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A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY

GDP

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Heartfelt Tribute to



Walter Buthello

Born : 6th September 1951
Died : 17th September 2020.

Walter Buthello, a towering personality and a strong pillar of the Christian business community, who passed away on 17th of this month.

He was a multifaceted individual, excelling in each of his roles as an industrialist, a businessman, a loving father and grandfather; a pious and devout husband and a dedicated social worker.

Walter Buthello was the founding director of the Citizen Credit Coop Bank. He was the director of Bharat coach builders and Buthello and sons. He was the promoter of Cemix concrete and Cemix Beton., Director of Christian Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Walter hails from Kundapur in Udupi district, is survived by his wife Precilla Buthello (Director of Citizen Bank Limited) and Three sons, 3 Daughters-in-law and 4 Grandchildren.

Heartfelt and profound condolences
to the Buthello family

May the Departed Soul
Rest in Peace

The Secular Citizen Group



*Luke 20:36
For they cannot die
anymore, because they are
equal to angels and are sons
of God, being sons of the
resurrection.*

Fondly remembering
Cyprian Albuquerque
On his First Death Anniversary
on 19th September 2020

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A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY

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Dear Reader,

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382 Doctors Died of COVID!

NDTV reported on 17 September 2020 that the Union health minister Dr. Harshavadhan had stated in parliament that he had no word on doctors who died in the line of duty! This statement angered the Indian Medical Association (IMA):

“So far 382 doctors and healthcare workers have died of coronavirus! The youngest was 27 years and the oldest 85. The IMA acknowledges the contribution of these professional medics and paramedics who have sacrificed their lives to COVID-19. In such circumstances the government loses the moral authority to administer the Epidemic Act of 1897 and the Disaster management Act!”

“To feign that this information doesn't merit the attention of the nation is abominable! No nation has lost as many healthcare workers like India. This amounts to abdication of duty and abandonment of our national heroes! It also exposes the hypocrisy of calling them corona warriors on one hand, and denying them and their families the status and benefits of martyrdom!”

And if I may add, Lord Jesus advises us to take care of our bodies: “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life; and that day catches you unexpectedly” (Luke 21:34). Further, St. Paul also reveals: Do you not know that your bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit Who dwells in you? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

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

Christianity Has no Future in India?

by Don Aguiar.

Christian missionaries coming to India and trying to convert people is a historical fact. It's a commonly held belief that thousands of missionaries arrived in India, and worked to convert people.

Similarly, Christian donors – foreign and local - invest a lot of money, allegedly in the garb of social work, for their proselytization projects. But all these are suppositions. Available data, gives us a clear picture.

The simple fact is that making India Christian is a failed project. If the Christian missionaries have any system of KRA (key result area), then they should be either dismissed from the job or given warnings about their bad performance, for the decreasing proportion of Christians in Indian population.

For several decades, it is alleged that Christian evangelists are hyperactive in the tribal belts of India. This is the area where many people were and are killed and many churches were and are burnt by fanatics who accused them of luring tribals to covert.

Even if one accepts the assumption that Christian missionaries in India lure people to convert them, looking at their dismal success rate after more than three centuries of allegedly indulging in such activities should make clear two things:

- 1) International Christian donor organisations think that by pumping money into India, they can succeed in their alleged aim of converting people to Christianity.
- 2) The government of India and organisations like the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and its offshoots like the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Bajrang Dal and Vishwa Hindu

Parishad (VHP) also think that with the help of foreign money, Christian organisations can convert Hindus. **And so, they spread narratives like “Indians need to be saved from missionary mafia because “the evangelical army has multi-billion dollar resources.”**

Both these suppositions are wrong. In India, Christianity has no future and there is no reason for the RSS or the VHP to spread false alarm or panic about proselytising capacity of Christian missionaries.

In power centres during British rule, Christian population, according to the 2011 Census, are quite meagre — Delhi (0.87 per cent), Mumbai (3.27 per cent) and Chennai (7.72 per cent). In larger states, only Kerala has more than 10 per cent Christian population.

This raises two questions.

First, why has Christianity failed in India, despite Christians ruling it for nearly two centuries, lakhs of missionaries putting all their efforts, and organisations spending billions of rupees into the proselytization project?

Second, why does Christianity have no future in India?

Here are five reasons that answer Christianity's failure in the past and why it will continue to be a filature in the future too.

First, in India, Christianity has never been a liberation theology. **Spending money or doing social work or helping people in need to proselytise them is in itself an immoral act and no ethical person will approve of this act.** The first anti-conversion law was enacted in Odisha and under the Act, “inducement” includes “the offer of any gift or gratification, either in cash or in kind, and shall also include the grant of any benefit, either pecuni-

ary or otherwise.” Seeking to convert people in need of financial help or aid is immoral but not the other way round. People can accept money or other means of help and revert or cling to the religion of their choice. This is not at all unethical.

Second, Christianity in India never played any role similar to the one Black Church played in the Civil Rights Movement or as in the case of Latin American Church and priests who became part of the anti-colonial struggle there. **In its early days, Christianity was seen as the religion of the colonialists and the oppressors. It never played the role as argued by Karl Marx** – “Religion is the general theory of this world, its encyclopaedic compendium, its logic in popular form, its spiritual point d'honneur, its enthusiasm, its moral sanction, its solemn complement, and its universal basis of consolation and justification....Religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world, and the soul of soulless conditions....”

Third, Christianity failed to transcend the barrier of caste. Becoming Christian does not absolve an Indian from the shackles of caste. Though this is true for all religions in South Asia. Religion can be changed but caste identity remains. In that sense, becoming a Christian has never been any incentive for people of lower caste Hindus. Just like upper caste Hindus treat those 'lower' in the caste hierarchy, upper caste Christians have similar apathy and hatred for lower caste (Dalit) Christians. **As the leadership of Churches in India remains in the hands of upper caste Christians, and they also claim the caste ancestry, situation for the lower caste remains the same with caste subjugation continuing for them even after conversion from Hinduism to Christianity.**

(Contd.. on p. 6)



Worship in spirit and truth,

Even though senior citizens have been kept out of church services during the pandemic, they are happy with the number of on-line streaming of masses that are available any time of the day. Many, as a result, have become more religious and spiritual. On the other hand, churches cannot be faulted or blamed for keeping out Senior citizens from church services, for the simple reason that a free hand has been given to them by Archbishop House to conduct church services, but strictly without violating the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and protocols of the govt, such as compulsory wearing of masks, sanitizing, social distancing, avoiding large numbers, etc. So, as we keep debating on the true essence and lack of sacramentality of virtual worship in televised masses, it is also important to note what Jesus Christ said to the Samaritan woman at the well who wanted to know what true worship is: "The hour is coming when you shall worship the Father neither on the mountain nor in Jerusalem ---but the hour is coming and indeed is here when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for that is the kind of worship the Father wants". (Jn, 4: 21, 23). How very true, especially in these times of the pandemic when we feel that the time has come when we all have learnt how to worship the Father truly in "spirit and truth" without even having to go to a church or a place of worship.

—A. F. Nazareth
Alto Porvorim, Goa.

New Education Policy

The Webinar Conducted recently. Over 400 participants from all over India and dealt with the following points.

Just a few lines on NEP 2020, New Education Policy 2020 introduced by the Education Minister on 29 July 2020.

1. Starting this year 2020--2021, in a phased manner all the Catholic educational institutions will be brought under total governmental control within the next 10 years.
2. The words minority and minority rights do not appear anywhere in this Policy.
3. There will be a merger of schools and colleges run by parishes and convents with other schools and colleges in the region which can be government schools or schools run by other communities.
4. All infrastructure in schools run by the Catholic Dioceses all over India like teaching staff, laboratories, playgrounds, libraries, classrooms will have to be shared with students from other schools as directed by the government.
This is known as setting up school complexes and clusters
5. All teachers and headmasters/headmistresses will be appointed by the government after passing in the specified examination conducted by the government.
Priests and sisters cannot be appointed in their own schools by their managements as now.
6. Local language to be compulsory and medium of instruction till class 5. Sanskrit will be made a compulsory language in course of time in classes up-to 5.
6. B.Ed. to be a 4 year degree and the

present B.Ed. colleges have either to close down or convert into 4 year programmes.

By 2030 minimum qualification for teaching will be 4 year integrated B. Ed. Degree

7. A Higher Education Commission of India will be set up to oversee the entire higher education system, excluding medical and legal education.

Educational Societies of minority communities will have no place.

8. Government will take charge of education of children from age 3
9. Degree will be of 4 years with multiple entry and exit.

A student can leave after the 1st year and get a Certificate and come back and rejoin the 2nd year later.

He can leave after the 2nd year and get a diploma.

He can leave after 3 years with a Bachelor's Degree.

He can complete 4 years and get a Bachelor's Degree with Research.

M. Phil will be abolished.

10. multidisciplinary - BA students can also take BCom and BSc papers of their choice. So also the BSc and BCom students can exercise the same options and take other papers.

11. Importance of Board exams will be reduced, and they will be conducted twice a year.

12. No mention of fundamental rights in the NEP. It is replaced by fundamental duties.

These are some of the high light which everyone should know.

— A WhatsApp Message

PM: Do You Know?

Mr. MODIJI,

In India Godimedia warming up cosily on your lap, has not taken notice of the tremendous sufferings undergone by the migrant labourers during the lockdown period of March April, but beware! International history is being written! here is one example. You will be depicted in history as the

(Contd.. on p. 7)

Years of protests by the Dalit (lower caste) Christian community had not brought any positive changes. Dalit leaders have also appealed to the Catholic Church, the apostolic nuncio to India and Pope Francis to curb the visible and invisible untouchability practices that exist and in the selection of Dalit bishops.

With no action of any positive change taken by the Church hierarchy Dalit Catholic leaders across India have threatened to start a new church if their demand to end casteism and discrimination against Dalits in the Catholic Church is not met.

Franklin Caesar Thomas, coordinator of the National Council of Dalit Christians (NCDC), told UCA News - If the Vatican does not immediately remove the discriminatory process of bishop selection that neglects qualified Dalit priests, we could announce our own Indian Dalit Catholic Church or the Indian Dalit Catholic Rite," **The new church will separate Dalit Catholic Christians from the Indian Catholic Church's casteist leadership. Wonder if it will wake up the Church Hierarchy.**

Dalit Christians are fighting for their respective place in the Church as well as fighting in the Supreme Court for their scheduled caste status in society. They said that none of India's four cardinals and 31 archbishops have a Dalit background. Similarly, among 188 bishops, only 11 are from the Dalit community. In caste-ridden Tamil Nadu, only one of 18 bishops is from a Dalit background.

It is a matter of concern that most Bishops (if not all) who come from Dalit background behave as if they are untouched by the pains and the struggles of their community, which is extremely unfortunate. What changes their mind-set and status quo is beyond imagination. Christ apparently takes a back seat and they play very safe and diplomatic.

The one sided Indian Church Hierarchy / Bishops decisions as prevalent today is not only non-conducive to Rule of law but also a great impediment to the growth of Christianity in India in some cases and not only mars reputation but also hinders ethical and fair results to the laity.

Church Hierarchy / Bishops action is welcome where systemic apathy and priests / religious indifference fail the poor when pitted against the rich, influential and politicians. It does a great job when it takes up the cause of the poor failed by the system and priest / religious.

But it becomes a problem when the rule of noise displaces the rule of law. Church Hierarchy / Bishops seldom believes in law of evidence and often runs a campaign to embarrass through selective leaks. Reputation in the Church in India matters little as does privacy. This has to be contained.

Sensationalism with scant regards for facts has become the order of the day for the Bishops/Church Hierarchy decisions. **Look at the laity and Dalit's call for equality and justice. The Bishops/Church Hierarchy resorted to sensationalism in coverage by which it marred the reputation of many who were found to remind the Church Hierarchy / Bishops of Christianity being a castles, forgiving and welcoming religion as preached and practised by Jesus Christ. But the biggest fallout of this is that the robust community which was increasing in numbers and giving good support to the Church in India is now reduced to withdrawal symptoms to the Church in India.**

Fourth, early Christian preachers took the wrong path in India. Upon arriving here, they first tried to convert the Brahmins. The idea was that since Brahmins are the intellectual leaders of Hindus, if they convert, others will automatically follow. This never happened. It's a fact that in Kerala, West

Bengal and also in Maharashtra, early converts to Christianity were mostly urban educated Brahmins. They were early entrants in the English medium schools mostly run by the missionaries and came in touch with the British and other Europeans. **In Hinduism, the lower castes accept the leadership of Brahmins because in Hinduism, Brahmins have been ordained the higher position. But upper caste Christians don't have this superiority sanctioned by their religion.**

Fifth, English-medium Christian schools symbolise the problem Christianity in India faced. The Bible says: "It is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich person to enter into the Kingdom of God." Serving the poor is the religious ethos of Christianity. **But in India, the most important Christian institutions — the English-medium schools and colleges — hardly practised this. They largely became the hub of social and economic elites of the country. In most of these schools, located mainly in urban areas, poor kids can't enter. This is true for such schools in metropolitan and big cities.**

The worst sin these Christian schools have committed, and continue to do so, is that some of them have a system where rich kids are taught in English medium with a separate shift for poor kids for whom the medium of teaching turns vernacular. It wouldn't be wrong to say these schools have made the upper caste-upper class elite more powerful and dominant, helping make the caste system more hegemonic. **Just imagine what difference it would have made if thousands of such Christian schools had decided to follow the diktat of the Bible 300 hundred years ago and taught English to millions of Dalits, Tribals and poor kids. Instead, the priests and nuns in these schools taught the likes of Lal Krishna Advani, J.P. Nadda, Arun Jaitley, Piyush Goyal, Va-**

(Contd.. from p. 5)

worst Prime Minister of a democratic nation like India! The RSS has made use of installing two non-brahmins one you as the Prime Minister and the other Ram Nath Kovind as the President to establish themselves in every democratic institution in the nation! But it is bad for your name. Here is the United Nations report: A report by the United Nations Human Rights Council's Special Rapporteur on Slavery, presented at the ongoing 45th session of the Geneva-headquartered UN body earlier this week, included reference to India's migrant crisis during

(Contd.. from p. 6)

sundhara Raje and such personalities.

A government led by a party whose president J.P. Nadda had his education at St. Xavier's School, clamping down on the Christian missionary activities is the poetic justice happening to Indian Christianity.

Former Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, in the middle of his troubles within the Congress Party, told the Madhya Pradesh State conference of his party that there were no factions among the Congress.

Knowing full well of the conservative-moderate split within the party and of the fractious relationship within the party between Singh and his high command the Gandhi's, the Congress Party delegates fell about laughing. The laughter was derisory. Facts can't be papered over by sweet talk.

The same is true of the Church in India today.

This fact of life must be spoken about openly in the lead up to build up of an all-inclusive Church free of caste discriminations in order for Christianity to thrive in India.

the Covid-19 lockdown. It says the internal migration of more than 100 million people deprived them economically, exposed them to indebtedness and police brutality, and stigmatised them!

you don't open your mouth and respond to any criticism against you in the country. You have not given a single interview in last 6 years of your reign; but all is being noted in the open world and in Ram Rajya! In-scribed VIDHILIKHIT in this life and in the next! Do you care?

—Fr Michael G,
Vasai

Water crisis - poverty in the midst of plenty!

A couple of days ago, there was a newsreport in the papers with regard to the water situation in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region, which probably must have missed the attention of many a reader (Water crisis may haunt Mumbaikars soon - The Free Press Journal 12.9.2020). A panel discussion held by the National Environmental Engineering Research institute (NEERI) throws up a very frightening scenario, that of a rise in demand for water in the MMR region by 40 per cent.

Before the onset of the monsoon the civic authorities had enforced a water cut in the city of Mumbai. God has been kind to the citizens of the city and sent down abundant rain in the midst of this unprecedented pandemic. However, the NERRI Report should not be taken lightly. It may soon seem like 'poverty in the midst of plenty'.

We have just 40 per cent of water that was available in 1947, and if we don't act now, severe water crisis will haunt us in future, says J. John, Director of the Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) at Thane-Belapur. The report also says, that more than 20 percent of households living in the

Greater Mumbai area don't have accessibility to household water and the average continuity of water supply is two hours per day.

Those of us who are at present, getting sufficient water should count our blessings but we need to think of the future. So, what are the authorities doing to rectify the situation? Our lakes have not been cleaned in a long time. Our drainage system of a hundred years, us in need of augmentation. Green cover is being systematically destroyed. Our existing rivers have been turned into gutters/nullahs. Finally, what are we, as citizens, on our part, doing to conserve water?

It has been said that the next World War could well be over the issue of water. This may seem like a remote possibility at the moment but that surmises the importance of water in our daily life. The authorities and the citizens together have a collective responsibility to ensure that sufficient water is available for our needs. The time to act is, NOW!

—Melville X. D'Souza
Orlem, Malad West

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WHETHER THE FINANCIAL POLICY DECISIONS TAKEN WITHOUT MUCH THOUGHT AND PREPARATION, CONTRIBUTED MORE THAN COVID TO OUR GDP CONTRACTION?

by Eric D'Sa

Now that almost two quarters of this financial year is coming to an end, GOI has been forced to almost concede that we will not be able to control the spread of the Covid disease. Hence even the semi lockdowns in different parts of the country are being eased. This is mainly because the much-awaited gross domestic product (GDP) data for the first quarter of this fiscal year has confirmed the worst fears of policymakers. The decline in GDP of 23.9% is the worst among major economies. The largest contractions were in construction (-50.3%), trade, hotels, transport and communication (-47%), and manufacturing (-39.3%). These together account for three-fourths of all non-agricultural employment in the country and 43% of all workers.

Their sharp contraction has implications for wages and employment, particularly at a time when the economy is suffering from a demand contraction. The recent statistics show 21 million salaried jobs in the organised sector have been lost and more such job losses are expected in the coming months. The above does not include job losses in the unorganised sector. Not surprisingly, most forecasters now estimate a decline in GDP of more than 10% this fiscal year.

The finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman was quick to attribute the decline to covid, which she had described as an "act of God". There have also been premature celebrations of green shoots and a V-shaped recovery, none of which is visible in available data that is coming out these days. The RBI Governor in his recent speech has conceded that the recovery this year will be slow. While the pandemic did contribute to the economy's contraction to a large extent, it would be an exaggeration to blame the shrinkage entirely on it. The fact is that gross value added (GVA) in the manufacturing sector has contracted with increasing magnitude in the last four quarters. Con-

struction has been contracting for three quarters. Even trade, hotels, transport and communication, as a group, has seen its GVA decelerate.

The economy was slowing down sharply even before the pandemic hit, with India's official GDP growth rate decelerating from 8.2% in the fourth quarter of 2017-18 to 3.1% in the same quarter of 2019-20. In other words, had we not been hit by the pandemic, last quarter's growth would still have been barely positive, at best.

The deceleration of the last two years

**YOU THE CITIZENS
DECIDE:**

had nothing to do with any exogenous shock, but was entirely a result of the government's policy adventurism. Notable examples of it are the abrupt demonetization of late 2016 and a hasty roll-out of the goods and services tax (GST) within a year of that. These broke the backbone of three dominant sectors of the non-farm economy. Add to this the increase in custom duties to protect the local industries has made the cost of production higher, which in turn have made our exports uncompetitive.

It is no surprise that unemployment and distress in the economy have increased. These sectors are also the largest contributors to India's informal economy, which bore the brunt of those policy shocks. Demonetization disrupted the operations of most enterprises in sectors that rely heavily on cash transactions. As did GST, by raising their compliance costs, and arbitrary revisions in the rates and regulations of the tax. Last year's tax waiver for India's corporate sector of around ₹ 1.5 trillion was another example of policy adventurism that seemed to ignore the need to protect the unorganized sector. It is now clear that most of the organized sector used the largesse not

to increase investments, but to balance their accounts by reducing their debt.

The most recent unplanned and without much thought act was the sudden total country lockdown in March, with just four hours notice to prevent the covid outbreak. While a lockdown was desirable and it did slow the transmission of infections, the strict restrictions imposed without either warning or preparation, and that too at a time when the daily case count was only a few hundred, were yet another example of the government's shock-and-awe methods. India's economy suffered much more on account of its lockdown than other countries, which imposed them gradually and in a relatively well-planned and localized manner.

Once again, the move affected the unorganized sector much more than it did the organized sector. The latter was cushioned by the large cash balances of formal enterprises and also because these were able to function by shifting work to the homes of their employees. But this was not possible for most of the unorganized sector. It was precisely the same three sectors that took the hardest impact. Most of their enterprises were not just informal, they also had limited cash balances. The outcome was that millions lost their jobs and incomes, and many of them had to take long walks back to their rural homes.

No country in his world is unaffected. What matters is the response to this exogenous shock. In the case of India, the way our policy has responded has resulted in our economy being impacted the hardest without even controlling the rapid spread of Covid disease. We will be shortly be the country with most Covid infections. You the Citizens will have to decide whether covid is the only reason why the economy is in such a crisis or it is largely a result of the wrong ill advised financial policy decisions taken over the last three years.

Immature governance

Kangana should have been more measured in her utterances. Of course, all of us have freedom of speech but it is not absolute. Freedom is a relative term, not defined. Hence one needs to be more careful just as you remain away from the edge down the hill if there is no boundary wall. You may be unhappy with the poor governance but you cannot go overboard unless you are parroting a political line. Not surprisingly, the BJP merely said they 'do not agree' with her views but did not condemn them.

Showing immaturity, the overenthusiastic functionaries of the Shiv Sena led government went overboard in reacting to the comments made by Kangana. All that they could have said is - nobody invited her to this State which gave her the space and the freedom to go about her profession. In the process she made a career for herself in a short span. Could she have asked for more? They could have added if she was uncomfortable or suffocates here, she is at liberty to find an alternate State – maybe her home State. But could she have achieved so much in Himachal Pradesh? Unfortunately, she has been at loggerheads even with her own fraternity. Bollywood with all its faults has facilitated her success. She calls Bollywood a "gutter" yet she wants to remain in the muck. Her diatribe against senior actors needs condemnation. In the long run perhaps she will come to rue those comments.

In Maharashtra, there is a tussle between Uddhav and Raj [his cousin] for Marathi votes and each one wants to out-do the other lest the other steals the show. But Uddhav forgets he is running a government and not Shiv Sena alone and therefore must keep the dignity of office in mind. This is not the first time that the government has landed in a soup. Somebody in the power circle must have instructed the BMC to "to teach her a lesson". Politicians usually give oral instructions to bureaucrats and when it backfires they are left to fend for themselves. Bureaucrats too must share the blame for being subservient.

Kangana dared the MVA government with not so civil language to stop her coming to Mumbai. Did she develop cold feet soon after that she asked and got instant Y plus security, from her Godfathers in the BJP? She should

IEWS on NEWS

have emerged alone from the airport to show she is not afraid of the consequences. Instead she chose to flaunt her Y plus [armed] security and put up a bold face. She is a successful independent woman and not someone who is oppressed. She has to accept the problems/challenges that come her way. I wonder if any other successful business woman would have played a victim card for being a woman and garner public sympathy. Many women entrepreneurs face worse problems.

Thackeray should take control and show more maturity by keeping all those around [including those who thrash veterans] at bay so that he does not have to face more such embarrassments. Kangana's leaning towards BJP was well known. With her comments praising the erstwhile CM Fadnavis, she has confirmed it. Ironically, the government at the Centre is busy pruning the security to political leaders of other parties but provides instant Y plus security to her. The BJP has now raised the bar. Hereafter, if any injustice is done to a woman in non-BJP State, she will get Y plus security and a Central Minister's visit. She will also get an audience with the Governor of that State. Finally, Justice Markandey Katju's, ex SC Judge, deposed before a London Court and said among other things that Nirav Modi cannot get justice in India as the judiciary is compromised by politicians. This is a highly irresponsible statement and that too outside the country and deserves outright condemnation by all. Will the BJP condemn it or just say 'we do not agree with his views' as they did in Kangana's case. If they condemn Katju, they will display their duplicitous standards. It's a Catch-22 situation for BJP.

Criminals and elections

Even conceding that a person [politician included] is innocent until proven guilty, there is something called probity in public life. Unfortunately this is a rarity in Indian polity. Over the years there is clamour for untainted candidates in elections from national parties which normally rule or dream to rule the whole country. While the political parties challenge each other, they all 'gang up' when it comes to 'mutual interest' like in this



by Marshall Sequeira

case or bringing political parties under the RTI. The judiciary too has been asking the government to address the issue as more and more lawmakers come with the baggage of criminal record and any amount of court cases some even heinous crimes like murder and rape etc.

There are some 2256 cases in 24 different High Courts involving sitting legislators. Some of the cases are pending since 1981. Many have secured stays from HCs / SC. Some of the crimes are heinous which call for life sentence and if those charged are allowed contest it is mockery of the system. Someone accused in 1981 must have got himself elected at least seven times. The Election Commission of India [ECI] too has been dealing with this issue. They may not have the powers to bring changes but surely they can make their displeasure public which they have done. Voters have limited choice. If every political party nominates a candidate with criminal history there is nothing that a voter can do except cast NOTA vote.

The ECI has now mandated that a political party has to upload all the criminal record of a candidate in three phases on its website. Earlier this year the Apex court had suggested that the criminal record of a candidate be published in at least two newspapers – one national and one regional. It may be a good idea if the opposing candidate is permitted to publish criminal record of his or her rival/s in the election leaflets/literature. All these are good initiatives but much will depend on how the political parties cooperate. They will always find loopholes. For them candidates with criminal background are assets on all fronts – financial, intimidation not ruling out booth capturing, buying votes etc. The SC has asked HCs to furnish time bound programme to expedite proceedings in pending cases. With one CM having 64 cases another 38 cases gives an idea of the situation we are in today. God save us!

Our Democracy is in danger. In his letter, Julio Ribeiro has said that the Delhi Police is taking action against "peaceful protesters" while ignoring senior BJP leaders who made provocative, communal public speeches in the build-up to the violence!...

In Support Of Our Human Rights Activists (2)

In the last article we focussed on our social heroes Vernon and Arun of Mumbai. In this one we widen our horizons. We find Eighty-three year old Octogenarian Jesuit Fr Stanislaus Lourdasamy, a human rights defender. He has fought for the Adivasis and is presently languishing in the Jharkhand jail. He was charged for alleged links to a banned Maoist group. The priest had been documenting rights violation by state police and security forces, including the extensive use of torture. What was undemocratic in his acts? Mr. Rona Wilson was the public relations secretary of the Committee for Release of Political Prisoners (CRPP). He has worked with people accused in terrorism cases, including those booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). Rona is from Kerala. He came to Delhi in the late 1990s, where he studied at the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). He was at the forefront of the struggle to release SAR Geelani in the 2001 Parliament attack case. After this, he formed the Committee for Release of Political Prisoners (CRPP) with Geelani. Rona's house was raided in April 2018. At the time, he was preparing a research proposal for a Ph.D. in London. On 6 June 2018, he was arrested from Munirka in Delhi early in the morning by Pune Police along with Sudhir Dhawale, Shoma Sen.



Fr. Michael G. Vasai

UAPA BEING AMENDED.

We continue the subject because arresting activists has become a routine activity of the Central government. Social activists are arrested as terrorists. The UAPA law is being amended to make it sharper only to silence all activism. The Congress Rajya Sabha member Shri. Kapil Sibal speaking on amendment UAPA 2020 said, "Unfor-

tunately, the provisions of UAPA have, in the recent past, been used against those known to speak up for the oppressed, those who foster the cause of civil rights, and others who oppose the government and its policies."

The home minister, when moving the amendment, clearly showed the expanded claws of the law meant to trap human rights activists. He Justified naming an individual as a terrorist if he or she "is a terrorist worker or takes part in any terrorist act," those who "help to promote or prepare for terrorism ..." including individuals "who raise(s) money to promote terrorism." It is true that a person who, as a member of a terrorist organisation, carries forward its agenda by participating in a terrorist act, must be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of UAPA. However, we move into a somewhat grey zone when the State seeks to prosecute people by charging them with "preparing" for terrorism or "promoting" terrorism or raising money to "promote" terrorism without a direct nexus established between the acts of preparation.

According to data provided by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in Rajya Sabha, 3,005 cases were registered under the anti-terror law between 2016 and 2018, but chargesheets were filed in only 821 cases. To a question on UAPA cases, MoS (Home) G Kishan Reddy told Rajya Sabha in a written reply that a total of 922, 901 and 1,182 UAPA cases were registered across the country in 2016, 2017 and 2018, respectively. So far, no individual has been named as a "terrorist" under UAPA. But many highly-regarded leaders of society, journalists, students who have opposed the Citizenship (Amendment) Act or CAA, and who were perceived by the State to

hold views contrary to that of the government, are currently being investigated with intent to prosecute under UAPA. In these cases, 3,974 people were arrested: 999 in 2016, 1,554 in 2017 and 1,421 in 2018.

"By arresting social workers, the present regime has shown that it does not believe in the Constitution," said Justice PB Sawant one of the organisers of Elgaar Parishad.

DELHI POLICE MISUSING UAPA.

How does Delhi Police justify invoking the UAPA, an anti-terror law? While critics have argued that dissenting or protesting peacefully would not amount to causing "disaffection against India", the police have told the court that the riots were a result of a bigger conspiracy to "overawe the government machinery", and that the conspirators had a "specific purpose, object and mandate" to cause "disaffection and revolt against the Government of India". The prosecution has argued that the aim of the protests was "to destroy, destabilise and disintegrate the Government of India in order to compel (it) to withdraw the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and alleged National Register of Citizens."

Citing "disclosure" statements to claim that the anti-CAA/NRC protests in Delhi were held to "malign" the image of the government, the Delhi Police has named CPM general secretary Sitaram Yechury, Swaraj Abhiyan leader Yogendra Yadav, economist Jayati Ghosh, Delhi University professor and activist Apoorvanand and documentary filmmaker Rahul Roy in a supplementary charge sheet filed in connection with its probe into the Northeast Delhi riots in February. (Indian Express 13 September)

(To lbe continued)

The Birthday Of The Great Queen - 8 September!



Tribes of Israel, as being deeply grieved by their childlessness.

Interestingly, Mary's birth is narrated in the third *sura* (chapter) of the Qur'an, the sacred book of Islam, with references to her father as Imran and her mother, Hannah who is said to have pleaded with God to fulfil her desire for a child, vowing that, if her prayer were heard, the child (whom she initially thought would be male) would be dedicated to God's service (a direct parallel to the Old Testament storyline concerning the mothering of the judge and prophet Samuel by Hannah). She pleaded for the protection of her child from Satan (*Shaytān*), a *hadith* asserting that the only children born without the "touch of Satan" being Mary and Jesus.

Mary's Nativity being sourced from apocryphal sources, the Latin Church was slow in adopting its celebration. In Angers, France, it is Saint Maurilius who is said to have instituted the feast as a consequence of a revelation around 430 when, on the night of 8 September, a man reportedly heard joyous singing emanating from Heaven, the reason given by the rejoicing angels being that the Holy Virgin was born that night! However, the first liturgical commemoration is linked to the 6th century dedication of the *Basilica Sanctae Mariae ubi nata est*, now called the Church of Saint Anne in Jerusalem. The original church built, in the 5th century, was a Marian basilica erected on the spot known as the shepherd's pool and thought to have been Mary's parental home.

Modern day devotion to Mary's Infancy, however, dates back to 1730 with the surfacing of the wax image of *Santissima Maria Bambina* among the Franciscan nuns in Lovere, Italy, a devotion that later got popularized

(Contd.. on p. 12)

The longest reigning monarch of our day, Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain, completed 94 years of age on 21 April this year. However, due to inclement weather conditions generally prevailing around that time of year in Britain and in certain countries of the Commonwealth headed by the Queen, her birthday is officially celebrated in the UK on a Saturday in June and on certain other days by countries where she is still the Head of State. However, the one Queen whose birthday is celebrated universally is Mary, the Blessed Virgin Mother of God, on 8 September, the celebration of her Queenship following exactly a week after the Solemnity of her glorious Assumption! Incidentally, the death day of all saints in the Catholic Church is celebrated as their feast day, marking as it does their rebirth in Heaven. Only two individuals apart from Jesus are honoured with a celebration of the day of their earthly birth - Saint John the Baptist (24 June) and Mary, the former being the Precursor of the Messiah and the latter, his birth-giver (*Theotokos* - God-bearer)!



by Ladislaus L D'Souza

Assumption emphasize her womanly potential as a marvellous masterpiece of the Father.

The Feast of Mary's Nativity thus challenges us on various levels. Firstly, the declaration of Mary's birthday as the day of the girl-child in India enjoins on us the responsibility of reexamining our attitude towards women in general and towards the women in our own lives in particular, assuring them of their due place in Church and society; next, correspondingly, it invites every woman, young and old, to reflect on her own attitude: towards her spouse, her children, her siblings, her parents and in-laws and, above all towards her own kind; lastly, she is encouraged to contribute towards the promotion of peace, justice and happiness in her own home and neighbourhood, at her place of work, recreation and study, in the country and

in the world at large, through the use of prudence and discretion. As Henry says to Pickering in the all-time musical hit 'My Fair Lady':

"Why can't a woman be more like a man?"

Men are so honest, so thoroughly square;

Eternally noble, historically fair;

.....Why do they do ev'rything their mothers do?

Why don't they grow up - well, like their father instead?

Why can't a woman take after a man?

Men are so pleasant, so easy to please...!"

Unrecorded birth, recorded traditions...

Sacred scripture per se makes no mention of Mary's birth, the related account in the Protoevangelium of James (5:2) probably being the earliest known record. An apocryphal text from the late second century, it refers to her parents, Anna and Joachim, wealthy members of one of the Twelve

Birthday of the Eternal Monarch – its significance

If Mary's Assumption celebrates the completion of her earthly sojourn, her Nativity celebrates the onset of God's plan of salvation for fallen humankind. Indeed, Mary was born, according to Saint John Damascene, "to minister to the salvation of the whole world", her unconditional "Fiat" forming the basis of the Incarnation, the profound fulfilment of humankind's hope of redemption, highlighting the role of 'woman' in every facet of human life as evidenced in the creation of Eve from Adam's rib. Put differently, involved as she was in God's plan of Salvation for us almost since her very conception, Mary's birth, infancy, womanhood, motherhood and

(Contd.. from p. 11)

in Milan under the care of the Sisters of Charity. The feast of Mary's Nativity celebrated by the Byzantines in the 7th century, is now liturgically commemorated in the General Roman Calendar, in most Anglican calendars, in the Tridentine, the Western Rite Orthodox and several other church calendars on 8 September, i.e. nine months after the Solemnity of Mary's Immaculate Conception, 8 December.

On 1 May 1920, Pope Benedict XV decreed a canonical coronation of the Maria Bambina image in Senglea, Malta. In the Philippines, a predominantly Catholic nation, 8 September is a public holiday honouring the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, since 2019. Nearer home, in Goa, Mary's Nativity is a major family celebration called "Monti Fest", observed as a thanksgiving festival with a luncheon centred on the blessed grain of the harvest; in Mangalore, it is called "Monthi Fest", celebrated with blessed grain from the harvest being added to a meal of pulses and vegetables.

Haste with a purpose

"Behold! Henceforth all generations shall call me Blessed!" (Lk 1:48b) These words, framing the arch of the Sanctuary of Mount Mary's Basilica in Bandra, Mumbai, form a perfect backdrop against which to reflect on the significance of Mary's Nativity and her undiminishing role in our lives. Our reflection cannot but be considered incomplete without an understanding of the root of Mary's blessedness, a blessedness that puts all Marian feasts into perspective. And the representation that best brings out the core of this "blessedness" in recent times is the lifelike statue of "Mary of Nazareth" housed in the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth. The presence of this statue at the Mount during its visit to Mumbai some years ago, not long after it was crowned in Rome by Pope Saint John Paul II in 1998, shall ever remain in the minds of many as the most poignant. For one could hardly miss the signifi-

cance of the moment! Up there in the niche above the main altar stood the stately Queen of Heaven and Earth, her infant Lord and the world's king on her right hand; in contrast, down amidst her children (near the Communion Rail), stood 'Mary of Nazareth', the humble woman who "went with haste to a town in the hill country of Judaea" (Lk 1:39), bearing within her the coming Saviour, her "haste", prompted by her maternal instinct and driven by a special purpose: her cousin Elizabeth was, like her, in the family way and, being at an advanced stage, would need help. **This was probably the earliest sign of her being conscious of others' needs, her "ministry" having already begun!** Which brings us to the question: what is our response to the twin situation of the pandemic-&-lockdown we are in, à la Mary's haste-ful visitation?

Blessedness earned

Having done what was within her power and capacity with Jesus still being formed in her, we find Mary taking her ministry to a decisive level when she intercedes with her now grown-up son on behalf of the bridal couple in Cana who were about to face the embarrassment of having run out of wine. Then, standing at the foot of the Cross she finally consolidated her position as the prime "Minister", nay "Queen" of her Son's Realm! As Saint Bernard says, "She died living, enduring a sorrow more cruel than death." Indeed, Mary, 'our tainted nature's solitary boast' [The Virgin, William Wordsworth], was, says Saint Augustine, "the only one who merited to be called the Mother and the Spouse of God", thereby literally earning her Queenship! Any wonder then why Saint Bernardine of Siena says that at Mary's Assumption, her Son "Jesus went forth in His glory to meet and accompany her" into the presence of the Father and the Spirit whose handmaid and spouse she had willingly become at the Annunciation!

Marian devotion – a celebration of faith

Devotion to the innocence of Mary under the title of Infant Mary or Ma-

ria Bambina, is widely celebrated in many cultures across the globe. Yet, sadly, not all of Christendom understands Mary's role in Salvation History the way the Catholic Church does. Many in the Anglican fold, particularly, pooh-pooh the very idea. The gardener of a certain Anglican bishop was a professed Catholic and an ardent admirer of Mary, on account of which the prelate often teased him. But the poor gardener, an embodiment of Marian humility, allowed that to disturb neither the peace of his mind nor his faith. One morning the bishop said: "Say, Simon - you and your Mother Mary! Hah! I don't think there's any difference between Jesus' mother and my mother!" "Hmm – I don't know about that, Your Grace," replied Simon; "but one thing is clear—there is a vast difference between the sons!" How revealing the faith of the simple and the fervent! And that is what Marian celebrations are all about, be it at Bandra, Irla, Utan Bhatte in Mumbai, or at Vailankanni in Chennai, Shivaji Nagar in Bangalore, Vallarpadam in Kerala, Lourdes in France, Fatima in Portugal or anywhere else in the country and the world: celebrating faith at its profoundest best – faith that so gracefully envelops in its fold Hindus, Sikhs, Parsis, Muslims and people of yet other religions! Needless to say, all generations shall truly and rightly continue calling Mary "Blessed" till the end of time! Mary could very well have added 'all nations'!

O beautiful Mother!

What Minna Antrim, American writer of the last century says can well be applied to Mary: "A beautiful woman delights the eye; a wise woman, the understanding; a pure one, the soul." As can be expected then, every prominent statue of this wonderwoman has its own claim to fame. Although Mount Mary's Basilica in Bandra, Mumbai is just a little over a century old, the statue itself was brought by the Jesuits from Portugal sometime in the 16th century and set up in a chapel constructed for it on the present location, devotion to Mary slowly but steadily

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taking root. In 1700, however, Arab pirates, plundered the shrine, making off with the statue's right hand that held a gilded object. The statue, thus disfigured, was replaced with a statue of Our Lady of Navigators from a side altar at nearby Saint Andrew's. To cut a long story short, in time, probably when the Basilica was built, the original statue was fitted with a prosthetic hand bearing a representation of the Infant Jesus and reinstalled in its niche above the main altar, and the one of Our Lady of Navigators repositioned at its former location.

And now, the piece de resistance! Mary's statue at the Bandra Mount is indisputably one of the most beautiful in the world! Indeed, the teeming millions surging up the holy hill year after year for a fleeting darshan of their beloved Queen, Mother and benefactress, a word or two of plea or of gratitude from the heart escaping their lips, are enough manifestation of the faith that binds a cross-section of devotees. Smitten by the very countenance of the statue during his 1964 India visit, Pope Saint Paul VI, on his return to Rome, sent across a stunningly beautiful gold crown in 1972! The Basilica, which was titled a Minor Basilica on 5 December 1954 by Pope Pius XII, witnessed a glorious moment when His Eminence, Valerian Gracias of happy memory, the first Indian Archbishop of Bombay and the first Indian Cardinal, placed the crown on Mary's brow in a spectacular ceremony!

Need for a lift-up during the lockdown!

Part of the cause of the reality of the monumental proportions that this most popular of Marian feasts in Bombay has over the time taken on could well be the faith of a non-Christian believer that lead to the construction of the Mahim Causeway and the steps leading to the Mount of faith. Ferry crossing between the islands of Mahim and Bandra before 1845 was hazardous, the monsoons particularly claiming innumerable lives even as the British government struggled for funds to construct a proposed causeway. That's when the Parsi family of Sir Jamshetji and Lady Avabai Jeejeebhoy, whose sons survived but daughters all died in their infancy, decided to contribute towards the costs involved. When finally daughter Pirojbai crossed the age of seven, the family gifted a set of necklace and earrings of precious pearls to the statue on the Mount in grateful fulfilment of their vow, apart from the construction of a road from Mahim Bazaar to the Causeway. The absence of a 'pilgrim centre' along the lines of the ones at Vailankanni, Nashik and elsewhere doesn't deter the growing numbers from keeping their annual date with their 'Mauli' (Mother), the stalls selling candles and a vast array of wax representations along the slope aiding the expression of their petitions and their gratitude! **This year, despite the famed pilgrim spot being out of bounds so to say on account of COVID-19 and the resultant lockdown, let us with Mary glorify the Lord who never ceases to work marvels for us through her intercession!**

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(State Your Petition) _____
My financial need is urgent. Be my

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)

— Merwin J. Crasto & fly, Mumbai

Thanksgiving



Thanks to Divine Mercy, Our Lady of Vailankani, Our Lady of perpetual Succor and St. Anthony

— Daizy Rosario, Andheri

Thanksgiving

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be Praised Adored, Glorified and Loved today and everyday throughout the world, now and forever. Amen!!

Ask St. Clare for three favours two impossible and say nine Hail Mary's and the above prayer for 9 days with a lighted candle and publish on the 9th day your request will be granted no matter how impossible it is



Received the favours through St. Care

—Helen Godinho & fly



As the coronavirus pandemic spreads around the world, factories and services are shutting down. Experts say this is the biggest such shutdown post World War II. This is bound to slow down economic activity and growth in the days and months ahead. Workers are unequal in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Those who work in essential sectors face higher health risk whereas those in non-essential social-consumption sectors face greater economic risk. We study how these health and economic risks cascade into other sectors through supply chains and demand linkages.



C.K. Subramaniam

The cascading effect increases the health risk faced by workers in the transportation and retail sectors, and it increases the economic risk faced by workers in the textile and petroleum sectors. Amid the general unrest is the disrupted global supply chain. It is reported that more than a dozen industries are under the pressure of distressed supply chains caused by the current pandemic.

In fact, the coronavirus was not the first time businesses found themselves in a situation where they had no choice but to learn the importance of establishing a secure supply chain scheme. After the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Fukushima, Japan, many companies suffered a loss of revenue and even market capitalization suffered because they fell short in recognizing their second- and

third-tier suppliers in the compromised region.

It is not always possible for enterprises to prepare for every type of risk or threat, especially in today's unpredictable and hyper-connected world. Hence, resilience is a critical trait that companies should emphasize to ensure business continuity in case of major disruption. Diversification of suppliers is one solution to mitigate risks associated with over-reliance on one or few suppliers. In some cases, however, companies are confined to a limited pool of suppliers – e.g., if the production of certain items is protected by license or intellectual property regulations, or order quantities are not high enough to justify having multiple sources.

In addition to diversification and for companies without that option, resilience in the supply chain can be achieved by taking proactive measures. Carefully examining existing operations to map out where potential risks might lay and buttress the supply flows with new sources of relevant data ensures the ability to identify disruption early on and respond accordingly in a case like the recent coronavirus outbreaks. In a pulsating pinnacle of pandemic it is time to look for other options which will prove handy in the existing circumstances. Work from home concept is proving handy and the work moves without disruption. But this is not possible in every industry as the physical pres-

ence is needed when you work in industries, which requires operation of machineries and is concerned about production factors.

Business building is of foremost importance in the present circumstances. Even though technology plays a pivotal role, physical presence is part and parcel of the system, where production is involved. Till the time we get a suitable vaccine to kill the effects of the virus, we will have to manage with virtual ways of managing things to the maximum and wherever required the practical presence can be ascertained following the social distancing norms and fight the virus by wearing masks, gloves and wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds to keep up with the systems and procedures.

The impact of the deadly novel coronavirus (Covid-19) is having a cascading effect on supply chains and a number of segments. Regardless of size, businesses that depend on international travel and procurement appear to be facing a lot of uncertainty. COVID-19 has a cascading impact on traders, builders, architects, migrant laborers and the connected industries suffer so much. The outburst of coronavirus namely COVID-19 has agitated the world economy and widening its presence in India. The origin of the disease and its influence on the economy is uncertain and because of this, policy makers find it difficult to understand the feasible economic outcome.

The demand for the goods in an economy is always from two sides: one by a private individual called private consumption and another by the government of the state called public consumption. Demand for the goods by the private individual had been affected because of lockdown except for essential goods in the economy. The reason for this is that most of the Indian workforce is employed or working in the unorganized sector and in the SMEs. As all these Indian establishments are running close and so the labour working in these sectors



(Contd.. from p. 14)

are not being paid which adversely affect demand for private goods in the market. The lockdown will affect the supply of necessary inputs or raw material required to produce private and public goods. Because of the no transportation and movement in man and material, the production is affected.

Since it is a case of global lockdown and pandemic, the demands for inputs will affect globally. Hence the inputs required for the production are not available not only in the domestic market but also in the international market therefore the production of goods and services will get hampered in this way. No demand and sale of product in the market affects working capital requirement means not enough cash will be available to pay to creditors or suppliers. Hence, pandemic resulting into lockdown will take the Indian economy towards the recessionary phase and longer lockdown will lead into a great recession.

The whole world is struggling to pandemic COVID-19 and come to standstill because of lockdown. India being a part of the world forum has also announced lockdown to overcome this problem. The adverse effect is an increased ratio of unemployment and deduction of salary in major sectors. Whereas, the most affected people is a daily wager (migrant labour) who earns on a daily basis for bread and butter. Despite relaxing restriction of lockdown on necessary goods, the food supply chain is greatly affected. Besides, a country which was already facing problems in its financial sector is going to be affected hugely because of this lockdown. The NBFCs sector is almost on the verge of closing down its business. Aviation, construction, financial sectors and SMEs are majorly impacted, as everything is shut down, and no presence of monetary and labour support. The cascading effect of Corona-19 will be carried out for the next ten years and we will be able to sustain the loss through remedial measures and restrictive practises.

World East Indian Singing Championships Competition

The Maharashtra East Indian Christian Federation (MEICF) established on 1st Sept 2020 Is Celebrating their 10th Anniversary by organizing,

The World East Indian Singing Championships Competition for the first time in the History of the East Indian Community, the Indigenous, original Inhabitants of Mumbai, Dharavi Beth and North Konkan Region comprising of Vasai, Virar, Thane , Uran , Chaul and Korlai

The online show will be broadcast on YouTube " Jai East Indian Channel " On Sunday 20th September 2020 From 7.00 pm onwards

Over 25 singers all over Mumbai , Dharavi Beth, Vasai , Virar , Latur and International Singers will participate. Among them are 5 International Singers from Italy, Argentina, USA and Dubai & There will be Priests who will take part in it.

The Maharashtra East Indian Christian Federation (MEICF) was established / formed under the leadership of the undersigned to protect the rights of the East Indian Christian Community the Adivasis of Mumbai who has lost the land and livelihood because of the Government forcefully acquiring their ancestors land on the pretext for the development of Industries and residential buildings.

It was also formed to preserve it Culture & Heritage etc

Most of the land belonging to the East Indians were taken forcefully by the Government like the Airport land, Godrej land, Premier Automobile land (Kohinoor City), Railway land, Bus Depot land , Salt Pans land especially of Wadala, AntopHill and Chembur by giving them peanuts , today, the same land would have fetch Crores of Rupees which would have made us overnight rich.

The President and the Managing Committee is motivating its committee on online shows by empowering them to become Entrepreneurs rather serving as an employee of others , thereby, increasing thri Standard of living & they in returned giving employment to others .

MEICF is - encouraging its Community especially the children to go in for higher studies & thereby becoming IAS , IPS , Doctors, Pilot, etc.

MEICF had organized an online show " San Anthony Cha San" on YouTube Jai East Indian Channel in aid of St. Ann's Church, Harnai, Dapoli as the Church was damage by Cyclone Nisarga .

MEICF had organized another show , part of the money collected was distributed by given Ration Kids to people who were affected by Coronavirus Lockdown

MEICF is also telling its members to greet their relatives and friends by saying Jai East Indian and installing Welcome boards / Signage at the entrances of Gaothants like Welcome to Kurla ,Kalina, Bandra, Uttan, Vasai Gaothants,

This way the outsiders who have come to Mumbai know the East Indians are the original Inhabitants of Mumbai.

MEICF is also taking Lawyers and experts to different Gaothants to enlighten them on RTI, Will, Property Matters & OBC "

We hope, that your good self will definitely give maximum coverage on the above even and the work the MEICF is doing for the people

*Herbert D.Barretto
President MEICF*

Sunil Gavaskar recently went on an Australia tour where he was invited for the screening of an Australian movie named "Gavaskar"

He was overjoyed, humbly accepted the invitation and went for the screening.

After sitting through the full movie, he realized it was nowhere related to Sunil Gavaskar or even to the game of Cricket!

Out of fury, he questioned the director "Are you out of your mind? Why did you name this movie Gavaskar, and made no mention of me or Cricket in the whole movie?"

The director replied - "So Mr. Gavaskar, now you know, how we Australians felt when you Indians made a movie named BORDER and there was no mention of Alan Border and cricket in it???"

Gavaskar fainted.

Police Inspector: Why didn't you report your stolen credit card?

Husband: The thief was spending less than my wife.

Inspector: Then why are you reporting it now?

Husband: I think now the thief's wife has started using it!

When you are single you see happy couple every where,

But

When u r married

you see Happy Singles every where....

Banta: Why did you beat your wife so much?

Santa: The ayurved told me to "beat properly" before administering the medicine to her!

Real Astronomers are in our family, 1st Mother who showed the moon in childhood.

2nd papa - who used to show the whole universe in just 1 slap.

Third wife - who shows stars during the day. This NASA is just confusion.



Banta: How the word "Wife" was invented?

Santa: They took the first two and last two letters of "Wildlife"!

Santa: I was a dude before marrying.

Banta: And what are you now?

Santa: Now I'm subdued!.....

Wife is angry as hubby stands too close to a beautiful girl in bus, girl slaps him for pinching.

Hubby to wife: I swear I didn't .

Wife: I know, I did it.

Women are like Fruits...

Every one has its unique colour, shape, aroma and taste....

Problem is with men...!

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And whereas wife gives advices, lectures, Tensions & husband takes it!

Hospital Humour

A man was hospitalised for 3 weeks. He fell in love with the nurse.

He sent her a note.

"I love you," he wrote. "You have stolen my heart."

Nurse: We have stolen your kidney.

We haven't touched your heart yet.

— Contributed by: Jubel D'Cruz

Q: There was a rooster sitting on a top of a barn. If it laid an egg, which way would it roll?

A: Roosters don't lay eggs!

Q: Why do seagulls fly over the sea?

A: Because if they flew over the bay, they'd be baygulls!

There was a duck who walked into a store and said, "got any candy?" The storekeeper said, "no, we don't." The next day, the duck went into the same store and asked the same thing and got the same answer. The duck kept going back every day for a week and asked the same thing and kept getting the same answer until the store keeper got so angry he said, "if you come in here and ask that again, I will hit you on the head with a hammer!" The next day, the duck walks into the store and asks, "got a hammer?" The store keeper says, "no." Then the duck asks, "got any candy?"

Q: The turtle took two chocolates to Texas to teach Thomas to tie his boots. How many T's in that?

A: There are 2 T's in THAT!

Q: What goes up, but never comes down?

A: Your age!

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Jumbo Prawns Tawa roasted with Coconut green masala .



Ingredients :

6 Jumbo Prawns, deveined and washed
Salt
Turmeric powder
Butter or coconut oil
Curry leaves 20 to 25
2 bulbs spring onion

For the Masala paste:

1 cup coriander leaves
1/2 cup mint leaves
3/4 cup shredded coconut
1 inch ginger
10 pods garlic
6 green chillies
Vinegar

Method:

First apply turmeric and salt to the prawns and keep it aside.

In a kadai fry all the ingredients mentioned in the masala paste section except vinegar, when it emits a good aroma, grind it to nice paste along with little vinegar.

Apply this paste to the prawns and keep it aside for atleast 2 hours.

Then take a flat tawa and pour some butter or coconut oil and fry the prawns along with handful of curry leaves on both the sides.

Finally garnish with coriander leaves or spring onion.



by Sonal Lobo
Bangalore



Pork Vindaloo

Ingredients:

18 dried Kashmiri chillies, stemmed and seeded
1-inch piece cinnamon stick
1 tsp cumin seeds
8 cloves
1 tsp whole black peppercorns
1 tsp coriander seeds
1 tsp turmeric powder
1 cup vinegar
Salt to taste
1 kg boneless pork meat, cut into 1-inch cubes
¼ cup vegetable oil
4 onions, chopped
16 cloves garlic, minced
2-inch piece fresh ginger root, minced
2 green chillies, seeded and cut into strips
5 cups water

Method:

Grind the red chillies, cinnamon stick, cumin seeds, cloves, peppercorns, coriander seeds and turmeric to a fine paste

Mix with 2 tbsp of vinegar to create a smooth paste.

Mix the pork pieces with the spice-vinegar paste in a bowl until evenly coated. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap, and marinate in the refrigerator for six to eight hours.

Heat the vegetable oil in a large vessel over medium-high heat. Cook and stir the onions, garlic, and ginger until golden brown.

Add the pork and its marinade and cook, stirring frequently.

Pour in the water, bring to simmer, then reduce the heat, cover, and cook until the pork is tender for about one hour.

Stir in the green chillies and the remaining vinegar.

Cook for a few more minutes and add salt as per taste.



Sweta D'Cruz

(Sweta D'Cruz is a young chef from Dombivli, Mumbai who loves making good food and cakes of various flavours and designs).

Meditations On The Suffering Of Jesus



After all the rationale on Jesus' death, we know from Church teachings that Christ had to die. Jesus was sent as the Lamb of God, the sacrificial lamb to atone for the sins of man. The death of Jesus was something which absolutely had to happen for the redemption of humanity. But, did Jesus have to suffer pain and ignominy?

In God's divine plan the suffering of Jesus was probably made to be a dramatic chapter spiritually, emotionally and to be a deeply memorable insight into his mission and for the fulfillment of Scripture.

The Twelve basic sufferings of Jesus may be grouped in three categories: Physical, Emotional and Spiritual.

The first emotional, heartbreaking thought Jesus felt was when he knew that Judas Iscariot would betray him. At the Last Supper, as painful as it might have been for our Lord, he told the Apostle : "What you are going to do, do quickly". (Jn. 13:27).

The second emotional and mental suffering, when Jesus faced Pilate washing his hands before the crowd of screaming Jews who cried: "Crucify him!". Jesus felt sorrow that the

governor was pressed to make a decision. Pilate said, "I am innocent of this man's blood. Do what you want." (Mat. 27:24".)

The third emotional pain arose as Jesus, wounded, flesh torn and bleeding profusely cried out, "My God, my God, why have you deserted me?"(Mk.15:34).



BY MELVYN BROWN

The fourth emotional agony made Jesus utter a loud cry with unbearable pain, he gave up his spirit. (Mk.15:37).

The Six Physical sufferings of Jesus.

- 1 The scourging at the pillar.
2. The crowning of thorns.
3. Carrying the weight of the Cross.
- 4 Nails driven into both of his hands.
- 5 A nail hammered into his feet.
6. The spear dug into his side.

The human world has been the devil's jurisdiction ever since creation. Like a

thorn bush he has spread his evil root into the arid ground of the Faith. His single ambition has been to destroy humanity who was given 'free will', so that the annihilation of humans have only themselves to blame.

God came into the world, the divine Spirit with Jesus, His mortal Son, also divine, together emerged as One on a mission to defeat Satan and teach humankind the value of a good life, the path to salvation and the hope of eternity. "And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us..."(Jn.1:14).

Meditation is a human thing, variable always and compounded in contrasts with either, happiness, pain, peace or love. We, today meditate in silence maintaining and keeping in mind the inevitable punishment Christ had to suffer for the expiation of our sins.

The sufferings of Jesus in this presentation is made to guide the believer, particularly to experience the depth of Our Lord's spiritual, emotional and physical pain and agony wrapped in the ignominy given to criminals.

Mind, body and spirit are what the followers of Christ ponder objectively in this dimension of Christ's suffering. The immediate effect of his helplessness, despair and quiet acceptance to endure the will of his Father is an act of humanness our finite minds may not readily comprehend all at once.

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Co-op banks under RBI supervision to prevent scams

Recently some serious scams of so called Co-op credit societies/banks are visibly causing mayhem to middle class law abiding, tax paying families and depriving them of their hard earned savings and daily bread. Consider the Bengaluru-based Sri Guru Raghavendra Co-operative Bank, Kerala based Popular Finance and and so on seen in the media. Helpless aged, sick and challenged people bear the brunt of the scams and are not able to pursue to a conclusion. To Protect depositors' interests, the Lok Sabha on September 16, passed the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020, to bring co-operative banks under the supervision of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman assured the House that the legislation empowers the central bank to regulate only the banking activities of co-operatives and it is not applicable to a primary agricultural credit society or a co-operative society providing finance for agricultural development. The Bill is not to "undermine" the importance of co-operatives, she said. "But, if a co-operative is performing banking functions, there is a need to regulate it... so that it functions professionally," she said. The amendments do not affect existing powers of the state registrars of co-operative societies under state co-operative laws.

Referring to the woes of depositors she said while 430 co-operative banks faced liquidation in the last two decades, not a single commercial bank, whose depositors are protected by the Banking Regulation Act, have gone for liquidation. The legislation also enables making of a scheme of reconstruction or amalgamation of a banking entity for protecting the interest of depositors without resorting to moratorium that freeze withdrawals by depositors. The Bill replaces an ordinance that was promulgated in pursuance of the commitment "to ensure safety of depositors across banks" by



the President on June 26.

Sitharaman said the government was compelled to come out with an ordinance during the lockdown period because conditions of cooperative banks were "grave" and there was "uncertainty" regarding the normal legislative business due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The government had tabled the bill in the Parliament in March this year, but it could not be enacted due to the outbreak of the pandemic.

"During the budget session in March, we introduced this bill in order to have the amendments brought in so that depositors' interest will be taken care of. But unfortunately, during the budget session, we could not have this bill passed," Sitharaman said.

Moving the bill in the House, Sitharaman said that financial health of several cooperative banks was becoming "very delicate". She said that 277 urban cooperative banks were reporting loss and 105 co-operative banks were unable to meet the minimum capital requirement.

Divakar Vijayarathy, founder and managing partner at consulting firm DVS Advisors LLP, said, "Cooperative banks have been under severe criticisms with rising scams especially involving small retail depositors. State Governments and their respective regulatory Boards have not been able to keep up the monitoring mechanisms

efficiently over these institutions. The Government was waiting for an opportune moment to bring them under the purview of RBI and the timing couldn't have been better."

"Capital adequacy ratios of most of these banks are a concern and the present regulatory structure does not make the restructuring of these institutions practically feasible. The Bill strikes the right chord and has given a mechanism to restructure these banks and also significantly improves their regulatory oversight by a competent and efficient regulator, the RBI. This move should certainly improve the confidence in the cooperative banks and the interest of all the stakeholders would be protected in the long run," he said. Great care and understanding of ordinary depositors needs to be better cared for surely...

- Based on media reports :
Ivan Saldanha-Shet.

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7165. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1979) Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 63 kgs, Fair, Edn. B.Com., Post Graduation in Supply chain & Ship Management, working as an E-commerce online support. Contact email : examiner4@yahoo.com

7164. MANGALORE : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in May 1984) Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair, Edn. ITI Course, working as a Technician. Contact email : rajesh.dsz15@gmail.com

7083. MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in November 1985), Ht. 6', Wt. 68 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Com., PGDLM, PGDSM, working as PPM & Data Engineer in Shipping Company. Contact email :ryan.intermilan@yahoo.co.in

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
Mobile : 9096141335

7116. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in December 1988), Ht. 5' 9", Wt.79 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Masters

in Financial Management, working for US based Investment Bank in Compliance and Audit dept. Contact email :

williamgonsalves123@gmail.com

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Mob: 9503282306

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

7039. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, Handicap - slight Scoliosis - taking treatment, spine slightly curved. (Born in September 1976), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 45 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A. Computer Prog. / Hair Designer, Having own business. Contact email : reginarodrigues634@gmail.com

7019. MUMBAI : Tamilian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in June 1981), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Customer Services. Contact email : dasvinod1@gmail.com

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

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7160. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1988), Ht. 5' 7", Fair Complexion, Edn. BMS, working as a Senior Merchandiser in a Global Retail Company in Dubai. She was born in Mumbai, schooled in Kuwait and last 5 years settled in Dubai. Seeks a tall, well spoken, independent man, with a good sense of humor, preferably based **ABROAD**. Contact email : prislobo10@gmail.com

6033. ABU-DHABI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1979), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.A. Eng., Literature, working as a Copy Editor. **Contact email :** barretto.lorraine@gmail.com OR 9730454857

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

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

7120. CANADA : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1986), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 51 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., University of Toronto, working as a Customer Support for Canada Government. Contact email : joafaria@yahoo.ca

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

7115. MUMBAI : Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1989), Ht. 5', Wt. 50 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, smart and good lookingt, Edn. Vlth Std., Non working, homely. Contact Mob: 7021135272

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

7138. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1984), Ht. 4' 11", Wt. 56 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., working as an Executive Assistant (Secretary). Contact email : labinajena@gmail.com

7108. MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1990), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 58 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Sc. (Aviation), Ae SI (Part), AME (Aircraft Maintenance Engineer), working as a Aircraft Maintenance Engineer. Contact email : lucyann.alvares@yahoo.com

7125. CANADA : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in February 1983), Ht. 5' 8", Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.A., working as a Consultant. Contact email : llmendonca@shaw.ca

7107. MUMBAI : Tamilian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1990), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 50 kgs, Wheatish Brown Complexion, Edn. M.Com., working as a Commercial Executive. Contact No. 8108216595 email : jkanth74@gmail.com

7124. CANADA : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1993), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.M.S., M.B.A. Operation, working as a Coordinator in Shipping Company. Contact email : carrel.dsouza@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

7122. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1993), Ht. 5', Wt. 45 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc. IT., working as a Tech Support Engineer. Contact email :

lynettelewis67@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

7121. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in August 1988), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 55 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Bachelor of Physiotherapist, working as a Physiotherapist. Contact email : ryanbarboza806@gmail.com

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Season Of Creation

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Week 3 - Migrants



Introduction:

Mass migration which is a sign of our times and a world-wide phenomenon today has existed throughout history. It is a complex multi-faceted phenomenon which evokes images of violence, fear and hunger but it also reminds us of super human courage, resilience, solidarity and hope.

I. Who is a Migrant? Displaced, discriminated against and disillusioned, a migrant is often one who risks his or her own life to escape war, violence or persecution, poverty, environmental degradation or natural disaster. Forced to leave familiar ground and plunge, into unknown territory, they often fall prey to human trafficking and abuse or succumb to illness or death. There are three types of migrants 1. Internal migrants i.e. within the country i.e. from one state to another or from rural areas to cities. 2. Immigrants and refugees from other countries. 3. Emigrants who leave their homeland or return in search of better educational and job opportunities.

II. Why do people migrate? The roots of migration lie in the violence of humankind embodied in institutional structures due to the web of dysfunctional behaviours and world systems. The causes could be myriad i.e. ecological reasons, governmental policies to help the exports and urban sectors, rapid population growth, ethnic rivalries, global recession, political polarization, a struggle for survival or even the lure for greener pastures. However, many migrants end up being herded into camps, live underground and

are occupied solely with survival.

III. Reality Check: Migrant peoples, especially the poorest among them reflect the world as it really is. Because of the rapacious exploitation of the earth's resources by the few, these often forgotten and oppressed people flee famine, flood and drought, in order to eke out a livelihood. Migrants are victims of a divided world. They pay the cost of division oppressed by poverty, exploited in the labour market and forced to be ever on the move in search of subsistence. Political decisions, employment legislation and oppressive regimes further discriminate against them. The myths of cultural domination, the lies of written history, prejudice, racist attitudes and unquestioned nationalism rub salt into the open wounds of these poor migrants.

IV. The Indian Scenario:

- In India family means anchorage, joy and companionship. The culture of India gives identity, roots, values and a wholesome view of life, fostering harmonic relationships within one's being, with kith and kin, with nature in God. In fact, relationships in India form the warp and woof of the fabric of society where the sense of the religious, the spiritual and the Divine is an instinct, a longing and a passion.
- Yet many Indians become migrants and belong to the category whose fight for survival is the fiercest. Hunger, flood, earthquakes, famines, deforestation, harsh and insurmountable economic conditions, terrorism and harsh military regimes have been the compelling forces

that have driven them from their family and homeland in search of new pastures, often mere survival.

- Migrants in India are part of the heartless dehumanizing system that has recently become more intensified and widespread within and outside the culture of poverty.
- India has all three types of migrants' i.e. internal migrants from rural areas to cities e.g. Haregaon and Kazli or Tehri-Garhwal where the Government has started colossal hydro-electric projects or from Southern states to the North for white collared jobs or vice-versa for blue collared jobs as laborers.
- India also has immigrants and refugees from other countries like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and Nepal etc.
- Emigrants leave India or return. India thus suffers from 'brain-drain' as many Indians emigrate to the West for better educational or job opportunities, thus making India the international migration super power. Indians emigrate to Africa, Persian Gulf countries, North America, Europe and Australia. UAE employs laborers, while the US lures the educated, intelligent Indians.

V. The Lockdown and Migrants:

Since March 25th, 2020, the lockdown in India has severely impacted migrants, several of whom lost their jobs due to shutting of industries, and were stranded outside their native place. According to the 2011 census of India, 38% of India's population is migrant i.e. 45.6 crore. Of this 99% of total migration is internal i.e. inter and intra state and 1% is international migration. Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are the largest source of interstate migrants, while Maharashtra and Delhi are the largest receiver states.

VI. Covid-19 has revealed the plight of the vulnerable Indian labour force.

1. Business and industry is dependent on migrant labour that is paid less, work longer and harder and is more flexible than local labour.

(Contd.. on p. 23)

(Contd.. from p. 22)

2. About 100 million migrants in all work seasonally and circulate between their rural homes and far-away worksites for a part of the year.
3. Seasonal migrant workers are in turn supported by a further invisible economy—the household. Their bodies are overworked and often they are no longer fit to work. As such their households too are exploited. Seasonal migrant workers are thus super exploited.
4. Workers from Jharkhand, Odisha and Chhattisgarh have suffered most because their indigenous wealth i.e. minerals, forests and other natural resources have been extracted by outsiders, leaving behind high levels of poverty for the locals.
5. India's historically disadvantaged minorities i.e. the Dalits and Adivasis work the hardest in the worst living conditions. They are subject to the stigma of caste and region and are treated as jungli i.e. filthy or savage.

VII. The Silver Lining to the impact of Covid-19:

It brought together thousands to provide relief for stranded migrant workers, find temporary shelters and provide basic amenities. Journalists, scholars and activists documented their flight. Labour migration appeared in mainstream policy discussions for the first time and scholars and activists who had been working with migrant workers for years were, for once, listened to as online conferences, seminars and reports tried to understand what was going on. Sonu Sood for example offered accommodation to 20,000 migrant workers at Noida. He also started Pravasi Rojgar providing migrants with jobs in garment factories. Many prominent figures lent their voices and were part of interfaces. Fact finding teams too will emerge in the aftermath.

Now is the moment to harness all these efforts, unite them into a wider movement, to bring about social

Remembering A Fallen Hero



KANPUR (16th September): Blow, blow thou winter wind, thou art not so unkind, as man's ingratitude, said Shakespeare. So often memories of great persons fade, faster than the flower petals on their graves. Not so for Dr Mahmood Rehmani, the noted eye surgeon of Kanpur, who passed away on 5th April, during lockdown I, when nobody could go to pay their last respects.

Dr Rehmani probably held the world record for the maximum number of free corneal transplants, 1224 in all, starting from 1990. The cost and doctor's fees for a transplant would have been about Rs 60,000/-, so the total financial burden would have been around Rs 7,34,40,000/- (Rupees Seven Crores Thirty Four Lakhs Forty Thousand). He did not seek, nor receive, any government aid for this momentous task. He had also performed thousands of Intra Ocular Lens (IOL) implants, again free of cost, together with one month's free medication. Besides, he had plunged into relief work during the earthquake in Gujarat, and tsunami in Tamilnadu.

The Kanpur Nagrik Manch (KNM) felt that his memory and inspiring services should not be allowed to fade away. Hence they proposed his name to the Government of India for the prestigious Padmasri award. The last date

for the online submission of the same was 15th September. Within 5 days of getting permission from Dr Rehmani's family the KNM managed to get 25 letters of support from various social organizations that were submitted online. They included the Gandhi Peace Foundation, and Aligarh Muslim University Old Boy's Association. KNM Convenor chhotebhai, together with Madanlal Bhatia, Dr Khan Ahmad Farooq, Suresh Gupta and Rashid Aliq were the prime movers for nominating Dr Rehmani for the award.

Interestingly, the first eye donor in 1990 was Mrs Roshan Merchant, from the miniscule Parsi community. There has been only one donor from the Christian community, Mrs Regina Carvalho, the mother-in-law of chhotebhai, in 2014.

Kanpur city has had a record number of eye donors, body donors for medical research, and blood donors. But by and large the Christian community has been impervious to these social movements. A few years ago, when there was a major rail accident with over 100 corpses, the priests went ahead in "celebrating" a Corpus Christi procession the same day; despite being requested to not do so. At the time several members of the Kanpur Catholic Association (KCA), and one priest, had volunteered to donate blood; while the KCA reached out to the injured in the hospital.

Perhaps the Christian community needs to stop priding itself on its educational and health institutions and come closer to the people, as envisaged by Vatican II. For now the citizens of Kanpur will not allow the memory of one of its great sons to fade, not with flowers, but with a Padmasri.

change, which will hopefully, better the terms and conditions for migrant workers. How can we help to do this?. What are some innovative ideas of bringing about such a change?

Any concrete suggestions for the way forward?

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