

# THE SECULAR CITIZEN

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A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY

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# A Floodgate Of Opportunities



**N**ewspaper reading these days has become a very depressing habit. Not so much for the disgusting politics which has pervaded every aspect of life in the country today, as it is for the crime reports that 'adorn' every page of the daily.

Rapes, murders, robberies, thefts, assault; these have become routine affairs. While some gain notoriety for the ghastliness of the crime, others serve to be mere statistics of the depravities which are touted periodically to remind the society about the perils posed by criminals.

But whichever way one looks at it, it is more than evident that crime is an integral part of the society!



by Pachu Menon

While people strictly adhering to social values, beliefs, norms and morals form that segment of the society which is peace-loving; an equal number of those disagreeing with the set rules and have conflicting perspectives about them tend to spawn violence in the society they live in.

It is believed that crimes are mirrors to the imperfections in the society! Without crimes however it would have been difficult to examine and act on these flaws. The police, courts and other law enforcing agencies help maintain peace in the society.

In Goa for instance, it is said that during the Portuguese era people used to sleep with their doors and windows open without the fear of any robbery or theft. What has changed the situation so drastically for Goans to be threatened by a feeling of insecurity these days!

The locals do not tire of blaming the

migrant influx for all the woes that afflict Goa today, including the spurt in crimes. But the 'native efflux' witnessed in the state has also had a retrogressive effect on the overall scenario!

The global pandemic in its wake is expected to turn the world topsy-turvy. Prolonged periods of lockdown have taken their toll on world economies. COVID-19 has definitely affected the joblessness rate in India

making it difficult for the nation to cope with the effects of unemployment.

Such a pathetic situation can only witness increased crime rates in the society.

But as a state that has always basked in the glory of its culture and traditions, it is difficult to envisage Goa buckling under the economic impact of the outbreak.

The other day, the front-page photo in a local daily of a traditional bread-seller in Goa selling bread at the marketplace with his bicycle displaying details like the bakery name and FS-SAI license number as instructed by FDA through a recent order caught my attention.

Not that there was anything exceptional about the picture! But it did tend to remind one of the fast-diminishing breed of Goa's traditional poders!

Migrant invasion has pervaded every aspect of business in the state. As with all the other traditional occupations that once gave Goa its unique identity, the local poders selling pao and other traditional bakery products too are making way for people from outside the state.

With many of the present generation Goans relishing the prospects of moving out to other parts of the country and abroad for better employment opportunities, young locals stand accused of having forsaken their traditional occupations.

The vacuum thus created has augured well for the migrants who have been quick to capitalize on this 'windfall'.

The pandemic in a sense has helped Goans to return to their roots. Ignored and abandoned, the land of their ancestors still holds out so much for them by way of employment and other sources of livelihood.

As the economic meltdown due to the COVID situation prevalent across the globe threatens to play havoc with people's lives, it is their native land that will afford them a gleam of solace in the trying times.

Staring at an uncertain future and amidst a scenario where jobs are hard to come by, Goans are at least blessed by an overabundance of traditional jobs which are theirs for the



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(Contd.. from p. 2)

taking.

With the exodus of the migrant workers, the locals could now 'reclaim' their rights over various traditional occupations which were allowed to be dominated by outsiders for decades.

Such a situation had come by only due to follies of a younger generation which has all along held on to the belief that pursuing family occupations are impediments in the path of their progress.

A ready-made scenario where willingness more than anything else would tilt the scales in favour of the locals as far as the jobs are concerned has however not given Goan entrepreneurs the confidence to rely on this option entirely.

It is this hesitation that has prompted local employers in Goa to eagerly await the return of their migrant workforce.

The migrants working in the local fishing business, for instance, have always been a threat to traditional fishermen in Goa. Yet if voices echoing in the corridors of power in the state are anything to go by, not only would the absence of migrant work-

ers hamper the trawler operations, but it would also severely dent the fishing business in Goa. Such has been the industry's dependence on them!

With such an attitude born of several years of reluctance by the locals which has gradually manifested as a strong dislike for traditional jobs, it is actually a worrisome proposition for the employers as to whether the locals could indeed slip into the shoes of the migrants!

What an uncharacteristic situation it is for the sons-of-the-soil!

The COVID- effect having magnified the problems for mankind, it goes without saying that the personal and social costs of unemployment will have a devastating effect on the society.

However, nothing should stop Goans from becoming self-reliant! Besides providing ample business avenues, a return to their traditional occupations will definitely ease the unemployment woes of the locals.

A floodgate of opportunities beckons the Goans. It is just a matter of making an earnest start!

-THE END-

# 'Aloysius College Road' Mangalore, name unfairly erased.

-By Rev. Melwin Joseph Pinto, SJ,  
Rector, St Aloysius Institutions

The entire civil population of Mangaluru city is shell shocked to note the confirmed action of the renaming of the disputed Road from Hampankatta through LightHouse till Ambedkar Circle as "Mulky Sundarama Shetty Road". This draconian decision has hurt the sentiments of thousands of passionate admirers of St Aloysius College Educational Institutions the world over. It has been proved beyond doubt that the said road was named "St Aloysius College Road" in 1976 by the Mangalore Municipality under the Presidentship of late Sri Blasius D'Souza.

The Management of the College was successful in bringing the Stay order on July 1, 2017 to the order of the state Government issued on May 24, 2017 stating the renaming of the said road as Mulki Sundarama Shetty Road. In response, the Vijaya Bank Employees' Association filed a Writ Appeal against the Stay Order which was turned down by the Honourable High Court of Karnataka.

The judgement delivered on April 11, 2019, the honourable High Court of Karnataka had directed the civic authorities to call both parties concerned and reach an amicable settlement. St Aloysius College management, in its memorandum submitted on February 19, 2020, also had made a plea to involve the College in all the future deliberations on the issue.

It is indeed undemocratic and unjust to take a unilateral decision to revoke the order which was rightfully and



contested by us, without taking us into confidence which amounts to non-compliance of the directives contained in the order of the high court and our request.

St Aloysius College is a 140 year old institution which has formed thousands of men and women of great eminence. Sri T.M.A. Pai, George Fernandes, present Attorney General of India, K Venugopal, Sri Vinaya Hegde, Justice Santhosh Hegde, Mr K V Kamath and many other prominent alumni have excelled in their fields and have grown to international prominence. The institution which forms these eminent



personalities and serving the cause of education for 140 long years cannot be overlooked in preference to one individual. Vijaya Bank Workers' Organization, which has been pursuing the renaming process, may not enjoy any locus standi as the bank is already merged with Bank of Baroda.

We would also like to bring to your kind notice that we were always willing for negotiations and dialogue. We feel a malicious design by the strong and the influential who claim to believe in equality of rights and opportunities. This clandestine and undemocratic decision and the overnight preparation for the inauguration of the said Road have deeply pained us.

It is most disconcerting for all, at a time of great uncertainties and anxieties re-

garding the pandemic, a sudden and silent decision circumventing the legal procedures would definitely mean there are unseen hands that would create disharmony in the society. The time of the pandemic was an opportunity for reconciliation and a time to demonstrate solidarity among people. This unexpected ruling proves that the pandemic has been utilized to settle the dispute unceremoniously. In addition it also is a scheme to divert public attention from the real issues and concerns posed by the pandemic.

Assuredly, observe a clear pattern in the scheme of things that are happening in the city of Mangaluru which is known for peace and harmony for centuries. Hence, there is every cause to strongly note that the truth regarding the issue concerned has to be brought to light and the people of Mangaluru have a right to know the truth behind this manner of isolating the parties concerned from the due processes of arriving at amicable settlements of disputes among people. This may be the harbinger of several such undemocratic and unilateral decisions in the future too.

An earnest request has been expressly made to the government and civic authorities to take a serious note of this incident that has disturbed all law abiding citizens and questions the fundamental understanding of justice and democratic values. Further, also a questionable proposal is at a surreptitiously advanced stage regarding the ancient "Lady Hill Circle" in Urwa Mangaluru, to change its name to favour a sage of respected standing, such action is detested by a wide cross section of citizens. Serious reconsideration of the decisions are called for and ensure that due justice is meted out to the knowledgeable citizens' cause in accordance with the laws, without further delay, to uphold the tenets of civil integrity.

Courtesy : Mangalore Today  
News Network -ijss.



## Multi intention masses

A notable feature of some online masses, is the number of multi intentions that are announced by the celebrant at the start of every mass, often totaling around 20 to 30. People have become more religious during the pandemic it seems. Nevertheless, what is surprising is the number of these intentions that are clubbed together for a single Eucharistic celebration, unlike what it used to be a few years back, when only a single mass was accepted for each intention. Bookings for masses were accepted only a month earlier, and it was sometimes difficult to get a particular day for a particular intention or for the soul of a departed member. Multi intentions were clubbed together and names displayed on the parish notice board during the week and celebrated on Sunday during the parish mass. What is happening today seems to be contrary to Canon 948 which explicitly states, that only the intention of the first stipend payer will be fulfilled at the offered mass, and separate masses for other intentions will have to be celebrated later.

Will the church kindly clarify.

—A. F. Nazareth  
- Alto Porvorim, Goa

## LOST and SEARCHING

Fr. Austin Norris

Rudderless and clueless we searched  
For answers from within and without  
Fear and loathing in the fearsome face  
Of a virus consuming the human race

We thought it would pass as it came  
But within our homes and streets it stayed  
Locking us out and from others and kin  
Oh when God, will we be free from this sin?

Seniors, youth and children all shut in  
Professionals and first responders hit  
When did we lose our compass and aim  
Oh providence, help us we struggle in pain

Equality painted in the stroke of a flash  
Where we see humanity sorely tested  
Blinding, foreboding, challenging beliefs  
To the heavens above, we gaze for relief.

## Restart local trains

We have had enough of the lockdown. Mumbai cannot restart until the local trains restart. It is the lifeline of Mumbai. Buses are too expensive to travel in and not all can afford them. Also, people have to change several buses in order to reach their workplace or destination. Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray should realise this.

—Jubel D'Cruz,  
Mumbai

## A letter from the Beggars' Association of India

Beggars come in various forms. Some fake injuries and pretend that they are desperate enough to evoke sympathy from the public and get money. Some pretend to be new and lost in the city. Some are kidnapped and are forced to beg, and yet others carry just a few months' old kidnapped babies in their arms. There are also beggars who don't accept anything less than Rs 10.

This incident took place a few years ago. One day as usual, I stood at the bus stop waiting for my bus to arrive when a man in tattered clothes approached me for alms. Feeling sorry for him, I opened my wallet and gave him a coin of Rs 2. He took it, and then threw it back on my face and said, "Aaj kal, do rupaiya mein kya milta hai? Mujhe kum se kum dus rupaiya de do." ("Now-a-days, what do you get in Rs 2? Give me not less than Rs 10").

When I wrote about this incident in the 'Letters to the editor' column of a local newspaper, I received a letter at my address from the Beggars' Association of India that said, "Rs 10 is the minimum amount one must give to a beggar." The letter was handwritten in English and it had an address with a rubber stamp on it of the Beggar's As-

sociation of India.

After this incident, I vowed never to help beggars but give the same money to charitable institutions or put it as a love offering in church.

—Jubel D'Cruz,  
Dombivli, Mumbai

## Lift moratorium on PMC bank

September 23 completed one year for the moratorium imposed by RBI on the Punjab Maharashtra Co-operative Bank (PMC) restricting transactions and cash withdrawals by the depositors. Till date, the fate of the bank continues to hang in limbo, with no headway made by the earlier administrator to sell the acquired assets of the accused and pay off the 9 lakh depositors in 137 branches. Neither the RBI nor the finance ministry have shown any interest in pumping in the shortfall liquidity amount by roping in the State Bank of India(SBI) as was done in the case of the revival of Yes bank, in a record time of just 12 days. Covid-19 is often cited as an excuse for the delay. The recent amendment to the Banking Regulation Act was undertaken by the Centre to protect depositors from future repeats of banking frauds, by bringing all co-operative banks under the supervision of the RBI. Whether this amendment will also help to restart the PMC bank and pay depositors their locked up money is the moot question. However, with the appointment of a new administrator, there appears to be some light at the end of the tunnel, and the only hope left for the beleaguered and distraught depositors to get back their money. It is now time to lift the moratorium and restart the bank.

—A. F. Nazareth

# India needs a human being Prime Minister NOT an acting Cornered Animal

by Don Aguiar.

In nature, an animal is most dangerous when cornered and wounded. The same is proving true in this term of Prime Minister Modi.

Recently in the current parliament session the government introduced Agriculture and labour Bills. The Opposition was agitated by the government's push to deregulate agriculture without any consultation with the state governments, leaving our smaller farms vulnerable to the whims of larger corporations and the perils of contract farming, while the labour codes stacked the decks against workers' rights and left unorganised workers particularly vulnerable.

And as we have seen these last six years, when there is a rare opportunity for sensible debate on matters of serious importance to the country, the preference of the Modi regime is clear: the government will propose, the Opposition will oppose, and whatever the merits of the latter's arguments, the government's brute majority will dispose.

Modi botched the coronavirus pandemic, bungled the economic recovery and flubbed the handling of civil rights demonstrations. Members of his own BJP family denounce him. He faces a seemingly insurmountable deficit but yet his people are for him.

And the prime minister is trying to provoke a race war on the streets of India. We've arrived at a moment that we all knew we'd get to — the moment when Narendra Modi would be so desperate, he'd do anything to hold on to power.

After violence claimed lives on racial-justice demonstrators by secular democratic supporters in recent

days, Modi and his BJP family fans the flames of violence. He can't stop the violence because, for years, he's fomented it.

The more chaos and anarchy and vandalism and violence reigns, the better it is for the prime minister. He's rooting for chaos and violence.

When the prime minister's supporters, often armed, drive into cities to provoke racial-justice demonstrators, Modi calls them "GREAT PATRIOTS! GREAT NATIONALISTS!" His convention glorified vigilantes who take up arms against protesters — "disgraceful anarchists" and "thugs" in Modi's telling. The prime minister declares that the backlash against demonstrators by his supporters "cannot be unexpected" and says that "the only way to stop the violence in the high crime opposition run cities is through strength!" He proposes that the far-right militia member who allegedly killed protesters acted in self-defence.

Modi is doing this because, he thinks, they should be frightened — by a leader who instigates bloodshed to promote selfish ends.

There's plenty of blame to go around for the violence: far-right militias and opportunists and criminals of all variety. What's needed to calm the situation is for leaders and the prime minister to denounce violence in all forms.

It must be made absolutely clear, Rioting is not protesting. Looting is not protesting. Setting fires is not protesting. . . . Its lawlessness, plain and simple, and those who do it should be prosecuted. Violence will not bring change, it'll only bring destruction. It's wrong in every way.

And Modi? When invited at a news conference to condemn violence by his supporters, declines.

That's why Modi's leadership is so deadly. The democratic secular foundation found that six of the ten years Modi has been on the national scene have set records for extremist-related violence.

In 2019, right-wing fanatics were responsible for 90 percent of extremist-related murders. You have right-wing extremists coming in trying to take advantage of the cover of the protests to carry out these violent acts and they are trying to start a race war.

Modi, who likes to say his supporters are "much tougher" than the other side, has routinely spouted violent notions.

The potential for political violence has grown as parties polarized by race and racial attitudes. Only leaders' restraint has avoided a conflagration up to now. But Modi has unleashed the hellhounds, and it won't be easy to stop.

I look at this violence and I see lives and communities and the dreams of small businesses being destroyed," Narendra Modi looks at this violence and he sees a political lifeline.

As AYN RAND said — "When you see that trading is done not by consent, but by compulsion — when you see that in order to produce, you need to obtain permission from men who produce nothing — when you see that money is flowing to those who deal, not in goods, but in favours — when you see that men get richer by graft and by pull than by work, and your laws don't protect you against them, but protect them against you — when you see corruption being rewarded and honesty becoming a self-sacrifice — you may know that your society is doomed."

The opposition has to do their part. But calm won't come unless and until the Indian prime minister acts like a human being — not a cornered animal.

# Sultan's Battery and a Harvest Festival!

(Christians on the West coast of India recently celebrated 'Monthi Fesh', while the other original inhabitants are eagerly waiting for 'Agera', the harvest festival celebrated in the Gaothans in and around the seven isles of Bombay!)

This is the tale of the Canara Catholics and their harvest festival- 'Monthi Fesh'.

The pacific waters of the Arabian Sea lapping at the shores of Tulunadu, known as the Canara (Konkan) Coast, carry within them poignant tales of the turbulent times faced by a people and their return to the halcyon days of yester years. These waters are also witness to the birth of an edifice, the 'Sultan's Battery' built on the same coast by a de facto king in his quest for power. Today, it stands as a reminder to the people of their persecution and the subsequent decimation of their numbers at the hands of the same Sultan. Rising from the ashes of this devastation these hardy people, the Canara Catholics have rediscovered their roots and adapted to them.

Centuries ago, when India was predominantly an agricultural country and people lived off the fat of the land, the annual harvesting season was celebrated as a cultural carnival with ample food, song and dance. But the harvest festival celebrated by Canara Catholics is a blend of religion, culture and History.

Konkan coast is the narrow strip of land supposedly reclaimed by warrior sage *Parasuram* by hurling his battle axe into the Arabian Sea. Back in the sixteenth century, this beautiful land beckoned the fleeing population sailing down the coast to escape the Portuguese inquisition in Goa. Merging with the locals, these migrants settled on this rich land of swaying palms and gurgling streams, swiftly flourishing as agriculturists and merchants. However, though converted to Christianity, they retained their old ancestral traditions, lifestyle and food habits. As tillers of land, a bumper crop always elicited boundless joy and mani-

festated as a harvest festival. For these migrants, the feast of the Nativity of Mother Mary which happened to coincide with the first harvesting of paddy came to be conveniently celebrated as the Harvest Festival.

Then came the turbulence that rocked the boat of their very existence! Tipu Sultan the king of Mysore seized Mangalore and the surrounding areas. It is generally believed that 80,000 Catholics from the Canara coast were stripped of their land, gold and silver and taken prisoners. Most of them perished on the way to Srirangapatnam, where those alive languished to death in the dark dungeons. The captivity brought the flourishing Christian community in Mangalore to near extermination. The ordeal ended on the death of Tipu Sultan in a battle and the survivors trudged all the way back to the coast to make a new beginning. The painful memories of a haunting past failed to deter them from turning to the land they had loved and the traditions they had revered, one of which was the 'Monthi Fesh'.

The traditions of Monthi Fesh are based on the principle that simplicity of life is best found in nature and her gifts for which we need to be grateful. These sentiments prompted them to add prayers of thanksgiving and for the ancestors to the existing rituals of the festival.

On 8th September, some sheaves of freshly cut paddy are ceremoniously transported by bullock carts to the respective churches where they are blessed. The grains are then distributed to the Faithful to be taken home and consumed as 'Novem Jevan' (new meal) by the entire family. It is a ritual of an entire family squatted on

grass mats before an incensed, decorated and brightly lit altar consuming a meal of traditional vegetarian preparations. Extensive coverage of the daily blessings is done by the head of the family, thanking the creator for material and spiritual blessings. The taste of the meal is enhanced by the heady fragrance of jasmines and chrysanthemums on the altar and by small talk and chatter.

Mother Nature walks into every home bearing freshly harvested gifts that carry the earthy smells of a land considered to be the wealth of the family. Every possible vegetation- roots, stems, stalks, leaves, fruits and nuts go into the making of a sumptuous pure vegetarian 'new meal'. A game of 'seven tiles' normally follows this light meal, played by the young and old to the accompaniment of screams, shouts, laughter and merriment.

Where does the Sultan's Battery fit into this rosy picture?

Sultan's Battery is a watch tower at the confluence of *Gurpur* (also called Falguni) river and the Arabian sea, constructed by Tipu Sultan 15 years before his death in 1784, as an artillery base to keep Europeans warships at bay. In those good old days, I remember it in total neglect, surrounded by tiled houses in huge compounds divided by country roads that meandered through thick vegetation, a tile factory and a cashew-nut processing unit. Across the swift-flowing river, among the sugarcane fields on a narrow strip of land stood a well of cold fresh water, called '*tannirbavi*'. Providence played a game and all of it made way for commercial establishments, the tragedy of progress!

The battery is a sturdy structure that has stood the test of time. However, it is reminder of the man at whose hands a whole community had suffered. On the flip side, this era also revived with gusto the cultural practices such as the celebration of the Harvest Festival, of a people that dwell on the shores of the Arabian sea!



by Vera Alvares

# WHETHER GOVERNMENT OF INDIA WAS JUSTIFIED IN PASSING THREE LAWS WITHOUT MUCH DISCUSSIONS IN PARLIAMENT, WHICH IT CLAIMED WOULD BRING IN THE REQUIRED CHANGES IN AGRICULTURE TO IMPROVE THE LIFE OF THE POOR FARMER?

by Eric D'Sa

Life has come to almost a standstill in the State of Punjab and parts of Haryana due the farmers in these states going on a rampage. Last week, the Union government moved ahead to productionize its plans, announced in May, for creating a 'One Nation, One Market' for agricultural produce. Accordingly, it moved three bills in the ongoing Monsoon session of the Parliament to replace the ordinances. It is positioned as a fresh burst of reforms in agriculture as that happen ended in 1991 with Industry, which will dismantle laws, in vogue for decades, binding harvest, storage and sale of agricultural crops. In short, it is to set in motion an audacious plan to take the market to the farmer. It claimed it will do wonders to the poor farmers income.

But now, this plan instead of being welcomed, has run foul of a section of farmers—largely wealthy farmers, mostly from Punjab and Haryana. The thing is that they also pack considerable political clout—to the extent that the Akali Dal has not only withdrawn its Minister from the central government, but has come out of a very long standing NDA affiliation. The main cause of the grievance of the farmers is that the government in any of the three laws have not assured them that the MSP, the minimum support price of the two main crops; wheat and rice would be given to them in the future. They fear sooner or later the APMCs set up around the states where the governments purchase the produce at MSP and pay them, will be gradually wound up and they will be left to the market forces controlled by big companies.

This is exactly the political economy of this policy change. It was designed to alter status quo, to replace the current trading system controlled by a clutch of people with a market-based system. Any change will create winners and losers. We need to remember that three out of four cultivators in India fall in the category of

the small farmer. This, in turn, means accessing the mandi or the market for selling their harvest is a mini-project in itself; not to speak of the added cost burden of transport and pay-offs to middlemen. For them, the new regime offers hope if the new system is set up and operated properly. Just like it spells despair for the rich farmer.

The seeds of the challenge of the rich farmers of Punjab and Haryana can be traced back to the green revolution initiated in the late 1960s. In a short period of time, it transformed Punjab and Haryana

**YOU THE CITIZENS  
DECIDE:**

into the foodgrain bowl of the country; naturally the farmers, too, gained. The Country that until then had faced shortage of food and depended on imports, not only had sufficient food to feed the growing population, but also have surplus to export. This was great news for a large poor country. Subsequently, by the late 1970s, this economic power had translated into political clout with the rise of powerful farmer politicians, such as Charan Singh and Devi Lal, with a national footprint. Till the beginning of the 1980s, the approach was focused on public investment in agriculture—like in irrigation works.

Thereafter, it shifted focus to the idea of agricultural subsidies with its inexorable link to the minimum support price (MSP)—the basic minimum guaranteed on key crops like wheat and paddy—and an annual commitment to procure foodgrain.

Significantly, about 80% of the annual procurement comes from the states of Punjab and Haryana. The fear is that the new regime would endanger this arrangement.

It is true, the earlier system had its flaws. But let us not forget that it also helped mitigate risks to the farmer. By assuring a floor price—based on the cost of cultiva-

tion—the government was effectively underwriting the risk in the event of a disaster, like for example if the country missed its annual tryst with the monsoon.

Seen another way, a weakening of the existing regime will diminish this risk cover.

The current agitation has got legs precisely because clever politicians have played on these fears of farmers, to convince them that the market-based reform would eventually nix the MSP. This has been easy for them to do, as the government though is ready to give them verbal assurances, are not willing to include them in the new bills passed in Parliament. Given its role in risk mitigation, the farmers are naturally vulnerable to such a loose verbal assurance of the government, even coming from the Prime Minister.

The problem is that after the 2008 global financial crisis, the demand for foodgrain contracted and so did the prices. In the Indian context, the monsoon, too, became unpredictable even as the traditional crop mix was undergoing a shift towards riskier but high value-added produce like horticulture. The combination is what led to the phenomenon of rural distress and farm suicides. At present, the farm gate prices are either barely below or at the level of the Support Price—so even a whisper about eliminating MSP will set off alarm bells in the minds of the farmer and has done so.

Politics is always as important as economics. As a matter of fact in democracies economics plays a very important part during elections. The agitation has put the spotlight on the risks underlying farming—an issue rarely discussed, leave alone addressed. The solution therefore is to address risk mitigation and not stoke chaos for short-term political gains. The central government should quickly address the fear in the minds of the farmers by bringing in the required changes in the laws and assure the farmers of a MSP and that all the grains offered by the farmer will be procured and paid for promptly.



# Don't Let Covid Blues Carry You To A Crisis

**T**he post corona effect we see on the road ahead is quite bumpy. Mid-age people will have a herculean task to come out of this crisis. Human beings in a free society must have a right to some social contact as they go about their daily lives, even at this difficult time.

Scientists warn of 50,000 corona virus cases per day by mid-October without action now and the position is going from bad to worse. The unprecedented impact we are having on the planet is not only putting the ecosystem rely on scientists to believe that our destructive relationship with nature is causing too many problems and it is bound to increase in the years to come. It is indeed a testing time. So do not let covid blues carry you to a crisis in the remaining part of the year.

Pandemic, nature and us should go hand in gloves for the time being and the mask will have a greater impact like the 20 seconds hand wash. We have seen an increasing rate of pandemic emergence in the last couple of months. We have had Swine Flu, Sars, Ebola in the past and we were able to combat and come out with a clean chit in the past. And we have actually looked back over every merging disease. It is my view that it is our relationship with nature and said where did it originate on the planet and what are the things going on and we found that we are behind every single pandemic.

Animals have lots of different viruses inside their bodies and we let the wild life into our world. There are incredible places for viruses spread and the most obvious viruses would jump and we are connected to the animal trade. To make things worse, the animals are stressed and we know the animals are stressed shed viruses at

higher rates. We cannot persist with that level. The destructive relationship with nature is paving the way for the pandemic. What are the things going on there that could cause viruses at various levels. One thing is sure: human impact on pandemic that drives emerging diseases.

Animal trade is in full swing despite the pandemic and these animals do have different viruses inside their bodies just like we do. We are bringing wild animals into the trade and so we have lots of contacts with animals. The wildlife trade is at unprecedented levels. We have huge markets with tens thousands of live animals. And these are the active places, where the animals shed their viruses through feces and urine and are killed in front of you. These are incredible places for viruses to spread and we are connected to that trade. Number of animals are put in one place or in small enclosures and we are moving around it in a clumsy atmosphere.



C.K. Subramaniam

Fashion industry is also facing such ticklish problems relating to viruses. We are seeing a huge increase in fur trims and fur jackets. We are intruding with wildlife inhabitants. We are encroaching further and further every day. 31% of all emerging diseases have originated through land use change. Forests around the world have thousands of viruses that we never come into contact with our naked eye. The minute we build a road in there, you start getting exposed.

The SARS- CoV-2 virus is usually transmitted through direct contact with an infected person's body fluids like from coughing or sneezing or indirectly through contact with surfaces. Coronaviruses need a host and cannot grow in food. As far as food is concerned, there is currently no evidence that food can be a route of transmis-

sion of the virus or a determinant of any form of infection.

So eating non-vegetarian food is perfectly safe. However, we can take some extra precautions and make sure any meat is washed and cooked thoroughly at a high temperature. Good hygienic practices must also be followed before consuming raw fruits and vegetables. We can also avoid going to slaughterhouses as a precautionary habit for the time being until the infection is controlled fully. The chances of virus spreading through animals is not ruled out so far. Initially China suffered, exported to the US and other European Countries and passed on to India. Now we have learned to swim through the viruses of Corona and settled for a serious thinking of how to combat Covid blues.

Clearly friends, life is bottled up. The genie has condensed to a thick layer of smoke and entered the bottle. The lid is screwed tightly and life is in a bind. We are all waiting for the D-Day with baited breath when the nation will announce- Khul Ja sim sim. Genie will be out of the bottle and Corona will take its place. Once bottled, it will be thrown in the deep sea never to be found again. But don't let your Covid blues carry you forever as the pandemic is bound to end one day.

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The next five years will see digital technologies increase their influence across the industry leading to a sea change in consumer behavior across all segments. The company's clientele consists of marquee names like Amazon, Netflix, Star TV Network, Disney, Zee to name a few while the size of the entertainment market is estimated at over Rs 10,000 crore

India's media consumption has grown at a CAGR of 9 per cent between 2012-18, almost nine times that of US and two times that of China.

New avenues like OTT (over the top) have opened up a huge revenue potential for the sector. Among the global OTT players, a major growth driver is Netflix which launched its global video on demand (SVOD) service in January 2016, Reports reveal that it has 104 million subscribers in 190 countries and the service supports 24 languages. Therefore, the sector has exponential growth prospects investors and need to identify companies at early stages that have

enormous growth potential. Companies in the entertainment sector have the potential for enormous growth.

For FY 20 the company reported a robust performance with turnover at Rs 27.45 crores and net profit at Rs 3.66 crores translating into earnings per share of Rs 140

The shares are being offered at a very attractive price of ₹95 which works out to a price multiple of only 2.23 against the average industry ratio of 15. What is encouraging is that the outlook for FY 21 is highly promising with huge order-hand which is expected to contribute substantially to revenues and profits.

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The shares would be listed on NSE –Emerge. The issue is lead managed by Shreni Shares Pvt. Ltd and underwritten by Altina Securities Pvt. Ltd



**Mautik Tolia – Founder and Managing Director**

**Quote- Entertainment is the cheapest form of entertainment for the masses.**

# Stay Home and Starve

by Don Aguiar.

**H**istory suggests that humans learn as much, or more, from flops as from successes. It follows that Covid-19 lockdown policies present a teaching moment. In India the lessons go well beyond the domain of infectious diseases to the realm of all-out government failure.

Let's acknowledge that coronavirus statistics are far from perfect. Weak public-health systems in the region make it difficult to measure rates of infection and fatalities accurately. And that's if the truth is even an objective.

In most states of India, data can't be taken any more seriously than the government's claims in early March that superior Indian health care made travel restrictions unnecessary. The truth leaked out when foreign tourists began to get sick and were sent to dismal government hospitals.

Even if India had no Covid-19 deaths, totalitarianism would remain morally reprehensible. Most governments in the region seem to agree and have stopped short of using Indian-style terror to eliminate dissent.

On the other hand, when the Covid-19 panic hit, some countries experimented with repression lite, not for days or weeks but for months. This has caused enormous economic pain for those who: Stay Home and Starve could least afford it. The disease spread and death tolls have spiralled anyway.

This isn't out of the ordinary. Large informal economies persist in the region because the rules to operate in the formal economy are oppressive. The Covid-19 top down diktats were more of the same. They envisioned a tidy stay-at-home world completely

divorced from the reality of most people's lives.

India's lockdown has arguably been the most draconian. Practically all business were ordered to be closed alongside a stay-at-home mandate. The government centralized all deliveries making it almost impossible for charitable organizations and companies to help the needy. Prime Minister Modi put the police on the streets to enforce his decree.

A lockdown may save lives during a hurricane or similar events of limited duration. But after a couple of weeks this use of power to contain Covid-19 became an abuse of power. The economically secure obeyed but probably wouldn't have gone out anyway. For most everyone else Mr Modi's order was equivalent to mandating extreme hardship.

Large numbers of Indians who had migrated to large cities to work and who live hand to mouth found themselves without income. Many decided to return home. Since public transportation had also been curtailed, thousands set out on journeys of hundreds of miles, on foot. Others camped out on sidewalks waiting for a ride.

Elsewhere there were long lines to cash in on provisions and other household requirements. So infections spread and India became one of the 10 hardest-hit countries in the world.

India's federalism then left lockdowns up to the states. But chief ministers who told people to stay home didn't save lives either because Indians, knew that hiding under bed until April 2021 wasn't an option. The government's "cure" was worse than the risks.

Capturing the popular sentiment in

India - The first few weeks of the lockdown went as scripted but two months in, all bets were off. The world's most sociable culture didn't take well to being isolated. Hand to mouth workers weren't going to wait and see if they would starve to death before being allowed to work again. Most people, even if they posted differently on Instagram, decided the lockdown was over.

Did health officials in India consider, even for 30 seconds, the upshot of what they prescribed? Obviously not.

It is known that laws work only "when a power superior to society manages to impose them over many years, or by their perfect harmony with the mores, habits and civilization of the people. In this last case, the laws are only the conspicuous and legal manifestation of a pre-existent fact."

We have seen what too many politicians still miss: The rule of law grows out of the norms and values of the governed, not from the palace. Months of lockdown were completely at odds with what it means to be human.

In Mumbai, plaintiffs went to court to challenge the state's strict lockdown. Last week the judge ruled that the chief minister's closing of "nonlife-sustaining businesses" was tantamount to "determining who could work and who could not, who could earn a pay check and who would be unemployed—and for some— which businesses would live, and which would die. This was truly unprecedented."

Most of India doesn't have such institutions to rely on when politicians bully them. But their yearning for freedom is no different. As the popular sentiment in India reports, "most people here are going about their life. They called a lockdown and nobody came."

*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)**

*(Continued from last issue)*

Retired IPS officer Julio Ribeiro, (Again our hero at 90!) who was former Mumbai police commissioner, DGP Gujarat and Punjab, and former Indian Ambassador to Romania, has written to Delhi Police Commissioner S N Shrivastava, questioning the probe into the Northeast Delhi riots cases. More than 100 chargesheets have been filed and around 1,400 people have been arrested by the Delhi Police Crime Branch and North-east District police in connection with the riots. In his letter, 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. "True patriots" are being entangled in criminal cases, he wrote.



**Fr. Michael G.  
Vasai**

sent and fighting for the human rights of the dispossessed, marginalised and downtrodden, typically using ludicrous and trumped-up charges.

Unlike during the Emergency — and much worse — we witness impunity for the communal rioters, and even encouragement of violence and blatant attacks by those who profess ideologies similar to (or more extreme than) that of the ruling party, using an aggressive and exclusionary form of Hindutva to threaten, victimise, lynch and murder! Not only are such culprits rarely brought to book, but some are celebrated by central ministers. The Prime Minister maintains a studied silence or speaks in generalities, thereby allowing free rein to the frenzied forces. The PM makes few statements but has not condemned communal violence often enough. (Source: India Today)

tempt of court, said, "This judicial power is sometimes misused or abused in an attempt to stifle free speech or discussion about the judiciary. He called the contempt of court jurisdiction "very dangerous" and said it should be abolished. The top court imposed a token fine of Re 1 on him and invited a mockery on itself! Renowned author Arundhati Roy said that it is a pity that in India of 2020 we should have to gather to discuss something as primitive as the right to free speech.

Hence I say, let us rise up. Democracy is in real danger. Modi govt. has still 4 years more to demolish the remaining democratic setup of India. Before that happens, we must make our youth aware of the danger and rouse them up as activists like Vernon, Arun, Fr. Stanislaus Lourdasamy, and Rona Wilson!

**INQUILAB ZINDABAD!**

### **REMINDING OF THE EMERGENCY OF MID 1970**

Many of us are reminded of the Emergency imposed by Indira Gandhi in the mid-1970s. The blackest time for Indian democracy since Independence. There was repression and fear all around. Some were imprisoned or otherwise persecuted for their views. George Fernandes raises his shackled hand defiantly after he was arrested in 1976 (Source: India Today). What is happening now in India is, in some respects, significantly worse than during the Emergency. Government has the arms of the state and its security powers used to intimidate and harass many innocent people whose only crime is using completely lawful means of dis-

### **2ND FREEDOM STRUGLE!**

The Modi government has turned all democratic institutions into slaves. On 12 Jan. 2018 the four Supreme Court judges, Justice Chelameswar, Justice Rajan Gogoi, Justice Madan B Lokur and Justice Kurian Joseph, the senior-most judges had a press conference and circulated a letter accusing Chief Justice Dipak Misra of several irregularities committed "with no rationale", ... and said, "The four of us are convinced that unless this institution is preserved and it maintains its equanimity, democracy will not survive in this country!" They went public with their concerns because the chief justice had refused to listen to them.

In September 2020 activist-lawyer Prashant Bhushan, convicted and fined by the Supreme Court for con-

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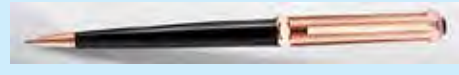
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## YES, I WRITE.



They asked me, "You write?"  
 I said, "Yes, I write."  
 When and How and Why?  
 And I said, "Yes, I write."

No, I do not wake up in the middle of the night to write.  
 I do not sit on the seashore to write.  
 Yet, I write  
 Yes, I write

I write when I see the raindrops fall  
 I write when the moon looks dull and pale.  
 I write when my empty womb cries.  
 I write when my restless heart smiles.

I write when I see something awful  
 I write when my mind juggles thoughts innumerable.  
 I write when I see someone in tears  
 I write when someone is joyful and full of glee.

I write when the social stigmas haunt me  
 I write when the injustice around chokes me.

I write when I see families crumbling  
 I write when I see beautiful marriages ending.  
 I write when my mouth fails to convey what my heart feels.  
 I write when I want to convey  
 I write when I want things to change.

I write because I do not know to sugar coat my words  
 I write because I am a little tough at the edges.

I write because the orphan kids crying out in pain, make me feel guilty  
 I write because the poverty and suffering remind me of my responsibility

I write when I am disturbed by thoughts of someone, I lost long back  
 I write when I am trying hard to forget someone.

I write in all seasons  
 I write irrespective of the occasion.

I write about the days gone by; I write about the memories I want to relive  
 I write about my pain and sorrow, not for your sympathy  
 But to ignite in you the hidden empathy.

I write not to gain stardom  
 I write to grab your attention.  
 Your attention on the things that matter.

I write because it's God's gift to me  
 I write because it's my talent, even though you might fail to see.

I write to awaken what is numb  
 I write to darken what is bright

Yes. I write  
 I am not complicated and nor are my thoughts.

I Write because, I believe there is a silver lining on every dark cloud.  
 I write because I know after every night there is a morning  
 And irrespective of the storm there comes a calm.

I write because I trust in the Good God  
 I write to acknowledge the supreme power of my Lord

I write because I am simple at heart  
 So are my words  
 Yes. I write  
 I party and I am seldom gloomy  
 Still I write.

I write to make a difference  
 I write to tickle slightly someone's heart  
 I write to bring a smile  
 I write to make you think at least for a while.  
 I write and I shall continue  
 I write. Yes, I write.



by Sonal Lobo  
 Bangalore

# We Cannot Be, Without She

*Br. Justin Arokia Raj SVD  
Bhopal*

**H**induism, Islam and Christianity which are the leading religion of the World, believe and proclaim that God is the creator of everything. He created everything without having isolated any creation rather he has given companions to everything such as day and night, sun and moon, man and women etc... And also he has gifted upon his creation power to respective creations in order to multiply the creations. But, the amazing power of creation bestowed upon women is always well spoken and appreciated. God must have created man with physical strength, courage, boldness, mighty power but God created women with love, care for others, self-sacrifice, etc... That is why nobody could come to this world without a woman even Jesus, the son of almighty needed a woman to be born on this earth. Not only these major religions but also other religions have something to be said proudly about women. At the same time there are so many prejudices, rules and regulations, restrictions only for women which have been followed strictly and observed carefully for several years without fail. Apart from this, we have so many statues of Goddesses, Deities whom we are worshiping, venerating with flowers, off springs etc... On the other hand, women who are the similar image of those Goddesses are being thrown acid on their faces, being tortured by abusing, being burnt alive with harsh words that are all done publicly by those people who still worship women deities.

There are uncountable cases wherein women feel they would have died when they were in the womb itself. There was an incident reported by a victim's mother herself. While her two daughters were jogging, two unknown boys came very fast by bike,

**God created women with love, care for others, self-sacrifice, etc... That is why nobody could come to this world without a woman even Jesus, the son of almighty needed a woman to be born on this earth.**

one of them, who sat at back side, pat on the back side of the girl and disappeared from the place. The girl started crying and felt ashamed of it. Then they happened to see two policemen standing to whom they informed about what happened. Those policemen did not take any action rather said to those girls to go home safely. After having listened to this incident I put my head down in shame we are not able to protect our women of our country but we celebrate women's day grandly, and wish all women whom we know. Is it the way to treat a woman who undergoes unbearable pain while creating a new life and who protected you and me in the womb from all the evils? Everyman must be ashamed of all bad things, injustice, harassments happening to even a single woman at any corner of the world.

There are so many parents who do not want a girl child to be born to them. After having come to this world, the girl children may have to face some of the disciplinary actions such as abusing by strangers, even by the close relatives, child marriage etc... Once they mature they will be undergoing different kinds of sufferings such as continuous love proposal, abusing and harassment in the work place. Once they get married they would begin new life because of which they are not only supposed to leave their parents, family members, households but also

the God whom they had been worshipping right from their childhood. After having gone to their husband's house they are expected to worship the God whom their husband's family has been worshipping. It is something great and fantastic I would say. If it is joint family woman would be the cock in the morning to wake them up and she would be the moon to put them in sleep. It is the cyclic process wherein all our mothers must have undergone. So, every life of women is filled with sufferings, courage to face the challenges, torments, adjustments with family members, acceptance, and obedience to the elders.

Let us respect women not out of compassion but because they are our fellow beings, and also let us not allow any woman to cry on earth because, when you were fetus, she protected you as a mother, when you were the empty vessel she filled you with wisdom, and knowledge as a teacher, when you were with tears, she consoled you as friend, you were with failure she was beside you as a wife, finally when you die, she would be there to take care of your family. Let us think if a woman avoids the process of becoming pregnant or the labor pain I am sure that there will not be human race. Whenever you indulge yourself into harmful actions against any women just think about following statements. Whenever you throw acid on a woman's face just think how your mother would have cried while giving you birth, when you abuse any girl child, just think if someone abuse your child how much she would suffer mentally and physically, whenever you behave wrongly to any woman just think if someone behaves like this to your wife or sister what she would feel. Finally, it is our responsible to protect and to respect every woman of this earth because God cannot be everywhere so he created mother, friend, wife, teacher, who are all, supposed to be women.

# The Invisible Maneater Tiger

## A Short Story

Simon Harper, ex-Forest Ranger, stood at the edge of the jungle under the canopy of the setting sun. He took a deep breath as he looked around, it was a long time since he had last been in the woods. Simon was commissioned to track down a 'maneater' tiger preying on the village locals.

"Good evening, Sir".

Simon spun around and faced a tall, well-built man in his late forties, with a rifle in hand and a revolver at his side. His smile was welcome, looked a decent person mused Simon.

"Sir, I was informed of your coming arrival last week. Allow me to introduce myself I am Samuel Das, the forest warden. " with a wave of his hand, he said, "Shall we move on, I'll show you the cottage assigned to you, Sir. Please, first you must see my quarters and have a cup of tea."

"Yes. Yes, of course, the refreshing cup as they say. Lead on," smiled Simon.

The warden's spacious quarters was well-furnished in typical colonial style. What caught Simon's eye was the tiger carpet on the floor, the head facing the entrance with a large open mouth and sparkling sharp claws on all four paws. "You like the carpet?" asked mister Das.

"Yes, everything about it: the head, the paws and the tail, not forgetting the stripes." Simon thought it best to change the subject. "Where is your wife mister Das?"

"My wife was the first victim of the

beast. Not the one on the floor, he was a gift we received."

"Sorry to hear it, you have my condolences. If you don't mind, can we have tea some other time, it's already late?"

"Of course, Sir, we might encounter the maneater, yes?" Das grinned.

"I was told three villagers have been..."

"Four, have been killed, including my wife."

That night Simon decided on his plan of action. He would make the animal come to him in the forest. A live goat would be the bait, tied to the trunk of a tree.

The next day mister Das got his men to do what all was needed, and Simon kept the vigil alone. For the next two nights nothing happened.

Early in the morning of the third day, the torn and shredded body of another victim was discovered near the village well. Mister Das came to the scene of the horror after he had been informed by one of his men. The body was soon cremated.

The days went by and Simon was not able to find the tiger, or its pug-marks anywhere if it had been on the prowl. The beast had to be brought out from its lair. It was certainly not 'invisible', thought the forest ranger.

He would need the help of mister Das to get his workers to beat drums, shout, clash tin cans in order to drive out the animal from its resting place.

That night, however, Simon thought it best to talk things over before taking action. At around 10.45 p.m. Simon



took his rifle, cut through the dense woods and reached the warden's quarters in twenty minutes. The front door was closed and the house lights were out. On second thought Simon reasoned the warden might be resting, so he went to the look in through the bed-room window. A dim light was on and the rest in total darkness.

The forest ranger froze as he saw the faint outline of a tiger on top of the warden. He needed to startle the beast, so he shouted, and as the tiger turned he opened fire with his rifle placing three rounds into the... unbelievable.

Simon broke into the bedroom and discovered he had shot the warden, who had on the tiger-carpet wrapped about him. He was dying.

"I...I can explain, Sir," he gasped, "my wife had an affair with one of the locals. I killed her with the claws of the carpet-tiger...I told the people the next morning it was an attack by a maneater tiger...to make my story authentic I...I...I killed other villagers to prove my point...I...I am..." he died in a pool of blood.

The next day Simon returned to his home in Calcutta. Case of the invisible maneater tiger was closed.



BY MELVYN BROWN

Q: What's the difference between bird flu and swine flu?

A: If you have bird flu, you need tweetment. If you have swine flu, you need oink-ment.

\*\*\*\*\*

A child asked his father, "How were people born?" So his father said, "Adam and Eve made babies, then their babies became adults and made babies, and so on." The child then went to his mother, asked her the same question and she told him, "We were monkeys then we evolved to become like we are now." The child ran back to his father and said, "You lied to me!" His father replied, "No, your mom was talking about her side of the family."

\*\*\*\*\*

Mr. and Mrs. Brown had two sons. One was named Mind Your Own Business & the other was named Trouble. One day the two boys decided to play hide and seek. Trouble hid while Mind Your Own Business counted to one hundred. Mind Your Own Business began looking for his brother behind garbage cans and bushes. Then he started looking in and under cars until a police man approached him and asked, "What are you doing?" "Playing a game," the boy replied. "What is your name?" the officer questioned. "Mind Your Own Business." Furious the policeman inquired, "Are you looking for trouble?!" The boy replied, "Why, yes."

\*\*\*\*\*

A boy asks his father, "Dad, are bugs good to eat?" "That's disgusting. Don't talk about things like that over dinner," the dad replies. After dinner the father asks, "Now, son, what did you want to ask me?" "Oh, nothing," the boy says. "There was a bug in your soup, but now it's gone."

\*\*\*\*\*

An elderly couple are in church. The wife leans over and whispers to her husband, "I just let out a long, silent fart. What should I do?" The husband replies, "First off, replace the batteries in your hearing aid!"

\*\*\*\*\*



A 3 years old boy sits near a pregnant woman.

Boy: Why do you look so fat?

Pregnant woman: I have a baby inside me.

Boy: Is it a good baby?

Pregnant woman: Yes, it is a very good baby.

Boy: Then why did you eat it?!

\*\*\*\*\*

Dad: "Can I see your report card, son?"

Son: "I don't have it."

Dad: "Why?"

Son: "I gave it to my friend. He wanted to scare his parents."

\*\*\*\*\*

A mom texts, "Hi! Son, what does IDK, LY, & TTYL mean?" He texts back, "I Don't Know, Love You, & Talk To You Later." The mom texts him, "It's ok, don't worry about it. I'll ask your sister, love you too."

\*\*\*\*\*

Four men are in the hospital waiting room because their wives are having babies. A nurse approaches the first guy and says, "Congratulations! You're the father of twins." "That's odd," answers the man. "I work for the Minnesota Twins!" A nurse then yells the second man, "Congratulations! You're the father of triplets!" "That's weird," answers the second man. "I work for the 3M company!" A nurse goes up to the third man saying, "Congratulations! You're the father of quadruplets." "That's strange," he answers. "I work for the Four Seasons hotel!" The last man begins groaning and banging his head against the wall. "What's wrong?" the others ask. "I work for 7 Up!"

\*\*\*\*\*

Little Susie, a six-year-old, complained, "Mother, I've got a stomach ache." "That's because your stomach is empty," the mother replied. "You would feel better if you had some-

thing in it." That afternoon, her father came complaining that he had a severe headache all day. Susie perked up, "That's because it's empty," she said. "You'd feel better if you had something in it."

\*\*\*\*\*

A little girl and her older brother were visiting their grandfather's farm. The older brother decided to play a trick on his younger sister. He told her that he discovered a man-eating chicken. The girl was frightened, and ran inside in fear. Then the older brother heard his little sister scream. He ran inside immediately. She was screaming at their grandfather, who was chowing down on a plate of fried chicken. "What is it?" he asked. The sister turned to him in fear and said, "It- it's- IT'S A MAN EATING CHICKEN!!!"

\*\*\*\*\*

A child goes to his father and asks, "Father, how do parents think of names for their children?" The father answers, "Well, son, the night before the mother gives birth, the father goes into the woods and camps for the night. When he wakes the following morning, the first thing he sees is what he names his child, which is why your sister is named Soaring Eagle. Why do you ask, Bear Poop?"

\*\*\*\*\*

Q: What is white when it's dirty and black when it's clean?

A: A chalkboard.

\*\*\*\*\*

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## BAY LEAVES

(Tej Patta)

Many ladies add bay leaves to their foods, especially in the cooking of red meat and poultry. Many don't know why bay leaves are added to food! When a woman was asked why, she said, "to flavor the food". If you boil the bay leaves in a glass of water and taste it, it will have no flavor. So why do you put bay leaves in the meat or other food?

The addition of bay leaves to meat converts triglycerides to monounsaturated fats and, for experimentation and confirmation:

>Cut a chicken into two halves, cook each half in a separate pan and place on one a bay leaf, and cook the other without a bay leaf. Observe the amount of fat in both pans after cooking!

If you have bay leaves, there is no need for a pharmacy, as recent scientific studies have shown that bay leaves have many benefits:

They help to get rid of many serious health problems and illnesses.

### The benefits of bay leaf:

They -

- Treat digestive disorders and help eliminate -
  - Lumps
  - Heartburn
  - Acidity
  - Constipation
- Hot bay tea regulates bowel movements -
  - lowers blood sugar
  - is an antioxidant,
- by eating them, or by drinking bay tea for a month, the body is able to produce insulin
- eliminates bad cholesterol and relieves the body of triglycerides.
- useful in treating colds, flu and severe coughs, as it is a rich source of vitamin "C". •you can boil the leaves and inhale steam to get rid of phlegm and reduce the severity of coughs.
- protects the heart from seizures and strokes, as they contain cardiovascular protective compounds.
- rich in acids such as caffeic acid, quercetin, eigonol and bartolinide, substances that prevent the formation of cancer cells in the body.
- eliminates insomnia and anxiety. If taken before bed, helps you relax and sleep peacefully.
- drinking a cup of boiled bay leaves twice a day breaks down kidney stones and cures infections.



## Egg Curry

### Ingredients:

- 5 hard boiled eggs, peeled and cut in halves
- 2 tbsp cooking oil
- 1 tsp mustard seeds
- 1 small cinnamon stick
- 3 pods cardamom
- 5 peppercorns lightly smashed
- 3 green chillies, slit lengthwise
- 1 tsp ginger-garlic paste
- 2 onions finely chopped
- 4 tomatoes finely chopped
- 1 tsp turmeric powder
- 1 tsp coriander powder
- 1 tsp red chili powder
- 8 curry leaves
- 1 tbsp chopped coriander leaves
- Salt to taste



Sweta D'Cruz

### Method:

In a large vessel, heat oil and add onions, mustard seeds, cinnamon, cardamom, peppercorns and green chillies. Once everything starts spluttering, add ginger-garlic paste.

Cook till the onions turn soft and translucent. Then add tomatoes, turmeric powder, coriander powder, chili powder, curry leaves and salt. Let the tomatoes cook till they are pulpy.

Add some water and bring it to a boil.

Drop the eggs in the curry along with the chopped coriander leaves and let it simmer for five minutes before serving.

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Mr. Don Aguiar has written a thought provoking article in the 22 September issue

*"Christianity has no future in India?"*

*He rightly puts a question mark to the title and not a full stop! Well, Christianity will survive in India!*

## Christianity Will Survive In India, But How?

**-Fr. Michael G., Vasai**

After all we have the assurance of Our Lord Jesus: "I shall be with you till the end of times!" (Mt. 28.20). But How? That is the question we all have to think about. We still can remedy the situation and not allow our community to vanish like the Parsis in India. I would like to further the line of thought proposed by Mr. Don. His 2nd reason for the breakdown on Christian growth is very fundamental namely, "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. ... It is also very true that Indian Church never played the role of religion as argued by Karl Marx – namely, "...Religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world, and the soul of soulless conditions...."

### **Lack Of Political Activism:**

Mr. Don has cited two excellent examples to explain concretely the mistakes of the Indian Church. I would add another local one in support. It is pointed out by none other than Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar who burnt the Manusmriti, converted lakhs of dalits to Buddhism, and gave them a new future in the country! Speaking to Christians at Solapur in January 1938, he seems to say that in spite of the clear call from Jesus missionaries failed to present Christianity as the religion of equality and freedom. He said, (Cfr. Janata 05.02.1938 and Dnyanodaya) *From the available religions and personalities in the world, I consider only two –Buddha and*

*Christ for conversion. We want a religion for me and my followers which will teach equality and freedom among men, and how man must behave with men and God, ... etc.*

Neglect of creating political awareness and activism among the converts was the main fault of the missionaries according to him. He said, "Missionaries feel they have done their duty when they convert an untouchable to Christianity. They do not look after his political rights. ... It is very difficult for any institution to survive without political support. ... We untouchables, though are ignorant and illiterate, we are in movement. We have 15 seats in the Legislative assembly. Our students are getting scholarships, they are in government hostels. Such is not the case of Christian students. ... If you were in politics things would have been opposed..."

He has made a good observation of the Christian converts and branded them as self-centred! He continues, "your society is educated . ... These people have not agitated against this injustice, ... they are involved in their own affairs. ... they ignore social injustice."

Political involvement of the Christian community is much better today. We may not have gone to the extent of having an Indian Christian Party but associations like Bombay Catholic Sabha have done ample work of political awareness and even activism in the community. Of course we have only recently realised that Indian Christians did not turn to civil services about which Ambedkar had already warned. (Cfr. Ganjare Vol. III. P142).

### **Gospel To Be Rooted:**

The real way of survival of Christianity is taught by 2nd Vat. Council in 1965; rather too late! Jesus said, "Be rooted wherever you are planted!" (Mt. 10.10ff). In addition to the twelve main gods and the innumerable lesser deities, ancient Greeks worshipped a deity they called "Agnostos Theos"; that is: "Unknown God". In Athens, there was a temple specifically dedicated to that god. St. Paul in his Areopagus speech in Acts 17:23, showed them their unknown God, in Jesus Christ! The Hindus in India are similarly searching for 'Ekam sat' in the midst of 33 millions lesser gods! The renowned Indo-Spaniard Catholic theologian Raimundo Panikkar says, «A Christian is faced with an alternative: either he will bring his or her conception of Christ to other peoples and religions or he or she will have to recognize the unknown dimension of Christ, striving for mutual 'fecundation'– which is an act of love». (Cfr. The Unknown Christ of Hinduism. By Raymond Panikkar. Darton, Longman and Todd, 1964).

The European missionaries brought their 'fair and lovely' Christ to India and did not recognise the dimension of Christ already present in the cultures and religions of the soil. Instead they branded them as unchristian, pagan, and even devilish! To protect the community from being contaminated they kept the Christian community apart! The II Vat. Council hails all religions: Declaration on the relation of the Church to non-Christian religions, Nostra Aetate (1965) says: No. 2. ... *Thus in Hinduism, men contemplate the divine mystery and express it through an inexhaustible abundance*



(Contd.. from p. 18)

*of myths and through searching philosophical inquiry. ... it teaches a way by which men, in a devout and confident spirit, may be able either to acquire the state of perfect liberation, or attain, by their own efforts or through higher help, supreme illumination.*

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

When citing the 4th reason, Mr. Don should note that in Kerala, West Bengal and also in Maharashtra, ... early Christian preachers did not take the wrong path when they first tried to convert the Brahmins. They were the efforts at inculturation. St. John Britto in Madurai and the like were pioneers in expressing the intellectual content of the Christian message IN Indian symbols and myths. It was an act of rooting the Gospel in the local cultural garb, as demanded by 2nd Vat. Council in 1965. Unfortunately the enthusiasm that led Fr. Amalorpavdas and other Indian theologians in the 1960s seem to have evaporated today. The Church is going back to pre-Vatican trends!

### The Urgency About The Future!

There is an urgency to think of the future of the Church in India. As reported in universal media, worldwide persecution of Christians has risen for the fourth year in a row, with Asia, particularly, showing a rapid rise. As Hindu nationalists batter the churches, India climbs to its highest ever ranking of 15 in the world. It's a dangerous trend for all peace loving citizens of India. The fanatic Hindus are creating fear among missionaries by events like mob lynching, Ghar vapasi, Christmas as Good Governance Day, etc. Present government has failed miserably to provide a safe environment for Dalits and minority communities.

**Dom Aguiar rightly remarks in his editorial:** ... *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. At one time our priests and nuns taught the likes of Lal Krishna Advani, J.P. Nadda, Arun Jaitley, Piyush Goyal, Vasundhara Raje and such personalities who are not grateful at all! A Dalit leader has rightly alerted the Church authorities in these words: "It is a high time for Christian schools to focus on Dalits' education in remote areas rather than spending their energy, money and time on trying to educate fanatic Hindus. Only Dalits and minority communities joining together can stop India turning into a Hindu Rashtra!*

**SARVA DHARMA SAMABHAV!**

## What, Bharat Bandh?

On the day of the Bharat bandh on the 25 of September, mainly in protest against the Farmers Bills passed during the Monsoon session of Parliament recently, somebody asked me, is there really a Bharat bandh today? And I put this question to myself, is there a Bharat bandh?

I thought to myself, what bandh are we talking about? Yes, Bharat was already closed to a large extent when demonitisation happened. Bharat is already closed on account of the seemingly flawed economic policies of the government. Bharat is already closed on account of the rampaging coronavirus. Bharat is already closed on account of the cyclones and heavy rains submerging entire villages & cities across the country. Our Democracy is shut down for fear of being branded as traitors. Is there anything that is not closed? Yes, the minds & eyes & ears of our politicians are closed to the cries of suffering humanity.

There is but one thing that is not closed and that is, Politics. Politics will continue even in the midst of calamities, tragedies, whether natural or man-made. Politics will continue in the midst of unprecedented pandemics. Politics will continue to be active all the way.

So, coming back to the question, is Bharat really bandh. Where is our Bharat heading? What, Bharat Bandh? When will Bharat wake up?



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

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Mobile : 9096141335

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

**7104. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in August 1975), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 95 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. H.S.C., working as a Office Assistant. Contact email : agnelo.nazareth1975@gmail.com

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

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

**7047. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in November 1982), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., C.S. in Process, having family business. Contact email : mail.soj@gmail.com

**7088. MYSORE :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in March 1983), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 70 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA. Market-

ing. well employed. Contact email : vishwasturners@yahoo.com

**7112. MUMBAI :** Converted Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1970), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 80 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., & Masters in International Journalism (UK). Looking for a bride below the age of 42 years (below 40 - 42 years) who is willing to raise a family. Contact by email : decemberwedding08@yahoo.com

**7099. USA :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in March 1988), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 82 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Sc., working as a Computer Engineer in USA. Contact email : willatauro@gmail.com

**7018. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1969), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. SSC, Self employed. Contact Email : fredrick.dsouza0110@gmail.com

**7068. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in June 1983), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. HSC, working as a Customer Service. Contact email : cynthiadalmeida83@gmail.com

**7017. MUMBAI :** Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in March 1981), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 67 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA working as a Administrator. Contact email : matheanil@gmail.com

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

**7008. USA :** Separated Roman Catholic, (Born in October 1983), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 62 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MD, MS, working as a Senior Engineer. Contact email : jesusmary58@yahoo.com

**7045. CANADA :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Divorcee, (Born in September 1985), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 68 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., Hotel Management, having permanent Resident. Contact email : bmathias88@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

**6841 MUMBAI :** Anglo Indian / Keralite Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in May 1991), Ht. 170 cms, Wt. 78 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Com., working as a Sales Executive. Contact email : mrsannieroy@yahoo.co.in

**7031. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in September 1985), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Undergraduate, IT Software, works at TCS. Contact email : josephavild@yahoo.co.in

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**7147 MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1992), Ht. 5'4", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA Finance, working as a Fund Accountant. Contact email : stefasha09@gmail.com

**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. Contact email : prislobo10@gmail.com

**7093. MUMBAI :** Gujarati Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1982), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 50 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working for Private Bank. Contact email : annie.waghela@gmail.com

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

**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

**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

**7082. MUMBAI :** Tamilian Roman catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1985), Ht. 5', Wt. 50 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. 12th std., working as a sales girl in Big Store. Contact email : susanmoses1385@gmail.com

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

**7095. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1992), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Com + Import Export Certificate Course, working as a Billing Assistant in Well known Hospital. Contact email : perpetualdias7@gmail.com

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

**7089. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in January 1978), Ht. 5', Wt. 70 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.A., Government employee. Contact email : celinefernandes2014@gmail.com

**7092. MANGALORE :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in January 1990), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 56 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA, working as a Talent Acquisition. Contact email : vinishadesouza@gmail.com

**7087. DUBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1983), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 64 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Customer Support in Dubai. Contact : escatravasso@gmail.com

**7109. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in June

1986), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA, working as a Associate Consulant. Contact email : helendsz27@gmail.com

**7060. MUMBAI :** East Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in February 1983), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 50 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., Diploma in Finance from NMIMS, Diploma in B, Self employed. Contact email : vianneyde2k@yahoo.com

**7105. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in November 1991), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 62 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Sc., Microbiology, (Pursuing Ph.D.) Assistant Professor. Contact email : 1991divine@gmail.com

**7081. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1993), 5' 3", Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Masters of Dentistry (MDS), Dental Surgeon, Doctor by profession. Contact email : carlferns93@gmail.com

**7103. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Divorcee (Separated), (Born in October 1989), Ht. 5', Wt. 62 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a HR. Contact email : mail2tinafernandes@gmail.com

**7080. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1991), 5' 5", Wt. 78 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Com., working as an Accountant. Contact email : fernandesronita25@gmail.com

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## Fact Sheet 4- Christian Response to Covid-19

**I. Introduction:** Many Christians across the globe are angry with God for having in their opinion created malevolent viruses. Some consider Covid-19 as God's judgment of international sin in the world, while a few fundamentalist religionists, using rationalization, say that God is punishing us for our sins. A few mystics view the pandemic as one of the most vivid articulations of the Paschal Journey (Death-cum-Resurrection) that we humans have seen in a long time. Strangely, while some are curious to know what the Bible has to say about suffering because of natural causes, or how God relates to the non-Jewish world who are not part of the Mosaic covenant, some others are convinced that Christians will be immune to the virus, if they have strong faith, while a few are worried about what God expects of Christians in the midst of the pandemic. Some Christians seem to be caught in a dilemma with regard to laws forbidding public worship at churches, while supermarkets are open. Should they obey God or man? Some are even losing their faith, asking why Christians need to suffer, if Christ has already risen; or why Christian hope is only about the hereafter or the next world, and not about this life on earth.

### II. What do Theologians or Other Religions have to say?

1. God did not create malevolent viruses. Everything that exists, other than God, God did create and it was good (Gen. Ch.1).
2. Suffering from natural causes is the result of human free will. God respects human free will. We have messed up the world and are ultimately responsible and ought to take some responsibility to fix it.
3. Human beings have been upsetting nature for a very long time. Faith needs to be used, not abused as the completed redemption has not yet taken place. It is a

process, we are all involved in. For Homo sapiens, this is undoubtedly a Calvary moment which could suggest an ensuing Resurrection. Kick backs like Covid-19 from our suffering tortured Earth, are referred to by some, as our Crucifixion today.

4. According to Indian Perspectives there are a lot of similarities e.g. *Sambhavami yuge yuge* of the Vaishnava tradition (God takes birth again and again to help his creatures); or creation as the Dance of Lord Shiva. The dance was begun by God, is continued by God and will be ended by God.
5. *Bismillah Ur Rahman Ur Rahim*-Divinity with the womb of a mother is how the Muslims understand the Divine.
6. Wahe Guru for the Sikhs; cares like a mother.
7. The Buddhists have a great tradition of caring for the Earth. They plant trees, care for animals etc.

### III. What does the Scientific Community think?

1. One response is that it is a Zoonotic spillover because of human interference like hunting, deforestation etc. As such, the pathogens from mammals or animals, gets more readily transmitted to other creatures, including humans.
2. All life flourishes upon the ecological equilibrium. Humans themselves need to learn to protect all life-forms within their authentic ecological niches as wholesome living for humans, animals and plants depend upon it.
3. As soon as severe restrictions for travel were put in place, within a few weeks, the smog lifted, people could see the blue sky again, and birds returned to favored habitats, fish to old streams, and earth began to reclaim its innate organicity!
4. According to the Gaia hypothesis of the 1970's the earth's surface is alive. Sometimes the

feedbacks are negative, keeping conditions to stabilize, and sometimes they are positive, accelerating change.

5. About 66 million years ago, the extinction of the dinosaurs and 70 % of all plants and animals living at that time was caused by an asteroid that struck off the coast of the Yucatan peninsula. The dinosaurs had become a powerful species, trampling over several other life-forms.
6. Ours is a planet where creatures live off each other. We live within a paradoxical creation e.g. the lion kills for need, but not for greed as we humans do. We humans are unique in the reckless killing of planetary life.

### IV. Wisdom from Cultural Historians:

1. They remind us of Chronos (Time) and Kairos (Qualitative Time) or the Goldilocks Moments in the history of the Planet, moments when the atmosphere is charged with a new set of energies, that creates something new e.g. Noah and the Ark in the Bible.
2. They talk about 8 such thresholds on various occasions, when Goldilocks conditions took place which brought in changes e.g. The Earth and the Solar system was born at the 4th level or threshold. Human beings arrived at the 6th threshold.
3. We are living in threshold 8- The Modern Revolution of Energy, Innovation and global trade. Perhaps Covid-19 could be the ripe time of Kairos for another Goldilocks Moment to take place.

### V. What do Cosmologists and Eco-Spiritualists have to offer?

1. They are happy and say that Covid-19 is a blessing in disguise. Planet Earth is healing and so are all her creatures. The closure has reduced pollution.



(Contd.. from p. 22)

2. From Homo sapiens, today we have become Homo *Zoomis* because for the first time in our human history suddenly ordinary people are connected across the globe in a visual way which never happened earlier.
3. We are Earthlings, born of the earth. We did not come into the world, but came out of it.
4. People of the New Cosmology like Fr Teilhard de Chardin, Fr Thomas Berry, Fr Thomas Merton, Brian Swimme, Mary Evelyn Tucker, Sr Miriam MacGillis, Sr Iliia Delio, Fr Diarmuid O'Murchu and others say that there are three scriptures; those of Science, Religion and Cultural History, which includes the wisdom of indigenous peoples and the wisdom of women.
5. Teilhard looked forward to the convergence of the Cosmic Christ and Omega, while Berry invented the term-The Ecozoic Era- A time when the world will be guided by mutually enhanced relationships.

**VI. Conclusion:** Let us stop thinking about how to live and begin to live. We need to redefine Providence in a broader way now during the pandemic. The difference is how to understand that God has the capacity to destroy as well as to create. Covid-19 is a period of uncertainty. It looks like major changes are taking place. Life is no more going to be the same. It will be a new normal. Thomas Merton suggests-*You do not need to know precisely what is happening, or exactly where it is all going. What you need is to recognize the possibilities and challenges offered by the present moment and to embrace them with courage, faith and hope.* Pope Francis repeatedly tells us that we have the capacity to rebuild the earth. Let us journey for all of us, to work towards a *New Heaven* and a *New Earth* (Isaiah 65:17).

**Dr (Sr) Mudita Menona Sodder**  
**RSCJ**  
**JPIC Coordinator (Indian Province)**

## Christian Cemeteries At Thane

The Honorable Revenue Minister Respected Shri. Namdar Balasaheb Thorat, Government of Maharashtra took a hearing meeting alongwith all the other concerned officials of the Government at Mantralaya on Tuesday 15th September 2020 on the written submissions and representations of the Maharashtra Minority Christian Development Council (MMCDC) with regard to the issues concerning allotment of Christian Burial Grounds/ Cemeteries in Thane City and Thane District (Maharashtra).

The written submission and representation was made by the office bearers of MMCDC on Friday 11th September 2020 personally to the Honble Minister and acting immediately on the letter the minister called for a hearing on Tuesday 15th September 2020 at His Mantralaya office.

The Honorable Minister Shri. Thorat took the hearing in the presence of Thane Municipal Corporation Assistant Municipal Commissioner Shri. Manish Joshi,

Collector of Thane Shri. Rajesh Narvekar ,

Shailendra Bendale officer from Thane Municipal Corporations Town planning department , Konkani Commissioner , Tehsilder of Thane, Forest Department Officials and others. Also present for the hearing was Adv. Cyril Dara (VP MMCDC), Dr. Praful Asurlekar (G. Secretary MMCDC) , Shri. Melwyn Fernandes (Secretary AOCC) , Shri. Darryl D'souza (Mumbai Secretary MMCDC), Adv. Joaquim Fernandes ,Father Rudolph Andrades Parish Priest of Our Lady Mercy Church, Pastor Sanoj Yadav from Thane General Christian Cemetery Committee and few other Government officials were also present.

The Issue of Christian Cemetery allotment for the local Christians in Thane City and Thane District Mumbra (Maharashtra) Shall be sorted out soon, God willing!

It was assured by the Minister in the hearing discussion and requested the Concerned authorities and departments to demarcate and protect the Wagle Estate Christian Cemetery and also the reserved Christian Cemetery plots at Bhayandarpada (Thane) and at Mumbra (Thane Dist) to be released and to be allotted at the earliest to the Christians in Thane.

We Praise and thank Lord Almighty for taking things in the positive direction and also thanking the President of MMCDC. Shri. Anil Bhosale for initiating the meeting.

Further Also requested the Minister for appointment of Shri. Anil Bhosale as Vice Chairman on the Maharashtra Minority Commission and to Give Christian Representation in the Legislative Council under the Governor's Quota which as of now doesn't have any Christian representative amongst the 288 legislators The Honorable Minister positively assured to give Christian MLC representation.

Adv. Cyril Dara  
Working Vice President  
Maharashtra Minority Christian  
Development Council ( MMCDC)

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