things about it are still unknown. And every one of us feels the possibility of becoming its next victim. A month ago, few in our country would have thought that in a month's time we would be confined to our homes for weeks on end, and with all the disruptions that we are facing now.

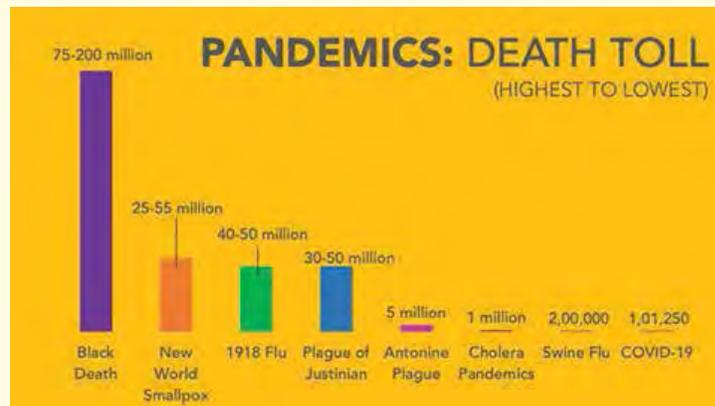
Today we are in the midst of an unprecedented and concerted attack on an infection, mobilising the resources and ingenuity of the entire world to control a single virus. The new strain of the coronavirus, named SARS-CoV-2, has been ravaging the world, with nearly a million-and-a-half infected and more than 1,00,000 confirmed deaths. And the end is nowhere in sight. Taking a long view of pandemic fight we land anywhere. Pandemic pandemonium continue to hit our heads and the soul struggle to face the impending danger.

When measures such as a lockdown, self-quarantine and social distancing are enforced, public trust is essential for success. Political leaders need to focus on



C.K. Subramaniam

public trust. Trust must be developed at the international level too. Sharing of accurate information is also important. Good and positive lessons must be learned from the outbreak. The government has no other option than to listen to States and save precious lives. Arrangements to provide medical facilities to those affected by COVID-19 and supply of essential commodities to other citizens are a must. Stopping the spread of fake messages and frequent communication is needed using print and social media and other reliable forms of in-



formation.

The national lockdown and the constant flow of news on the COVID-19 pandemic have brought about many changes in our daily lives. While scanning the newspapers and also focusing on finding peace and quiet during the lockdown, very few talk about boosting the spirit of those who have caught the disease and battling the infection. What is the state of mind of those infected or suspect, spending unsettling times alone in quarantine and isolation wards? Listening to chirping birds and sitting in a balcony drinking a cup of hot coffee might not be a luxury everyone has. Not every one is lucky to be at home with family or bombard social networking sites with recipes and workout tips. Somewhere a mother misses her son who is alone and away, or a wife worries about her husband working overseas. They miss their families and are living through a nightmare. Let us spare a thought for them too.

Rising fatalities leave India with no option but to extend the lockdown. Now the question is: what are the stringent actions that are to be taken by a State government to make a difference? And how are the State and Central governments to handle middle class and the poor whose livelihoods and lives have been stalled? The governments need to focus on this section and provide them with all es-

sentials. The governments can also think of by demarcating zones as colour codes such as red, green and orange.

The present steps being taken in the containment of the novel Corona virus are equally effective in preventing the spread of tuberculosis. However, if we are to take full

advantage of the present scenario, we should piggyback a tuberculosis control programme on the existing CoV-2 programme, which would be simple sputum testing for tuberculosis bacilli, chest X-rays if required, and complete treatment of identified cases.

An exit strategy for the lockdown is the order of the day and that the lockdown period allows only some time to strengthen the medical infrastructure to fight the coronavirus. Lockdown restrictions by themselves do not mitigate the infection. Now, the deadline either to extend or end the lockdown, is fast approaching. Undoubtedly, it is a difficult decision. Only a few sections of the total population can afford to remain indoors. The choice for them is between saving themselves from corona and feeding the family. Much is talked about the Bhilwara model, which highlights swift moves by the local administration such as setting up a task force at taluk and district levels and carrying out extensive testing covering the red zones. Both the state and central governments have a difficult task on hand, they must seek advice from all the experts on medicine, public administration, and the economic fronts to move forward. It is time to strengthen healthcare infra during lockdown and it should become a trendsetter to face any such eventuality in future. Make disaster management more meaningful.

Feed starving street animals in lockdown

Ivan Saldanha-Shet.

Migrant daily wage labour in cities face unknown torment - no way is in sight for them to return home, it is but natural that humans and animals want to be rooted in their home habitat in such uncertain and trying situations. The pangs of hunger and want of the marginalized are now visibly surfacing in our cities as rebellion/mutiny, as we know. One



uncomplaining section of life that is tolerating everything with the lockdown are the bewildered and voiceless animals, birds and such on the streets. Without the normal traffic of humans and business and eating houses closed down and life at a standstill, the street smart dogs, cats, birds are at a dead end. The worst off are street dogs, and aggression forces a danger as they could turn wild and attack anybody. It is worth knowing that the local administration with volunteers from 'Animal Care Trust' (ACT) are caring by feeding the life on the streets as best as they can regularly which is a great humanitarian effort and it is indeed good to know the reality in this unimaginable crises. Shamith a volunteer of the ACT told this us, "Animal Care Trust is the only Animal welfare NGO recognised by the AWBI in Mangalore City with a fully facilitated shelter for sick/injured Community animals. Its been 20



years since ACT was started in M'lore City and ever since then ACT is into non-stop efforts to change minds and hearts to adopt and help rescued injured Animals. ACT is conducting Animal Birth Control programs, approximately 40 to 50 Animals are rescued every week, ARV programs, Adoption Camps and several other programs for the welfare of the community animals."

In this Corona pandemic, we noticed that the community animals who rely on the fast foods and restaurants were starving, Animal Care Trust along with its volunteers have put in initiative to feed community animals in and around the city and spread as wide as



possible to help our community animals. We got together with community feeders and listed out many areas in and around the city, which required feeders to cover, ACT volunteers and community feeders are around 65 in number. All the feeders are doing an excellent job by feeding in various

parts of the city individually. We request our citizens to Keep food and water for our community animals, using waste plastic bottles and cans is a good option now.

Animal Care Trust Mangalore, has eight (8) full time personnel and two (2) dedicated veterinarians. Veterinarians and staff members are involved in all activities pertaining to medical treatment. Staff members are also involved in catching dogs for surgery, rescuing animals in distress and complete care of all animals. Animal Care Trust is managed by a board of trustees. They are responsible for Animal Care Trust operations and maintenance. Trustees are: Dr Ganesh S. Pai, Managing Trustee Mr Charles C. I. Paul, Hon. Secretary, Ms Suma R. Nayak, Hon. Treasurer, Dr Manohar Upadhyaya, Veterinary Surgeon, Mr Giridhar Kamath, Chartered Accountant, Dr Shivaram Karikal and Mr. Bharat.Jain. Most of the good works is by animal lovers who pool in their goodwill and are helped by generous people, even if there is no support from Government, the authorities understand and give permission to move around at fixed times of day. Also, nature lovers in groups go around watering plants along roads in this time of lockdown and the heat is killing the nascent plants.

At this time, in the middle of serious suffering PM Modi has led the

(Contd.. on p. 16)

The perfect gift

Sister to her brother: What are you giving to Grandma on her birthday?

Brother : A Football

Sister : Is age mein? Aur vaise bhi Grandma kahan khelti hai?

Brother : Mere birthday per jo unhone Bhagavad Gita diya the uska kya?

-- ***** --

Much awaited event

Sleep with an open window tonight! 1400 mosquitos like that 420 mosquitos commented on it. 210 mosquitos shared this. One mosquito invited for the event. 2800 mosquitos will be attending the event.

-- ***** --

Are you crazy?

Hearing voices in your head is normal. Listening to them is quite common. Arguing with them - acceptable. It is only when you lose that argument that you get in real trouble.

-- ***** --

People on WhatsApp giving medical advice

With your blessings, I have just finished my Doctorate on Corona Virus disease from WhatsApp University. I'm grate-

(Contd.. from p. 15)

country well and citizens are falling in line fast. On April 14, the PM after due consultations and so on has very well ordered that the lock down will continue till May 3 as per current needs. Indications from the PMO are that it is vital in most places, if things are better there will be special privileges after April 20 as per dire need. Not only is the lockdown and social distancing vital to prevent run away infection of large number of people; but, it is more vital to stagger the number of those needing hospitalization in the next few months. It is the only way to control the optimum use of hospital facilities in this critical pandemic attack, whose end is neither in site and course is uncertain as of now; only humanity can save..



ful to all who provided allopathic, homeopathic, ayurvedic, jadi-booti, taabiz wala jaadu to eradicate the virus. Even government of China is now in touch with me!

-- ***** --

Please don't interfere!

A wife was making a breakfast of fried eggs for her husband. Suddenly her husband burst into the kitchen. "Careful. CAREFUL! Put in some more butter! Oh my GOD! You're cooking too many at once. TOO MANY! Turn them! TURN THEM NOW! We need more butter. Oh my GOD! WHERE are we going to get MORE BUTTER They're going to STICK! Careful. CAREFUL! I said be CAREFUL! You NEVER listen to me when you're cooking! Never! Turn them! Hurry up! Are you CRAZY Have you LOST your mind? Don't forget to salt them. You know you always forget to salt them. Use the salt. USE THE SALT! THE SALT!" The wife stared at him. "What is wrong with

Work from Home

Boss: I called you up. Your wife picked up the phone and told me that you were cooking. Why did you not call me back?
Employee: I did call you back, Sir. Your wife picked up the phone and told me that you were washing clothes.

— Jubel D'Cruz,
Mumbai

you? You think I don't know how to fry a couple of eggs?" The husband calmly replied, "I just wanted to show you what it feels like when I'm driving."

-- ***** --

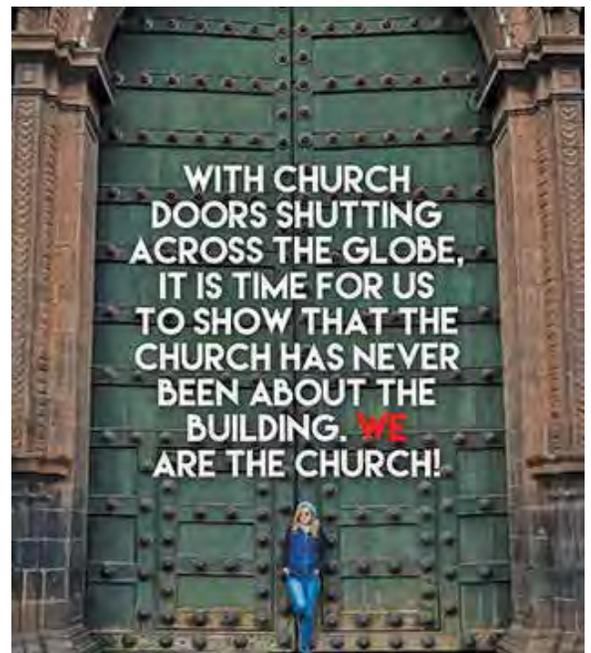
Venkat was sitting with his cell phone while his wife was watching her show. Venkat asked for a cold drink and she said no. Then her cell phone rang in the kitchen and she quickly got up to see what it was. She found her hubby's message which said, "Since you're in the kitchen can you get the cold drink." After that all Venkat remembers is a black-blue eye.

-- ***** --

If you marry the right person, everyday is a Valentine's Day. If you marry the wrong person, everyday is a Martyr's Day. If you marry the lazy person, everyday is a Labour's Day. If you marry the rich person, everyday is a New Year's Day. If you marry the immature person, everyday seems like a Children's Day. If you marry a liar, everyday becomes an April Fool's Day. And if you don't get married, everyday is Independence Day.

-- ***** --

Man : I love you so much. I want to share everything with you.
Woman : Well, then let's start from your bank account.



Globalisation and battle against Coronavirus

The quarantine facilities in India are not properly run and people are complaining about the bad behavior of the health authorities. In fact, even health workers are complaining about not being properly equipped. An important issue which the government should consider is the psychological health of quarantined people. Quarantine can cause many psychological problems.

To overcome these outcomes, the government must properly train the people of taking care of quarantine places. The government must also give people as much information as possible by telling them what and why this is happening and when it will end, provide them with meaningful entertainment/activities, educate them, provide adequate supplies of food, medicine, internet and a safe space for meeting relatives and friends.

There are many people in our neighbourhood and in our housing societies who are poor; so it's time for us to help them out and give them the real message of humanity. Hence, I request everyone to please help your needy neighbours and let nobody sleep without food because being human is our responsibility, just as our Lord Jesus Christ said, "Love your neighbour just as you love yourself" (Matthew 22:39).

Many people also keep blaming the Coronavirus pandemic on globalisation, and they say that the only way to stop more outbreaks is social distancing and to de-globalise the world, stop working or going to offices and universities, restrict travel, build walls and reduce trade. However, short-term isolation

is important to stop the epidemic, but long-term isolation will lead to economic collapse and downfall without offering any real protection against this disease.

We need to keep one thing in mind that the actual antidote to Coronavirus is not isolation, but rather co-operation. Years ago, epidemics like Spanish flu, plague, Ebola and Cholera killed billions of people all over the world and it was long before the current age of globalisation. The history of epidemics teaches us that we cannot really stop these epidemics from spreading just by closing borders and get isolated because even in the Middle Ages, they spread rapidly.

The real protection comes from sharing scientific information which is reliable and it comes from global unity. When one country suffers from pandemic, it should be able to share the true information about the outbreaks without fear of economic calamity while other countries should trust that information and provide a helping hand rather than showing a cold shoulder to the victim. Lock downs are essential for stopping the spread of the virus, but it could also lead to economic collapse.

Humanity needs to guard the borders between the human world and virus-sphere but not borders between countries.

If the epidemic results in closer global co-operation, it will be a victory not only against the Corona-virus, but against all future viruses too.

---- Jubel D'Cruz

RBI winds up Mapusa Urban Co-operative Bank.

The inevitable which was waiting to happen has now happened with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cancelling the licence of Goa's oldest and premier co-op bank---- the Mapusa Urban Co-operative bank Ltd and starting the liquidation process of the bank, after several extensions and lifelines for its revival and merger proved futile. This has come as a severe blow to the lakhs of depositors who had high hopes of a revival or merger, but now find themselves hard-hit and let down badly by the bank's management that has acted in an irresponsible manner playing ducks and drakes with their hard-earned savings. It was mainly the bad loans and NPAs that brought about a Rs 100-crore loss to the bank, compelling the RBI to put a moratorium on withdrawals and cash transactions during the past few years. This appears to be the modus operandi of most banks in recent years, the more recent being the Yes Bank and the Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative bank (PMC) which met with a similar fate. While the Yes bank was fortunate to have been revived in a short span of 12 days after the RBI moratorium, the future of PMC bank appears to be in the doldrums even after 2 extensions of 6 months and 3 months, which end on June 22. We are already in the throes of a financial recession, made worse by Covid -19 which has hit the common man very badly. It is therefore prayed that the RBI comes up with an early solution to re-start the PMC bank, lift the moratorium, and relieve the lakhs of depositors and senior citizens in particular, who have their life's savings locked up and in jeopardy.

—A. F. Nazareth
Alto Porvorim

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Company	IPO price (₹)	Listing Date	52 week High (₹)	Current Price (₹) (1.4.20)
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Evans Elec. Ltd	52.00	13.05.19	230.00	200.00
Misquita Eng. Ltd	27.00	4.10.19	65.00	65.00
Cospower Eng. Ltd	51.00	30.03.20	56.50	56.50

PRE IPO NET WORTH / CURRENT MARKET VALUE

Company	Pre IPO net worth (₹)	Current Market Value (₹)	Value Unlocked (₹)
Mac Hotels Ltd	3.02	25.00	21.98
Evans Elec. Ltd	8.28	28.00	19.72
Misquita Eng. Ltd	3.86	18.00	14.14
Cospower Eng. Ltd	1.58	9.00	7.42
Total	16.74	80.00	63.26

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CORONA- When it's all Gone

*In the midst of the chaos, hustle and bustle
There was a sudden silence.
The shouts and screams
Were stopped with masks
Ego and attitude began to die in the dust.*

*No one guessed a simple virus would turn dreaded
And shake the humanity.
Thousands of people lay on ground
Indeed, a scene of pity.*

*People became helpless
Every heart turned restless
They looked up and cried
For some all the tears dried.*

*In the Heavenly abode there was a commotion
God was filled with deepest emotion.
In hell below devil danced with joy
And laughed and gloated that he had suppressed
God by.*

*Devil began to boast and said it was all misery and
bitter cry.
But god pointed, it was not just that and stated
why.*

*Though there was threat of virus but slowly the
negativity and hate had seemed to minus.
Pistols and bombs disappeared
Love and empathy appeared.*

*Earth was feeling much lighter
Birds and animals were roaming around merrier.
Air and water began to look clean
The thick dark smoke had begun to look lean.*

*Empty terraces were now filled with people
Families had come much nearer.
There is fun at dinner tables
The takeaways are now replaced with home
cooked food tasty and irresistible.*

*Though churches and prayer halls are closed
The Bibles in the houses have opened.
The Sunday Catholics have turned to everyday
seekers
The candles are lit and praises and worship are
louder than ever.*

*Though streets are empty
People in the house are plenty
Talents have begun to spring out
Painters and dancers, we see, those we never knew
about.*

*Yes. The suffering is hurting
But God will not allow it to be the ending
When with folded hands we bow and ask for his
forgiveness
He will never hold back his kindness*

*After all this ends
We will realize we have learnt a lot from this huge
bend.
Each of us have begun to realize one could survive
without parties and fun
And vacations would not be something we would
miss.
Money would be a means to fulfill needs
And definitely not for our greed*

*We will learn to lean on each other
Rather than stamp one another.
There will be love and laughter
And definitely lot of prayer.*

*My friend, do not lose hope
Because God will never leave us afloat
Look up to the heaven and cry
For he never ignores even a smallest try*

*Let the lessons we have learnt remain in our hearts
And let us live for one another till from this earth we
depart*



by Sonal Lobo

Royal Christian Family MATRIMONIALS - GROOMS

7032. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in November 1977), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 72 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Degree in Electronics and Telecommunications, working as Telecom Engineer. Contact email : franky54@rediffmail.com

6914. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in March 1985), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. T.Y. B.Com., working as a Chef. Contact email : stanleycoelho@ymail.com

7113. POONA : Tamilian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in December 1982), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working in Logistic Co. in **DUBAI**. Contact email : shantasam1955@gmail.com

6912. SAUDI ARABIA : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in January 1981), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. 10th Std., working in Saudi Arabia. Contact email : dsouzasachin77@gmail.com

7136. HYDERABAD : Anglo Indian RC Bachelor, (Born in July 1988) Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Post Graduate, having own

business. Contact email : phillipctoher@gmail.com

6909. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in December 1988), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 74 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Bachelor of Engineering in Information Technology, IT Professional. Contact email : allwync88@gmail.com

7144. POONA : Goan RC Bachelor, (Born in October 1985) Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Hotel Management Graduate, working as an Executive. Contact email : merrolmenezes@gmail.com

6886. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in May 1980), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 68 kgs, Fair Complexion, Sober, Edn. S.Y. B.Com., working as a Sales Expert. Contact email : sandypinto70@gmail.com

7110. MUMBAI : Goan + East Indian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in December 1984), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 85 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc. IT, working as a Server Engineer. Contact email : fernandes.raymond@gmail.com

7146. MUMBAI : East Indian RC Bachelor, (Born in July 1988) Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 79 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E. (Mech), + PG course in Finance, working as a Asst. Manager in MNC. Contact email : lenin.pdsouza@gmail.com

6875. KUWAIT : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in January 1985), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 62 kgs, Very fair Complexion, Edn. ITI, working as a Sales representative. Contact email : roshan2421@gmail.com

7049. CANADA : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in June 1986), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 85 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. BE (Computer), working in CANADA in a Non IT Field Seeks a working girl in Canada and holding a PR Visa. Contact email :

anniedrz@gmail.com

7010. BAHRAIN : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Divorcee (with in three months of marriage), (Born in June 1985), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 76 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. HSC Diploma in food & beverage, working in 4 Star Hotel Bahrain. Contact Mob: 8806129309

6585. MUMBAI : Mumbai born and broughtup Roman Catholic Bachelor, Handsome, (Born in June 1988), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 78 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. EXTC Engineering, working as a Networking Engineer. Having own accommodation. Contact email : 18.elaine@gmail.com

6856. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in September 1973), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 67 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA, working as a HR. Contact email : clifforddsilva@yahoo.co.in

6531. POONA : Tamilian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in May 1975), Ht. 6', Fair Complexion, Handsome, Edn. M.Com., Having well established business. Contact email : tony137@rediffmail.com

6707 MUMBAI : Goan RC bachelor, (Born in June 1975), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 70 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., having own business. Seeks a Family oriented girl. Contact email : maxabreo@yahoo.com / maxabreo@vsnl.net

6250. MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in January 1974), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 76 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., working as a Manager. **Contact email : cardoz.clint@gmail.com OR 9833563182**

7034. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in June 1988), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.C.A., Software Engineer, working as an Software Engineer, Asst. Manager (IT), Only Sonm seeks alliance from Mangalorean RC Spinster, educated, working in Mumbai. Reply with full details & photofraph to email : ID : vivian1548@gmail.com Mobile : 9096141335

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7016. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in November 1989), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., IATA, working as a Asst. Manager in Airlines. Contact email : vinita.dsouza89@gmail.com

7013. MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in November 1989), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 61 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Com., PGDFM., working as a Financial Analyst, Contact email : dmelloraymond23@gmail.com

7014. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1992), Ht. 5' 1", Wt. 45 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MMS (Finance) working as a Finance Executive in Limited Company. Contact email : eva_hpereira@rediffmail.com

7009. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1988), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 54 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA Finance, working as a Manager in Bank. Contact email : shirley0982@gmail.com

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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 : 12018anselm@yahoo.com

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7012. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1970), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 68 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Officer. Contact email : menezesvinet2014@gmail.com

7003. MUMBAI : Tamilian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1991), Ht. 5' 1", Wt. 47 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., IT, working as a Software Engineer. Contact email : annette.anthony10@yahoo.in
OR 9967681810

7006. DUBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in June 1987), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 68 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working for Bank. Contact email : liddydsouza@gmail.com

6989. MUMBAI : Smart, good looking Spinster, (Born in February 1989), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 72 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Sr. Specialist. Looking for God Fearing boy from Catholic family, Settled in Mumbai. Contact email : khanhi@willis.com

7001. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in August 1994), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 48 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.A., working as a **AIR HOSTESS** Lead Cabin Attendant. Contact email : stephen@thesocialstreet.asia

6983. MUMBAI : East Indian Ro-

man Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1991), Ht. 160 cms, Wt. 52 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Educated, working. Contact email : joaquimbalbina17@gmail.com

6992. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1989), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 63 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E. (Computer), MBA (Finance) working as a Officer in Bank. Contact email : thea_rocque@hotmail.com

6972. M.P. : Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1986), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.A., working as a Manager. Contact email : anitabilung@gmail.com

6978. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in June 1989), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 50 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Undergraduate, Self employed. Contact email : sd450199@gmail.com

6970 MUMBAI : Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1987), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 48 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. CS & LLB., working as a Company Secretary. Contact email : mendonsajacinta@gmail.com

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7128. MUMBAI : Affluent business family R.C. East Indian Spinster, (Born in April 1988), Ht. 5' 2", very beautiful and pretty. Edn. MS General Surgeon, Doctor by profession. Contact email : drvd2019@gmail.com

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7126. U.S.A. : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in January 1992) from Mumbai, Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E. (Computers) from Mumbai, M.S. (Information Systems) from US. Possesses H1B visa and is working as a Technical Analyst with a MNC in USA. Contact email : wilfyjoy1315@gmail.com or call +91 98603 02527 / + 91 9970172527

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To People Of many Religions, Crises Has Signs of Apocalypse

by Don Aguiar.

What is this thing that has happened to us? It's a virus, yes. In and of itself it holds no moral brief. But it is definitely more than a virus. Some believe that it is God's way of bringing us to our senses. Others that it is a Chinese conspiracy to take over the world. Yet others say that since it is man-made and not God made, it is man who is responsible to find a solution.

Evangelical Christians who spend a lot of time immersed in their holy books, have seen the signs of a coming apocalypse for a while now, just as the Bible foretold.

Kingdom would rise against kingdom, Jesus taught his disciples in the Book of Luke. They see widespread political division in this country. There will be fearful events, and great signs from heaven. They see biblical values slipping away. A government not acting in the people's best interest. And now this — a pandemic.

But a few, evangelical Christian are unafraid. They have been listening online to one of their favourite preachers who has called the corona pandemic a "divine reset".

These kinds of moments really get you to reevaluate everything. As everyone goes through a period of isolation. God is using it for good to teach us and train us how to live life better.

For people of many faith or none at all it can feel lately as if the end of the world is near. Not only there is a plague but hundreds of billions of locusts are swarming East Africa, Wildfires have ravaged Australia, killing an untold number of animals and

much more.....

But the story of apocalypse is an old one. In ancient religious traditions beyond Christianity — including Judaism, Islam and Buddhism — it is a common narrative that arises in moments of social and political crisis, as people try to process shocking events.

The original word in Greek — apokalypsis — means an unveiling, a revelation.

It's not just about the end of the world, it helps us see something that is hidden before. As the pandemic thrusts India and much of the world into a new economic and social order, those who study and practice religion see deeper truths being unveiled.

Among Christians, one of the most well-known apocalyptic narratives is the Book of Revelation in the New Testament, which tells the story of the defeat of an evil beast, a final divine judgment and the coming of a New Jerusalem.

While many biblical scholars read the book as a story about the destruction of corrupt political systems, many evangelical Christians believe it describes the rapture, Jesus' return to save believers from a period of tribulation.

Some evangelical Christians, spend time reading the story and interpreting its symbols, written nearly 2,000 years ago, in modern terms. They look for the rise of the "mark of the beast," a demonic mark all people will be forced to bear.

They wonder if Jesus will return by 2028, 10 years after Mr Trump moved the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusa-

lem, which they saw as a prophetic sign.

In the world, where Christianity is by far the dominant religion, about 40 percent adults believe that Jesus is definitely or probably going to return to earth by 2050, including one in five religiously unaffiliated people, according to the Pew Research Centre.

Some evangelical Christians are finding hope in a divine promise that God has saved them for eternity, a feeling of security amid so much uncertainty. For a few, it is just a reminder that God is sovereign.

For centuries, religious traditions have not only offered a way for human beings to understand apocalyptic moments. Over time, these hours of crisis have also shaped religion itself.

Some of the earliest apocalyptic speculation is found in Jewish scriptures, in stories like the Book of Daniel, as the Hellenistic age gave way to the Romans around the second and first centuries B.C. and Jewish communities experienced violent persecution. Some Jews speculated again about the end of time when the Roman army destroyed the Second Temple in Jerusalem in A.D. 70.

As the early Christians turned to an external saviour and as the Romans continued to crush rebellions, Jewish leaders realized they needed to survive in the world as they know it. A call to faith or a warning to God's coming judgement.

We do not know what to expect, but we need to keep the faith and proceed regardless. If you put your faith and trust in God, and accept His will,



(Contd.. from p. 22)

it will return with far more than you expected.

Is it the end of the world? Maybe it is, maybe it isn't. We need to remember to number our day because we really do not know when our last breath will be. But we need to be ready in the midst of this terrible despair as it offers us a chance to rethink the doomsday machine we have built for ourselves. Nothing could be worse than a return to normality. But in our present Coronavirus – pandemic - times, to people of many religions crises show signs of an apocalypse.

Once a man got lost in a desert. The water in his flask had run out two days ago, and he was on his last legs. He knew that if he didn't get some water soon, he would surely die. The man saw a small hut ahead of him. He thought it would be a mirage or maybe a hallucination, but having no other option, he moved toward it. As he got closer, he realized it was quite real. So he dragged his tired body to the door with the last of his strength.

The hut was not occupied and seemed like it had been abandoned for quite some time. The man entered into it, hoping against hope that he might find water inside.

His heart skipped a beat when he saw what was in the hut - a water hand pump..... It had a pipe going down through the floor, perhaps tapping a source of water deep underground.

He began working the hand pump, but no water came out. He kept at it and still nothing happened. Finally he gave up from exhaustion and frustration. He threw up his hands in despair. It looked as if he was going to die after all.

Then the man noticed a bottle in one corner of the hut. It was filled with water and corked up to prevent

evaporation.

He uncorked the bottle and was about to gulp down the sweet life-giving water, when he noticed a piece of paper attached to it. Handwriting on the paper read: "Use this water to start the pump. Don't forget to fill the bottle when you're done."

He had a dilemma. He could follow the instruction and pour the water into the pump, or he could ignore it and just drink the water.

What to do? If he let the water go into the pump, what assurance did he have that it would work? What if the pump malfunctioned? What if the pipe had a leak? What if the underground reservoir had long dried up?

But then... maybe the instruction was correct. Should he risk it? If it turned out to be false, he would be throwing away the last water he would ever see.

Hands trembling, he poured the water into the pump. Then he closed his eyes, said a prayer, and started working the pump.

He heard a gurgling sound, and then water came gushing out, more than he could possibly use. He luxuriated in the cool and refreshing stream. He was going to live!

After drinking his fill and feeling much better, he looked around the hut. He found a pencil and a map of the region. The map showed that he was still far away from civilization, but at least now he knew where he was and which direction to go.

He filled his flask for the journey ahead. He also filled the bottle and put the cork back in. Before leaving the hut, he added his own writing below the instruction: "Believe me, it works!"

This story is about life. It teaches us that we must have FAITH and TRUST. More importantly faith and trust play an important role in our belief in God and respect to Nature.

Punish them

No one could imagine that a few months ago the whole world would be at a standstill. Economic and political practices across the world have come to a halt. Deserted streets depict the horrendous time of the darkest hour. Why should the entire country suffer because of some people who have violated the norms of the lockdown like the Wadhawans? These people who have been roaming freely during the lockdown period and spreading the virus onto others should be put in prison.

Also, police brutality on hapless citizens coming out of their homes to buy essential commodities like vegetables and pulses is highly condemnable. Who gave the cops such harsh orders?

Vegetables and fruits have also become costly during the lockdown period leaving the common man to no option but to buy them.

— Jubel D'Cruz, Mumbai

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Corona Pandemic- Response From The Bombay Catholic Sabha

Covid 19, whether a human engineered tragedy or an act of God will be a matter of discussion for the experts and scholarly. The fact is that Corona Virus, although brought into our Country by highfliers, the resultant lockdown has worst affected the lowest strata of the Society, the migrants, transgender, daily wage earners, homeless, senior citizens so and so forth. Among the states, Maharashtra is most affected and in Maharashtra, Mumbai is the worst affected (hot spot) in the country.

As soon the Prime Minister declared a Nation Wide lockdown, without even giving breather of a time, life came to a stand still for many. Movement has become restrictive and for a State like Maharashtra which perhaps has the largest migrant population, it was herculean task. State Government has announced several relief measures but they were inadequate considering the large population.

The Bombay Catholic Sabha gave a call to its units to start organizing relief work in and around the city of Mumbai and immediately our units took up relief measures, which included attending to senior citizens needs, providing medical and ration assistance to the needy, direct distribution of cooked food packets, either directly or through the medium of St. Vincent de Paul at local parish levels, even reaching out the far flung needy through personal contacts, other NGO's etc.



The Bombay Catholic Sabha with its limited resources had initially announced a relief scheme of Rs.Two

Lakhs to be disbursed to all our units towards relief work in their respective areas. This was to encourage and ensure that even smaller units, existing in small parishes are assisted to carry out the relief work and to ensure that no needy is left out without making any distinction of caste, creed, religion, race or gender. When it was found that this amount of Rs.2 lakhs was not sufficient, an Appeal was made to members of Christian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI), Dimensions Global Christian Chamber of Commerce (DGCCC) and personal contacts of our units. With these generous donations, the Sabha will soon sanction a further relief amount to be disbursed to our units. In the meantime the Sabha is also collaborating with other organisations in the field.

As of 15th April, 2020, from the re-



ports that are gathered the Bombay Catholic Sabha through its parish units have reached 3363+ families by direct ration, medical aid etc while in number of other cases food packets have been distributed, not to say about sanitisation worked carried out with the assistance of local ward offices.

All safety procedures and precautions as specified by the authorities were strictly followed by all our unit volunteers.

Some of the Units that have carried out the relief work either with other local parish groups or independently and are continuing to do so are - Our Lady of Rosary Goregaon, St. Joseph, Vikhroli, St. John Bosco, Borivali, I.C. Parish, Borivali, Our Lady of Lourdes, Malad, St. Thomas, Goregaon East, St. Francis Xavier, Vile Parle, Sacred Heart, Santacruz, St. Lawrence Wagle Estate, Thane, Our Lady of Mercy, Pokhran, St. Francis Xavier, Kanjur Marg, Infant Jesus, Ghatkopar, St. Francis Xavier, Kirol, St. Sebastian, Marouli, St. Andrews, Bandra, Mount Carmel, Bandra, St. Peters, Bandra, St. Michaels's, Mahim, Our Lady of Victories, Mahim, Dominic Savio Wadala and Sacred Heart, Navi Mumbai.

The Sabha is very proud of its units and salutes them for their exemplary work during these stressful and difficult times.

The Sabha is extremely grateful to all donors, the Parish Priests of local parishes and the volunteers. The work of Sabha will continue as long as the lockdown continues and may be beyond that.

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Simple Living And High Thinking

by C.K.SUBRAMANIAM

These are unprecedented times that have dramatically changed our daily lives. While the uncertainty can be unsettling, I believe we will get through this together and emerge stronger. Stop glorifying the pandemic. Remember it is all about priorities. People world over are dying and if you need something this vicious to open your eyes and enjoy the company of yourself and appropriate your family and surroundings then something is inherently wrong with you. It is time to act responsibly. The day is not far off that we wish to be part of the world doing wonderful things for the sake of humanity and forget about proud past and do something good for the society. The money we have is to be used for the benefit of poor and down trodden people and that will be a rejoinder for all of us to lead a life of simple living and high thinking.

Our planet earth is a unique planet. It's uniqueness lies in the fact that it is the only planet to support life. A balanced environment on earth is what makes the survival of species possible. Modern man has made great development in the fields of science and technology. Today, he is all ready to settle a living community on Mars. So when even the planets of our solar system have not been able to escape the grasp of man's advancing technology, can the environment on our own planet remain untouched? No. All the scientific advancement made by man has come at a cost of the degradation of our environment. The main cause for degradation of the environment is pollution. Today, industries are part of a country's economy. As a result factories have been set up everywhere around the globe. The toxic substance released by these

factories pollute the air and contaminate the water. The polluted air is responsible for a number of hazardous diseases in human and animals. Running of transport vehicles raises dust and cause noise as well. Chemical factories release harmful gas particles and fatal lead components, in small amounts may be.

Forests are our wealth and means to our progress and prosperity. Man has been mercilessly for wood, fodder and other domestic or industrial purposes. Deforestation also leads to pollution. Our growing population caused trees to be cut down to make space for cultivation and for constructing houses or for establishing industries for finding job opportunities. As a result our forests disappeared and the atmosphere which was quite clean and clear has now become land for agriculture, river valley projects, roadways, railways and other Industries. Cutting of trees leads to soil erosion which results in the formation of infertile wastelands on earth. Not only deforestation, a number of other illegal deeds of human beings has disturbed the ecological balance of our environment, including poaching. Illegal poaching of animals, despite being banned by the Government, is still being practised on a large scale. Animals such as Tigers, deer, elephant, stags etc are hunted and made to die cruelly to fulfill the whims and fancy of the rich. Cosmetics, leather bags, shoes, purses, soaps, detergents, perfumes all made of animal products. Even the wild life conservation Acts did not bother the bureaucrats. While the Government is playing its role, people will have share an equal responsibility in protecting our environment. Unless we learn to regulate ourselves, we should soon be living in deserts with no plant, no animals, no rain and ultimately, there will be no life on earth.

Man is God's most beautiful creation but now he is acting ugly by cutting down the friends of our environment

trees. These trees maintain a balance in the ecosystem. Without trees, there would be no control over soil erosion, floods, droughts, pollution etc. The trees also maintain a balance between oxygen and carbon dioxide gases in the air. Besides these productive functions, trees have innumerable productive functions. They provide man with timber, fuel, pulp, gum, resin, rubber, fruits, nuts etc. So, the trees are really very-very important. In a tropical country like India 1/3rd of the land is under forest. However, the satellite reports show that out of the given per cent-age only 20% is forests. The forests have been destroyed and forest land has been used for cultivation and constructions of buildings. As the future inhabitants of this earth, it is only our children who are going to suffer and it is only we who can make the earth a better living place for tomorrow. All we as children can do is to maintain the the growth of trees and report the damages caused to the trees.

To fulfill greed and selfish desire, we have disturbed the ecological balance. Our body is made up of five elements fire, water, earth, air and ether. These very elements constitute the universe. Unless we take due care and protect the environment, we will be threatening our own health. The process of cleanliness begins from within. The purity of the soul is reflected in the face, and purity of thought should be translated to purity of action. Ask what you can do before telling others what to do. The environment around one self should be kept clean, starting from ones own person. Do not abuse the environment around you. It should be protected with great determination and perseverance. This responsibility rests with each and every one of us.

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