

# THE SECULAR CITIZEN

Vol.29 Issue No.32 ■ (Total Pages 24) ■ Mumbai, 10 - 16 August, 2020 ■ Rs. 10

A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY

## ***Read/inside:***

- ✱ **Condemned to Freedom**
- ✱ **Freedom & Liberty: Know the Difference**
- ✱ **Voice of the People**
- ✱ **Democracy Will Die In Darkness**
- ✱ **You the Citizens Decide**
- ✱ **Indian Bishops laud tribal youth appointed to the UN Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change**
- ✱ **Rare nature Illustrator Nirupa**
- ✱ **Vianney, A Pastor For Our Times!**
- ✱ **Caring For Cancer- Healing Touch For Corona**
- ✱ **Burial Or Cremation For Those Who Died Of Corona?**
- ✱ **The first time I rode a bicycle**
- ✱ **Fun Page**
- ✱ **The Last Daybreak**
- ✱ **'Catholic Sisters' Lead Anti-Human Trafficking!**
- ✱ **Recipe**
- ✱ **Matrimonials**
- ✱ **"Voice of dissent in democracy cannot be shut down!"**



# Condemned to Freedom

## Condemned

"Man is condemned to be free; because once thrown into the world, he is responsible for everything he does." says Jean-Paul Sartre, a French philosopher, playwright, novelist. Condemned to be free, because according to him, "we did not create ourselves. We must choose and act from within whatever situation we find ourselves". Born free, but condemned to be free? That may sound sarcastic but yes, man is responsible for everything he does. How true!



Melville X. D'Souza  
- Orlem, Malad West

A babe comes into the world, free from its mother's womb and

as he grows up he begins to experience real freedom - freedom from his parents, freedom from restrictions, freedom to do what he feels like doing. He rebels against his parents, teachers, elders who put restrictions on his freedom, although it could be for his own good.

## Misusing our Freedom

How often have we taken our freedom for granted? How often have we misused our freedom? What happens when one loses that freedom, maybe on account of his vices, gambling, alcohol, drugs, whatever. Or some debilitating illness, losing control over himself. Or maybe, a crime could land him in prison. So, there ends his freedom. And then, begins his craving for freedom.

## In chains

"Man is born free, and everywhere he is in chains", says Jean-Jacques Rousseau, a Genevan philosopher, writer and composer. Yes, man is born free, but a couple of months back, wasn't our freedom also snatched away from us by some invisible force, a force beyond one's imagination? A major epidemic, the

coronavirus had overtaken the whole world. It has shaken the whole world, bringing it down on its knees. The entire world was under 'Lockdown' and we know what Lockdown meant to us. Suddenly, we found ourselves in chains.

## Lockdown blues

Honestly, what were our feelings during this period? Our freedom to move out of our homes was snatched away from us, whether for work or for entertainment or whatever. We were so to say, imprisoned in our homes. Did we ever imagine that we would be caught up in a situation like this?

Life in our city, our state, the whole world had been thrown off the tracks, completely derailed. We were all quarantined at home and wondering when we would be free.

Surely, we must have pitied ourselves and still do so. We were completely helpless. All our arms & ammunition, our money, our wealth, our connections which we gloat over so often, proved worthless in the face of this pandemic. They couldn't get us the freedom we wanted - we were left craving!

## Migrants

What about the migrants who have been doing odd jobs, keeping the cities running.

The migrants who have made the cities their home for decades, living a free life. Suddenly, they found their lives torn apart. They had lost their jobs, their means of livelihood and were suffering untold misery. They were looking for freedom from this situation, craving to go back to their hometown but could not on account of the Lockdown.

## Racism

Racism is a curse. Even in these mod-

ern times, racism is prevalent in several countries today. The recent case of George Floyd, a black, who died on account of the inhuman treatment meted out to him by the security forces in America, has become the topic of discussion in recent times. We have seen the video of how the victim was pinned down to the floor with a policemen kneeling on his neck, ignoring his cries for mercy, ignoring the pleas of others around him, resulting in the death of the victim. Is the situation in our country much different? Preference for the fairer sex is very much evident. Look at the advertisements brainwashing the gullible public about the importance, the benefits of being fair. Over the years we have been seeing how the upper class of society have been looking down upon the lower class, oppressing them. They are not being allowed into the temples of the upper class, nor draw water from their wells, etc. Life is hell for the victims. How often have we come across such instances, their craving for freedom from such discrimination falling on deaf ears? Racism is turning out to be an epidemic why, a pandemic. At a memorial service, the lawyer for George Floyd, Benjamin Crump said, **it was "not the coronavirus pandemic that killed George Floyd"....It was "the pandemic of racism and discrimination."**

## Our Family

What about our Family? We now understand what family life means. Even though we craved to go to our offices did we not feel the bonding within the family? Creative ideas, hidden talents have come to the fore. **All places of worship were closed but we found God in our very homes. Our homes have become the Temple of God.**

## Limping back to normalcy

In many countries, Lockdown is being eased gradually, the authorities are trying to get the city, the state, the whole nation on track. We are all



# THE SECULAR CITIZEN

A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY

Vol.29 Issue No.32 August 10-16, 2020 Rs.10/-

99, Perin Nariman Street, Fort, Mumbai - 400 001.

Mobile: +91 9820485389 / 9820473103

E-mail : secular@sezariworld.com / seculardivo@gmail.com

Website: www.sezariworld.com

Editor: LAWRENCE COELHO

## Subscriptions Rate:

One year (anywhere in India) Rs. 500

Two years (anywhere in India) Rs.1000

Five years (anywhere in India) Rs. 2000

One year (outside India) Rs. 3500

## E-paper Edition

sent anywhere in the world (by email)

One year

Rs. 600 or US \$ 15

## Advertisement. Tariff

Over all size 21.5 cms x 27cms ● Print area 18 cms x 25.5 cms

Full pg. back Colour (19 cms x 24 cms) Rs. 18,000

Center spread colour(39 cms x 23.5 cms) Rs. 18,000

Full pg. inside Cover colour(18 cms x 24 cms) Rs. 12,000

Full pg. inner colour (18 cms x 24 cms) Rs. 10,000

Half pg. Colour (18 cms x 12 cms) Rs. 6,000

Full page B/W (18 cms x 24 cms) Rs. 7,000

Half page B/W (18 cms x 12 cms) Rs, 5,000

## Small Size Ads B/W

12 x 12cms Rs. 2400 ● 6 x 24cms Rs. 2400

18 x 6cms Rs. 1800 ● 6 x 12cms Rs. 1200

6 x 6cms Rs. 700

## Matrimonial Classifieds:

- Rs. 500 per insertion (for 35 words) (includes box no.)
- Rs. 3000 for 12 insertions. (1 year The Secular Citizen FREE)

Digital copy of **THE SECULAR CITIZEN** now available through WhatsApp / Email for subscribers worldwide. Send in your request to : +91 - 9820485389 or secular@sezariworld.com

Dear Reader,

Forward  
This issue of

**THE SECULAR CITIZEN**

by Email.  
WhatsApp,  
Facebook  
and other  
social network  
platforms  
to all your  
contacts  
and  
friends

(Contd.. from p. 2)

looking forward to normalcy. Going forward, how would life be after the coronavirus pandemic is brought under control? Reports say life would never be the same again. Economies the world over have been badly hit. A very large of employees have lost their jobs, small businesses have shut down, others are in the red. It's going to be a different scenario altogether.

## Lessons learnt

Can we draw any lessons from this Lockdown? **One big lesson we could draw from this situation is, we should never take our freedom for granted.** We never know where fate will throw us in our life's journey. Did we see any changes in the world around us during the period of Lockdown? The environment for instance, could we not feel the pollution-free atmosphere, the clear skies, as we stood at our windows or balconies staring out into the road into three open? Did we not hear the birds chirping as they flew around the trees? Did we not see butterflies fluttering around? Surely, we must have feel good!

## Conclusion

Craving freedom is human tendency. While we crave to break away from the chains do we think about the freedom of others? We need to be mindful of the freedom of others as well. The late, Nelson Mandela once said, **"For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others."** We may be condemned to be free but, we need to exercise our freedom judiciously and this world would be a better place to live in!

**We have not missed  
even a single issue  
during the Lockdown  
Period**

# Freedom & Liberty: Know the Difference

There are too many words in the English language that may mean the same thing, and one can be used in place of the other. Often times it can be confusing to distinguish between the two in their meanings and connotations, as in the case of “freedom” and “liberty. ‘Liberty’ comes from the latin word “libertatem” which means “freedom” or “condition of a freeman.” It entered into the English language through the old French word “liberte” which means freedom. The word “freedom” is defined as “the state of being free to enjoy political, social and civil liberties,” it is synonymous to words like privilege, special concession, independence and deliverance. So really what is the difference then?



by:  
**Dr Jeanette  
Pinto**

Freedom is a powerful word that rings aloud in many countries of the world. It rang in the American struggle to become an independent nation in 1776, with July 4 celebrating that victory. It rang on July 14, 1779 when the people of France stormed the Bastille to declare their quest and assert their freedom. It rang for our beloved nation India on August 15, 1947 to mark the day of their Independence from the oppressive rule of the British. All these victories for Independence from tyranny and inhuman subservience began with individuals who were willing to give up their lives for freedom. Surely these people recognized that real freedom must allow freedom of thought. This includes the right to worship God without interference, the right to think and speak freely, the right to share ideas and to live happily under a just government.

This quest, desire and longing for independence are an ongoing journey for many nations and peoples of the world. Even those who have achieved a high level of freedom and

justice face challenges which keep constantly cropping up. Corruption, nepotism, vested interests, materialism, greed, racism, communalism and other issues impede and discourage progress. India today is grossly entangled with these and many other issues and so one wonders what really can restore our hope in enjoying true genuine freedom. Perhaps it is only “Prayer” and “God’s intervention” that may help.

Freedom is not meant only for the country as a whole. Figuratively the word ‘Freedom’ is used in the sense of ‘emancipation’ or ‘salvation’. The freedom of spirit or the individual soul is the state of salvation where the person after death returns to God. On the other hand liberty is meant for an individual or a group of individuals, who fight for liberty. A person gets liberty if he fights for it. Liberty is believed to be the root cause of freedom.

India is a great country with a wonderful Constitution which gives full freedom to practice and propagate one’s religion. However that is not really the experience of all her people. John Stuart Mill in his book “On Liberty” in 1860 wrote: “No society, in which these liberties are not on the whole respected, is free, whatever may be its form of government; and none is completely free in which they do not exist absolute and unqualified.” Thomas Jefferson said, “When the people fear their government, there is tyranny, when the government fears the people there is liberty.”

After over seven decades of freedom we Indians would hope that all of our beloved countrymen are enjoying true freedom? But just consider the deep rooted caste system, a black spot

on Indian society; it is a complex issue, akin to slavery. It is not easy to estimate how many Indians live like slaves for there are many categories of them.

Consider this biopic - Serfdom, which many of our farming community experience. 2. Forced manual labour. 3. Debt bondage / bonded labour which is leading our farmer to commit suicide. 4. Migrant workers - subject to discriminatory rules and regulations undermining their human dignity. 5 Human trafficking - human beings traded as commodities for profit, commercial exploitation, through force fraud, and coercion. Women are trafficked for sexual exploitation, men and children for other reasons. 6 Forced marriage or sale of wives without the right to refuse for a payment. 7. Child



labour and servitude. 8 Abortion - wherein a mute, defenceless unborn child is destroyed in the womb.

Sadly, today many people live shackled lives, nobody seems to be spared, and yet we say we are free. Free from what? Are we free from the innumerable blatant injustices that permeate our society? Certainly not! The freedom to think is perhaps the only “true” freedom we have. In fact we experience ‘a culture of injustices’ in our society. “If you are trying to live a life in accordance with the Bible, the concept and call to justice are inescapable,” says Tim Keller, an American Christian apologist. We must understand Biblical justice as the state of wholeness due to all of God’s creation, only then will the human family enjoy Shalom translated as Peace, resulting in freedom and happiness.

The Coronavirus pandemic is a huge global challenge having turned the world upside down and inside out. We are in a way witnessing a crumbling world. Most people suffer fear, heartache, and depression; many





## About Covid 19

COVID-19 spreads mainly among people who are in close contact with each other. The spread happens when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks, and droplets from their mouth or nose are launched into the air and land in the mouths or noses of peo-

(Contd.. from p. 4)

ple nearby. The droplets can also be inhaled into the lungs. Since people can spread the virus before they know they are sick, it is important to stay away at least 6 feet possible, even if you --- or they --- do not have any symptoms. Social distancing is especially important for people who are at a higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

If you are sick with COVID-19, have symptoms consistent with COVID-19, or have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19, it is important to stay at home and away from other people until it is safe to be around others.

COVID-19 can live for hours or days on a surface, depending on factors such as sunlight, humidity, and the type of surface. It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or eyes. However, this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads. Social distancing helps limit opportunities to come in contact with contaminated surfaces and infected people outside the home.

Social distancing, also called "physical distancing," means keeping a safe space between yourself and other people who are not from your household.

To practice social or physical distancing, stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) away from other people who are not from your household in both indoor and outdoor spaces.

have found tremendous solace in prayer. There's the realisation that God alone can bring the world back to its normal. God's message could be that we need to turn to Him, and that He alone is in total control of the whole universe. The world surely needs a spark of divine wisdom and grace.

On this Independence Day in 2020, may we recall what the Apostle Paul, who travelled hundreds or thousands of miles in sharing the message of **spiritual freedom** that Jesus presented, told the early Christians at Corinth, "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." (II Corinthians 3:17) What did Paul mean by this? Did he mean that the "Spirit of the Lord" is the healing Christ that Jesus presented to humanity? It appears so! It encompasses and includes love, kindness, understanding, patience, gentleness, empathy, strength and joy. These spiritual life-giving qualities have the power to transform any human being, as also inviting him to open his heart to pray for the freedom of those deprived of it. The liberating spirit of the Lord is ever at work in individuals, moving them to strive unselfishly for all. It opened the way for the Americans in 1776, the French in 1798, and the Indians in 1947. It will surely continue to open the way to true freedom for all humanity.

ple nearby. The droplets can also be inhaled into the lungs. Since people can spread the virus before they know they are sick, it is important to stay away at least 6 feet possible, even if you --- or they --- do not have any symptoms. Social distancing is especially important for people who are at a higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

If you are sick with COVID-19, have symptoms consistent with COVID-19, or have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19, it is important to stay at home and away from other people until it is safe to be around others.

COVID-19 can live for hours or days on a surface, depending on factors such as sunlight, humidity, and the type of surface. It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or eyes. However, this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads. Social distancing helps limit opportunities to come in contact with contaminated surfaces and infected people outside the home.

Social distancing, also called "physical distancing," means keeping a safe space between yourself and other people who are not from your household.

To practice social or physical distancing, stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) away from other people who are not from your household in both indoor and outdoor spaces.

Social distancing, also called "physical distancing," means keeping a safe space between yourself and other people who are not from your household.

To practice social or physical distancing, stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) away from other people who are not from your household in both indoor and outdoor spaces.

—Jubel D'Cruz,  
Mumbai

**COVID:**

## A Let- down by world scientists

Even after 6-8 months of the initial appearance and spread of the Corona virus in the Chinese city of Wuhan, we have failed on every front it seems, to put a stop to the relentless increase in spread and killing of millions of people by the virus the world over. While there are no visible signs of the virus releasing its stranglehold, it poses a further danger of a second wave. In India, it is ironic that at a time when the number of new cases is increasing at an alarming rate of 50,000 plus per day, taking the total number to over 15 lakh , the govt has lifted several of the earlier restrictions, paving the way for more activities outside the containment zones. Scientists are also in a tizzy wondering what has gone wrong and why they have failed to find a solution to tackle the virus and end the pandemic---A total let-down , to say the least. This is what most people think today, as there are no answers yet to several queries, such as how the virus came into existence, and how to contain it, no answers for a quick vaccine, how asymptomatic persons turn Covid positive, and now recently how cured patients are further susceptible to heart attacks and other health complications. The number of dos and don'ts have made many lose their mental balance and turn paranoid. It is sad that we are spending huge amounts of our money and resources wastefully on projects of little human value, instead of using the same money to make our planet a safe habitat, free of the danger of repeated attacks of viruses of different kinds. Covid-19 has taught us many lessons, I hope.

— A. F. Nazareth,  
Alto porvorim

**Please renew your subscription if expired. Mention your subscription no. while sending the renewal amount**

# Democracy Will Die In Darkness

by Don Aguiar.

As the republic with the oldest written constitution still in use, India is the world's beacon of democracy. These days the beacon has been dimming. A respected global democracy watchdog group, recently sounded alarms about the integrity of elections and elected representative switching parties on financial inducement.

The outlook for a free and fair democracy and secularism in the near future is cloudy, not least because Prime Minister Modi himself encourages such practices.

Modi Prime Ministership represents a menace to press freedom unknown in fashionable historical past but a lone newsgroup grew to become the each day front-page leitmotif of a significant newspaper for a short while, after the rest fell in line with the government dictum, its reporters bravely dedicated to holding aloft the flickering lamp of freedom amid the gathering gloom of tyranny.

6 years on, it's clear the warnings have been justified. Think about the state of free speech in Mr Modi's India. Newspaper editors are compelled to give up due to items they've run. Teachers are far away from positions for daring to dissent from the dominant orthodoxy. Company executives have been fired for opinions written three a long time in the past that now fall outdoors the traces of acceptable public discourse.

In school rooms, newsrooms and boardrooms throughout the nation, you'll be able to virtually hear the silence as individuals internally examine what they are saying within the data that in the event that they cross the road they'll be publicly denounced and really doubtless terminated. This darkness has certainly claimed de-

**we are now creating an elected autocracy in the manner in which elections are now run in this country. And money, media are all weapons in this.....**

mocracy.

There are more than a single individual within the media who has suffered materially for saying hostile issues in regards to the prime minister's previously 6 years. Actually, there's no surer method to advance your profession in leisure, information, sports activities, literature and even enterprise circles than to difficulty some well-rehearsed bromide on social media in regards to the Gandhi family and the Congress Party.

**We've seen the place the actual menace to freedom lies: a local weather of ideological intolerance in our nation's cultural establishments that suffocates anyone who tries to query it.**

We've all the time accepted some limits on speech. The brand new guidelines simply develop a few of the exceptions all agree are wanted.

**However pay attention rigorously to the phrases utilized by Modi's ministers and party cadres. When the government mobilized to get an editor fired, they claimed the offending op-ed he printed put their lives "at risk."**

This was no mere distinction of opinion. The offending speech was supposedly a direct bodily menace to these offended. Echoing the language used on campus over a few years, the concept is that the speech they oppose isn't merely flawed, it constitutes violence. This language is rigorously chosen to stifle all criticism.

**You don't argue with individuals whose speech would hurt you bodily. You don't inform them to precise their views someplace else. It's a must to shut them up.**

**When you favour lowering the scale of prime ministership, you're taking away important companies for individuals and due to this fact, truly, killing them.**

Keep in mind, all that is taking place when the BJP—notionally at the very least—management 1½ of the government authorities political branches. Think about what occurs if they get complete & total management. Elections will have no meaning. Voting for party will have no meaning. In the end opportunist are brought together and form government. **Will democracy, actual democracy, the place individuals can nonetheless discover a place to precise dissent, survive the darkness that may fall then?**

It is not hard to imagine large-scale social unrest such as the weeks-long protests over the CAA and other bills which are termed anti-democratic. Given the tense situation in the country, it would take only a spark, whether spontaneous or deliberate, to ignite a social conflagration in key cities anytime.

A number of legal and political commentators have sounded an alarm that over the year's parliament has entrusted to the prime minister a large and poorly bounded set of "emergen-



(Contd.. from p. 6)

cy powers”.

In the same vein, the Attorney General has asserted that “the illimitable nature of the Prime Minister’s law enforcement discretion stems not just from the Constitution’s plenary grant of those powers to the Prime Minister but also from the unitary character of the Executive Branch itself.”

The alarm is serious, the law is muddled, and there is little confidence that one can rely on this prime minister to take a restrained view of his powers as have prime ministers in the past. Nor can one rely on the current parliament and attorney general to curb those powers, including any use of the military to carry out the prime minister’s orders. Indeed, if the parliament and attorney general were to say, after a prime ministerial emergency declaration, that a prime minister’s order is lawful, what uniformed officer or enlisted man or woman could refuse it as unlawful?

If the chief executive is unreliable as now, there are three main lines of defence in the constitutional structure against threats to a free and fair democratic secular future: Parliament, the states, and the courts. Will they act?

When historian in future look back at the last six years to see how democracy has been destroyed in India, even without a formal Emergency, they will particularly mark the role of the executive (parliament), the states and the court in this destruction.

**Our Constitution, established by “We the people,” enshrines a core principle: the right of the people to choose and affirm by periodic free and fair election those who hold power on their behalf. This is what our Constitution so memorably described as a “government of the people, by the people and for the people.” On this principle was built the very foundation of our Republic. It is the most important of our civil liberties that our government is not chosen by crown or religion, but by the people.**

But we are now creating an elected autocracy in the manner in which elections are now run in this country. And money, media are all weapons in this.... In the last elections one in three people voted only because of Narendra Modi and what has happened is that candidates matter less and less and we are becoming wily-nilly slowly an elected autocracy, wherein the individual matters much more than any institution. Money, media are all weapons in this.... Use to prop up this larger than life image, this personality cult. Particularly the media. The way the media covers the election, you tend to invisible-ise the opposition and prop up an individual. And this trend is getting accentuated across India. There is hankering for a strong leader who is going to fix the system. Democratic institution too are in recession e.g. Parliament which is reduced to a notice board.

Now it is up to us — we the people and our representatives at all levels and our courts — to make sure that the government does not end up the subject of democracy and election watchdog headlines about a failed democracy and election. The stakes could not be higher.

**Photography / Cinematography**  
**STUDIO 10**  
 Evershine Nagar, Malad (W)

- Traditional Photography / Videography
- Candid / Creative Photography
- Cinematography - Short Film
- Pre-Shoot / Post-shoot
- Contact : 9819157565 - Derick  
9821113005 - Eric

studio10derick@gmail.com  
 www.studio10.co.in  
 www.facebook.com/studio10official  
 studio10derick

**JACK OF ALL STALL**  
**Reliable House for Religious Goods**

Gloria Church Bldg.,  
 263, Dr. Ambedkar Rd., Byculla,  
 Mumbai - 400027

Tel.: 23725963, 23749358

Estd: 1951 Prop. B. D'Souza

**PAMELA WADIA**  
 Meet Pamela Wadia for designs fitted to perfection from simple A-line styles to fabulous Ball Gowns Excellent bead work & Embroidery - Any size or Shape, as per your budget.

**BRIDAL GOWN**  
**BRIDES MAIDS DRESSES**  
**FLOWER GIRLS DRESSES**  
**COMMUNION DRESSES**  
**WESTERN FORMAL WEAR**  
**READY WEDDING GOWNS ALSO AVAILABLE**

Mob: 9322277790,  
 www.ready2wed.in

**Ad. Rates for Thanksgiving**

	Colour	B/W
Favours granted minimum i.e. 15 words + 1 block(1 photo of saint) each additional block	Rs. 800	Rs. 500
Holy Spirit Prayer	Rs. 400	Rs. 300
Other small prayers (upto 100 words)	Rs. 1000	Rs. 700

Contact: Tel.: +91 - 9820485389, 9820473103  
**THE SECULAR CITIZEN,**  
 99, Perin Nariman Street, Fort, Mumbai - 400001

**MERCY'S HUB**

- Modern Wedding Cakes
- Serving Cake Slices
- Silver & Golden Jubilee
- Engagement Cakes
- Christening Cakes
- Holy Communion Cakes
- Theme Based Cakes
- Eggless, Gluten Free Cakes
- Lactose Free Cakes
- Sugar Free Cakes

**CUSTOMIZE YOUR CAKES FOR ALL OCCASIONS**

**MERCY GEORGE** We also deliver cakes on request  
**9664854133** Mercy's Hub  
 mercysHub@gmail.com

Try Our Customized Cake Displays & Enjoy Baking at Home

# WHETHER GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, AS IT DID WITH DEMONETISATION AND IMPOSITION OF GST WITHOUT SUFFICIENT PREPARATION, IS UNDER ESTIMATING THE ECONOMIC DAMAGE THE COVID PANDEMIC IS CAUSING ?

by Eric D'Sa

While both demonetisation and GST imposition without sufficient preparation had a large economic impact, it was down played by the government. Even after experiencing the slowing down in the economy for the last 3 years, there are still many in the government and the BJP, trying to defend the two unplanned actions. Unfortunately Covid 19 pandemic has hit the nation during this economic down turn. We have as of today reached 1.75 million reported Covid cases and 37,000 Covid deaths and still growing. Again the government is down playing the effect this pandemic will have on the economy of the country.

The shock from the scrapping of high-denomination banknotes in November 2016 lasted a relatively short period, as new bills were issued within weeks. While a shortage of cash for some time did unsettle the economy, factories never stopped and services kept going. In case of GST some of the small unregistered industries closed down with loss of thousands of jobs. But in the case of covid-19, it has already been four months of a full or partial lockdown, with no clear end in sight. And this time, the production of goods and services has been hugely disrupted. As such, the economic consequences of covid-19 are likely to be much greater and grimmer than those of demonetization.

We learnt three important lessons from the demonetization period, which weren't obvious at first, but became clear on hindsight. These could play out during the current pandemic, but on a larger scale. Understanding them could help avoid the pitfalls:

First, workers will find jobs again, but at lower wages. During demonetization, the unemployment rate declined gradually, but was driven by a rise in rural more than urban employment—rural India created double the jobs than urban India did. And despite the employment rate

rising, wage growth declined over this period.

What could this mean? On an aggregate level, while workers were going back to work, the wage outlook was not as good as before. One explanation is that urban job opportunities waned and some workers were only able to find work in rural India, where wages are 40% of those in urban areas.

It's a similar picture this time around. There's been an improvement in labour markets between April and July, driven by a faster rise in rural jobs, though

## YOU THE CITIZENS DECIDE:

some of this could just be seasonal agricultural related jobs. And the nature of the pandemic is such that several urban-focused sectors such as restaurants, hotels and tourism will continue to hurt more, weighing on urban jobs and overall wage growth. The latter was already slowing before the pandemic, and could slow further, leaving the country in a low-growth, low-wage equilibrium.

Second, the ongoing shift towards a formal economy could reverse. About 90% of India's labour force is employed in the informal sector, which depends largely on cash and does not have enough buffers to withstand large economic shocks. Demonetization is likely to have hurt the informal sector more acutely, with business expected to have dried up for some time, given the non-availability of cash.

In fact, when one looks closely at the performance of many listed non-government non-financial companies, which all operate in the formal economy, that post-demonetization, it is easy to find that corporate sales have suddenly began to rise much faster than the state of the economy would suggest. This indicates that sales which previously took place in the informal sector have moved to the

formal economy. This trend may play out again. We are already seeing anecdotal evidence of large companies gaining market share in select sectors.

Third, it is likely that economic growth over the next few months would get overstated. When the government first estimates gross domestic product (GDP) growth, it assumes the informal sector growth rate, which is hard to capture, to be similar to the formal sector's. This works fine in normal times, but not if the two sectors are diverging, as happened during demonetization and even GST, and is happening now under the pandemic.

So what happened to GDP growth during demonetization? For the first few quarters after demonetization, it remained surprisingly high. But throughout this period, the government used formal sector growth as a proxy for the informal sector, thereby arguably overstating GDP growth. India only gauges the informal sector once in five years through a survey, and then revises past GDP growth data. Unfortunately, the last survey was conducted before demonetization. As such, India's GDP numbers since demonetisation and GST implementation, so far do not capture the true state of the informal economy.

This time too, GDP releases may not fully capture the actual weakness in economic activity, until it is updated with a new informal sector survey that's still a few years away is available. Policymakers need to have a better way to capture informal sector growth, perhaps with an annual informal sector survey as soon as possible. The extended Covid pandemic, the additional expenditure we have been forced to incur to buy expensive arms from foreign countries, to meet the sudden Chinese incursion and occupation of Indian territory, will also land the nation into a prolonged U type of economic recession.



# Indian Bishops laud tribal youth appointed to the UN Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change

Bangalore, 30 July 2020 (CCBI): The Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI), which is the national body of the 192 Latin Bishops in India, congratulates Ms. Archana Soreng from Rourkela Diocese, Odisha Region, on her appointment to the United Nations Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change by the UN Secretary General António Guterres, on 27 July 2020.

She is one of the seven young global climate leaders – between the ages of 18 and 28 years– who will advise him regularly on accelerating global action and initiatives to tackle the worsening climate crisis as part of the UN Youth Strategy. “The announcement marks a new effort by the United Nations to bring more young leaders into decision-making and planning processes, as the UN works to mobilize climate action as part of the COVID-19 recovery efforts. They will offer frank advice, perspectives and solutions on climate change, from science to community mobilization, from entrepreneurship to politics, and from industry to conservation,” said the United Nations communiqué.

Ms. Archana Soreng belongs to the Khadia Tribe and hails from Sundergarh District of Odisha. She is experienced in advocacy and research. She did her graduation in Political Science from the Patna Women’s College and completed her Masters of Arts in Regulatory Governance from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. She is currently working as a Research Officer in Vasundhara, Odisha. She has been an active member of the Indian Catholic Youth Movement (ICYM) at the Diocesan and Regional levels and is also involved with indigenous youth groups to preserve, document and promote the traditional knowledge

and practices of their communities.

She has participated in the 66th Session of the CESC on 14th October 2019 at the UN Headquarters, Geneva, as an Indigenous Youth Representative from India. She is also a Member of YOUNGO (Youth Constituency of UNFCCC) and took part in the first



‘Global Youth Caucus on Desertification and Land’ at the UNCCD COP 14, 2019; she was also part of ‘Youth Dialogue’ with Inger Andersen and Ibrahim Thiaw.

“Our ancestors have been protecting the forest and nature over the ages through their traditional knowledge and practices. Now it is on us to be the frontrunners in combating the climate crisis,” said Ms. Soreng.

The seven young leaders appointed to the Advisory Body are: Archana Soreng (India), Nisreen Elsaim (Sudan), Ernest Gibson (Fiji), Vladislav Kaim, (Moldova), Sophia Kianni (United States) Nathan Metenier (France) and Paloma Costa Oliveira (Brazil).

In his address to the UN Climate Action Summit in September 2019, Pope Francis said, “While the situation is

not good and the planet is suffering, the window of opportunity is still open. Let us not let it close. With honesty, responsibility and courage we have to put our intelligence at the service of another type of progress, one which is healthier, more human, more social, more integral, and capable of placing economy at the service of the human person, building peace and protecting the environment.”

On 18 May 2020 the Pope dedicated the next one year to this cause, in commemoration of the five years of his encyclical “‘Laudato Si’: On the

Care for Our Common Home”. He said “In these times of the pandemic, in which we are more aware of the importance of care for our common home, I hope that all the common reflection and commitment may help to create and strengthen constructive attitudes for the care of creation.”

“We are proud of Ms. Archana Soreng and of the great contribution she makes to this prime global concern and we rejoice at the greater role bestowed upon her of helping preserve our common home by advising and guiding the United Nations, which are committed to this cause,” said Archbishop Filipe Neri Ferrão, the President of the CCBI and Archbishop of Goa and Daman.

*Rev. Dr. Stephen Alathara  
Deputy Secretary General  
Conference of Catholic Bishops of India.*

# Rare nature Illustrator Nirupa

**K**anara is renowned for rare personalities dedicated to rare fields of immense expertise and achievement. Here, Nirupa Rao, a young lady of deep dedication, knowledge and skills is contributing scientifically to 'Nature and environment'.

**Profile Overview :** Nirupa Rao - nature illustrator captures in fine detail the beauty of flora of the Western Ghats in the form of precision and specialised illustrations. At least 85 of Nirupa Rao's illustrations are part of a book 'Pillars of Life' by two renowned botanists. Nirupa was named as the 'National Geographic Young Explorer in the year 2017' a huge achievement. From this she received a grant to create her book 'Hidden Kingdom—Fantastical Plants of the Western Ghats' (published in 2019). Hidden Kingdom is an illustrated book that aims to open the minds of Indian children (and adults!) to the magical world of plants that exists in the Western Ghats in southern India. It was made in collaboration with: her



regular field visits into the wild, with a specific interest in species from the Western Ghats.

She has also published 'Pillars of Life—Magnificent Trees of the Western Ghats' (2018), a debut project in collaboration - the book features illustrations of trees native to the region, including images of their identifying parts like fruit, flowers, seeds and leaves. She has also illustrated the cover of Amitav Ghosh's latest



novel, Gun Island, and re-jacketed four of his older novels for Penguin-Random House. In 2019, she participated in a Plant Humanities program at Harvard University's Dumbarton Oaks Research Centre, and has exhibited her work at their museum.

She recently collaborated with the 'Centre for Wildlife Studies' on 'Wild Shaale' ('Wild School' in Kannada), an environmental and conservation-education program designed for rural school-going children, aimed at nurturing interest and empathy toward India's wildlife and wild places. She has also been named an INK Fellow, one to 'watch out for' in Forbes India's annual 30 Under 30 issue, and one of Harper's Bazaar India's 'Indian Women to be Proud of'.

**Early motivation :** As a child, she spent most of her summer holidays and family vacations in the Western

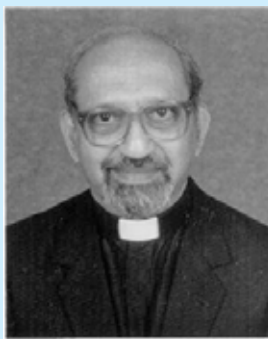
Ghats and developed an interest in botanical matters because of the memory of her grand-uncle, Rev Cecil Saldanha SJ, PhD, who led an expedition and documented the flora of Karnataka in the 1970s, and even documented the flora of Andaman, Nicobar and Lakshadweep; He headed the well known Botany department at was at St Joseph's college, Bangalore.

Fr Cecil is Nirupa's maternal grandmother's (Vera Machado nee Monteiro) first cousin, their mothers were sisters. Nirupa's mother is Carol, daughter of Harry and Vera Machado, and father is Venugopal Rao, an Udupi. Nirupa is born and brought up in Bangalore, with two older sisters Nandini and Suniti.

Nirupa said, "People like to refer to my work as hyper realism, but I don't think so, the art world, may be enchanted because of my minute amazing illustration on Amitav Ghosh's new novel, "Gun Island". The book cover, which has a swirling snake, adorned with flowers from the Sundarbans — where the book is set.

Nirupa's mother, whose Konkani "Classic old soul" she says she inherited, instilled a love for music and arts. She and her two sisters thrived singing and writing and pottering around the kitchen making sweets with their grandmother. "Botanical illustration is a pretty well developed field in the West, but not so in India,

so I learned all the foundation techniques from Elaine Searle. I've had to adapt the process to Indian conditions." One day, she hopes to dip her brush of paint and dabble in the world of insects, birds and other animals. Indeed motivation and example can be the amazing culture for deeper designs.



Rev. Fr. Cecil Saldanha SJ., Ph D

- Compiled : **Ivan Saldanha-Shet.**  
With in-puts from : Ms.Nirupa Rao.



sister Suniti Rao (a writer who runs her own creative agency, Lighter), her cousin Siddarth Machado (who is a botanical researcher at University of Florida), and Prasenjeet Yadav (a National Geographic photographer). She did not study to become an artist, least of all a botanical illustrator. She earned a degree in Sociology from Warwick University in the United Kingdom. Her work is inspired by

# Vianney, A Pastor For Our Times!

The year 2009 marked the 150th Anniversary of the heavenly birth of one of the most celebrated saints in the Church, Saint John-Baptist-Marie Vianney who was until then venerated as the patron of the Secular Clergy. Declaring him "a true example of a pastor at the service of Christ's flock", Pope Benedict XVI initiated a special year of grace in his honour – the "Year of the Priest," running from 19 June, the Feast of the Sacred Heart, 2009 to 19 June 2010, **upholding him as a model for and patron of all Catholic priests in his letter dated 16 June 2009, urging them to strive for spiritual perfection.** And with good reason too, for, when fittingly, 9 years later [November 2018], **Vianney's heart** did a 6-month-long nationwide tour of America, Joe Bollig, Senior Reporter with *The Leaven* (Catholic News-weekly, Kansas) was said to have written: "The heart receives special veneration because in Scripture it is considered to be a person's hidden centre of emotional, intellectual and moral activity. Saint John Vianney is said to have lived his life according to the heart of Christ and united his heart to Christ's." Now isn't that an ideal *every priest* is called to live up to!

## Early life and formation

Born the fourth of six children to Mathieu and Marie Vianney on 8 May 1786, in Dardilly, France (near Lyon), and baptized the same day, John-Baptist has the distinction of belonging to a devout family that had once accorded hospitality to Saint Benedict Joseph Labre, patron saint of the homeless, when passing through Dardilly on his pilgrimage to Rome in 1770. The 1790 anticlerical Terror phase of the French Revolution had Catholic priests on the run. The administration of the sacraments to the faithful being thus driven under-

ground, the Vianneys had to travel to distant farms to attend Mass celebrated clandestinely. John-Baptist's realization of how the clergy risked their lives day in and day out in this regard was what obviously planted in him the seed of his vocation. Secretly catechized by nuns whose communities had been dissolved during the Revolution, he made his First Holy Communion at the age of 13 in a neighbour's kitchen, its windows blinded to keep the glow of candlelight from the outside, his practice of the faith, including his preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, thus continuing in secret.

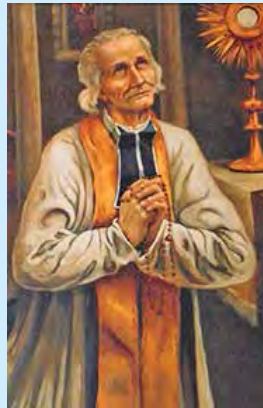


by Ladislaus L. D'Souza

## A Pastor in the making

John-Baptist was 20 when, the Catholic Church having been re-established in France by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802, his father allowed him to leave the farm in order to acquire some education at the Abbé Balley "presbytery-school" in neighboring Écully. Despite his struggle with studies, especially with Latin, he was able to persist only because of his deepest desire to be a priest, backed by Balley's infinite patience! But as luck would have it, John-Baptist's studies were interrupted in 1809 when he was conscripted. To cut a long story short, imperial amnesty granted to all deserters in March 1810 enabled John-Baptist to return legally to his studies at Écully.

Tonsured in 1811, John-Baptist entered the minor seminary at Verrières-en-Forez in 1812 and the major seminary at Lyon in 1813. However, found too slow, he was sent back to Abbé Balley who promptly hastened to persuade the Vicar General that John-Baptist's piety was adequate compensation for all that he lacked, whereupon he was ordained sub-dea-



con in July 1814, deacon in June 1815, and priest in August 1815 in the Couvent des Minimes de Grenoble. He celebrated his First Mass the next day and was appointed Assistant to Balley in Écully. One morning, suddenly ordered by Balley to preach in his place, he was, being unprepared, reluctant but in obedience ascended the Pulpit and all he preached for nearly an hour was the Pater Noster recited word by word, syllable by syllable ever so fervently as to bring the entire congregation to tears!

## The Curé d'Ars, Pastor par excellence!

In 1818, Father John-Baptist-Marie Vianney was appointed Vicar of Ars. Lost whilst trying to locate the tiny town of Ars comprising of some 230 inhabitants, he was shown the way by two young shepherds tending flocks in the fields. Touched, Vianney said to them, "You have shown me the direction to my parish. I will one day show you the way to Heaven." Today, a statue commemorating this prophetic incident stands in the main square.

The new Vicar soon realized to his dismay the acute religious ignorance and indifference resulting from the devastation wrought by the French Revolution on the Church—on Sundays the people either worked in the fields or whiled away their time drinking and dancing in taverns with gay abandon. Vianney promptly set about sermonizing so forcefully against blasphemy and pagan dancing, besides spending long hours in the Confessional where he declined to give absolution to those who refused to mend their sinful ways, that it was not long before Mass attendance skyrocketed, what with people turning away from their vices, domestic quarrels lessening and taverns downing

(Contd.. on p. 13)

# Caring For Cancer- Healing Touch For Corona

**W**ith Coronavirus taking the country by storm people resort to praying for the blessing of God. As the Covid-19 spreading more without letup gives a hint to the world that One Almighty God wants all the people in the world to start worshipping only One God. As the majority of the people today in the world worship more than One God and join partners to One God. Despite all the religious scriptures of all the religions in the world say to worship only One God but people are knowingly or unknowingly worshipping idols, humans, demigods, trinity and so many gods and they do, as seeing they see not, neither do they understand.

All scriptures say, "There is only One God, worship Him, Ekam Evadvitiam, He is One only without a Second. There is no deity but God. LORD our God is One". If all the people in the world follow their religious scriptures honestly to worship only One God then this Covid-19 can be defeated soon. So it is time to stop dialing the wrong numbers and beating around the bush but time to Call for help to Almighty God by worshipping Him alone. Like Corona causing concern in recent times, Cancer kills people in various forms and we failed to get a final remedy for cancer.



C.K. Subramaniam

The "C" word is a hard pill to swallow

**Wedding Invitation, Christening, First Holy Communion, Mortuary Cards & Religious Goods**  
**Contact:**  
**David & Company**  
 Rivendell House, 1st Floor, 650, J. S. S. Road, 2nd Dhobitalao Lane, Mumbai 400002  
 Tel.: 22019010 / 2205 7394  
 2206 0344 / 22079592  
 Email:davidprinters@gmail.com  
 www.davidcompany.com



and harder to take when it's just you and the doctor sitting in the office. I am afraid that I have some very personal reasons for this post. It is in the most difficult moments of life you realize who your real family, friends or people are that really have your back. People's true colors come out when the attention is not on them. Unfortunately, some friends are going to feel sad, but not really deem fit to pay attention.

Now I look at those who take the time to go through the patient and feel sad about the cancer patient. Cancer is very invasive and harmful, even after the end of treatment your body is still struggling to restore the damage caused by radiation/chemotherapy. Your mind reels, for a very long time. It is a very long process to recover.

Please, in honor of a family member, a friend who died, is still fighting cancer or even had cancer but beat it. To all those who have lost someone or are in the battle against cancer, here's a hug for each and every one of you and your loved ones. Cancer bloody sucks.

For cancerous growth of tissues that have not yet begun to spread, an everyday remedy of consuming heated buttermilk will take care of subsiding the dangerous multiplication of cells.

Mix a teaspoon of Apple cider vinegar to a glass of thick buttermilk, heat it up to 40 degrees, let it sit inside a bottle for the night unrefrigerated, and you've got yourself the cancer killing live and raw probiotics that will eat away all your damaged tissues.

Buttermilk contains yeast and bacteria, which when heated up slightly, but not too much, will bring them to their live and active state. Heating it too much will kill these probiotics. Yes, there will be a trauma after consumption, yet a painless trauma, and you can sense a fight clearly going on inside, if any part of your body requires healing, and the probiotics will gradually fight the damaging cells in the body. And with every dosage there will be more and more healing.

You might sense one of your eyelids twitching, which is the reaction towards the trauma of the fight going on inside. So don't panic if something like that happens. Unlike marijuana, which is a cell killer, this drink can be consumed in any quantities. If you drink too much, you will puke out the excess, and moreover, the yeast and bacteria from buttermilk, made from milk, is completely harmless and play a remedy for cancer. Looking for a vaccine for Cancer and Corona and till the time proper care is the only available solution. The C factor make us think and act carefully.

(Contd.. from p. 11)

their shutters!

Vianney also found joy in catechizing children and instilling in people an ardent love for Our Lady and the Holy Rosary even as, in collaboration with Catherine Lassagne and Bénédicte Lardet, he founded La Providence, a home for girls. In time, Vianney, a Franciscan Tertiary and a valiant champion of the poor, came to yearn for the contemplative life of a monk which, of course, he realized, after having run away from Ars no less than four times, was not to be!

### **A Confessor like no other!**

Amazingly, it was not long before Vianney became known internationally, with penitents, as early as in 1827, traversing great distances to seek his counsel, their numbers swelling to 20,000 annually by 1855, many of them queuing up some three days in advance. During the last ten years of his life, he is said to have spent at least 11-12 hours a day in the Confessional during winter, and 16-18 hours during summer, necessitating not merely an exemption but an order from his bishop prohibiting his attendance at annual diocesan clergy retreats because of the countless numbers of souls awaiting his ministrations!

Kneeling in Vianney's confessional is said to be a mystical experience that has you almost see his face behind the grated partition. Part of his popularity in the Confessional was believed to be his personal connection with all who encountered him. On the one hand, many evidently sensed Vianney's perception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation as integral to true conversion and the most potent means of reconnecting with God; on the other, according to Christine de Cibiens, "His first glance seemed to reach into the very depths of your soul."

Writing in the *Catholic Exchange* (13 August 2014) on how the Church responds to suicide, Shaun McAfee, a Lay Dominican who owes his con-

version from Protestantism to Catholicism largely to the book *Curé of Ars*, states: "You have to know that John had several mystical gifts. You name it, he likely had it. One in particular that stopped me cold in my conversion process was his ability to know details of confessors when hearing confessions. I didn't believe in confession at the time but there was an amazing story about Vianney I was stupefied by. In it there was a woman who told Saint John Vianney that she was devastated because her husband had committed suicide. She wanted to approach the great priest but his line often lasted for hours and she could not reach him. She was ready to give up when, in a moment of mystical insight that only a great saint can receive, Vianney exclaimed through the crowd, "He is saved!" The woman was incredulous, so he repeated, stressing each word, "I tell you he is saved. He is in Purgatory, and you must pray for him. Between the parapet of the bridge and the water he had time to make an act of contrition"."

Vianney had a natural sense of humour that always stood him in good stead. When a Paris socialite visiting Ars complained of the endless queue before his confessional, he told her very plainly that she would have to wait even if she were the queen of England! When Francois Dorel, a local plasterer, visited the church during a duck-hunting trip with his dog in 1852, Vianney promptly said to him: "It is greatly to be wished that your soul was as beautiful as your dog!"

### **Death and veneration**

On 4 August 1859, Vianney, a recipient of the coveted French *Legion of Honour*, passed into eternity, aged 73. His funeral, presided over by the bishop, recorded the participation of over 6,000 people including some 300 priests! His mortal remains, uncorrupt, lie entombed in a glass reliquary above the main altar in the Basilica at Ars, France, the face covered with a wax mask.

Declared "Venerable" on 3 October 1874 by Pope Pius IX, Beatified on 8 January 1905 by Pope Saint Pius X,

the Curé d'Ars was canonized on 31 May 1925 by Pope Pius XI. In 1959, in commemoration of the centenary of Vianney's death, Pope Saint John XXIII issued his Encyclical *Sacerdotii nostri primordia* ["From the Beginning of our Priesthood..."]. The Vatican Postal Service issued a set of stamps to commemorate the Sesquicentennial of his dies natalis.

Situated along the River Rhône, Ars is a mere 30-minute drive from Lyon which is today France's magnificent Beaujolais wine region, with delightful vineyards, birch trees, elms and willows lining the gently rolling hills. When Pope Saint John Paul II visited in 1986 to mark the Bicentenary of Vianney's birth, he significantly referred to the great saint as a "rare example of a pastor acutely aware of his responsibilities...and a sign of courage for those who today experience the grace of being called to the priesthood."

### **A priest for our times**

Indifference towards the faith, tepidity towards the Mass and the Church's sacraments and devotional practices, coupled with a craving for material comfort have for long been in evidence until COVID-19 and the resultant lockdown happened. Vianney for his part had weathered not only the rigours of early priestly life but also the suppression of the faith during the French Revolution. Though frequently besieged by the devil, Vianney remained steadfast in the faith, living a life of dedication to our Eucharistic Lord and boundless devotion to His Blessed Mother. Spending much time in prayer and enduring severe mortification, he sustained himself on little food and sleep, working tirelessly in unflinching humility, with gentleness, patience and cheerfulness while well into his 70s!

Factually, in being upheld as a model for and patron of **all priests**, Vianney emerges as a priest for our troubled times, inviting every believer to rise to the challenge posed not so much by the ongoing virus but by the unending

(Contd.. on p. 15)

# Burial Or Cremation

## For Those Who Died Of Corona?

by Fr. Michael G. Vasai

**T**hese days on our mobiles before we take our calls, there is a government announcement heard: Our fight is with Corona-virus not with those affected by it. That is an absolutely necessary reminder today. People are so worried of their own life that they do not care even of their close relations, sick with Corona! In case of such death there are families who inform health workers at hospitals on the phone to dispose of the bodies by themselves without caring for the last religious rites! The result is witnessed on the T.V. recently; a scene in Karnataka, in which health workers were seen just dumping dead bodies in a ditch and covering them with mud pulled by JCB! Observing the apathy in society Dr. Abhay Bang working for the Adivasi community health programme in Gadchiroli district, decries this insensitivity creeping in human society all over the world! 'If Gandhiji were to be alive today' he utters, 'he would go on Satyagraha demanding freedom from lockdown rules of distancing to deal with our brethren in need!'

*At the background of such dreadful situations when we see volunteers coming forward to serve the sick and the dead, beyond religious barriers and not caring for their own lives, is an act to be admired and emulated!*

### Are All Muslims Fanatics?

I came across an article in Marathi by MLA Shri. Kapil Patil regarding the Muslims who have done a heroic task of cremating bodies of Hindus, died of Corona and abandoned by their own families! And mind you, they cremated them according to Hindu rites! In the last 3 months volunteers from the well-known Bada Kabrastan



of Mumbai have done the cremation of more than 300 Hindu corpses! In the article Mr. Patil describes the cremation done in the presence of Bhatiji, Muslims volunteers wearing Tulsi Mala, the corpse in a coffin called Thi-

**Corona has brought about unique days. The Bishops and priests have a historical task of performing their task as pastors and guiding the community.**

radi, lighting a Chita (Fire) and making a ritual of Pradakshina around it with a broken Madaka (earthen pot), sprinkling water around the Chita, reciting Ram nam asat' etc.! Nothing was lacking in the Hindu ritual! Marvelous! Their Muslim faith was in no-way disturbed! The chairman of Bada Kabrastan Mr. Shoheb Khatib needs special mention! The whole rite was video-graphed on mobile and shown to their families ironically, who preferred to 'mourn' in the 'safety' of the home! The families were faithful to the government pandemic rules but not to the love of their dear ones! Bada Kabrastan group did similar service to even Parsis and Christians, abandoned, of course with permission of the Hospital authorities! The event of the first Hindu corpse taken from Cooper Hospital to Oshiwara crematorium

had become viral on social media in Mumbai!

Not all Muslims are fanatics, then! In the name of Makaraz gathering at Delhi in March, the Muslims were falsely accused of ushering corona-virus in India; but in fact it is a well known fact that keeping our international airports open to the world for Namaste Trump function, brought the pandemic to India!

### Where we Christians?

How about us Christians? Should we have not done the similar 'Good Samaritan' service -at least to Christians who died of Corona? In fact cases were reported in newspapers where priests refused to go and conduct funeral prayers! Some isolated examples are there like Mr. Anthony Wakde, who performed 35 funerals of abandoned Christians in Pune! But I am sad to note that some parishes passed Parish Council resolutions allowing the hospitals to directly cremate their parishioners! The question is not whether burial or cremation for Christian; The Church allows both. Baba Amte of Anand Van has shown a third option namely, to bury the body at the foot of a tree; to improve the quality of the soil there and enhance the growth of a tree! It was the need of honouring a human body and respecting the feelings of the family members towards their deceased ones.

Corona has brought about unique days. The Bishops and priests have a historical task of performing their task as pastors and guiding the community.

**In my view so far they (we) have failed miserably!**

(Contd.. from p. 13)

lockdown that has ensured an unduly lengthy closure of our churches and shrines.

### **Need of the hour...**

Would that the Church in India today, led by priests imbued with the spirit of Vianney, shunned the temptation to seek consolation in the organizing of *online Masses* and other services apart from *online contests, tournaments* and suchlike as ends in themselves. As Saint Paul says: "Now is the time of God's favour, now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor 6:2). Most believers are already getting so used to the virtual that a desire for the return to the real has probably long receded from their consciousness. Now, therefore, is the hour of reckoning when our priests must literally challenge themselves to help the faithful deepen their faith by using all means and talents in store to absorb, practise and share the faith, in the process imbuing them with a deep-seated desire to return to a truly vibrant practice of the faith, keeping in mind that no number of online Masses or Holy Hours or Spiritual Communion or whatever can bring the viewer the benefit of receiving the sacred species.

The Israelites in Egypt so longed to return to their homeland, Canaan, the land of Israel, that their PASS-OVER—when it took place—was an occasion of much joy and fulfilment. Indeed, only a Passover type of hunger-thirst can have us refrain from living in denial mode and imagining that the so-called 'new normal' is the acceptable norm for, by so doing, we deny ourselves the reality of the sustenance that comes only from receiving the Holy Eucharist, most specifically by participating in the assemblage at Mass in Church. **Would that our priests, guided by the Holy Spirit à la Saint John-Baptist-Marie Vianney, whose Feast the Church Universal annually celebrates on 4 August, make such an experience possible!**

## The first time I rode a bicycle

I remember the first time I got on a bicycle and got my first try on riding it --- all hell broke loose. To be honest, I could have easily lost my life on that day. I learnt how to ride a bicycle quite late in life, when I was about 11 years of age. The experience was not like all other people learning from their dad, grand dad or big brother. No! I had to learn from my friends, who were rough, careless and reckless.

The reason why I term my friends as reckless is because my first lesson on riding a bicycle was done on a highway with vehicles moving by. The traffic on this road was not that busy, but still, there were vehicles using the road. To make things worse, we had no helmets, shoulder pads or knee pads and I was a girl. I guess you can already see the reason why I said, I could have easily lost my life.

So many years have gone by, but this is still fresh on my mind like it just happened yesterday. We were about four friends, all girls and all waiting for turns on the same bicycle. The bicycle belonged to one of my friends and she was already good at riding. The other two had already had the privilege of riding a couple of times.

I watched with utter amazement as they took turns riding. Shortly after, I heard one of my friends call out to me, "Sweta, do you want to try?" I hesitated at first, but the urge of the thrill was too much for me to resist.

"Sure," I replied. That was the moment I was handed over the bike. One my friends volunteered to help me learn. She held the bike for me as I tried to balance and pedal at the same time. Without knowing it, I was balancing, pedalling and started moving down the steep road.

Things all started going smooth when I realised my friend had let go of the bicycle. Here I was, a first timer on a bicycle, moving down a steep road. If you though that was bad, from

nowhere, I could see a vehicle approaching from a distance and fast. I was lost. I could not even remember how to apply the brakes. The only option I had was to ride into the ditch that was alongside the road and that is exactly what I did.

I still remember being in that ditch, hurt and bleeding. My friends helped me out of the ditch. I thanked God I was not hurt so much or didn't break any of my bones.

That was not the last time I rode that bike and it was definitely not the last time I ended up in a ditch or a bush along the road. I guess I was also reckless and careless. At the end of it, I came out an excellent bicycle rider.



— Sweta D'Cruz

### Subscriptions for

**THE SECULAR CITIZEN**

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

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

**or  
Bank: Citizen Credit Co-op Bank Ltd.,  
Branch : Colaba, Mumbai  
Account Name: The Secular Citizen  
CurrentAccountNo. 209003100000489  
ISFC code: CCBL0209003**

**Please inform us through email: secular@sezariworld.com or through phone: 9820485389 after transferring the same.**

A man enters a wine Shop  
and  
asks the seller:

"Which brand of whiskey would you  
advise me for my 25th wedding an-  
niversary ?"

Wine Seller:

"Sir, it totally depends on whether you  
want to **Celebrate**  
or  
want to **Forget !**"

\*\*\*\*\*

## Marriage

- 1) He got married because he was  
tired and she got married because  
she was curious. They are both  
disappointed.
- 2) The only time they are stuck on  
each other is when they are plas-  
tered.
- 3) When he is in, he is out; when she  
is in, he is out. They can't find each  
other to discuss a divorce.
- 4) It started out as puppy love, and  
since gone to the dogs.
- 5) You never hear an angry word  
from them – their apartment is  
soundproof.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Rexona and Cinthol

There was a beautiful girl named  
Rexona and a handsome boy named  
Cinthol.

Rexona and Cinthol fell in love and  
decided to get married.

Rexona's parents were Hamam and  
Margo while Cinthol's parents were  
Wheel and Nirma.

Rexona was very excited to make  
Cinthol his LifeBuoy.

They approached their old aunt 501  
to discuss with their parents and  
agree to their wish to get married.

Rexona and Cinthol were very  
happy in their love.

They fixed their marriage at  
Fair and Lovely gardens opposite to  
Santoor theatre in MediMix city.

They invited their friends, Lux,  
Dove, Dettol, Savlon, Tide, Fa and Jo  
among others.

Rexona and Cinthol got married  
and lived happily in their dream  
house "Pears".

After a year, they got a baby girl.



This new born girl took multiple ava-  
tars, throttled everyone and complete-  
ly washed out the entire community.  
The name of the baby girl is PATAN-  
JALI.

— Jubel D'Cruz,  
Mumbai

\*\*\*\*\*

Wife: Why do you go out in the balco-  
ny, when I start singing.

Husband: Because the people would  
think I am beating you.

\*\*\*\*\*

A husband and wife were golfing  
when suddenly the wife asked,  
"Honey, if I died would you get mar-  
ried again?"

The husband said, "No sweetie."

The woman said, "I'm sure you  
would."

So the man said, "Okay, I would"

Then the woman asked, "Would you  
let her sleep in our bed?"

And the man replied, "Ya, I guess so."

Then the wife asked, "Would you let  
her use my golf clubs?"

And the husband replied, "No, she's

left handed."

\*\*\*\*\*

A couple drove down a country road  
for several miles, not saying a word.  
An earlier discussion had led to an  
argument and neither of them wanted  
to concede their position.

As they passed a barnyard of mules,  
goats and pigs, the husband asked  
sarcastically,

"Relatives of yours?"

"Yep," the wife replied, "in-laws."

\*\*\*\*\*

A man says to his friend, "I haven't  
spoken to my wife in 18 months."

The friend says, "Why not?"

The man says, "I don't like to inter-  
rupt her."

\*\*\*\*\*

A policeman on a motorcycle pulls  
over a car.

'What's up?' says the driver.

'Your wife fell out the passenger door  
three miles back,' says the police-  
man.

'Thank goodness for that,' says the  
driver. 'I thought I'd gone deaf.'

\*\*\*\*\*

Getting married is very much like go-  
ing to a restaurant with friends.

You order what you want, and when  
you see what the other fellow has,  
you wish you had ordered that.

\*\*\*\*\*

Make love, not war.

Or if you want to do both – get mar-  
ried!

\*\*\*\*\*

**Advertise in  
The Secular Citizen  
we are offering special  
discount on above rates  
during Coronavirus  
Lockdown period**



# The Last Daybreak

## A Short Story

**G**unbir Singh, like the rest of his Sikh officers and 'faujies', wore their Khaki uniforms of the Indian-British army with pride. His broad shoulders and a thin line of dark beard, crowned with a stiff turban gave him the appearance of a hero in his regiment. But of course, he was indeed a hero, reckless, fierce and always calm in the face of battle; unafraid of death, wading into encounters taking the enemy by surprise.

This was not the same Gunbir when he first joined the Sikh regiment working his way to the top as a disciplined, trust worthy man you could rely upon when confronted with the enemy. Within a year of duty in the frontline Gunbir rose in the ranks to field-officer.



BY MELVYN BROWN

Suddenly, by a twist of fate, Gunbir's life changed when his young wife died giving birth to his 'still-born' son. From that horrible moment of tragedy, losing both wife and child, his human nature changed to a ruthless warrior in battle. Because of his courage and leadership he was given the post of Field-Commander at the outpost.

Beneath the tough façade Gunbir wore a kind heart for the weak and the helpless. His new post away from the front line was to hold the outpost fortress at Saragarhi in the Khyber Pass.

Gunbir, his twenty-one fighting men, their wives who had volunteered to be with their husbands to cook and clean, to also help in a skirmish with the enemy if need be, loading and re-loading rifles and small arms.

In the event of an attack it was the jawans duty to occupy the enemy and to relay heliographic messages, flashing mirrors in Morse code to warn the two main Garrisons, Lockhart and Gulistan of the invasion. The barren land before them was moon-marked

with dunes, like the hump of sleeping camels.

Gracefully, the red sun of the day was sliding down into the lip of the western horizon. A cool evening breeze mingled with the circling sand opening a path for night to enter. At times like these Gunbir would wonder how the women must feel baking bread in front of the large clay-ovens.

The Sikh women had been trained earlier to load and reload the rifles of their men. The British had always encouraged their soldiers to spend time with their wives when off duty. "We are deeply concerned for our boys and act as though we are a family." said an Officer seriously.

Harveen Kaur, an attractive Sikh woman had taken the responsibility to be Gunbir's, sort of 'batman' as they say, to help and assist whenever the time arose. She was a spinster and the daughter of Captain Milan Arora who had also lost his wife in an encounter with the enemy at the Khyber Pass.

Gunbir, felt his heart strings pull whenever she came close to him. He often thought of her as his soul mate, resisting the urge to believe he could be in love with her.

The Captain had tried to keep his daughter away from the fortress to no avail. Standing on the ramparts of the fort Gumbir felt he was not afraid of dying, but he could not be selfish, there was Harveen who did so much for him, and he was not able to see her unhappy.

"Sir, will I bring your meal?" Gunbir spun around at the sound of her mel-low voice.

"Please, Harveen, if it is not any trouble?"

"I'm always here for you, Sir." She

smiled.

The 36th Sikh regiment had only 21 soldiers left at the outpost. The men were all aware it was a suicide mission should there be any further attacks. But Gunbir was proud of his Sikh warriors under his command, admiring the courage of his men to stand by him.

The steaming, freshly cooked vegetables and the large 'chapaties' were a tasty mouthful, especially when she had cooked it. He rewarded her with his rare smile. The look on her face lit up. "Thank you, Sir." Harveen replied looking away shyly.

The silence snapped when Corporal Milan rushed up to his Commanding Officer, and breathlessly said: "Sir, the Pathans are coming with the Afridi and the Orakzai clans!"

"How many?"

"About two thousand men, Sir."

Two Heliographic messages were promptly sent in Morse code and also flashing mirrors relayed the same message. The night had passed in a breath of expected tension waiting for dawn, perhaps the last daybreak for the entire group of Sikhs and their wives, mused Gunbir.

He stood stock-still on the threshold of the rampart with a rifle in one hand and his long sword in the other. The enemy fired the first shot and the battle began. His men fought with firm resolve, for God and country, as the saying went. The heat of the battle sent swirling sand, the stench of gun powder and the roaring sound of guns as some of the rogues raced into the fort with knives and swords.

A broad shouldered Pathan raced up to Gunbir from behind with the long blade of his rifle bayonet, raised it high and in that split second Harveen threw herself on Gunbir's back receiving the full impact of the cold steel running through her body and into her beloved's heart. They both died with the bayonet firmly wedged into both lovers.

The year was 1897.

# 'Catholic Sisters' Lead Anti-Human Trafficking!

by DRS. HAZEL & TREVOR COLASO

July 30 marks the United Nations (UN's) World Day Against Trafficking in Persons! It is a time to raise awareness, and amplify efforts to stop this scourge, especially with the COVID-19 ongoing pandemic. Human trafficking should be highlighted throughout the year. Thus, the need is to shine light on the work of Catholic Sisters' Organizations who are doing yeomen services in the field of anti-human trafficking.

**Dimensions of Human Trafficking:** Human Trafficking is defined as the exploitation of another human being for commercial sex or labor through the use of force, fraud or coercion. Broader fields include child soldiers, sale of organs, child marriages, forced adult marriages, and homosexual unions.

The root causes of human trafficking are complex – forced migration, domestic abuse, and even climate change. However, the most common factor is "Poverty"!

The International Labor Organization estimates that it is a \$150 billion criminal enterprise; the third largest activity in the world, behind drug trafficking and arms dealing.

**Catholic Sisters:** They have boldly championed the anti-trafficking movement since the first widely recognized case of human trafficking in the United States surfaced in 1995 – When over 70 Thai nationals were found enslaved in a makeshift garment factory in El Monte, California. Sisters in the Los Angeles area established the nonprofit group – Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST); which has received accolades from the US State Department and the UN.

In 1998, the International Union of Superior Generals (UISG), the worldwide leadership association of the Catholic Sisters initiated a collaborative effort against human trafficking by adopting the UN's landmark Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons.

Talitha Kum: This is the USIG

ministry. Talitha Kum translated in the Aramaic means, "Little Girl Arise"! It is a reference to the Gospel passage in Mark 5:39-42, in which Jesus heals a young girl presumed dead. This miracle instills a wholeness restored even in the most extreme situations.

The usefulness of Talitha Kum has been approved by the US State Department's Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, which is the world's most comprehensive information on human trafficking. In 2019, TPI recognized Comboni Missionary Sr. Gabriella as TPI Hero for her role as the international coordinator of Talitha Kum.

**International Ramifications:** In Nigeria, Talitha Kum's Committee for the Support of the Dignity of Women (COSUDOW), is in a partnership formed among more than 50 congregations of women religious. They conduct awareness campaigns in schools and Churches; and provide job training so that young people can find livelihood in their hometowns instead of seeking employment abroad. Nigerian Sisters also offer psychological support and shelter.

In Pattaya, Thailand, Our Lady of Good Shepherd Sisters run the Foundation of Life Women's Center, where young women who have been involved in sex trade can learn skills such as hair dressing, jewelry-making and computer literacy.

In Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Maryknoll Sisters direct the Horizons Vocational Training Institute, where former commercial sex workers take part in a two-year residential program that employ a skill-based curriculum developed for the Association of South east Asian nations (ASEAN). Participants take classes in the hotel industry, such as reception, catering and housekeeping.

**The Indian Scenario:** In India where the sex industry thrives, Sister Adorers manage the Naya Jyoti Dan center in the red-light district of Kolkata. At the center young girls learn skills

like tailoring and handicrafts.

To show the scale of Catholic Sisters ministry, the Arise Foundation estimates that at least 900 women religious are working against exploitation in the State of Assam, India, in the Tea plantations. These require intense physical labor, and are often sites of forced child labor. In addition, poor living conditions in rural areas make poor villagers prone to deceit of human traffickers who promise better lives in the cities. It's said that 900 Catholic Sisters in Assam alone match the workforce of the largest anti-slavery NGO in the world!

**Restoration of Human Dignity!** One of the most insidious aspects of human trafficking is the way traffickers breakdown the self-worth of victims to the point that force is no longer necessary to keep them enslaved. Traffickers attack the human dignity of victims through abuse, unspeakable degradation, and threats, both to the person and their loved ones.

Through vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, Catholic Sisters own a dynamic moral authority and clarity that underscores their life-long commitment to the restoration of human dignity! They value people made in the image of God; and are thus attuned to identify people under duress. They instinctively experience the wounds of others, and through acts of kindness and attentiveness, are able to awaken a sense of common humanity within survivors, dumb to their realities.

**Super Mums!** Pope Francis has recognized women religious as "Super Mums" who are a mobilized network of global frontline actors! He declared: "We are facing a global phenomenon that exceeds the competence of any one community or country, and therefore, we need a mobilization comparable in size to that of the phenomenon itself... 'Let my eyes see Your salvation, O Lord!'" (cf. Luke 2:30).

## Handwritten Bible



Rejin Valsan ( from Kerala, India ) prepared a handwritten copy of the complete Catholic Bible ( with 73 books ) during the COVID-19 lockdown period ( april 1 - july 22 ). It has taken him 113 days, used 2755 A4 size papers, and have used 32 ball-pens. Rev. Dr. Finosh Keettikka, parish vicar, has unveiled it for public display now.

*Ronida*

## Recipe:



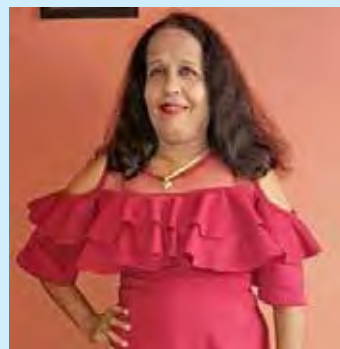
## Ripe Bananas Sabzi

### Ingredients:

- 4 ripe bananas
- 2 tbsp oil
- 2 tsp cumin seeds
- 1 tsp turmeric powder
- 2 tsp coriander powder
- 2 tsp red chili powder
- 1/2 cup water
- A pinch of salt
- 1 tbsp fresh coriander leaves, chopped fine

### Method:

1. Peel and cut the bananas in 1-cm thick pieces.
2. Heat oil in a pan.
3. Once the oil is hot, add cumin seeds and let them crackle.
4. Now add the banana pieces and mix well.
5. Add turmeric powder, red chili powder, coriander powder and salt.
6. Add water and mix well.
7. Let it get cooked for 5 minutes before putting off the flame.
8. Garnish with coriander leaves.
9. Serve hot with phulka roti or jeera paratha.



— Shirley D'Cruz

# Royal Christian Family MATRIMONIALS - GROOMS

**7052. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in June 1977), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 72 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., Retail Management, working as a General Manager. Contact email : albert.pinto2006@gmail.com

**7004. MUMBAI :** Tamilian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in August 1988), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 90 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E. (Inst.) MBA, working as a Sales Engineer. Contact email : amarian1988@gmail.com OR 9967657806

**6994. AUSTRALIA :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic divorcee, (Born in April 1959), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Dip. ITI Course, working as a Technician. Contact email : ninearies21@gmail.com

**7041. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in July 1985), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. 10th Std., working as a Plant Operater. Contact email : ronnydsouza075@gmail.com

**7152. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in December 1989) Ht. 6', Wt. 70 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., having business. Contact email : emi\_dalmeida@yahoo.com

**7040. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1991), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.C.A., MBA Pursuing, working as a GIS Analyst in MNC. Contact email : ronaldpereira1210@gmail.com

**7129. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in June 1987 1989), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working in Back Office. Contact email : roshan7687@gmail.com

**6996. MUMBAI :** Tamilian Roman

Catholic Bachelor, (Born in September 1990), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. BMS., M.Com., MBA in Marketing, working for L & T Infotech. Contact email : rodnidavid@gmail.com

**7104. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in August 1975), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 95 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. H.S.C., working as a Office Assistant. Contact email :

agnelo.nazareth1975@gmail.com  
**7008. USA :** Separated Roman Catholic, (Born in October 1983), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 62 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MD, MS, working as a Senior Engineer. Contact email :

jesusmary58@yahoo.com  
**7102. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in August 1988), Ht. 6' 1", Wt. 95 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Masters, working for MNC. Contact email : am.pereira@rediffmail.com

**7005. DUBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in May 1986), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 50 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. BMS /CFA, working as a Head Treasury in Dubai. Contact email : matri3119@gmail.com

**7101. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in April 1988), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 68 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Masters in Logestics doing part time MBA. Working as an Asst. Manager. Contact email : gracion.moras@gmail.com

**7004. MUMBAI :** Tamilian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in August 1988), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 90 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E. (Inst.) MBA, working as a Sales Engineer. Contact email : amarian1988@gmail.com OR 9967657806

**7101. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Ro-

man Catholic Bachelor, (Born in April 1988), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 68 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Masters in Logestics doing part time MBA. Working as an Asst. Manager. Contact email : gracion.moras@gmail.com

**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

**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 : phillipctocher@gmail.com

**7100. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in March 1987), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 52 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. H.S.C., working as a Event Coordinator. Contact email : celeseinepereira@gmail.com

**7112. MUMBAI :** Converted Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1970), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 80 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., & Masters in International Journalism (UK). Looking for a bride below the age of 42 years willing to raise a family. Contact email : decemberwedding08@yahoo.com

**Please renew your subscription if expired. Mention your subscription no. while sending the renewal amount**

**Address your replies to :**  
Regd. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
**ROYAL CHRISTIAN FAMILY,**  
99, Perin Nariman Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor,  
Fort, Mumbai - 400 001.

**To Place Your Matrimonial Advertisement Call:**  
**+91 - 9820485389 or 9820473103**  
\* Check your email at least once a week.  
\* Members are requested to inform us when they are settled, so that publication of their details can be discontinued.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
Telephone no. of candidate will be printed only with the consent of members.  
For Tel. Nos. Please contact:  
+91- 9820473103 / 9820485389 or  
Email : royalchristianfamily@gmail.com

# Royal Christian Family MATRIMONIALS - BRIDES

**7140. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in November 1991), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 63 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Graduation (BBI), working for a Private Bank as a Deputy Manager. Contact email : glendamisquith9@gmail.com

**7106. AHMEDNAGAR :** Goan Roman Catholic Divorcee, (Born in January 1986), Ht. 5' 3", Fair Complexion, Edn. High School, Contact email :

anthonyfernandes9850@gmail.com

**6741. MANGALORE :** Mangalorean RC spinster, 26 years, 5' 3", Doctor, Qualification : MD. Very fair and beautiful. Belongings to an affluent business family. Email : sona68500@gmail.com

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

track\_1976@ yahoo.com OR 9730454857

**7111. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in November 1993), Ht. 5', Wt. 47 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. BMS., working with an MNC. Contact email :

owena.dsouza@gmail.com

**7098. MIRAJ :** Protestant Spinster, (Born in November 1983), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 52 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Masters in Dental Science, Doctor by profession. Contact email :

dprebentisch@yahoo.com

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

l2018anselm@yahoo.com

**7141. MUMBAI :** Affluent business family Protestant Spinster, (Born in November 1995), Ht. 5', Wt. 55 kgs.,

Fair complexion, good looking, Edn., M. Pharma, Student. Contact email : saloni.1995naik@gmail.com

**7072. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1991), Ht. 4' 10", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Digital Media, working for Designing Firm. Contact email :

aubreyds@gmail.com

**7128. MUMBAI :** Affluent business family R.C. East Indian Spinster, (Born in 12-04-1988), Ht. 5' 2", very beautiful and pretty. Edn. MS General Surgeon, Doctor by profession. Contact email :

drv2019@gmail.com

**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

**7038. MUMBAI :** Gujarati Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in March 1976), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 52 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., working as a Senior Clerk. Contact email :

sunitamacwan72@gmail.com

**7070. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in March 1992), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 48 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Com., CS., working as a Company Secretary in Private Firm. Contact email :

smile9920@outlook.com

**7015. MUMBAI :** 35 years, Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in February 1983), B.Com., LL.M., working in a MNC in Mumbai, seeks alliance from well educated and well settled bachelor. Kindly reply with profile and photograph on the email ID : alliance3525@gmail.com

**7044. DUBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in February 1991), Ht. 5' 11", M.Com Finance & Ac-

counts working in Dubai invite alliance from well settled bachelors. Kindly reply with full details and photographs to email : waltercb@hotmail.com or whatsapp on 00971506245183

**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

**7042. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1992), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 57 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working. Contact email :

cute\_reema3@yahoo.co.in

**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

**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

**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

**Registered members can publish their ad in all the 50 issues in a year for Rs. 8000 only.**

If you wish to publish your matrimonial classified advertisement in all the 50 issues in a year, you can do so for an amount of Rs. 8000 only.

**To Place Your Matrimonial Advertisement Call:**

**+91 - 9820485389 or 9820473103**

\* Check your email at least once a week.  
\* Members are requested to inform us when they are settled, so that publication of their details can be discontinued.

**Royal Christian Family  
Helps In Choosing  
The Right Life-Partner  
Serving Since 39 Years**

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

Telephone no. of candidate will be printed only with the consent of members.

For Tel. Nos. Please contact:

+91- 9820473103 / 9820485389 or

Email : royalchristianfamily@gmail.com

# “Voice of dissent in democracy cannot be shut down!”

Justice Deepak Gupta retired as a Supreme Court Judge, on 6 May 2020. A couple of months before he retired, on 24 February he was invited to deliver a lecture at an event organised by the Supreme Court Bar Association. In a hard-hitting, no-holds barred lecture which focused on ‘The Right to Dissent is the Most Important Right Granted by the Constitution’ he said, *“to question, to challenge, to verify, to ask for accountability from the government is the right of every citizen under the constitution. These rights should never be taken away otherwise we will become an unquestioning moribund society, which will not be able to develop any further”*. He emphatically stated that, *“Dissent is essential in a democracy. If a country has to grow in a holistic manner where not only the economic rights but also the civil rights of the citizen are to be protected, dissent and disagreement have to be permitted, and in fact, should be encouraged. It is only if there is discussion, disagreement and dialogue that we can arrive at better ways to run the country”*.



BY FR. CEDRIC PRAKASH SJ

“There can be no democracy without dissent”, was his constant refrain. He went on to quote a fellow Justice D.Y. Chandrachud who in another speech put the matter very succinctly, saying, *“The blanket labelling of dissent as anti-national or anti-democratic strikes at the heart of our commitment to protect constitutional values and the promotion of deliberative democracy”*. Strangely enough, on 23 July in a case regarding nineteen dissident Rajasthan Congress MLAs including Sachin Pilot, a Supreme Court bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra re-echoed the very same words, **“Voice of dissent in democracy cannot be shut down!”** Lofty ideal indeed, if only the apex court had remained true to its own dictum, in letter and in spirit! Sadly this is not the case!

Today in India if you show any dissent or dissidence to anything which the regime does- woe to you! There is the midnight knock! One is hounded and harassed, intimidated and threatened; false cases are foisted. There are investigations, your phones are monitored, and your computers are searched. Your premises are raided; income tax starts looking into

the returns of your relatives. If you are an NGO and have an authorized account to receive foreign remittances that is cancelled. You are thrown into jail on fictitious and fabricated charges; abused, beaten and subject to all kinds of torture. Your family is put under severe pressure. You can conveniently be bumped off in one of those ‘encounters’. All this and more- the regime uses all existing mechanisms to silence you. It is clear: this regime brooks no dissent.

There are any amount of examples in India today to show how the Preamble to the Constitution of India which promises liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; and Article 19(1) which guarantee freedom of speech and expression; freedom to assemble peaceably and without arms; and the freedom to form associations or unions- are being trampled upon mercilessly. Justice Gupta reiterates, *“these three freedoms are vehicles through which dissent can be expressed. The right of freedom of opinion and the right of freedom of conscience by themselves include the extremely important right to disagree. The right to disagree, the right to dissent and the right to take another point of view would inhere inherently in each and every citizen of the country. When we view all these together, it is more than obvious that the right to dissent is the biggest right and, in my opinion, the most important right granted by the Constitution.”*

Strangely enough, words like dissent, or its synonyms like dissidence and protest emerged very often in the context of religious and/or political establishments that were not in sync with the reality or had moved away from the legitimate aspirations of the people. Justice Gupta in his speech drives home the point saying, *“if a person does not ask questions and does not raise doubts questioning age-old systems, no new systems would develop and the horizons of the mind will not expand. Whether it be Buddha, Mahavira, Jesus Christ, Prophet Mohammad, Guru Nanak Dev, Martin Luther, Kabir, Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Swami Dayanand Saraswati, Karl Marx or Mahatma Gandhi, new thoughts and practices would not have been established, if they had quietly submitted to the views of their forefathers and had not*

*questioned the existing practices, beliefs and rituals”*.

St Ignatius of Loyola founded the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) in 1540. He had to face much hostility from the powerful of those times (including the Inquisition) because he dared question practices which he believed were no longer relevant or responded to the cries of the people. He founded an order which was radically different from the existing orders of that time. He even had the audacity to taking education to the common folk, which was during his time a monopoly of the clergy and royalty. A parallel (in the sixteenth century too) can be seen in the life of St Teresa of Avila, who through her relentless questioning and search was able to reform the Carmelite tradition. There are several classic examples of how dissent within established structures, brought about not only fresh thinking but also radical changes.

So at the heart of every vibrant democracy is dissent! So why is the Government afraid of dissent and doing its best to silence everyone who is visible, vocal and critical of them? Hundreds of citizens have signed statements condemning the arbitrary arrests of anti-CAA protestors, *“We, the undersigned citizens, have been watching – with anger and dismay – the ceaseless harassment, interrogation and, in many instances, torture of protesters who participated in the recent sit-ins and agitations against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019. Gulfisha, Khalid Saifi, Ishrat Jahan (both are Muslim community leaders), Safoora Zargar (member of the Jamia Coordination Committee) and Meeran Haider (president of the Rashtriya Janata Dal youth wing’s Delhi unit) have been arrested in the last few weeks. Safoora Zargar and Meeran Haider, both students of Jamia Millia Islamia, alongside Gulfisha, have been slapped with the draconian Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA). Umar Khalid, former student activist of Jawaharlal Nehru University, is also understood to have been slapped with the UAPA for his role in the protests, although the latest statement of a senior police officer suggests that he is still under investigation”*.

It is amply clear that innocent persons are



(Contd.. from p. 22)

being victimized to cover up the violence created by right wing Hindutva groups everywhere. These arrests seem to mark the continuation of a disturbing trend: the BJP government's practice of covering up the violence committed by Hindutva groups by blaming democratic activists and citizens for the same, and its general disregard for the lives of citizens. Gautam Navlakha, Anand Teltumbde, Arun Ferreira, Vernon Gonsalves and others have been arrested over the Bhima Koregaon violence of 2018, even as its real perpetrators such as Milind Ekbote (a leader of local Hindutva groups) roam free. Although the self-proclaimed Hindu Raksha Dal took responsibility for the armed assault by masked goons on students and teachers inside the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) campus on 5 January 2020, and some of the attackers identified in the videos belonged to the Hindutva student organisation Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad, Union Minister Ashwini Choubey claimed in its aftermath that the "Leftists" had been beaten up "by their own people".

Then there is the case of poet and activist Varavara Rao, also an accused in the Elgar-Parishad-Maoist links case, who is languishing in jail. Recently a statement signed by more than two thousand intellectuals and other concerned citizens demanded that Varavara be immediately released on bail from a prison in Maharashtra due to his deteriorating health condition. *"The health of poet, litterateur and political rights activist P Varavara Rao, incarcerated for nearly two years in the Bhima Koregaon conspiracy case, has significantly been deteriorating since he had a fall on May 28 in the Taloja jail,"* the statement said. They quoted his family as saying that he is hallucinating, unable to walk and even brush his teeth.

The latest is the arrest of Dr Hany Babu an Associate Professor at the Department of English in the University of Delhi on 28 July 2020. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) arrested Dr. Hany Babu, in connection with the Elgar Parishad-Bhima Koregaon Case. On 24 July, Prof. Babu (54) was summoned to the NIA office in Mumbai as a witness where he was subsequently arrested after five days of questioning. He had requested to provide testimony via Video Conferencing considering the travel risk related to COVID-19, but his request was denied. As the questioning started, Prof. Babu

was forced to provide false testimony against other activists and to accept allegations of being a functionary of the Maoists. Even under immense pressure, Prof. Babu, a conscientious teacher and activist, refused to concur with these lies. Because he stood for truth, Prof. Babu was arrested after five days of harassment in the name of interrogation.

The arrest of Prof. Babu is the continuation of an almost year-long harassment which began with a raid of his house on 10 September 2019. The Pune Police, who claimed the raid was in connection with the Bhima-Koregaon case, confiscated his laptop and mobile phones as well as barred him from using his social media handles. Prof. Babu has clearly stated that he has no connection in any way whatsoever with the incidents at Bhima-Koregaon. The Bhima-Koregaon case is related to the eruption of violence at the annual celebratory event of Dalits on 1 January 2018. Although violence at the event was triggered by the interference of Hindu right-wing groups, the incident was used as a pretext to arrest Dalit scholars and other activists.

Prof. Babu is the twelfth person to be arrested in relation to the case. As anti-caste scholars and activists, we understand that the framing of Prof. Hany Babu, a tireless anti-caste intellectual and activist, is an attempt to penalise Dalitbahujans for raising their voice against casteist practices. It is a tragic irony that the Indian Government is using a celebratory event of Dalits to frame anti-caste scholars and activists. Prof. Babu, who has consistently worked to ensure equal opportunity for Dalitbahujan students, views social justice as one of the main aims of scholarship. He also raised his voice to defend the rights of Prof. Sai Baba, a Delhi University Professor with 90% physical disability who was arrested on charges of having Maoist links in 2014. Prof. Babu's commitment to social justice is penalised by his arrest. This is the latest example of the current Indian Government's attempt to annihilate dissent and freedom of life for its vocal public.

On 31 July, the British newspaper 'The Guardian' had a telling article on the situation in India entitled, 'India arrests dozens of journalists in clampdown on critics of Covid-19 response'. The incisive report says, *"facing a continuing upward trajectory in Covid-19 cases, the Indian government is clamping down on media coverage critical of its handling of the pandemic. More than 50 Indian journalists have been arrested or had police complaints registered against them, or been physically assaulted. The*

*majority of those facing action are independent journalists working in rural India, home to more than 60% of the 1.35 billion population. "The indirect message is that we cannot show the government in poor light. It does not matter if we have to turn a blind eye to issues we witness," said Om Sharma, a journalist with a Hindi daily in Himachal Pradesh, a mountain state in north India. Police had charged him over a Facebook live report that showed stranded workers in need of food during the lockdown."*

This is just the tip of the iceberg! For almost a year now, since 5 August 2020, and with the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A, the people of Kashmir have been imprisoned. Well known Supreme Court lawyer Prashant Bhushan tweets about the way the Chief Justice of India is publicly portraying himself – and he is hauled up. Those who take a stand are charged with sedition and under the UAPA- the list is endless.

Justice Deepak Gupta is unequivocal when he states, *"the right to dissent includes the right to criticise. We all must be open to criticism. The judiciary is not above criticism. If judges of the superior courts were to take note of all the contemptuous communications received by them, there would be no work other than the contempt proceedings. In fact, I welcome criticism of the judiciary because only if there is criticism, will there be improvement. Not only should there be criticism but there must be introspection. When we introspect, we will find that many decisions taken by us need to be corrected. Criticism of the executive, the judiciary, the bureaucracy or the Armed Forces cannot be termed 'anti-national'. In case we attempt to stifle criticism of the institutions whether it be the legislature, the executive or the judiciary or other bodies of the State, we shall become a police State instead of a democracy and this the founding fathers never expected this country to be. To question, to challenge, to verify, and to ask for accountability from the government is the right of every citizen under the Constitution. These rights should never be taken away otherwise we will become an unquestioning moribund society, which will not be able to develop any further"*.

*"Voice of dissent in democracy cannot be shut down!"*

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

## Innovative Products For Smart People

### Digital Alarm Clock



#### Product Description

This amazing glow in the dark clock also features a temperature read out. The backlight display features time, date temperature whilst the translucent case glows with 7 different colors. Product information an elegant and useful product for all home and offices desk.

### Women's Faux Fur Stretchable Magic Scarf



#### Product Description

Made of Faux Fur. 100% stretchable. The material is soft, fluffy and comfortable. Looks awesome. Stylish, fashion, soft and trendy, it is a magical multifunctional scarf. The stretchy tube-like scarf can be worn in different ways. All-in-one magic scarf, that can magically be changed to a dress, a hat, a skirt, a shawl, a vest, a cape, a gown, a hood, a halter and many more.

**Goods will be sent by courier delivery:**

**For Price and order, contact:**

**+91 - 9820485389**

## Keep Mosquitos Away Use Medicated Mosquito Net for an Undisterbed Sound Sleep



- Medicated mosquito net.
- You can wash 20 times.
- You can use for 3-5 years.
- Manufactured as per WHOPES specification.
- No smell, no taste, any one can use.
- Available in Single & Double size -small, Medium and Large size.
- Safe for All.
- Provides long lasting protection against mosquitos and other insects.

**Sleep Naturally -**  
no coil, no liquid, no chemical sprays -  
only medicated mosquito net. use it for years

**For Orders:**

**Call: 091 - 9820485389**

**WhatsApp: 091 - 9820485389**

**Email : secular@sezariworld.com**