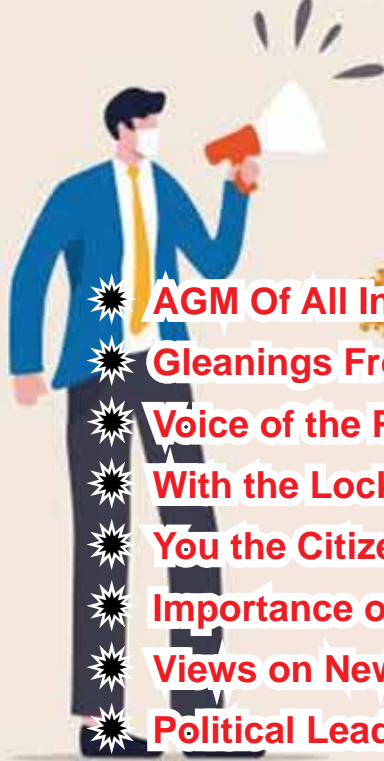


RNI No. 56987/92

THE SECULAR CITIZEN

Vol:29 Issue No.35 (Total Pages 24) Mumbai, 31 Aug.- 6 Sept., 2020 Rs. 10

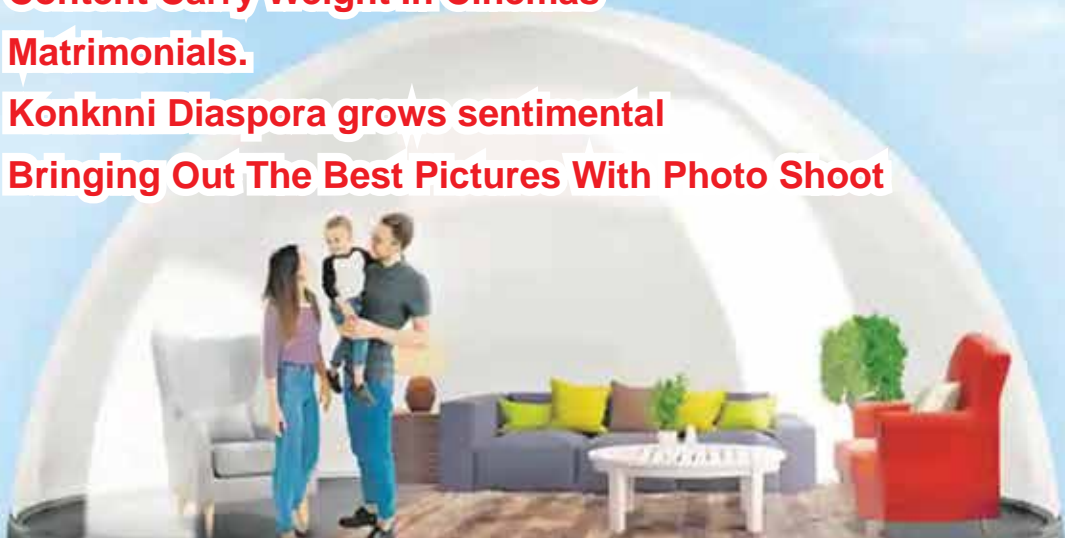
A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY



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AGM Of All India Catholic Union

The Annual General Meeting was held on 16th August, 2020, on line with delegates from all across India, being members of Affiliated Diocesan institutions, life members, benefactors and major donor members. The online meeting was hosted by The Bombay Catholic Sabbha.

After the AGM, the All India catholic Union released the following PRESS STATEMENT

Mumbai, 18 August 2020

Catholic community stands in solidarity with the poor, who have been marginalized even more in the Covid lockdowns.

Century old All India Catholic Union holds its first on-line Annual General Meeting, elections deferred by a year.

Digital divide, minority rights worrisome in New Education Policy.

[The following is the text of the statement issued at the end of the Annual general Body meeting held on 16th August 2020. In the face of the restrictions on travel and meetings in the wake of the Corona pandemic, the meeting was held online, but saw an overwhelming and enthusiastic participation by members.]

Catholic Bishops Conference of India secretary general Archbishop Felix Machado has called upon the community to strengthen its solidarity with the poor. We must rid ourselves of the understanding, even in the Church, that "The poor is 'insignificant', a non-person, without any rights, an obstacle to society", the Bishop said inaugurating the first ever on line annual General-body Meeting of the century old All India Catholic Union.

It is a concern the way 'globalization' is progressing; that lakhs of people are considered 'useless objects' because they are used and thrown away by the economic system. Pope St John Paul II and Pope Francis had stressed that foreign debt, with manipulated taxes and interests of the creditors, should be cancelled, he said.

Archbishop Machado, who heads the church in Vasai diocese, dismissed the targeting by vested interests. "We are Indians and at the same time Christians. The two can neither be separated nor can they be identified. We owe allegiance to both because our identity is to be 'Indian Catholic'. As Indian citizens all Indians are equal to us in dignity before God; and as Catholics, all people in the world are equal to us in dignity"

The Church, he said, has clearly pronounced its desire to dialogue with people who belong to all religions, and who belong to none. We are to own values of peace, justice, freedom, not just as means to our social commitment, but they must inspire methods to form a human society respectful of the rights of all.

The AICU general body renewed the term of the principal office bearers of the Union and the Working Committee for another year in view of the peculiar situation created by the pandemic. The office bearers are National President Mr. Lancy D Cunha, National Vice President Engineer Elias Vaz, Secretary general Mr. Anthony Chinnappan, and Honorary Treasurer, Mr. Alexander Anthony.

The Ecclesiastical Advisor of AICU, Archbishop Peter Machado of Bengaluru participated in the AGM.

Among the major issues taken up in the general discussion were the continuing attacks and targeted hate against the Christian community, the issues raised by the new National Education Policy and the erosion of civil rights in the cover of the Covid lockdown.

The New Education Policy has been critiqued by the CBCI and the AICU when it was published online. AICU was part of the delegation that met the Union Minister for Human Resource development last year. While the NEP extends education to three-year olds, and assures primary teaching in the mother tongue, it has still not addressed the concerns of the people of Tamil Nadu, for instance, on the issue of main languages. Among other

major problematic issues in the NEP are increasing the distance which village children, especially in tribal areas, may now have to travel to school. The AICU has demanded continuing consultations on the NEP and assurances that it will not violate the rights of states, religious minorities, apart from ensuring adequate budgetary provisions for universal education.

The All India Catholic Union supports the Catholic Bishops Conference of India resolve on Zero Tolerance for sexual crimes, moral turpitude and caste discrimination. All these are also punishable under national laws. The AICU has stood for expeditious trials in courts of law for those facing such charges. There should be no kangaroo courts, media trials, or social media insinuations that bring the entire Church and community in disrepute.

The community faces many serious challenges from militant religious nationalism, the impact of various policies including changes in environmental laws, and the situation brought about by the Corona Pandemic which call for a united response from the CBCI and the AICU. There is also need for collaboration not only with all other Christian denominations, but also with Civil society and the vast majority of like-minded people in all faiths, and among groups not professing any faith.

The All India Catholic Union, as one of the oldest faith-based people's organizations in the country, commits itself to the defense of the Constitution of India and the rights of the poor and the marginalized it has always promoted Constitutional provisions for Dalits irrespective of their faith affiliations.

The statement is signed and released by the National President, Mr. Lancy D Cunha in Mangaluru, and past president and Official Spokesmen, Dr. John Dayal, in New Delhi Released to the media for publication.

Raphael D'Souza,
President
The Bombay Catholic Sabha.

THE SECULAR CITIZEN

A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY

Vol.29 Issue No.35 Aug. 31- Sept. 6, 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:

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One year (outside India) Rs. 3500

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Gleanings From Gloom - “ The New Normal ”

We have stopped “living... and we are dying every day...” This is the mournful plaint of most people and life coaches too. And suggestions offered to us on social media to rid ourselves of this syndrome and “ begin to live..” are a dime a dozen! But being creatures of habit, we listen to all these and then, we fail to act on any one – I may be wrong, pardon me...!! We seem to seek solace in listening to all but following no one.... Sounds familiar...?? à la Jesus Christ...??? At the expense of sounding preachy and patronizing let me interject here: “I have come so that you may have life and have it in abundance..” (Jesus Christ in John 10:10), and we choose to die everyday and live mournful lives..as if we are on the edge of the precipice...

So what is our recourse in times such as these? Several recourses actually, resourced from various sources, gleanings from readings and my personal experience in prayer and reflection. A personal reflection on these days and times elicits a measured response in the light of reality and faith. This realization has come to me through these past four months and more of the lockdown – celebrating Holy Mass, leading an Adoration in front of the Blessed Sacrament, structured Bible reading, discussions and debates on media and in personal prayer as well as in conversations with people of all ages and hues.

1. Living in the moment: Most of our life is spent, either living in the past or in an imagined future, usually a foreboding future. Of course we need to learn from the past and plan for the future (remember the man who built his house on sand / rock..??). But to be so focussed on this alone is morbid. It takes away from the here and now and the beauty of living in the present –



By Father Austin
Norris

(Contd.. on p. 4)

enjoying the love around us through people and situations which God places us in.

“Living in the moment “is to take time to smell the flowers and the rain soaked earth; to gulp in the clean cool air, to see the beauty around, to learn from the pain and the struggle of those around us and in our response to these situations. It means to love and reach out to those in need and be a source of warmth, comfort and solace to them. It is to look at the faces of our loved ones etc and enjoy the here and now....simply because we can miss out on the significance of this joyful moment and then this memory fades away and forever.

2. Loving those around us:

Heartbreak is the background score of these times. The dirge of the funeral band is not heard; few people are permitted at funerals, baptisms, marriages, and memorials; and these turn out to be sad and under-celebrated moments. So rather than live and lose, we might as well live and love those around us – for we know not when the icy hand of death will snatch a loved one away and separate us from those we care about. Love would involve actual awareness of those in our circle of life, who everyday are the bulwark of our life and existence – be they our parents, siblings, spouses, family, neighbour, classmate and workmates – yes even the caregivers and the menials who facilitate our very existence.

Loving would mean, acknowledging people for who they are and responding in appreciation; a simple “please” .. “thank you” .. “that was so kind of you” .. “pardon me..”. A gesture of help or a meal shared with a neighbour or family, a simple message or call to check on someone (not for gossip...). A realization that we are interdependent and that love is at the core of our being, made as we are in the image and likeness of God.

3. Learnings at the moment:

Life is constantly teaching us lessons that we should be eager to grasp and

learn. No one is “a know-all and be-all”. We are a work in progress and we will learn till the end of our days. We are learning “to put up with each other” staying as we are within arm’s length in our homes, cooped up due to the lockdown. The outdoors are a strict no-no, or severely restricted at best. We are learning to “log on and work from home...”

We are learning to adjust at home; sharing screen time with our children vis-à-vis online teaching and learning, cooperation amongst elders and young people with regard to lesson planning and teaching aids etc... So many have turned into good chefs, creative writers and artistes! Zoom and Google meets etc have become household words and parents and children have suddenly become tech savvy and viola! Comps are not a ripper anymore...!!

4. **Living on a Prayer:** Myriads are the testimonies of people who have begun to enjoy prayer and quiet time. They have been attending online services – Mass, Adoration, teachings, healing services, Divine Mercy / Rosary recitations – all these have served to still us and calm us and focus our attention on the God of the Universe - who is our life and love.

Living on a prayer makes us prayerful persons. We can pray unceasingly for all and sundry. The news channels with their tirade of death and violence, the story of a kindred soul and bravehearts, a situation of conflict and solace – all become the subject of prayer and our hearts reach out across boundaries and oceans and continents to bind and surround, with love - all humanity.

5. **Living in hope:** Hope is our only “HOPE”... we live and die a thousand deaths everyday, so goes the saying – or at least our cells do....!! But if we watch out only for danger and the proverbial “Damocles’ sword”...we will certainly fall into a pit and either injure ourselves or die... We need to look up certainly – but towards Heaven, with our feet firmly planted on Earth, and believe you me, we will live...!!

“Hope springs eternal in the human

breast,” says Alexander Pope. And why not! If we don’t hope, we will succumb to despondence, anxiety, paranoia, hopelessness and helplessness and the end will well be nigh! But far from it, the human spirit rises forth in belief that “all is well, that all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well...” [Julian of Norwich]. And so we survive to live another day! We face up to life’s challenges and pandemics and apparent apocalypse, only to rise like the phoenix, nay Jesus Christ – who conquered death and taught us to live life here “in this vale of tears” in the hope of “the life to come...”!

6. Living within the “new normal”:

If there is a major literary takeaway from this pandemic, it will have to be the expression “the new normal”. And it is not a bad one after all. This has, you will agree, brought to the fore the humaneness of humanity; the fraternal love and charity seen in the selflessness of the frontline responders; the reaching out to the migrant and the weary traveller by all and sundry, social organizations and individuals; the philanthropy of the rich and famous as well as the poor and the havenots; the ‘milk of human kindness and compassion’ that freely flowed and doctors san frontiers who have reached out to nations and the needy. The plasma donors are the latest in hearkening to appeals to save lives.

Surely there are very tangible signs of the “new normal”, not forgetting appreciating the sanctity of nature and the cosmos; the reliance on religion and God; family prayer, relationships and bonding, hugs and handshakes, the luxury of taking a walk down the road or strolling on the beach, the joy of a simple rickshaw ride; the poverty of human existence, in terms of ‘ here today- gone tomorrow’ – so let us all do the best we can and live and let live, love and forgive.. let go and let God! In short: “Do unto others what you would want to be done unto you” (Matthew 7:12).



Action songs during Mass

Now-a-days, the number of Catholics going for Sunday and weekday Masses have decreased tremendously. Some don't find the time, while others find the homilies boring. In my opinion, action songs should be sung during every Mass so that the atmosphere in the church may become more lively. This way, more people will attend Mass. The reason why all retreat centres draw huge crowds is because action songs are sung and the Mass is not boring like the Mass celebrated in our local churches.

—*Jubel D'Cruz,*
Mumbai

Step-motherly treatment for PMC depositors

Whatever little hopes depositors of the Punjab Maharashtra Cooperative bank (PMC) had of getting back their money in fixed deposits, have now been shattered after the RBI informed the Delhi High Court that it was not possible to hike the withdrawal limit of Rs 1 lakh, because of the lack of liquidity, as assets held by the bank are far below the amount to be paid to depositors. Eleven months have almost passed since the restrictions were imposed by the RBI on the PMC bank and their depositors. Yet, little has been done by the RBI-appointed administrator in disposing of the assets of the scamsters, which is far in excess of the amount to be paid to depositors. To make matters worse, all the branches of PMC bank have

downed their shutters, as the employees are on indefinite strike, leaving the depositors wondering and distraught. Surprisingly, there is no positive response from finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, apparently, distancing herself from the impasse, after her previous assurances of speedy redress. Such step-motherly treatment by the centre is hard to understand, especially in these hard times of the pandemic.

— *A. F. Nazareth,*
Alto Porvorim

Lessons from Covid-19

Covid-19 has taught us many lessons and good practices, even if unwittingly. And let us be assured, Covid-19 will be around for a long time till these good practices take deep roots in us so that they do not die out easily after the pandemic is gone. The first and most important lesson we have learnt is to be more prayerful. Those who did not go to church are now attending mass on Sundays. Those who were attending mass on Sundays are now attending daily mass, thanks to live streaming of church services. The family rosary, which 50-60 years ago was a prerequisite before dinner was served, but got lost in hustle and bustle of modern day life, is now being recited in more and more families.

Covid has bonded the family. Families not only pray together, but also eat, chat and even play together---something unimaginable just 5 months ago. Covid has made us more charitable. Scenes of starvation, misery, deprivations, have touched the hearts of people and led them

to open their purse strings to help their less fortunate brethren. People not only donate more generously but also actively participate in doing works of charity. Covid has taught us to not waste food. Notice the usually overflowing garbage bins in housing societies are now only half filled. We eat every thing on the plate, polish it-- even to the extent of denying poor stray dogs left-overs to fill their bellies. Covid has taught us hygiene and cleanliness, so lacking in our country. Finally, covid has taught us to be less ostentatious. Large, extravagant parties are out. Weddings, birthdays and other parties are restricted to 25-50 persons, mostly family members. Hopefully, we will not forget these lessons, post covid.

—*Prof Robert Castellino*
Malad

Online learning--- an injustice to poor students

One look at our children studying during the lockdown and it becomes evident that they have made a smooth transition from classroom to online learning. And parents in Mumbai are not complaining. But this situation applies only to the upper-middle and the rich; and they constitute only about 20% of the population in the country. The middle class, lower middle class and poor make up about 80% of the population. They are on the other side of the digital divide. Most of them live in rural India (66%). They do not have access to uninterrupted electricity and internet. Many do not have internet at all and cannot afford smartphones and data. They live in cramped one-room tenements that are not conducive to online classes. Millions will be compelled to drop out of the school system and lost forever. Disillusioned and depressed many bright sparks may even contemplate suicide. We have to break out of our cocooned life and wake up to these stark realities.

(Contd.. on p. 7)

With the Lockdowns, You'll Love the Carbon Free Future

by Don Aguiar.

Neither Greenpeace, nor Greta Thunberg, nor any other individual or collective organisation have achieved so much in favour of the health of the planet in such a short time.... It is certainly not very good for the economy in general, but it is fantastic for the environment.

One beneficiary will be the climate: after all, the world's lungs are already breathing more easily thanks to the collapse of industrial production. **Who is to say that this pandemic does not provide a turning point in world history?**

We have an "incredible responsibility" to actually converge the solutions – at least the financial solutions – to coronavirus to the financial solutions for climate. Because what we cannot afford to do is to jump out of the frying pan of COVID and into the raging fire of climate change. The pandemic could create an opportunity to rebuild the global economy along more sustainable lines. **If we can shut the world down to stop a virus that also means it is possible to do the same for climate change. Treat all emergencies like emergencies!**

What would it look like when the world actually decides to take on the

climate crises? It would look like what we are seeing right now. COVID offers an opportunity to direct finances towards bolstering climate action. Similarly, we need to step up our efforts to catalyse green investment to re-launch economies on low-emission, climate-resilient trajectories.

The climate-change motion is profiting from the COVID pandemic, equating it with the "existential disaster" of synthetic world warming. Whereas praising the present show of unilateral authorities motion as a mannequin for addressing local weather change, many environmentalists and liberal politicians have additionally known as for a surge in authorities spending on renewable power tasks.

Inexperienced activists must be extra centred on the potential that the coronavirus disaster might undermine help for his or her trigger. Listed below are the local weather classes from the pandemic:

- *That is what a world without fossil fuels appears to be like.* The lockdown of the Indian economic system starting in mid-March briefly choked off demand for crude oil and refined merchandise, driving oil costs unfavourable for the primary time ever in April. In latest weeks, manufacturing declines have slowed as consumption patterns have begun to return to regular with the lifting of quarantines.

If oil use have been declining with provide reasonably than demand, the scenario can be related. Fracking ban advocates and pipeline protesters who need to shut down Indian manufacturing completely have gotten a glimpse of the tip results of their acknowledged objective: lifeless cities and city facilities, empty highways and

buying malls, and deserted airports and stadiums.

Without fossil fuels, Individuals would face restricted mobility and financial exercise can be diminished, with increased unemployment and perennial provide chain disruptions since hydrocarbons are used to make and transport most items. This financial actuality might be not misplaced on the cooped-up common public.

- *City Individuals now understand how migrants really feel.* Since Covid-19 hit, lakhs of Individuals have filed for unemployment advantages—with roughly 26% of the Indian labour pressure nonetheless unemployed on the finish of July—as aggressive, typically overreaching shelter-in-place orders compelled companies to shut, typically for good. Migrants have confronted mass unemployment due to end-market demand destruction attributable to authority's decrees.

However whereas the unemployment and associated social pathologies (together with opioid habit, overdoses and suicides) attributable to anti local weather rules have been confined to all India and different rural and slum areas. The present pandemic-related unemployment spike is especially a city phenomenon, which makes it more durable to disregard. Having walked a mile within the steel-toed boots of migrants, individuals ought to have a special perspective on the enlightened nature of elected officers and might imagine twice about supporting arbitrary shutdowns of politically incorrect companies.

- *There's no cash left to subsidize inexperienced power.* The pandemic

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(Contd.. from p. 6)

has uncovered the precarious monetary place of virtually each a part of the Indian economic system. Earlier than the disaster, most Indian households lived from pay check to pay check, with little financial savings for an emergency. We now know that the identical is true of most Indian companies and nearly each degree of prime ministership.

On the prime ministers / finance ministers bailout packages in 2020, the federal deficit has exploded, without increasing the nation's productive capability.

As we discovered with the various packages from the prime minister and finance minister, which included greater than rupees 20 lakh crores for clear power packages, extending low-cost loans and investment and manufacturing tax credit to medium and small scale industries, start-ups, photo voltaic and wind tasks does little to stimulate the economic system. As a substitute, it distorts investment flows and erodes already weak public funds.

- *The coronavirus disaster exposes the frivolous nature of local weather alarmism.* When seen towards the precise lack of human life and livelihoods being attributable to the coronavirus, theoretical considerations in regards to the summary idea of carbon air pollution and common temperature readings in 2100 appear trivial. The pandemic additionally highlights the failings of prime ministership in each real-time disaster administration and coverage making.

Authorities-backed global-warming alarmists have spent a long time warning everybody about impending planetary doom over the following century. Whereas they've been obsessing about 100 years sooner or later, a human scourge from 100 years in

(Contd.. from p. 5)

I strongly feel that online classes must be put on hold until the poor are given a level playing field. I suggest that instead of online classes, school kids may be given video lessons, in small half-hour capsules, which may be sent to them by their teachers. These videos can be accessed by the students on WhatsApp, at their convenience. This will enable children to share one smartphone in the family among siblings and even share the smartphone with two or more families. We need to look at the other side of the digital divide.

—Prof Robert Castellino
Malad Mumbai

Fireworks Amidst Pandemic & Lockdown!

Fairly recently, when preparing to give a bonus of sorts to the majority community, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra had advised the people of the state to set an example to the world about how we can celebrate our festivals with due constraint, observing all rules connected with the battle against COVID-19 and the unending lockdown. And yet, we hear fireworks galore in the celebration of Ganesh Chaturthi!

the past sneaked up on the world in less than three months.

Because the nation begins to dig out from the worst recession, now can be a great time to rethink our priorities.

Let's not let this crises go to waste. Coronavirus offers a chance to do capitalism differently. Government has the upper hand, it must seize the moment. Already the coronavirus has achieved something that

Forget setting an example for the world to emulate! Rather, we would be obliged if Shri Udhav Thakre would kindly clarify as to which country's example the people of his state are presently emulating in celebrating a festival with the erection of makeshift wayside mandaps for housing idols, holding processions for the installation of idols and for their eventual immersion, both to the accompaniment of loud, raucous music and, worse, lighting of fireworks!

There's death staring innumerable individuals in the face not only within the state itself but also in the neighbouring states and, indeed, across the country, with ambulance bells and sirens screeching the atmosphere! As if to add insult to injury, we have fireworks unlimited!!

So what is the LOCKDOWN per se all about if the majority community are allowed processions and fireworks even as those belonging to any minority community are grossly disallowed praying in their respective places of worship?

The strangest part of this sordid episode is that neither the courts of law in the country nor human rights bodies have taken cognizance of the serious ambiguity and injustice prevalent amidst the ongoing pandemic and lockdown.

—Ladislav Louis D'Souza
Malad

the government policies and moral awakening couldn't: it is pushing us into green living..... We'll look back on December 2019 as the all-time peak in global carbon emissions... Governments need to make good use of the current pandemic.

The similarities between the causes of and solutions to the coronavirus and the climate crises are nothing short of eerie.

AS THE NATION HAS JUST COMPLETED 73 YEARS OF FREEDOM, WHETHER WE THE PEOPLE OF INDIA NEED TO RELOOK AT PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRUS SPEECH “ TRYST WITH DESTINY” ?

by Eric D'Sa

Free India's first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's speech still reverberates and evokes one's patriotic sentiment. His powerful speech on the midnight of August 15, 1947, highlighted the struggles of the people of India. His words, "At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom," and his speech "Tryst with destiny" which was delivered in Parliament laid the road map for the future. India has celebrated its 73rd Independence Day a few days ago. It is time may be for us, to contemplate whether we have realised the tryst with destiny as we read that memorable speech:

TYRST WITH DESTINY.

Long years ago we made a tryst with destiny, and now the time comes when we shall redeem our pledge, not wholly or in full measure, but very substantially. At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom. A moment comes, which comes but rarely in history, when we

step out from the old to the new, when an age ends, and when the soul of a nation, long suppressed, finds utterance. It is fitting that at this solemn moment we take the pledge of dedication to the service of India and her people and to the still larger cause of humanity.

At the dawn of history India started on her unending quest, and trackless centuries are filled with her striving and the grandeur of her success and her failures. Through good and ill fortune alike she has never lost sight of that quest

there are tears and suffering, so long our work will not be over.

And so we have to labour and to work, and work hard, to give reality to our dreams. Those dreams are for India, but they are also for the world, for all the nations and peoples are too closely knit together today for any one of them to imagine that it can live apart. Peace has been said to be indivisible; so is freedom, so is prosperity now, and so also is disaster in this One World that can no longer be split into isolated fragments.

**YOU THE CITIZENS
DECIDE:**

To the people of India, whose representatives we are, we make an appeal to join us with faith and confidence in this great adventure. This is no time for petty and destructive criticism, no time for ill-will or blaming others. We have to build the noble mansion of free India where all her children may dwell.

I beg to move, Sir,

"That it be resolved that:

(1) After the last stroke of midnight, all members of the Constituent Assembly present on this occasion do take the following pledge:

'At this solemn moment when the people of India, through suffering and sacrifice, have secured freedom, I,....., a member of the Constituent Assembly of India, do dedicate myself in all humility to the service of India and her people to the end that this ancient land attain her rightful place in the world and make her full and willing contribution to the promotion of world peace and the welfare of mankind';

(2) Members who are not present on this occasion do take the pledge (with such verbal changes as the President may prescribe) at the time they next attend a session of the Assembly."

Next week, we will look how far we as a nation have realised Nehru's Tryst with Destiny.

or forgotten the ideals which gave her strength. We end today a period of ill fortune and India discovers herself again. The achievement we celebrate today is but a step, an opening of opportunity, to the greater triumphs and achievements that await us. Are we brave enough and wise enough to grasp this opportunity and accept the challenge of the future?

Freedom and power bring responsibility. The responsibility rests upon this Assembly, a sovereign body representing the sovereign people of India. Before the birth of freedom we have endured all the pains of labour and our hearts are heavy with the memory of this sorrow. Some of those pains continue even now. Nevertheless, the past is over and it is the future that beckons to us now.

That future is not one of ease or resting but of incessant striving so that we may fulfil the pledges we have so often taken and the one we shall take today. The service of India means the service of the millions who suffer. It means the ending of poverty and ignorance and disease and inequality of opportunity. The ambition of the greatest man of our generation has been to wipe every tear from every eye. That may be beyond us, but as long as

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Importance of Education



Recently, the news item of a 15-year-old girl cycling 1,200 kms to bring back her father from his place of work in Gurugram to his hometown Bihar, made the headlines. Readers were naturally stunned at this feat of this 15 year old girl. Heartbreaking, surely.

Today, I've come across another heartbreaking news item. In the absence of public transport and having no proper vehicle himself, a poor man, illiterate, uneducated, decides to ferry his 15 year old son to an Examination centre on his humble bicycle, some 105 kms away from home, in Madhya Pradesh. Not just that, they had to carry along food and other eatables with them for sustaining themselves for two-three days. **It was a Class 10th Board supplementary exam conducted under the Madhya Pradesh governments "Ruk Jana Nahin" scheme.**

An unlettered man himself, he un-

derstood the importance of education. **He says, he did not want his son to waste one year by missing the supplementary paper.** And so he was willing to go to any extent to ensure that his son was not denied an opportunity to compete his education. Commendable, indeed. Hats off to his man.

Education is certainly important in life. There is a video being circulated on



Melville X. D'Souza
- Orlem, Malad West

WhatsApp which shows a youngster perched on a tree and refuses to come down unless his father buys him a mobile phone. In view of the COVID situation, school classes are being held online. This is a poor man and he goes on to explain his plight in song. He says he is a poor man with no work on account of the coronavirus, struggling to make ends meet, somehow managing to feed his family and provide for his son's education. The video shows him digging out cash stashed away in several corners of his dwelling to meet their daily needs. In this situation, how does he explain to

his son that he just cannot afford a mobile phone Understandably, the man is heartbroken.

The new National Education Policy (NEP) promises to revolutionize the education system in our country. That sounds good for the future generations to come. Of course, any policy is bound to have its pros & cons and we need to find solutions to the shortcomings in the policy. The NEP also aims to focus on digital education. The authorities need to take a closer look at the ground realities, especially in the rural sector, the hardships they have to undergo when it comes to education. Today, all around there is talk about digitisation - digital payments, online classes, digital seminars, etc., etc. We talk about a grand 'Digital India', but are we ready with the infrastructure? Even in urban areas, people are facing difficulties in accessing the internet, several poor families cannot afford a smart phone. In the rural sector it is even more pathetic where there is no sufficient or no power and people are too poor to own a smartphone.

There is no don't that Education is very important in life and we all understand this. **But perhaps, nobody understands it better than the poor man who cycled his son to the examination centre, or the father who is finding it difficult to explain to his son that they cannot afford a mobile phone. And those children living on the pavements, overcoming all odds to come out with flying colours in their Board exams. And all those poor illiterate, uneducated parents who are striving to provide for their children's education.**

Hats off to them, all!

Politicians shun Government Hospitals

Only recently a controversy has arisen following increasing number of politicians [which include sitting ministers - State and Union Ministers] getting themselves admitted in posh private [Speciality] hospitals for COVID19 treatment. Social activists maintain that by doing so, these worthy janata sevak are sending a wrong message telling the people that the government and municipal hospitals are no good when it comes to treatment of political VIPs despite the fact that the management of these hospitals giving them the best treatment with the available equipments and medicines. This also sends a veiled message that these government and municipal hospitals are only for the poor and the lowly. The overall message is clear – the politicians have no faith in the hospitals they have set up with public funds.

This is not something that is new and the issue has cropped up on many occasions in the past. Forget the private Indian hospitals. Politicians and ministers both at the Centre and the States have chosen to go to the best hospitals abroad and it is anybody's guess on who has paid for the exorbitant cost of such treatment. Some years ago, if I recollect correctly, MLAs from one of the States were reported to have 'claimed' lacs of rupees for dubious medical treatment. This must be the case everywhere but there also must be genuine expenditure. The fact remains the public pays for the treatment of our netas.

Coincidentally, at the same time when the controversy erupted recently, a local TV channel carried an advertisement showing a restaurant [eating house] which had a sign board prominently displayed which read as "The owner also eats here". It assures the patrons that the quality of the food served is good enough even for the owner and therefore they should not have any reservations on this score. One wonders if we can have similar sign boards in each public hospital proclaiming that "Ministers and Legislators re also treated here. No! They will never do that. On a television debate, a spokesperson of a party defended the politicians/ministers saying by going to the private hospitals the netas are actually making space for the aam janata.

IEWS on NEWS

How very considerate and thoughtful these leaders can be. We always thought that they are very insensitive. They are actually risking their own lives by going to private hospitals and leaving the best treatment in government hospitals to the citizens in this country. Can there be a bigger sacrifice than this. And we say our leaders are selfish, corrupt etc.

Not many people will be surprised. That is the political culture. They preach from house-tops that English medium schools [particularly what are termed as Convent schools] are no good because they brain wash students to get converted to Christianity. Yet all the political leaders want their own children to study English while telling the citizens that they should send their children to municipal/government schools which impart education in regional languages. Similarly, politicians encourage citizens to patronize Indian Universities while their own children go to the best of foreign Universities.

There is a need for a radical change in how things are at present. It must be made compulsory for all politicians, Netas, bureaucrats and their families to compulsorily get treated in government run hospitals. This will make them responsible and they will ensure that the facilities in such hospitals are of high standard since the safety of their lives is involved. Similarly, the same thing should happen in education. All their children should enroll in government schools in India. Now a new Education Policy is being framed where medium of instructions till the 5th standard in regional or mother tongue [whatever that means]. But why wait till it is enforced. Shift all VIP children to municipal/government schools and colleges immediately. That will show that the government is serious.

Pak desperate?

Come September and FATF meeting will seal the fate of Imran Khan Government in Pakistan. It has pressed the panic button. Nothing seems to be going right for that country which has lost global support for its policy on terror. The militants are pulling the government in all directions and reining them in is a challenge. In Kashmir, it has failed miserably. Though terrorism has remained their state policy, it has not been able to trans-



by Marshall Sequeira

late things in favour of Pakistan. Almost every day terrorists are being killed by the security forces in India. These jihadis are an expendable commodity for Pak. There is no dearth of reinforcements from militant groups. It suits Pak well. They do not have to sacrifice their own army men.

To make things worse, with the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A there is a sea change in the Valley. The Hurriyat which served Pakistani interests has become obsolete and disintegrating. With Gheelani opting out of the Hurriyat Pakistan is in a quandary. They are no longer funding the organization which used to organize protests through paid stone pelters. No country is willing to come to Pak's rescue. They have refused to play ball with Pak on the Kashmir issue and this is particularly true of countries like Saudi Arabia and UAE. Both these countries have shunned Pak openly. Pakistan is broke financially.

All these years Pak enjoyed unstinted support from the OIC – a group of Islamic countries. With India emerging as an economic and military super-power, some of the Islamic countries are openly distancing themselves from the OIC [read Pak] which was hijacked by Pakistan with its Kashmir phobia. With waning support Pak is contemplating a parallel OIC with like-minded nations – Iran and Turkey; Malaysia though is having second thoughts for economic reasons. Saudi has taken strong exception to this move. Pak Army Chief was ignored on a recent visit there. In a desperate move to escape from being blacklisted by FATF, Pak reportedly admitted that Dawood Ibrahim is in that country and will be subjected to sanctions with freezing of assets etc. Surprisingly, within hours there was a rebuttal saying the report is false – Dawood is not in Pak they say now. Did Imran Khan succumb to pressure from militants and hardliners to save his seat? Pak watchers are not surprised.

*"I love you when you bow in your mosque, kneel in your temple, pray in your church. For you and I are sons of one religion, and it is the spirit."
- Khalil Gibran.*

Political Leaders Should Honour All Houses Of Worship

- Fr. Michael G., Vasai.

In the beginning of August the news went viral in India that New Zealand Minister Jacinda Ardern visited a Hindu Radha-Krishna temple in Auckland relishing a simple traditional Indian meal comprising chhole, puri and dal after declaring her country free of corona virus. Immediately India Today Anti Fake News War Room (AFWA) found the claim to be misleading. In fact Ms. Ardern visited the temple on August 6 ahead of national elections next month. The visit has no relation to the corona-virus pandemic. In fact, it was on June 8, PM Ardern had declared New Zealand corona virus-free and lifted all restrictions. However, Auckland recently reported four cases of Covid-19, following which restrictions were once again imposed on New Zealand's largest city. The Indian envoy to New Zealand, Muktesh Pardeshi, was also present on the occasion, tweeted on August 8, saying, he spent "Some precious moments with Hon. PM of New Zealand ... on 6 Aug 2020..." The news was made viral by Hindutvavadis.

They rejoiced thinking that Ms. Ardern had given credit for eradicating Corona viral to Radha-Krishna, downgrading her Christianity! And when it was declared as fake news, the Christians were relieved!

ARDERN'S POLITICAL ACTION.

So in fact the visit was in the political context. It comes weeks before New Zealand is scheduled to hold national elections on September 19. A visit to the temple was due since according to the 2018 census, Indians have emerged as the fourth largest community in New Zealand with a population of 2.44 lakh. The Hindu population has gone up from 89,000 to 1.23 lakh. STILL THE Catholics may be anxious to know what did do in the temple. Did she bow to the Radha-Krishna? Did she eat prasada? Even that would mean for radicals renouncing Christian faith!

Many people are not happy with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi playing soft Hinduism, AAP CM Kejriwal visiting Hanuman Mandir and Priyanka Gandhi just appreciating the development of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. Why these restrictions put by the citizens? Politicians should be free, nay, should be obliged to visit all religious places and participate in their religious ceremonies. Our country is secular. That does not mean being a-religious but rather respecting all religions of repute. "I love you when you bow in your mosque, kneel in your temple, pray in your church. For you and I are

sons of one religion, and it is the spirit." - Khalil Gibran.

MODIJI AT THE RAMJANMABHUMI.

On the 5th August our Prime Minister Modi created a controversy by attending the Ram Janmabhoomi Pujan. He prostrated at the sacred place doing Ashtanga pranam. He did it with his heartfelt devotion to Shree Ram. But many even secularist Hindus felt the participation was not proper for the Prime Minister. According to some "The subtle line separating the religion and the State has been breached." According to others, "By performing the bhoomi puja of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set the clock back. His act has taken the secular country to a path not envisaged in the Constitution of India." Still others argue that "He acted in line with the ideology of BJP in power from whose vocabulary 'secularism' seems to have been removed."

It is true that the verdict of the Supreme Court of India does not approve the action of the PM. The verdict does allow construction of the temple but it is at the site where Babri Masjid stood for over four centuries! The apex court had termed the Masjid demolition a criminal act. Hence though construction of Ram temple is the logical result of the Supreme Court judgment, one cannot ignore the traumatic memories of millions of



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(Contd.. from p. 12)

people specially Muslims brethren, caused by that outrageous act!

Still it is difficult to condemn PM Modi's participation in the ritual of Ram Janmabhumi Pujan.

PORBLRM FOR THE CHRISTIN LEADERS:

Political leaders whether in power or in opposition, should be held above religious affiliations. Everyone has his religious belonging. That should not come in the way of honouring religions of other communities he represents in his constituency. He should freely attend religious ceremonies and even pay normal respects to the deities. That is his duty as their leader. Our Christian leaders will face opposition to such a multi-religious approach from his community. For example, during Ganapati festivals a Christian politician may even bow before the idol and accept Prasad. For some of us it may sound idolatry! It should be understood theologically. God is present everywhere; so also in the sacred places and idols. When a leader bows there, he in fact is paying respect to Christ. Many theologians have admitted the presence of The Unknown Christ of Hinduism. The renowned Catholic theologian Raimundo Panikkar says, «A Christian is faced with an alternative: either he will bring his or her conception of Christ to other peoples and religions or he or she will have to recognize the unknown dimension of Christ, striving for mutual 'fecondation'— which is an act of love». (Cfr. The Unknown Christ of Hinduism. By Raymond Panikkar. Darton, Longman and Todd, 1964).

Which religion teaches evil ? Which deity is devilish? None. We should recognise Christ's presence everywhere; otherwise we lock Christ up in our Churches and limit his universal influence! The teaching of II Vat. Council hails all religions: Declaration on the relation of the Church to

10 Chick(en) Recipes! And Bible Advice!

Before recommending these '10 Chick(en) Recipes' with comical clues to your loved ones, please do not 'chicken -out'! These are followed by 'Scripture Advice' regarding foods in general!

10 Chick(en) Recipes!*Who is the father of your chick(en)?-Chicken KaaBab! *Who is the mother of your chick(en)? – Chicken KeeMa! *How do you call a chick(en) on your mobile? – KalMi Chicken! *Chick(en) takes bath? – Chicken Showerma! *Chick(en) in dire trouble! – Chicken Soup! *Chick(en) getting injection! – Chicken Teeka! *Chick(en) doing flattery! – Butter Chicken! *Your chick(en) on a winter night! – Chilly Chicken! *Chick(en) @retirement – Chicken 65! *Chick(en) doing social distancing! – Tan-Doori Chicken!

Bible Advice! *Let the children be fed first; for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs (Mark 7:27) *When Peter was hungry, he was shown all kinds of

creatures, and was told to kill and eat. But he refused. But a voice declared, "What God has made clean, you must not consider profane" (Acts 10:10-16). *Through the hypocrisy of liars whose consciences are seared with hot iron, and through deceitful spirits and teachings of demons who forbid marriage and demand abstinence from food, God has however, created food to be received with thanksgiving (1 Timothy 4:2-3). *For the kingdom of God is not about food and drink, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit ... Do not for the sake of food destroy the work of God. It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that makes your brother or sister stumble (Romans 14:17; 20-21).

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

non-Christian religions, Nostra Aetate (1965) says: No. 2. ... Thus in Hinduism, men contemplate the divine mystery and express it through an inexhaustible abundance of myths and through searching philosophical inquiry. They seek freedom from the anguish of our human condition either through ascetical practices or profound meditation or a flight to God with love and trust. Again, Buddhism, in its various forms, realizes the radical insufficiency of this changeable world; it teaches a way by which men, in a devout and confident spirit, may be able either to acquire the state of perfect liberation, or attain, by their own efforts or through higher help, supreme illumination.

No. 3. The Church regards with esteem also the Moslems. They adore the one God, living and subsisting in Himself; merciful and all- powerful, the Creator of heaven and earth,

Hence neither New Zealand PM Ardern nor Modi have done anything wrong. The condition is that they should treat all religious groups equally. Tomorrow when a Muslim Masjid comes up on the land allotted by the Supreme Court, Modiji ought to attend the ceremony even wearing a Muslim cap!

SARVE SUKHINO BHAVANTU!

Have Faith In The Eucharist To Defeat Corona

By *Melvyn Brown*

2020. This year of the Covid-19 must be used with emphasis on the Eucharist and the liturgy in adoration and worship, always pleading with our Merciful God to give the world another chance to heal, repent and to be forgiven.

Lord Jesus, Father to the nations, the only One true God. Place your tears, sorrow and sufferings before the Eucharistic Christ, pleading your repentance for sins created against God, His Environment, His Presence, His Commandments and His Compassion. Let us bow, fall on our knees, raise our hands up to God, He will listen to the voice of the world. Ask our Mother Mary and all the Saints in heaven to intercede for us.

The Eucharistic community is the Church; and the Pauline doctrine of the sacrament-sacrifice of Christ will remain with us for all time.

The two Bread of Life discourses of Jesus enriches the devotion of the Eucharist: the foremost being after the multiplication of the loaves and the other from the discourse at the Last Supper.

What is Eucharistic Adoration? Eucharistic adoration is the act of worshipping God as He is present in the Consecrated Eucharist. Spending time before the Blessed Sacrament in prayer

and devotion is exactly the same as spending time before the living God.

Jesus Christ had instructed St. Margaret Mary Alacoque on how to make the Holy Hour. The revelation took place on the Feast of All Saints in 1673. The Eucharistic Holy Hour received the approval of several popes and is enriched with indulgences. Jesus made it clear to St. Margaret Mary that through this devotion He wishes His faithful friends to become partakers of that "sorrow unto death which he willed to suffer in the Garden of Olives. He also wished the faithful to appease His Father's anger and to ask Him to forgive all sinners.

The Holy Hour made in the presence of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament is a devotion in which we call to mind the life, passion, death and resurrection of our Lord. During this Hour we must seek through prayer and meditation the mercy of God, the conversion of souls, the sanctification of sinners and the mitigation of the terrible punishment foretold at Fatima in the year 1917.

Adoration occurs whenever someone kneels in front of a tabernacle that contains the Blessed Sacrament at Mass or, in a more focused way when the Blessed Sacrament is exposed for adoration.

In researching the aspects of Eucharistic adoration and worship in Eastern churches, it provided the believers with a thorough description of the Sacrament and its liturgy. The history of the Eastern rites, first outlines the liturgy in Eucharistic worship. The guidelines were close to all twelve rites. The Syrian Ethiopic Coptic, Maronite, Malankarse. Greek, Melkite, Russian, Ruthenian, Malabsrese, Chaldean and Armenian.

All the rites are closely linked and achieve full unity in Christ. The mystery of the Church is made manifest from its beginnings. We should always respect the ample liturgical legacy our Eastern followers in Christ have shown us. Together we have a profound spiritual collection in the fold for the celebration of the sacred and holy Eucharist.

The late Pope Saint John Paul II once said at the General Audience: The Eucharist is, in a certain way, the culminating point and answer to the verse in the Gospel: "Lord, you know that I love you." (Jn.21:15-17). I wish to repeat it together with the whole Church to Him who manifested His love by means of the sacrament of His Body and Blood, remaining with us 'to the close of the age'.

In Latin, Lumen gentium, is Christ the Light of the world. In the gift of the Eucharist we celebrate and worship the Lord in a spiritual communion, also in physical adoration, for "He is unceasingly with us as the light to guide, protect and sustain. Acknowledge God, believe in Him and live in holiness.

The work of redemption was achieved by Christ in poverty and persecution. The People of God, the Church, is also called upon to walk the path and teach men the effects of salvation. Jesus, "though he was God by nature.... Stripped himself to take on the nature of a slave" (Phil.2:6)., and for the love He had for humankind "became poor, though he was rich". (2 Cor.8-9).

Meditate on this at Holy Hour in adoration and worship in the presence of our Eucharistic Lord.

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Light and Guide in this situation so that I may live with peace, love, prosperity and abundance and in the Praise of God.

Amen. (Promise Publication)

—Ms Flora, Vasai

How Long Will God's Compassion Save Us

Recently Pope Francis reflected on the Sunday's Gospel telling us of the miracle of feeding five thousand (Mat.14:13-21). The Pontiff urged Catholics not to look away, or wash hands, instead to take the responsibility for others. The Angelus address made a great impact on his listeners. More than the pandemic would be to seek God's mercy through our acts of love and generosity. God will help and heal our wounds, when we turn to Him and ask for his forgiveness.

Pope Francis asked us to follow "God's Logic"

Almost eleven years ago, Pope Benedict XVI had asked Catholics to turn to God, not taking Him for granted.

Today's Corona virus, worse than any plague or famine, had always been wiped clean, when repentance moved His people to ask for mercy. How long can God's compassion save humanity?



BY MELVYN BROWN

How many of us wear our religion on our sleeves? The biggest challenge is to bridge the gap between the people of God and a world of disbelievers.

It seems to most people outside and within the Christian faith that the world has forgotten God. A more measured assessment would lead to a more surprising conclusion: that God is truly being left out of our lives one way or the other.

Pope Emiretus Benedict XVI in a gathering of prelates in Assisi for their 60th general assembly (2009) took up two themes: The educational crisis and the Priesthood, relegating both to the New Evangelization.



The Holy Father told Italian bishops that the biggest challenge to their mission is "presenting God again" to a world that has forgotten Him. To explore this avenue of thought, the pope went on to say, "If our fundamental relationship with God is not living, if it is not lived then none of our relationships can take their correct form... if we do without God, if God is absent, we lack the compass...to show us the path, the direction we must follow.

"We must bring the truth of God back into the world, make him known, make him present," The Holy Father declared.

Pope Benedict went on to his second theme: to highlight the need to reinvigorate the priestly ministry. His profound message was to campaign for priests to radiate Christ in their ordinary life and in pastoral duties.

"In order for this to happen we...first and foremost and with all our being must become living adoration, a gift that changes the world and restores it to God" Said the pope.

Yes, the world has forgotten almighty God. The constant murder and mayhem we watch and read about happens across the world, nourished by evil men who dare to destroy their own world for the lust of Satan's greed augmented in the name of God, is disgusting.

The world as we know it, is shrinking daily, is being hijacked daily, always in a state of false promises, blood and violence.

The Pontiff had urged Italian Bishops, "to place the formation of new generations at the center of the attention and efforts of each one, according to each person's respective responsibilities."

The fact about the world having forgotten God may just be this: "having reached speed in communications, entices new generations to disregard old values for net challenges. Technology, today, offers endless dimensions of unceasing power. The Pontiff urges the bishops and priests to become more involved in the New Evangelization, presenting God again."

How long, I repeat, will God's Compassion save us?

Wife: "How would you describe me?"
 Husband: "ABCDEFGHIJK."
 Wife: "What does that mean?"
 Husband: "Adorable, beautiful, cute, delightful, elegant, fashionable, gorgeous, and hot."
 Wife: "Aw, thank you, but what about IJK?"
 Husband: "I'm just kidding!"

A lady goes to the doctor and complains that her husband is losing interest in sex. The doctor gives her a pill, but warns her that it's still experimental. He tells her to slip it into his mashed potatoes at dinner, so that night, she does just that. About a week later, she's back at the doctor, where she says, "Doc, the pill worked great! I put it in the potatoes like you said! It wasn't five minutes later that he jumped up, raked all the food and dishes onto the floor, grabbed me, ripped all my clothes off, and ravaged me right there on the table!" The doctor says, "I'm sorry, we didn't realize the pill was that strong! The foundation will be glad to pay for any damages." "Nah," she says, "that's okay. We're never going back to that restaurant anyway."

Wife: "In my dream, I saw you in a jewelry store and you bought me a diamond ring."
 Husband: "I had the same dream and I saw your dad paying the bill."

A wife comes home late one night and quietly opens the door to her bedroom. From under the blanket, she sees four legs instead of just her husband's two. She reaches for a baseball bat and starts hitting the blanket as hard as she can. Once she's done, she goes to the kitchen to have a drink. As she enters, she sees her husband there, reading a magazine. He says, "Hi darling, your parents have come to visit us, so I let them stay in our bedroom. Did you say hello?"

Don't break anybody's heart; they only have 1. Break their bones; they have 206.

A guy and his wife are sitting and



watching a boxing match on television. The husband sighs and complains, "This is disappointing. It only lasted for 30 seconds!" "Good," replied his wife. "Now you know how I always feel."

A police officer attempts to stop a car for speeding and the guy gradually increases his speed until he's topping 100 mph. The man eventually realizes he can't escape and finally pulls over. The cop approaches the car and says, "It's been a long day and my shift is almost over, so if you can give me a good excuse for your behavior, I'll let you go." The guy thinks for a few seconds and then says, "My wife ran away with a cop about a week ago. I thought you might be that officer trying to give her back!"

Teacher: "Answer this math problem: if your father earns \$500 a week and gives half to your mother. What will he have?"

Student: "A heart attack."

A woman was taking an afternoon nap. When she woke up, she told her husband, "I just dreamed that you gave me a pearl necklace. What do you think it means?" "You'll know tonight," he said. That evening, the man came home with a small package and gave it to his wife. Delighted, she opened it to find a book entitled "The Meaning of Dreams."

A married couple are out one night at a dance club. There's a guy on the dance floor giving it large: break dancing, moon walking, back flips, the works. The wife turns to her husband and says, "See that guy? Twenty years ago he proposed to me and I turned him down." The husband says, "Looks like he's still celebrating!"

A man and a woman are sleeping together when suddenly there is a noise in the house, and the woman rolls over and says, "It's my husband, you have to leave!" The man jumps out of bed, jumps through the window, crawls through the bushes, and out on the street, when he realizes something. He goes back to the house and says to the woman, "Wait, I'm your husband!" She replies giving him a dirty look, "So why did you run?"

One day, a man came home and was greeted by his wife dressed in stunningly sexy lingerie. "Tie me up," she purred, "And you can do anything you want." So he tied her up and went golfing.

Boy: *calls 911* Hello? I need your help!

911: Alright, What is it?

Boy: Two girls are fighting over me!

911: So what's your emergency?

Boy: The ugly one is winning.

A husband asks his wife, "Will you marry after I die?" The wife responds, "No, I will live with my sister." The wife asks him back, "Will you marry after I die?" The husband responds, "No, I will also live with your sister."

Q: Why are most hurricanes named after women?

A: Because when they come they are wet and wild and when they leave they take your house and your car.

Lady 1: "Why is your husband so punctual when returning home from work?"

Lady 2: "I made a simple rule: sex will begin at 9pm sharp, whether he is there or not."

My friend asked me, "Why are you getting a divorce?" I responded, "My wife wasn't home the entire night and in the morning she said she spent the night at her sister's house." He said, "So?" And

I responded, "She's lying. I spent the night at her sister's house!"

Laughter: Best Medicine!

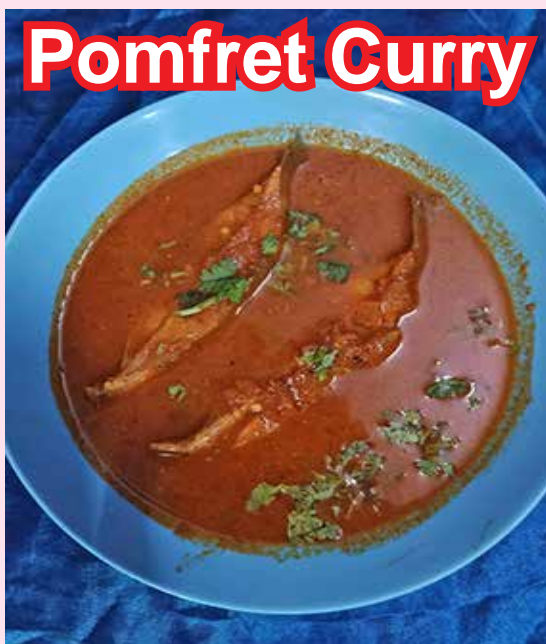
The Reader's Digest keeps its esteemed readers happy, through its jovial articles, "Laughter the Best Medicine" and "Humor in Uniform"! Dr. Madan Kataria founded, "World Laughter Day" on 28 July 2008 in Mumbai. Laughter is indeed a versatile medicine. Here are at least '6 Health Benefits'!

*Natural way to exercise muscle groups. *Reduces levels of stress hormones. *Helps control hypertension. *Beneficial in increasing health-enhancing hormones. *Stimulates increase in blood flow and oxygen to organs. *Useful in improving memory and mood by fighting 'depression'!

With the tensions of modern life mounting, depression has become a common and serious mood disorder, affecting the way one handles everyday living. There are many different forms of depression, which could develop under unique circumstances, like postpartum depression or "baby blues". Besides, there are a number of allopathic medicines to treat depression - (anti-depressants)! But it is best to consult a qualified psychiatrist or psychologist who could even suggest home remedies- Yoga, meditation, green tea, fish oils and supplements!

Here are some Scripture exhortations: "Always keep the Lord with you, because He accompanies you. He will never leave you or forsake you. So do not be afraid, and do not be discouraged" (Deuteronomy 31:8). Humble yourselves under God's mighty hand, so that He might lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on Him, because he cares for you (1 Peter 5:6-7). I have told you these things, so that in ME you may have peace. In this world you have trouble; but take heart! I have overcome the world!" (John 16:33).

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



Ingredients:

1/2 kg sliced pomfret fish
3 onions, chopped finely
3 tomatoes, chopped
1 tsp red chilli powder
1/2 tsp turmeric powder
2 tbsp vinegar
2 tsp cumin powder
1 tsp coriander powder
2 tbsp fish masala powder
3 tsp chopped garlic
1 tsp chopped ginger
4 green chillies, slit lengthwise
1 tbsp fresh coriander leaves
4 tbsp cooking oil
Salt to taste



— Sweta D'Cruz

Method:

Wash the fish and marinate it with a pinch of salt and turmeric powder for 15 minutes.
Heat oil in vessel and saute the onions, ginger and garlic for about 5 minutes.
Add the tomatoes, chilli powder, cumin powder, coriander powder, turmeric powder, fish masala powder, salt, vinegar and fry on low heat till the tomatoes are pulpy.
Add one cup of water and bring to a boil.
Add the sliced pomfret and green chillies and mix gently.
Simmer on low heat for about 8 minutes till the fish is cooked.
Add the chopped coriander leaves.
Serve hot with rice or bread.

Content Carry Weight In Cinemas



Content plays a crucial role in Indian films and character plays a pivotal role. A screenplay or content carries more weight in films. These screenplays can be original works or adaptations from existing pieces of writing. In them, the movement, actions, expression, and dialogues of the characters are also narrated. Films are an expression of creativity and money has nothing to do with them. Cinematic history is strife with stories where many low budget films have created a shift in the market trends while many big budget films have bombed.

While the industry churns out close to 1,000 films every year (before pandemic), their differentiation is not significant, and the last few years have been a period of slow growth with the declining quality of content and increased competition from cable & satellite television and international films. And while the industry has progressed from hand painted posters and hoardings to Internet marketing and targeted promotions, filmmakers are also faced with more competition, not just from other films, but also other forms of entertainment and spending options for the consumer.



C.K. Subramaniam

Sweet Story Line Will Bring Back Success

So, just as in any other business, an understanding of the consumer, his spending habits and demands of the product are critical to targeting the right consumer base with the right product and the right pitch. Technology will help deliver content in several forms, and that will change the kind of films people go out to see, and stay at home to watch. But the draw of the big screen will not go away. And, the story is constructed to take advantage of the considerable power of cinema. The visual experience happens to us. It can be grand, perhaps in the films from South have more technicalities, the movies from Bollywood have melodious songs and Bhojpuri films are entertainers and we as cine goers look for content in the quality of the films.

Some examples of low budget films that did well include Mr. & Mrs. Iyer and Hyderabad Blues in the past succeeded well at the Box office. Some

big banner films that flopped include Kites and Ram Gopal Varma ki Aag. In fact, Bollywood itself is a brand, as it has a culture and a system that is unlike any other film industry's. The most successful studios have had family films: be it a Rajshri Films or a Disney, so this is an area that can still be developed in a big way. All of the above mentioned films in fact, had a great star cast, with crores of rupees being pumped into them, but they failed to make a mark. The reason for this is a mental shift in the thinking of the audience. Gone are the days when audiences would fill up cinema halls just because a movie had been filmed in a good location.

Besides, cinema's losing its old-world charm. Gone are the days when audiences were star-struck. Today, stars are no longer an enigma or mystery. Page 3 of every newspaper bears the stars---warts and all. For those who are spared by the media, there's social media. Stars today tweet, connect on Facebook and come on the radio and television. They open up to their audiences. Their fans know and accept that stars too are human beings, just like them. They have faults too, they have a life too.



(Contd.. from p. 18)

With the mystery of cinema solved, and the stars losing their larger than life persona, content has become the king. Unless a film has a track that's compelling enough to hold the attention of the audiences, banners and big names can't make a difference. The Corporates entered the cine field in the year 2006 and messed it up because they bumped in ridiculous money without checking on the business viability of the projects. But we are in a corrective space now. So, in the year 2011 we will have fewer films. Today, it is increasingly becoming difficult to shoot in any part of India. You have to bribe the police and extract individual permissions to shoot a single sequence. In foreign locations, you are given blanket permissions. That is why a lot of foreign filmmakers shoot India in Thailand.

Bollywood has discovered the art of marketing and reaching out to as many people in the audience as possible. Obscene amounts of money are spent to ensure that viable film makes a lot of noise before it comes. Hindi Cinema is now doing experiments. Casting a 14 year old child as AURO would have diluted the impact the character made when Mr. Amitabh Bachchan played it. When you see your favourite star doing something extraordinary, the experience of watching the film gets even better. In a film like Taare Zameen Par, you needed a 12 year old boy to play the lead character. At the Box Office Love, Sex and Dhoka made Rs.9 crore and it was produced for Rs.1.5 crore.

Both My Name is Khan and Raavan failed at the Box Office with too much publicity and star value. But the terrible big films that may have lost on the critics appraise have grossed a lot more. It just proves that people want big stars. A Film with big stars boomerang at the Box Office and at the same time a film with little known stars does well at the Box Office. Thus the audience needs change

and the appearance of the same stars is not liked by many. Small films have been lost in the world of mainstream films, 80 percent of which are terrible. But at the same time, not all small films are great. It is always advisable to get good work and reach it to as many as possible to assure greater success at the Box Office. The film should reach c grade cities also like Gaddar and Lagaan did and made big money. There lies the real success of Hindi Cinema World. With pandemic taking highest priority, film production has taken a beating and we hope with high content and strong storyline will carry weight in cinemas and bring back the past glory and hit the box office once again.

(C.K. Subramaniam

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

7151. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in May 1990) Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Masters in Marketing, Working as a Asst. Marketing Executive. Contact email : emanuelfindz90@gmail.com

7011. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in September 1983), Ht. 6', Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA Electronics and Finance, working as Research Electronics. Contact email : canute.serrao@gmail.com

7010. BAHRAIN : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Divorcee (with in three months of marriage), (Born in June

1985), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 76 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. HSC Diploma in food & beverage, working in 4 Star Hotel Bahrain. Contact Mob: 8806129309

7007. AUSTRALIA : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in September 1977), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 72 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., MBA in Aviation. working as a Froud Analist Banking in Australia. Contact email : gerald-white@hotmail.com

6993. MUSCAT : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in May 1982), Ht. 5' 8", Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., Dip.in Financial Management, Working as an Accountant. Contact email : sandeepfernandes2002@hotmail.com

6977. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in April 1980), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. S.Y. B.Com., working as B Bartender at princess Crews. Contact email : dlimadenzil@yahoo.com

6991. MANGALORE : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in July 1984), Ht. 170 cms, Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Engineering, working as a Electrician Contractor. Contact email : priya.tellis5@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

6973. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in June 1989), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., Nautical Science, working as 2nd Officer in Merchant Ships. Contact email : meltondsouza@gmail.com

7119. KUWAIT : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in November 1989), Ht. 6', Wt. 78 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. F.Y. B.Com. + 2 yrs Hotel Management Diploma. working in Kuwait. Contact email :

fernandes.clayton@rocketmail.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

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

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

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

fernandes.raymond@gmail.com

7099. USA : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in March 1988), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 82 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Sc., working as a Computer Engineer in USA. Contact email : willatauro@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 Son. seeks alliance from Mangalorean RC Spinster, educated, working in Mumbai. Reply with full details & photofraph to email : ID : vivian1548@gmail.com
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7147 MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1992), Ht. 5'4", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA Finance, working as a Fund Accountant. Contact email : stefasha09@gmail.com

7075. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1989), 5' 4", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Masters in Life Sciences, working as Gyneacology. Contact email : tyron.noronha@yahoo.com

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

7058. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1987), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working back office. Contact email : venita_fernandes@rediffmail.com

7148 MUMBAI : Smart, goodlooking, Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in November 1993), Ht. 5'2", Wt. 40 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. H.S.C., having own business. Contact email : teresa.joseph.1993@gmail.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

7057. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1993), Ht. 5' 1", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Masters, working as a Design Thinker. Contact email :

louelladsouza10@gmail.com

7023. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1992), Ht. 5', Wt. 55 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Tech - Biotechnology, working as a Biotechlogist. Contact email : seherarakel@gmail.com

7029. MUMBAI : Keralite Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1992), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 55 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Sc., Asst. Professor. Contact email :

augustyofs@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

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

nancyfernandes9@gmail.com

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 : drvd2019@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 an MNC in USA. Contact email : wilfyjoy1315@gmail.com or call +91 98603 02527 / + 91 9970172527

7055. U.K. : Tamilian Roman Catholic

Spinster, (Born in April 1988), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 62 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., working as a Staff Nurse in UK. Contact email : o365acc@gmail.com

7027. MANGLORE : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in August 1982), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Tech (IT) 4 years, Teacher by profession. Contact email : ranjithamenezes@gmail.com

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

7000. USA : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in January 1993), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 55 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Masters in Information system, working as a Business Analyst. Contact email : joe_dots@hotmail.com

7048. MUMBAI : Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1989), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 52 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Masters in Social Work, working for an NGO. As a Manager. Contact email : saviomay89@gmail.com

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Konknni Diaspora grows sentimental

'Konkani Manyata Divas' or "Konkani Recognition Day" celebrates the inclusion of Konkani as an official language in the Eighth Schedule of Indian Constitution, on August 20, 1992. On this date in 2020, Konkani speakers in many places world over appropriately marked its 28 anniversary. Amid mixed sentiments Konkani is a unique dialect, now introduced for study in schools and colleges in several hub areas.

Mangalore, Goa and Mumbai on the west coast of the Indian peninsular are known home turfs currently for a musical dialect called Konkani. But, it is even more widespread in several forms among many communities and countless settlers on all the continents use it in unaccounted forms to communicate among themselves. In fact it is said that the diaspora (here meaning all who do not know Konkanni but still love it and want to know more) has become deeply attached and sentimental over its use and try learning it. This same diaspora is thirsting to read about it and the culture of its speakers in their adoptive language, be it English, Portuguese, or any major language. Literature specially in English on this ancient language has garnered fair interest as most younger people are not familiar with an Indian script.

Konkani is a southern Indo-Aryan language, and retains elements of Proto-Dravidian language structures, as well as similarities to eastern and Western Indo-Aryan languages. It is a complex language that travels with its displaced speakers; just as Goa's coastal location opened it up to attack and trade, linguistic exodus is endemic.

In 1882 Mangalore, Rev Angelus F X Maffei, an Italian Jesuit and scholar of Konkani, described it as "far more perfect than many European



**28th Konkani
Manyata Day ...
August 20, 2020**

languages" yet "altogether uncultivated," which is possibly how all colonizers feel. Rev Maffei faulted a section of those who spoke Konkani for not incorporating as "many Portuguese words. Rev Maffei's confidence in the superiority of adopting European words into Konkani, was at odds with adopting vocabulary.

In an ancient village outside of Mangalore a lady from overseas, a member of the diaspora, a few years ago, learned her first sentence before meeting her distant relatives. Konkani is a split tongue; you can even tell the religion of the speaker by the intonation. Five scripts are popular in writing it : Roman, Kannada, Malayalam, Perso-Arabic, and Devanagari.

It is quite possible that Old Konkani was just referred to as Prakrit by its

speakers. Reference to the name Konkani is not found in literature prior to the 13th century. Konkani has been known by a variety of names: Canarim, Concanim, Gomantaki, Bramana, and Goani. It is called Amchi Bhas (our language) by native speakers, Amchi Gele by GSBs in Dakshina Kannada, and Govi or Goenchi Bhas by others. Learned Marathi speakers tend to call it Gomantaki.

General view is, If it borrows words from European languages, it is "corrupted"; if it borrows words from Sanskrit, it is Brahmanized; if it uses Kannada or Malayalam, it is Dravidized. It is a language undergoing constant stress and reinvention. Konkani has nearly 13 million speakers and a growing diaspora.

Many Konkani lovers suffered much in the fight to get 'manyata/recognition' achieved in 1992, they were Konkani Christians who were using Roman script for Konkani. Roman and Kannada script users were at the forefront of the struggle for Konkani, also most of the modern Konkani literature, music and cultural work are prominent in these two scripts/lipi. But the protagonist of Devnagari used unorthodox means and not only hijacked benefits, but made sure that the other scripts were denied their rights. This is the bitter truth and even today, in popularity Kannada and Roman Scripts are in forefront but all govt aids are not in favour of them due to hidden factors - the script connundrum.

The very act of speaking it is revolutionary, rejuvenating, even out in the diaspora. Lot needs to be done for it to come out into the sun and gain the dues from powers that be .

-Compiled : Ivan Saldanha-Shet.

WORLD PHOTOGRAPHY DAY

Bringing Out The Best Pictures With Photo Shoot

Picture perfect is the best option in a photo shoot now-a-days. Even though there is tough competition, there is still scope for exploring the best of the best in a most dedicated manner. And in the day and age of smartphones that boast brilliant camera lenses, it isn't all that hard to take a great picture. Except, of course, for that occasional zit or maybe poor lighting. That's where photo editing apps step in with their editing features and filters to produce that perfect shot.

Take a shot, make a few minor tweaks here and there, add a filter for that extra glow and you're set. Do, however, be careful that you don't go overboard with that editing. These apps work best to accentuate your images, not completely alter them. Taking photographs in a fashion show or during a catwalk is a typical experience for a photographer. But taking pictures in marriages is most difficult and that too in a South Indian marriage with many events during the ceremony. There are awards meant to recog-



C.K. Subramaniam

nise the contribution and efforts of the people behind the images that often define how news is consumed today.

While several awards exist for journalism, none exist exclusively for photojournalists at a national level in India.

We all edit as we shoot. That is an intrinsic part of photography. What we shoot, how we shoot; what we include and what we keep out. But, again, this is an individual call. The important thing is to be honest with yourself. The rest will fall into place. At the editorial stage, the control is often taken out of your hands. The way pictures are used, cropped and captioned has to do with what the media organisation is trying to say and its slant. Often, the pictures are distributed by agencies to magazines, newspapers, publications and other media houses, which use them as per their needs. But this is very different from digital manipulation on a computer, where you take elements of an image out or bring certain objects closer or add objects. That kind of meddling is not acceptable at all.

To be a good photographer, with heart and eyes, and the ability to take a lot of frustration and humiliation because of the bad working practices followed in media houses. Still photography occupies top spot in today's art of taking pictures. Digital photog-



raphy came into existence for a long time now. But candid photographers have a special role to play in picking the right spots, right moment, right time and right action of a person in a most meticulous manner.

Today, the universality of photography makes it quite accessible for anyone with a camera in their hands to narrate a story. But, to tell a tale that is extraordinary, that delves on societal issues and more importantly, is a depiction of hard hitting facts, is what distinguishes photojournalism from habitual photography. Photography is an art and if it is really taken seriously will take you to name and fame.

Photography is no longer the domain of a professional with specialist equipment. We point, shoot and leave. But this may be the first time we are actually experiencing behavioural changes related to our love for the image. An unfettered access to the camera has made it all right to be visually verbose. Restraint is for wimps, says the gadget in the hand. Go ahead and shoot! screams the sleek built-in camera button. This is why worshippers raise their hands to take a picture of religious idols and rituals rather than in devotion.



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