

# THE SECULAR CITIZEN

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A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY

## The Mystery of COP26 Ambition to Climate Change

by Don Aguiar.

From the genius of discovering how to use fire to cook food we have ended up cooking the planet. From the wizardry of creating spears to help us survive we now are threatening ourselves with nuclear-tipped hyper-sonic missiles.

It turns out that each one of us from birth travel a similar journey. The struggle to survive requires that each of us develops a separate mind with its own ego, and personality.... And in the process, we lose touch with that innocent space we once knew. And there is no going back. And more of the same is not an intelligent option. Then?

The climate crisis, is not a looming threat, people are now living with the consequences of centuries of greenhouse gas emissions. **A failure to act urgently now will mean a reverse in development gains for the poorest and most vulnerable people in society, an erosion of biodiversity, increasing difficulties in providing food and shelter, as well as the potential loss of entire countries due to the impacts of climate change leading to natural disasters which are the main reasons for the disasters in life.**

Around the world, more than 55 million people have already been forced to move from their home communities because of extreme weather, and the climate crisis is expected to displace as many as 1 billion people by 2050. Today, environmental events displace more people than violence and conflict.

Women and girls especially bear the brunt of the climate crises: Chores have become deadlier for women in natural disaster-prone areas, and those fleeing from their homes are struggling to access contraception. Many will likely be forced to sell their bodies as they and their families struggle with extreme weather events that leave them with little more than the clothes on their back.

One family fell on such hard times that when a man showed up and offered to give their 17-year-old daughter a job in the city, they agreed. He offered them money and said, 'You're really poor. Let me get her employed and make her life better. The man didn't tell the family he was taking the girl to a city like Mumbai or Pune, where she'd be forced to work in the sex trade.

**Traffickers are "very well clued in" to crises, so they often swoop in and exploit those affected when natural disasters strike.**

Severe storms and floods hit almost every year, and at least many months of the year are marked with extreme heat. In regions where many people's livelihoods rely on agriculture, an industry that suffers whenever floods submerge farmland and compromise soil quality. But since 2018 flooding has become regular and worst water doesn't drain. It is taking longer and longer for the water to recede after each flood, the options for the farmers have been shrinking by the year. **Experts attribute the flooding to unnatural rains and to the lowland sinking further – the first a consequence of deforestation and the latter a result of raising sea levels.**

Environmental issues are adding to the poverty of the already downtrodden... For a person who is a daily cultivator or labourer, if the little bit of land they have is taken away by the sea/flood/drought, then what are they left with?

Years of U.N. climate negotiations to rein in climate-warming carbon emissions and protect the world's most vulnerable have had little effect. The UN Report places humanity at a tipping point where we can no longer afford to make gradual adjustments but must take action immediately. Particularly for the sake of the world's children, the most innocent stakeholders, we

(Contd.. on p. 3)

## Politics – a messy affair

Politics in our country is becoming a messy affair both, at the centre and state level in general. Maharashtra is no exception going by the developments during the last few weeks between a sitting minister Nawab Malik and a former chief minister Devendra Fadnavis. It gives a feeling that there is not enough work for the ministers in Maharashtra. Malik is busy digging past history of other people and creating unnecessary problems for them. He targeted Sameer Wankhede over the Aryan arrest issue following the NCB raid on the cruise ship and even went to the extent of questioning his credentials – his religion and even his father's caste etc. In the process, he dragged his family members in the murky affair. The matter is now in judicial domain. Malik went to the extent of commenting on Wankhede's life style including the brand of his shirts and the amount he spends on such attire. He would address a press conference every day and bring out some new issue.

Malik also got on the wrong side of Devendra Fadnavis and now both of them have been engaged in mug slinging. One digs out something from the past of the other. The other side does the same thing. As a skill development minister, Malik has developed wrong skills. He was not appointed a minister for this purpose and wonder if he has done anything to increase the skill levels of the people of this state. By going into each other's underworld connections both have stooped too low for their stature, if they have any in the first place. Malik thinks he is the only one who is endowed with skills to dig into other people's past and address the media promising atom bombs and hydrogen bombs. Ultimately, the bombs resembled the diwali fireworks left-overes. Nothing really of substance!

Elsewhere, Salman Khurshid the Congress leader in his book made some startling comments and likened Hindutva to ISIS and Boko Haram both dreaded organizations with extreme ideologies. In doing so, he has definitely upset all the Hindus in general and the BJP in particular. One needs to draw a line somewhere. You cannot go overboard. Surely you can

## IEWS on NEWS

attack your political opponents but when it comes to religion, one needs to be extremely cautious not to touch raw nerves. In saying so, Khurshid not only put his own party in a quandary but also gave a long handle to the BJP to attack him and the Congress. Just to sell your book you cannot make sweeping statements. Mind you, in doing so, Kurshid also hurt the sentiments of his own party men most of whom are Hindus. The party did not directly endorse his views, nor distanced itself from the comment. It gives a feeling that the politicians are running out of ideas and do not find enough ammunition to target their opponents. In the process, they make up some issue which in the long run creates communal discord. We are living in an era where communal outbursts have become the order of the day. With UP elections round the corner, such comments are likely to increase. The BJP is only waiting for someone to start the war of words and they have all the resources to take things forward and capitalize it for electoral gains.

*With barely a few months for the elections in the most populous state - UP, the-who-is-who of the BJP is converging on that state where the Salman Khurshid comments will come handy. You can bet your last penny on the chances of this issue being exploited by the BJP in its election campaign. Polarization is something that the BJP excels in and the so called secular parties will find it hard to justify the comparison of Hindutva with that of ISIS or Boko Haram. Rahul Gandhi adds his own comments to complicate matters. It is time the politicians become more responsible in their comments written or spoken in the larger interest of the country.*

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## Racism in Britain

A former Yorkshire cricket player of Asian origin has come out with some startling disclosures about how rampant racism has been prevalent in the United Kingdom then and possibly subsists even now which could be camouflaged under the garb of sledging. The bold cricketer did not mince words and gave his version to the UK Members



*by Marshall Sequeira*

of Parliament in the Digital, Culture Media & Sports Committee [DCMS]. This has forced some of the named cricketers and commentators to publicly apologize to him. This is not an act of humility but compulsion. Humble people would not indulge in such comments in the first place. Cricketers all over the world look to a stint in the English County circuit where they get an opportunity to play under the best cricketing names. While young cricketers from the sub-continent had to face ignominy at the hands of their English counterparts, those coming from Australia, New Zealand and even South Africa did not have to face such attacks. Senior Indian cricketers could not be bullied because of their stature. Cricketers from Caribbean Islands had better acceptability.

In the past, cricket was considered as a sport of the white people who looked down on others whose skin did not match theirs. Today with the dominance of the sport in the sub-continent, cricketers from this part of the world not only command but can actually demand respect. Sledging and racial comments were the order of the day till perhaps the ICC leadership fell in the hands of a non-white. Australian cricketers mastered this art. With ICC coming down heavily on such behavior, things improved vastly.

*The Indian Premier League brought cricketers from all over the world under one umbrella where players from different countries play for a particular franchise. In the process there is camaraderie among team members belonging to different countries. With this type of atmosphere there is hardly any room for sledging or racial attacks. This is good for the game of cricket. It is time cricket administrators from white nations imbibe in their own cricketers, better discipline and values. The report on Tim Paine, the ex-Aussie captain is really painful to read.*

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must work collectively to guarantee a safe and healthy future. The Elders stand firmly behind the goal of limiting climate change to 1.5 degrees.

**A recent International Institute for Environment and Development report found that the climate crisis is exacerbating modern slavery, which sometimes includes forced sexual exploitation. Women, children, and the poorest people are the most at risk.**

Climate and development policymakers and planners urgently need to recognize that millions of people displaced by climate change are being, and will be, exposed to slavery in the coming decades.

The ambition exhibited by nations at the start of the decade to limit climate change, the latest being last week at an international summit COP26 was another attempt to attempt to limit climate change. The aim is to work together to enable and encourage countries affected by climate change to:

- Protect and restore ecosystems. Build defences, warning systems

and resilient infrastructure and agriculture to avoid loss of homes, livelihoods and even lives.

As world leaders and climate activists negotiate how to save the planet from catastrophic climate change at COP26, the "staggering scale" of climate global heating is affecting every nation on earth. The extent of the impact on the lives and futures of children is unclear, but as climate change phenomena increase in intensity and frequency, prospects are dire.

Emissions are rising, and global temperatures – already 1.1 degree Celsius higher on average than in pre-industrial times – continue to climb. Rich nations that failed to meet a 2020 deadline to extend \$100 billion a year in climate finance to poorer nations now say they won't meet that pledge until 2023.

**As the scientific evidence mounts, so too does the need to address the concerns vulnerable countries are raising around loss and damage, and adaptation finance.**

With the history of climate diplomacy littered with broken promises, many have asked:

- What needs to change beyond

this year's two-week conference to ensure accountability?

- If climate change summits cannot hold governments accountable, perhaps the ballot box will.

- Is this summit an active choice by the leaders to continue to let the exploitation of people and nature, and the destruction of future and present living conditions, to take place?

**There's a lot of big statements, which don't have the details underneath: exactly when, how much, who's going to do what. What can be said pretty confidently though, is that, no, they don't get us far enough. It's not going to be keeping us under that 1.5 degrees Celsius global temperature rise.**

Although delegates from around the world hammered out a number of agreements in the first week of COP26 and there were a few breakthroughs, some experts warn the deals may not meet the urgency of the moment. Specifically, experts are concerned they won't get the world closer to limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

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As a result of pledges made at COP26, we're now heading for 1.8°C of warming, many onlookers were left somewhat perplexed -

- Have we really jumped from 2.7°C warming just a few weeks ago to 1.8°C now?
- Are we really so tantalisingly close to the Paris goal of 1.5°C?
- Have we really almost cracked it?!

We know full well -

- That there's a big gap between what countries pledge and the action they take on the ground.
- That collectively, countries are falling short on meeting their NDCs and net-zero pledges
- Under current actual policies we're looking at warming of around 2.8degrees Celsius.

We have not seen sincerity in the commitments and progress made by developed countries, and have

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heard far more slogans than practical results keeping in mind the aims of negotiations of COP26 are -

**That they want the outcome to accelerate action to:**

**Reduce emission, Strengthen adaptation and resilience to climate impact, Scale up finance and support.**

**In doing so it should –**

**Protect and restore nature, Follow the best available science and Empower inclusive action.**

A just approach to tackling climate change means not only that the most vulnerable are able to participate fully in efforts to address the climate crisis; but that richer countries help poorer countries to adapt to the impacts of climate change, contributing more towards developing low-carbon solutions, and providing funding and access to this technology.

**But for many, the ambition exhibited by nations, near the start of a decade is critical to avoid catastrophic climate change, was less than expected and overall disheartening. This COP has yet again failed to deliver real ambitious action and transformation. This is a missed opportunity to change course and reach an inclusive economic system that supports healthy and thriving ecosystems and protects human rights and dignity for all.**

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## **International Day of Tolerance!**

November 16 is the International Day of Tolerance established by UNESCO in 1995. Pope Francis appealed: "Every form of fundamental intolerance damages relationships between individuals and peoples. Let us instead be committed to living and teaching the value of respect, a love capable of welcoming differences, especially towards the 'dignity of every human person'!"

Audrey Azoulay, UNESCO Director-General echoed: "When COVID-19 fractured and disfigured societies, leading to a reawakening of racism, fanaticism and extremism, it is necessary to reaffirm the basic values of humanity – dignity, justice and diversity, all intrinsic to tolerance!"

In 2020 the Centre Resolution Conflict from the Democratic Republic of Congo was recognized for its tireless commitment to the rescue of child soldiers from militias; and their rehabilitation into home communities!

Here I would like to include another similar motto, "Bear and Forbear", derived from the Latin phrase, "Sustain et Abstine", attributed to the Stoic philosopher Epictetus! It means to be patient, and to endure everything that happens to you; by refraining from in any emotional manner. This adage was on a wooden frame in my parent's bedroom at Bycalla, Bombay, where I grew up.

Our Lord Jesus applied this 'Golden Rule': "Do unto others as you would have them do to you ... A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another just as I have loved you" (Matthew 7:12; John 13:34). This especially should remind us of our responsibility to protect and defend life, right from the moment of conception until natural death!

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



## Growing opposition to Modi Sarkar

just a few days ago four students of Allahabad University—Neha Yadav, Rama Yadav, Kishan Maurya and Mohit Yadav—launched a courageous protest in the intellectual capital of Uttar Pradesh, showing black flags to the convoy of the union Home minister and the BJP President Amit Shah, shouting slogans “Amit Shah Wapas Jao! (Amit Shah, Go back!)”. They were demanding from Amit Shah that the woes unleashed on the students of Uttar Pradesh should be put to an end.

These students of Uttar Pradesh have created a record of sorts by showing black flags to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and now BJP chief Amit Shah.

The NSG attached to Amit Shah’s convoy dragged the girl students and lathi charged them. They were pulled by the hair and were forcibly pushed into a jeep.

The latest news is that in Sultanpur as Modiji was inaugurating Eastern Express Highway a lady by name Geeta Yadav seated in the front row got up, showed black flags and shouted slogans against Modiji! All the UP state government buses by hundreds were mobilised to carry people to Sultanpur to make a show of big crowd at the function; but this kind of protest proved it hollow!

We witness today the repercussions of BJP violence in Tripura, in Amravati Nanded and Malegaon. Unfortunately these protests are not shown by the Godi media; but fact is that the anger is heating. When it will

come to a boiling point is to be seen.

Inquilab indabad!

—Father Michael G.,  
Vasai

## Encyclopedia of the Forest!

President Ram Nath Kovind conferred the #PeoplesPadma Awards to 119 eminent personalities on 08 November 2021. The list included a 72 year-old tribal woman from Karnataka, Tulsi Gowda. Barefoot and dressed in traditional attire, she never received any formal education, yet she was conferred the title, ‘Encyclopedia of the Forest!’ – For she had a profound knowledge about plants and herbs, and had worked for over six decades for the cause of the environment, wherein she had nurtured more than 30,000 saplings!

Another tribal girl, 26-year Archna Soreng from Odisha, was chosen as one of the members of the United Nation’s Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change! Ms Soreng firmly believes, “Any climate actions would only be fruitful when indigenous people are included. They should not be victims of climate policies. The methods and tools used by tribes in their daily lives for ‘green living’ are noteworthy – organic farming, rainwater harvesting, and preserving the biodiversity. Forests should be conserved, and trees should be grown instead!”

Also on 14 November 2021, Vidyut Mohan’s innovation got ‘Clean-Our-Air’ award! He is co-founder of a social enterprise, ‘Takachar’ – a small-scale, low-cost portable equipment that processes agricultural waste like rice-straw-husks and coconut shells into carbon dense materials, which

could be used to make bio-products like fuel and fertilizer! It could also prevent stubble burning, a major cause of air pollution in Delhi! Mr. Mohan got the opportunity to present his novelty at the COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland! Long live these above ‘Green Warriors!’

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

## A hard earned victory for farmers

We congratulate the farmers on their hard earned victory. After a long drawn epic struggle, the farmers compelled the govt to capitulate and withdraw the 3 contentious farm laws---a historic victory by any reckoning. However the farmers have some more unfinished business, chief of which being the Minimum Support Price (MSP).

While MSP is justified, farmers must realize that their best interest lies in switching to more remunerative crops. For instance we produce more than our requirement of rice and wheat. Add to that the fact that we have considerable buffer stock of these grains. Hence the market price keeps dropping below the cost of production, leading to a demand for higher MSP.

To remedy this situation farmers should cultivate other crops too.

India is the world’s biggest importer of edible oils. We import 65% of our edible oils, mainly palm and soyabeans besides several others. But palm and soya oil make up about 70% of our edible oil imports. Our farmers must seriously think about setting aside a small percentage of their acreage for growing these remunerative edible oil seeds.

—Prof Robert Castellino,  
Malad.

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# Marvellous Apostle of Evangelization!

*"Truly I belong to Jesus Christ with all my powers, everywhere, in all places. Like Peter, I have wept, hoped, prayed and loved; my trust however is greater than all my humiliations."*

- Blessed James Alberione

**B**lessed James Alberione was born in a devout and hard working Catholic peasant family on 4 April 1884 at San Lorenzo di Fossano, Italy. On completion of his high school studies, 16-year old James, fourth son of Michael and Teresa, joined the diocesan seminary. At the close of 31 December 1900, the fateful night that separated the passing 19th century from the upcoming 20th, he prayed long and fervently before the Blessed Sacrament in the Cathedral of Alba. A special light came from the Monstrance whereby "he felt deeply obliged to prepare himself to do something for the Lord and for the people of the new century." That this "something" was to translate itself into the apostolate of the "good press" as he termed it, was itself a miracle of sorts, given the suspicion and distrust with which the Church looked upon media usage in matters Gospel related.

Ordained priest on 29 June 1907, the Lord willed and guided him to announce the Gospel through the media of social communications, in the spirit of Saint Paul the Apostle. On 20 August 1914, Father James Alberione laid the foundation of the Society of Saint Paul by opening a press training school in Alba. In 1915, he founded the Daughters of Saint Paul with the same mission. A keen visionary, he started the Union of Lay Pauline Cooperators in 1917, giving lay involvement in his media apostolate its due.

Reading the signs of the times, Alberione went on to found 7 other Institutes—*Pious Disciples of the Divine*

*Master (1924), Good Shepherd Sisters (1938), Institute of Queen of the Apostles (1957), Institute of Saint Gabriel the Archangel (1958), Institute of Jesus the Priest (1959), Our Lady of the Annunciation (1960) and Institute of the Holy Family (1960).* The common charism of all the ten that collectively make up what is called the Pauline Family is to **Live and Give to the world Jesus Master, The Way, The Truth and The Life.** Of these ten, India is privileged to be blessed with the presence of four viz, *Society of Saint Paul, Daughters of Saint Paul, Pious Disciples of the Divine Master and Pauline Cooperators.*

## **The Gospel to the fore!**

- The doubts that assailed the champions of charity of the time concerned helping the new categories of poor who, their hunger for bread apart, had an unquenchable thirst for moral elevation. On the other hand, the use and abuse of the media is an age-old phenomenon, the wind of criticism raging

across the centuries, the situation during Alberione's time obviously being no different. But the response of Alberione, of whom it can be said that he did something very concrete to set matters right, was: "In the same way that others are feeding them with illusory promises, let us give them the Gospel and let us do so with the same instruments that they use for the communication of ideas." There is no gainsaying the fact that Alberione's vision of media use for the purpose of spreading gospel values (read human values), essentially concerned men and women of calibre and foresight. The first such farsighted man and woman of calibre to join him in his arduous mission were Blessed Timothy Giaccardo SSP and Venerable Maestra Thecla Merlo FSP respectively. Himself a man of faith and action, Alberione committed himself totally to

God's will after the example of Saint Paul who took pride in affirming, "For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain" (Phil 1:21a). He would even forfeit rest and recreation in favour of long hours of prayer and work, saying, "Nothing is done without fatigue. If you have to teach or prepare a sermon or write a book, you have to think and put your energies into it. That is sacrifice."

**Church's acknowledgement** - The relevance of Alberione to our times lies in the fact that with Baptism enjoining on every believer the duty to proclaim the Gospel, his Mission invites us to a life of sanctification. This, according to Alberione, "is and always consists in living Jesus Christ as he is presented in the Gospel: the Way, the Truth and the Life." Thus, as we make our sojourn through life, the dream of every believer cannot but be to say with Blessed James Alberione: "Silver and gold I have none! But I give you what I have – I give you Jesus Christ, Way, Truth and Life!"

Alberione died in Rome on 26 November 1971, aged 87 years. Just before his death he had the privilege of a personal visit and blessing from Pope Saint Paul VI who, when awarding him the *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* on 28 June 1969, had said: "Permit the Pope, dear Father Alberione, to rejoice at this long, faithful and unwearied effort and the fruits it has produced for God's glory and the good of the Church." Significantly, the fruits Paul VI referred to were further recognized when, on 27 April 2003 Alberione was beatified by Pope Saint John Paul II who called him the "First Apostle of the New Evangelization"—a sign for the whole Church that even through an avant-garde apostolate can one achieve holiness.

*\*Pledged Pauline Cooperator, and Copy-editor with ST PAUL'S/BETTER YOURSELF BOOKS*



by Ladislaus  
Louis D'Souza

# Beware of Addictive Behaviour

The Covid pandemic has brought about a host of challenges in its wake. It is an unexpected situation which seems to have no end in sight. Being confined indefinitely at home has brought about stress and family members getting on each other's nerves. This has led to negativity and young and old resorting to habits that turn into addictions such as substance abuse, pornography, gaming and getting hooked on the social media. Addiction is escapism which seeks to minimize pain and maximize pleasure. This is an increasing mental health issue.

## What are some of the causes of addiction?

- A) Some psychologists opine that genetics could have a role.
- B) Childhood trauma, physical, verbal and psychological abuse that shatters confidence and faith in human kind.
- C) Social and peer group pressure.
- D) Either poor parental supervision or overprotective parents.
- E) Wanting to experiment a substance as a lark with game changing consequences
- F) Escapism
- G) Environmental changes such as being in a hostel far from home
- H) Lack of social support
- I) Poor coping skills
- J) Being different. For instance if one comes from a poor family and goes to a college where the kids coming from affluent homes would have more money to throw around.

## How does one realize that one is slipping into addictive behavior?

1. Craving : Seeking any justification for substance abuse such as alcoholism.
2. Increased tolerance : As we keep on taking eating, for instance, we gradually need more food to keep us happy and thus go on a binge.

3. Loss of control as addiction gives one a physical and psychological high.
4. Withdrawal symptoms : Physical or emotional changes when one cannot indulge in addictive behavior characterized by irritability and violence.
5. Neglecting alternate sources of enjoyment. I'd rather watch TV than read a book.
6. Continued use of the substance, for instance tobacco, despite being aware of the consequences such as self harm and damage to close relationships.

Psychologists advise that if an individual meets four of the above six criteria, then the time for denial is over and he/she needs to seek help.



by Monica Fernandes

## Steps to overcome an addiction :

- a) Reaching out to family and friends alone for support rarely yields results as by being supportive and loving, they inadvertently become enablers. Furthermore, they are untrained. Hence when they don't get the desired results, they feel overwhelmed and helpless. It is difficult to continue to love someone when he/she is unable to change for the better.
- b) Accept that addiction is a mental disorder needing professional help. It is a malfunction in the circuits of the brain causing repetitive damaging behavior. Scientists have found a 'reward pathway' in the brain which keeps on getting activated.
- c) Education does not stop with school and college studies. If you feel that you are slipping into an addiction, knowledge and research are the first steps towards change. Understand the options open to you. Discuss with your near and dear ones strategies to get out of these sinking sands. They should realize that you are hurting inside. Read up and be aware of tried and tested solutions.
- d) Talk to professionals to find out the best therapeutic approach to your

particular addiction. Go for the necessary treatment. Thinking that you have the wherewithal to get over your addiction by yourself is a utopian dream.

- e) Unfortunately in our society there is a social stigma attached to addiction as if the person is bad. This is due to a lack of knowledge. Don't be afraid of scorn and criticism. Your wellbeing is more important than the gossip of idle tongues.
- f) Today there are a host of helplines and support groups that one could resort to.
- g) Be patient with yourself and request your family and friends to be patient as anger often results in your becoming more secretive. They should listen to your point of view, accept relapses as a part of the process of getting cured. They should be alert to signs of you slipping back you're your old ways. Experts say that the opposite of addiction is connection to people who really love you – not the superficial connections of the social media. In this way you will feel less isolated and you will know that you belong.
- h) At the times when you are rational, request them to set boundaries, to be neither too harsh nor too lenient.
- i) Remember that you are unique and an individual who does not want to throw your life away. Getting over an addiction requires every ounce of your strength and willpower. Withdrawal entails you getting frustrated and feeling helpless. May be a change of scenery such as a vacation in a quiet place close to nature and "far from the madding crowd" could help you recharge your batteries. Getting over an addiction ultimately is a choice you have to make.
- j) Spend some time in prayer and meditation to bring about some calmness to your tumultuous brain.

The consequences of addictive behavior are too steep. It affects relationships within the family and others too. The path to abundant living is strewn with challenges but be confident that you will overcome these challenges.

# Lost In Translation

**W**e are on the cusp of Advent, the precursor of Christmas. Till not so long ago this was the time that we started sending out and receiving Christmas cards, now a thing of the past. A popular banner on these cards was “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace to men of goodwill” (Lk 2:14).

This translation is from the King James Version, with its beautifully poetic language. Later, more prosaic, translations express it differently, especially the last phrase. Here is a selection. “Peace for those he favours” (The New Jerusalem Bible – the one I use), “peace to all in whom he delights” (The New Community Bible), “peace to those with whom he is pleased” (Good News Bible). In Hindi Padmabhusan Baba Bulcke’s text is “aur prithvi par unke kripapatron ko shanti”. The Gideon’s Hindi text is “jinme ve prassana hai”. This comparison is just to show that many things may get lost in translation.

Coming to the Synod on Synodality, I have a grave apprehension that much may be lost in translation into local/regional languages. I am not a linguist. Yes, I got a distinction in English language in my Cambridge exams in 1965, but I always failed miserably in Hindi and got zero in Sanskrit! However, when I encountered Jesus 10 years later I knew that I had to learn Hindi if I wanted to share his message in U.P., where I live. I make no claims to being a language expert; but I would like to share some of the key words from the synodal process, and their Hindi equivalents.

The first jolt that I got was from the prayer card prepared by my parent diocese of Allahabad. “Synod” was

translated as “dharma sabha”, which when translated back into English becomes a “religious gathering”. However, the actual meaning of the Greek word synod is “walking together” that has now been modified to “journeying together”.

My wife, who is an expert in English grammar, says that this is a transitive verb or phrase! Wow. For a sim-

## SYNOD ON SYNODALITY – PART V



by chhotebhai \*

pleton like me I see the synod as an event, a process or action, therefore a verb. However, the Hindi translation of Sabha makes it a noun. All very confusing. Exactly the point. To faithfully convey the meaning and purpose of the synod one needs, not just the mastery of two languages, but even more importantly, to have the mind of Pope Francis. That isn’t going to be easy.

Let us take some of the key synodal words and their literal Hindi translation: Communion (Ekya), Participation (bhaag lena), Mission (no Hindi equivalent), Discernment (Prabhed), Listening (Sunna), Synthesis (Sansleshan). I may be wrong, for my experience is limited, but I have never heard words like Ekya, Prabhed, Sansleshan used in common discourse. So how do we faithfully convey the synodal message and process?

Take the key word Synod (journeying together). The literal Hindi translation would be “ek saath yatra karna”. This makes no sense because there is no such connotation in Hindi. We talk of shabdarth (literal meaning) and bhavarth (connotation). For several days I struggled to find the correct Hindi connotation for “journeying together” that could convey its true meaning.

I finally stumbled on it in the Hindi version of the peoples’ anthem “We shall Overcome” (Hum honge kamyap). The relevant verse is “We’ll walk hand in hand ... we shall overcome someday” (Hum challenge saath, hum honge kamyap ek din). The anthem’s genesis is inspiring.

It was originally composed by Rev Charles Tindley of Philadelphia, an African Methodist Episcopal Church minister, born of slave parents in 1851. It featured prominently as a protest song during a labour strike by black women workers in 1945-46 in Charleston, South Carolina. It acquired worldwide fame when it became the anthem of Rev Martin Luther King Jr’s civil rights movement. Slavery officially ended in the USA with the passing of the Civil Rights Act in 1964.

It was a long and bitter struggle, because nobody (in this case the Whites) easily surrenders their position of power, pelf and supremacy. King himself paid the price for it with his martyrdom. Rev Tindley in turn was inspired to write this anthem from this sentence in the New Testament. “Let us never slacken in doing good, for if we do not give up, we shall have our harvest in due time” (Gal 6:9).

The key take aways here are – never slacken, never give up, you will reap your reward in due time (overcome someday). Many civil rights activists and trade unionists have made this their anthem. My wife, who works among the specially abled (earlier called handicapped), also has this as their theme song.

It is in this context that the synod should adopt this as its anthem. It talks of those on the fringes, the marginalized, the voiceless. They are the handicapped of the church. The comparisons are so obvious. It took over a century of struggle to overcome white supremacy.

In like manner, 56 years after Vatican II ushered in a synodal (participatory)

(Contd.. on p. 9)



(Contd.. from p. 8)

church, that vision has remained unfulfilled. Pope Francis, in humility and sincerity, has recognized this. That is why this 84 year-old is racing against time to make this a reality. Again, the clerical supremacists from the USA or France may attempt to assassinate him for doing this. Now we should not put the clock back. Vatican II, and now Pope Francis, have set the ball rolling.

There are two glaringly obvious reasons why the ecclesiology of Vatican II has not happened. The first is because those who know (the hierarchy and clergy) don't want it to happen. Nobody voluntarily surrenders power. The other, not so obvious reason, is the total ignorance of the laity and their resultant servility. This has resulted in "clericalism" that Pope Francis says is the scourge of the church today.

The problem with lay leaders is that they "slacken". They think that one meeting or statement is enough. They then go back into hibernation, and expect miraculous change! But we are told that if we seek to reap the harvest we cannot afford to slacken, to be lax. We have to keep up the pressure, even if it results in our assassination. Physical assassination may not occur, but character assassination will definitely be on the cards.

Lay leaders that truly seek the reform and renewal of the church will be quickly branded as anti-church or anti-clerical. They will not be invited for diocesan consultations. They will not get status-enhancing appointments to ecclesial bodies, or sent to Rome as delegates. So what? If one believes in a cause then one must be prepared to pay the price and not seek earthly reward.

Do not slacken. Even if something is lost in translation, it should not be lost in transition. Let us walk hand in hand for we shall overcome someday, hopefully sooner than later.

• *The writer is the Convenor of the Indian Catholic Forum.*

# Crypto Causes Concern

**D**uring the eighties bank customers did money rotation using trade bills, through the banks, which we called "kite flying" and punished the customers and the managers and staff of the branches and today we call it cryptos. We were told that rolling stones gather no moss, but the cryptos the noiseless coins growing disproportionately. Jayalalithaa and Sasikala would never have been jailed, if they had kept their wealth in cryptos because there is nothing disproportionate as we worship money. It is true that this one is the only true God with no religious fences and worshipped religiously.

China's crackdown and other various factors are responsible for falling in prices of Bitcoin. Top coins such as Ethereum (ETH) and popular meme coins such as Shiba Inu (SHIB) and Dogecoin (DOGE) have fallen over 10 per cent over the last seven weeks. The topmost cryptocurrency by market capitalisation, Bitcoin (BTC) has been falling continuously for the last three days and is now trading below \$60,000.

Top coins such as Bitcoin, Ethereum (ETH) and popular meme coins such as Shiba Inu (SHIB) and Dogecoin (DOGE) have fallen over 10 per cent over the last seven weeks, according to Coinmarketcap.com. These figures indicate that market sentiments can move in any direction irrespective of the fact that whether it is a large-cap company IPO or a small-cap. According to the Economic Times data,

100 out of 164 IPOs since 2008 are trading below their issue price. Of the remaining stocks that have given positive returns, only 44 companies have given double-digit returns. The benchmark Sensex, on the other hand, has doubled during this period.

Meanwhile, many analysts feel that some IPOs fail because they may have been priced aggressively, though the share performance also depends on various other parameters including industry outlook, quality of business and management. India has been witnessing a great run in the equities market for the past 1.5 years, with Sensex touching over 60k and Nifty crossing 18k on several trading sessions. With such a positive enthusiasm in the bull market, companies are not leaving any chance to make a debut in the market.



C.K. Subramaniam

Just in 2021, Dalal Street has seen around 46 IPOs, with Paytm, having an issue size of Rs 18,300 crore, triumphing over Coal India becoming India's biggest IPO in over a decade. However, the

digital fintech firm disappointed the investors after it made a weak market debut with stock crashing 20 per cent. The stock opened at Rs 1,950 on the National Stock Exchange and the listing price on the Bombay Stock Exchange was Rs 1,955, against the issue price of Rs 2,150. Paytm is not alone in the list, many such biggest IPOs in the last 10 years have let down the investors.

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# Let us learn from our farmers!!

Fr Cedric Prakash SJ

Our farmers know the way, go the way and show the way! Thanks to their relentless struggle and their great sacrifices, for all of us – the three anti-farmer laws have finally been repealed. For more than a year now – with blood, sweat, toil and tears, their protest has continued unceasingly. In heat and cold, in the pouring rain and under the blistering sun – they did not stop! They did not cave in to threats and intimidation, to derogatory remarks ('andolanjeevi', 'khalistani', 'terrorists', 'just a few of them', 'anti-national' and much more and worse) and a corrupt deal to buy off some of them; the Government and their ilk were clearly hostile to them: foisted false cases, employed the divide and rule tactic, even mowed down some of them to death. Officially, about seven hundred of them have died! Most of the media which is 'godified', corrupt and biased, blanked out this biggest and longest protest in the world! Braving all odds and a raging COVID-19 pandemic the farmers continued! Today they have triumphed! A lesson for all to learn! Let us learn from our farmers!

The farmers will continue their protests, till it is absolutely clear that all their demands are met unconditionally. With the ensuing elections both in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab, they are aware that this could be just an election gimmick. The BJP and their al-

lies are expected to lose badly in both States; the most obvious thing for the Government to do was to 'roll-back' hoping it will bring them dividends at the hustings. The Prime Minister is clear: he is convinced that these laws were meant to 'benefit' the farmers; he speaks of the opposition of 'a few'. So why then a repeal? The government is still silent on some of their major demands – including the Minimum Support Price (MSP)! The farmers are no fools- they know the way!



BY FR. CEDRIC PRAKASH SJ

Let us learn from our farmers because the nation has still plenty of critical and urgent issues to address. For one, the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) should be repealed immediately and unconditionally. It is used as a weapon to intimidate and harass, to incarcerate and to kill (as we have seen in the case of Fr Stan Swamy). It is used selectively: to silence dissent and against those who stand up for truth and justice; those who uphold the rights and freedoms enshrined in the Constitution of India; those who accompany the Adivasis and Dalits, the exploited and the excluded, the poor and the vulnerable in their quest for a more humane and equitable society. Those who demand greater freedom of speech and expression: the right to write and speak about 'Two Indias' – without fear and favour and in total freedom! Several are languishing in jail today because of the UAPA!

Then there is the Citizenship Amendment Act, which should be consigned to the fires that are meant to burn all that is evil and insidious. These amendments are patently discriminatory and against the letter and spirit of the Indian Constitution. It goes against the ethos of the time-tested 'Atithi Devo Bhava', (You become the one who considers that Guests are equivalent to God). This spirituality prescribes a dynamic of the host-guest relationship, which embodies the traditional Hindu-Buddhist philosophy of revering guests with same respect as God. Indians also freely use the phrase 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (The World is One Family!). It is sheer hypocrisy that the amended CAA targets people of a particular faith. The farmers did not accept double-speak and hypocrisy from the Government!

We have the three anti-worker Labour Code Bills which were passed by Parliament on 23 September 2020 – without an opposition -which must be abolished immediately. The ordinary workers of our country have suffered immensely because of the pandemic: the Government denied them the possibility of returning home by public transportation after the lockdown was announced on the night of 24/25 March 2020. They were denied the wages due to them at that time. On their return after several months, many had to work long extra hours with less than half the wages! The three codes: the Industrial Relations (IR) Code, the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (OSH) Code, and the Social Security Code, along with the Code on Wages, 2019, amalgamate 44 labour laws –add to the misery of the workers! There are several provisions in the Codes which are problematic and violate the rights of workers; besides, the process by which they were pushed through was hardly transparent. All central trade unions were opposed to the amalgamation of the hard-won labour laws and had submitted their objections on several occasions. The Government however, has not relented and in favour of the

(Contd.. on p. 11)

(Contd.. from p. 10)

powerful anti-labour corporate sector. The farmers tell us that these codes can be repealed if the trade unions are organised and united!

The rights and dignity of the Adivasis have to be respected; particularly with regard to jals, jungles and jameens and the right of forest dwellers to live in a place they have called home since time immemorial. On 2 October 2021, The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) released a consultation paper on fourteen proposed amendments in Forest Conservation Act, 1980 with reference to the amendments made in 1988 in this Act. The MoEF&CC has also cosmetically invited comments and feedback on this paper within a month of its release. The Government is making every effort towards providing 'ease of doing business' to its cronies. This latest move needs to be seen in the same context. It is effectively reiterating through these proposed amendments that this step is aimed at providing exemptions to businesses in the garb of 'development'. It is a blatant and very conscious larceny (theft of personal property) of village resources. The nexus between the mining mafia, the crony capitalists and the Government is obvious! More than two million of them and other forest-dwellers still remain at risk of forced displacement and loss of livelihood after their claims to stay on in their habitats under the Forest Rights Act were rejected. Many Adivasis from the Kevadia area (which is around India's latest 'white elephant' – a gross statue in the name of Sardar Patel) were made to leave their homes overnight. Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, (PESA) 1996 – a law enacted for ensuring self-governance through traditional Gram Sabhas for people living in the Scheduled Areas is officially violated! Fr Stan Swamy and others were fighting for these rights which were denied to the Adivasis. The farmers have not allowed the crony capitalists and the corporate mafia to destroy their livelihood!

The environment and our precious

bio-diversity is being destroyed! India cut a very sorry figure at the recently concluded COP26. In spite of being the world's fourth biggest emitter of carbon dioxide, India said that it would cut its emissions to net zero only around 2070! Most of the world leaders agreed to do so by 2050. In the meantime, the Government and their ilk continue to auction coal blocks, destroy forests and other natural resources for their profiteering. Effluence and other hotel and industrial waste have turned the River Sabarmati in Ahmedabad to a cesspool, the pathetic scene of corpses floating on the River Ganges, the unbelievable levels of air pollution in Delhi, the destructive unseasonal rains in Chennai and elsewhere, the landslides in Kerala and Uttarakhand due to the ecological devastation of the Western Ghats and the Aravalli Range – are some indicators to show that the ruling regime does not care for our common home! The agrarian community – with their small farms and sustainable agriculture – are the backbone of the Indian economy. They continue to be so!

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, must be halted immediately! In its current form the implementation of the NEP 2020 is grossly undemocratic as it does not have the approval of the Parliament. There are several other reasons to object to it: one of them is that the NEP 2020 is anti-constitutional as it overrides the rights of state governments for taking important decisions about education which is a subject in the Concurrent List of the Indian Constitution which state governments should decide. It denies state governments their constitutionally provided federal power to take necessary academic and pedagogic decisions by imposing centralized regulatory bodies, centralized eligibility and evaluation tests and even centrally coordinated tests at classes 3, 5, and 8 in schools. Besides the NEP is designed to cater to a segment of India's elite and it will also systematically exclude India's poor and disadvantaged sections. The farmers are clear – that reform and change are important but only when the disadvantaged sections of society are given

their due importance!

Minorities particularly the Muslims and the Christians are at the receiving end of a brutal regime which discriminates, denigrates and demonizes them. Many of the farmers are Sikhs (also a minority!) and derogatory language has been used against them! The so-called 'Love Jihad' and anti-conversion laws are anti-constitutional and undemocratic. Declare that everyone has the right to freely preach, practise and propagate one's religion, to embrace the religion of one's choice and/or marry the person of one's choice. Restore Articles 370 and 35A to the people of Jammu and Kashmir immediately! Come down heavily on undemocratic acts like we see in Gujarat today, where the livelihood of ordinary people is destroyed just because they sell non-vegetarian food in public or in Gurgaon where the Muslims are prevented from doing namaz in public spaces – which hindered no one! Tripura is burning: Muslims there are targeted today in one of the most peaceful and harmonious States of the country! Christians are hounded and beaten up, churches and prayer halls are razed to the ground! Those who spew venom and hate on the minorities do so with impunity and with the assured certainty that they will get all the immunity they need! The farmers show us that minority-bashing is not in the interest of the nation!

It has never been as bad as this before in the country. On every global indicator/ evaluation. India today is at the bottom of the pit! In fact, countries which for a long time were regarded as 'bad' – are faring today much better than India at the moment. The rich continue to become richer! The marginalised and minorities, the excluded and exploited, the women and children, the Adivasis and the Dalits continue to be at the receiving end of a vicious and vengeful system, which is corrupt and partial. The law-and-order mechanism has also failed on several fronts! The farmers teach us that 'enough is enough' – unitedly we have to halt this rot!

(Contd.. on p. 12)

## The Perfect Son.

A: I have the perfect son.  
B: Does he smoke?  
A: No, he doesn't.  
B: Does he drink whiskey?  
A: No, he doesn't.  
B: Does he ever come home late?  
A: No, he doesn't.  
B: I guess you really do have the perfect son. How old is he?  
A: He will be six months old next Wednesday.

\*\*\*\*\*

A family of mice were surprised by a big cat.

Father Mouse jumped and said, "Bow-wow!" The cat ran away. "What was that, Father?" asked Baby Mouse. "Well, son, that's why it's important to learn a second language."

\*\*\*\*\*

A: Why are you crying?  
B: The elephant is dead.  
A: Was he your pet?  
B: No, but I'm the one who must dig his grave.

\*\*\*\*\*

A teacher asked a student to write 55.  
Student asked: How?  
Teacher: Write 5 and beside it another 5!

The student wrote 5 and stopped.  
teacher: What are you waiting for?  
student: I don't know which side to write the other 5!

\*\*\*\*\*

Son: Dad, what is an idiot?  
Dad: An idiot is a person who tries to explain his ideas in such a strange and long way that another person who is listening to him can't understand him. Do you understand me?  
Son: No.

\*\*\*\*\*

The real estate agent says, "I have a good, cheap apartment for you."  
The man replies, "By the week or by the month?"  
The agent answers, "By the garbage dump.."

\*\*\*\*\*

Customer in a restaurant: I would like to have a plate of rice and a piece of fried chicken and a cup of coffee  
Waitress : Is it enough Sir?  
Customer : What? Do you think I can't buy more?



\*\*\*\*

Once there were three turtles. One day they decided to go on a picnic. When they got there, they realized they had forgotten the soda. The youngest turtle said he would go home and get it if they wouldn't eat the sandwiches until he got back. A week went by, then a month, finally a year, when the two turtles said, "oh, come on, let's eat the sandwiches." Suddenly the little turtle popped up from behind a rock and said, "If you do, I won't go!"

\*\*\*\*

A: Why are all those people running?  
B: They are running a race to get a cup.  
A: Who will get the cup?  
B: The person who wins.  
A: Then why are all the others running?

\*\*\*\*

Patient: Doctor, I think that I've been bitten by a vampire.  
Doctor: Drink this glass of water.  
Patient: Will it make me better?  
Doctor: No, but I'll be able to see if your neck leaks.

\*\*\*\*

Said to a railroad engineer:  
What's the use of having a train schedule if the trains are always late.  
The reply from the railroad engineer:  
How would we know they were late, if we didn't have a schedule?

\*\*\*\*

A nervous old lady on a bus was made even more nervous by the fact that the driver periodically took his arm out of the window. When she couldn't stand it any longer, she tapped him on the shoulder and whispered on his ear: "Young man...you keep both hands on the wheel...I'll tell you when it's raining!"

\*\*\*\*

A man was pulled over for driving too fast, even though he thought he was

(Contd.. from p. 11)

On 26 November, we observe another Constitution Day. We need to internalise and own the letter and spirit given to us by our Constitutional fathers in 1949 that this great Charter – is respected, protected and actualised to the minutest detail, for every single citizen of our country and particularly to those whose rights and freedom (which have guaranteed by the Constitution) are trampled upon! The farmers demonstrate that this is a non-negotiable! We The farmers have shown us that the people of India can no longer be fooled by or accept empty rhetoric; promises of 'acchhe din'; political gimmicks of populism (like embracing the Pope) and manipulations; divisive, discriminatory and dangerous agendas; lies and 'feku-isms'; dictatorial and fascist ideologies. Their painstaking protest is a definite directive that one should not rest until the dream of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity is realised and belongs to 'we the people'! That relentless struggle, which our farmers epitomise, will continue till Truth triumphs!

The journey of the farmers is still not over! But they definitely know the way, show the way and go the way for the future of India! Let us have the openness, the humility and the courage to learn from them!

*\*(Fr. Cedric Prakash SJ is a human rights & peace activist/writer.*

driving just fine.

Officer: You were speeding.  
Man: No, I wasn't.  
Officer: Yes, you were. I'm giving you a ticket.  
Man: But I wasn't speeding.  
Officer: Tell that to the judge! (The officer gives man the ticket.)  
Man: Would I get another ticket if I called you a jerk?  
Officer: Yes, you would.  
Man: What if I just thought that you were?  
Officer: I can't give you a ticket for what you think.  
Man: Fine, I think you're a jerk!

# REJOICE AND CELEBRATE GAUDETE SUNDAY

12th December 2021

Third Week of Advent

Care for our Common Home (LS Encyclical), invites us to celebrate Earth, the Sacred Manger, birthing the many incarnations of *Emmanuel*-God with us. *Meister Eckhart* often said, why talk about Jesus' birth a thousand years ago, if he is not born again among us today?



Cop26 in Scotland ended on 12th November 2021, while the world awaits us, the future unfinished. As we plunge into this unknown, unfolding a new tomorrow, allowing our future to happen now, let us listen deeply to its call. Patient and with open, empty hands, let us play our part in the Great Cosmic Drama. Let us **REJOICE** and celebrate Gaudete Sunday (Rejoice/Joy in Latin); lighting the only pink candle in the Advent Wreathes with meaning and freedom, giving birth to what has never happened.



Great Cosmic Drama-Painting by Mudita rscj

True joy comes with preparation and repentance, growing ourselves and our living testimony to Joy. John the Baptist emphasized preparation and the need for repentance. We need to feel the joy of preparing the way for the Lord. It is a call to be deeply felt and relished. To increase our joy, we need to be generous and share our resources (Lk3:11), not out of pity but out of love and kindness, especially with the poor (See LS#49). Such sharing doubles our joy, is contagious and triggers an entire movement of giving, especially to those in need.

Oxytocin is a chemical in our body that makes us feel warm, good, connected /bonded and loved. Acts of kindness and generosity release oxytocin in our bodies; even witnessing such good deeds releases a surge of this chemical. The more oxytocin we have in our body, the more generous we become. It is *Mother Nature's way of trying desperately to get us to look after each other i.e. all God's creatures* (See FT#88). We live in a world filled with hunger and deprivation (See LS #49). Sharing is a sure sign of repentance of a world that has kept the have-nots as have-nots. There can be no repentance without returning to justice. Justice demands integrity and honesty. Greed and hoarding corrode from within. One experiences content but not joy. For sanity and sanctity, we need to act justly. Justice causes joy for the giver and the recipient. Even a small act results in a big transformation.

To manifest repentance we need to challenge discouragement by feeling and trusting God's presence in our midst (Zep.3:5-6). We experience tremendous joy when we feel God's accompaniment and know that He is the doer. We are merely the instrument. Christians need to be living testimonies of the Gospel by fearlessly testifying to the joy that comes from having a deep encounter with God, deflecting attention from ourselves and inviting others to trust in what we testify.

In our stress-filled and fast-paced world, relaxed and necessary time for healthy relationships, fun, laughter and happiness etc. are becoming a rarity (See LS #237). The fundamental Christian disposition to life is joy. Pleasure belongs to the realm of the bodily senses, happiness belongs to the idea of possession e.g. externals, while joy belongs to a deeper reality, a realization of a connectedness with God, nature and others.



The Cosmic Christ- Icon by Mudita rscj

Gaudete Sunday is the right week to reflect and deepen our joy, by preparing for it, for it can be elusive. Joy can only be experienced in wonder and stillness. Our multi-tasked, press-button generation is in a hurry. We need to slow down. Nature teaches us to be patient, enjoy the present moment and wait for the fruits of the ground to ripen. We need to find goodness around us. God is in our midst saving us by working through bold and selfless COVID-19 and other warriors of Hope (See FT #54 and LS #244), Science, Research, Vaccines etc. Finally, we need to believe in transformation. Another world is possible (See FT#183), for nothing is impossible for God. What is my level of joy? How consistent is it? How do I manifest my repentance? Am I willing to commit to *JPIC/Laudato Si/Fratelli Tutti* or do something nice for someone with no expectations of anything in return?

*Myopic, extremist, resentful and aggressive nationalism are on the rise. Goodness, together with Love, Justice and Solidarity, are not achieved once and for all; they have to be realized each day* (See FT#11). Repentance must be manifested in visible actions or else it will remain a mere dream (See FT#10), a unicorn, a rainbow, an idea or a concept.

Genuine repentance is bound to lead to genuine actions, resulting in genuine joy.



Dr (Sr) Mudita Menona Sodder rscj  
Sophia College Campus, Mumbai  
21st November 2021

# Suffering in Silence

It is indeed very sad to read newspapers or watch news these days. All that we come across is bitter news, which in a way disgust and depresses all who read it. Recently when I was going through the posts shared in one of the social networking platforms, I came across an article where a 12-year-old girl was abused and killed by her own relatives. Below the news, I also read that many people were protesting and pressurizing the judiciary to take action immediately. It was good indeed to know that public had taken the initiative to fight and stand by the grieving parents. Yet again, an innocent girl had become a prey to her family's feud and vengeance.

Thinking about this whole issue, I started wondering that there are so many ways in which a woman is targeted and abused. Major issues are brought into light, but what about small issues which happen within closed doors? No one understands the pain. I would want to throw light on a few issues which may sound silly, but definitely most of the women go through them in silence.

Right from a tender age, a girl is expected to live by certain norms and prejudice set by the society. I remember an incident. While talking to my friend over a cup of coffee, she discussed with me her fascination for martial arts. She was quite athletic and had an ambition to master Karate, but was not permitted by her parents. They felt it was something that had to be learnt by a boy and they forced her to join dance classes. My friend was learning dance from eight years just for the satisfaction of her parents and had absolutely no interest in what she was learning. Even today, most of the parents fulfil their dreams through children. It is not wrong if the children are happy, but it is not good to force a child to take up something which they are not interested in. It is time we stop differentiating based on gender and openly encourage our girls to take up what they are interested

in. It is sad to know when the world is progressing at a rapid rate, there are a few parents who feel that it is not worth to educate girls and instead get them married off. There are hundreds of girls who are intelligent and ambitious, but suffer in silence because they are helpless to voice out what they want to learn and become in life.

The next important step in a girl's life is marriage and the drama that surrounds it is quite difficult to explain. I would not quote examples of others' life, but share the experience which



by Sonal Lobo

I went through. Being on the heavier side, I was always body shamed and asked to reduce my weight. More than people advising me to reduce my weight for my good health, I found people around asking me to reduce in order to get married. I still remember when I had been to my native

and was sitting with all my relatives, my aunt rather made an insulting comment. She told me that it is very difficult to find a good educated boy for me as I am not slim. She also said that I do not wear modern clothes and wear plain salwar and scapular around my neck which no guy likes these days. She concluded her remarks by saying that I would have to marry an old man because he would suit me better. Well, these comments did hurt me, but what it made me realize is that, at every stage, a woman needs to fit the bill. If a man is bald or fat, a girl cannot express her dislike and is blamed to be choosy and have attitude. On the other hand, if the boy complains that the girl is fat or not tall, then immediately a girl is forced to change herself to suit into the brackets of a perfect girl. It just does not end here. If a girl is slightly modern and dresses up stylishly, she is again judged and mocked and labelled as someone with 'loose' morals. In the name of getting a girl married, she undergoes so many insults, pain and all this she bears in silence.

After marriage, she is expected to be

in a certain way. Dress and eat by the standards set by her in-laws. What I really do not understand and accept is the fact that a girl after marriage is expected to compromise in the name of adjustment. My colleague was recently sharing an incident related to her proposal, where she was asked not to work for a year after marriage, as the boy's sister was jobless and she would feel bad to see her future sister-in-law working. So, the girl, who would marry, had to wait till the boy's sister finds a job, after which if everything was fine, could resume her work. Where is equality? I was astounded by this proposition and rather glad that she rejected the proposal. Why should a woman sacrifice her dreams and passions just because she is married? I have had friends who were wonderful singers, dancers, artists, and painters who after marriage have given up everything just because their in-laws and husband feel that pursuing their passion would not allow them to fulfil their responsibilities as daughter-in-law and wife. Why are women not encouraged? Is it not a crime to strip a woman of her identity and force her to kill her dreams? Unfortunately, no one talks about it.

I know that every woman needs to adjust to the new family and keep the family united. But what if the new family does not co-operate with her? Why does the society forget that the efforts must come from both the ends? I see around me, when a married woman chooses to live separately with her husband, she is accused and blamed of separating her husband from his parents. But why does anybody not think about the girl? Sometimes a girl is seriously abused. She is not allowed to go out, dress up in a certain way, and not allowed to speak out. In spite of all this, when she demands for justice, she is said to have attitude and is accused of breaking the family. I have seen in many houses where a daughter and daughter-in-law co-exist. Any harm that happens to your daughter at her in-laws' place is termed to be sad, but when your own daughter-in-law goes through the same hell at your place, she is expected to adjust. What justice is this? So many women around

(Contd.. on p. 15)

are victims of this favouritism and are suffering all of this in silence.

If raping and abusing a woman is a terrible crime, then one must remember that crushing a woman's passions and dreams is also a crime. When a woman dares to trespass all this and starts her journey towards her dreams, she is again questioned and judged. I remember when I first decided to publish my poetry book, only my husband and parents encouraged me. Others laughed at me and thought it was stupidity. Yet, I faced all this and came out with my first poetry book. Many genuine people complimented me and appreciated my talent. But there were a few who laughed and judged me. Marriage is not a passport for a woman to forget her parents and go away from them. If it is the responsibility of man to take care of his parents, then it is the responsibility of a woman to take care of her parents.

We see protests and marches demanding justice for women. I guess all this will not help if we are not fighting for the lady in the house. Be it your wife, sister, mother, daughter-in-law or anyone - respect begins from home. Respecting a woman does not mean just feeding her and giving her a place to live. It means to understand a woman, give her freedom and space to voice out her opinion. Treating women with dignity and equality is the biggest step towards reducing crime against her. When you lend her support, she will give her everything to the family which most of them have forgotten. Woman, they say is the highest reservoir of untapped talent. Let us not turn a blind eye towards the needs and wants of a woman. Let us strive to provide a platform to them so that they may come out of their cages and be the best version of themselves.

At the end, let us not forget one thing - a happy woman means a happy family. Let us try a little harder to fight against the injustice done towards women and try putting an end to all that suffering which happens IN SILENCE.

## Matrimonials

**7271. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1991), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 69 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, smart, active. Edn. B.Sc., in Hospitality Administration and Management, working as a Manager - Administration Facilities. Contact email : allyrocks91@gmail.com

**7259. USA :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in August 1994), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Graduate, working. Contact email : sevu.sequeira@gmail.com

**7128. MUMBAI :** Affluent business family R.C. East Indian Spinster, (Born in 12-04-1988), Ht. 5' 2", very beautiful and pretty. Edn. MS General Surgeon, Doctor by profession. Contact email : drvd2019@gmail.com

**7258. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1993), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Post Graduate, Content Professional in a reputed MNC and freelancing as a copywriter and social media Professional. Contact email : forheralliance@gmail.com

**7244. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in August 1992), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 54 kgs, Edn. Chartered Accountant and M.Com., Employed in one of the Top reputed companies in Mumbai. Well cultured and good family background. Only Child. Contact email : fionadesouza18@gmail.com

**7199. BANGALORE :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in January 1990), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 53 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Master's in Mass Communications (NTU, Singapore) working as a Senior Manager of Corporate Communications in **SINGAPORE**. Contact email : mafern.2121@gmail.com

**7243. NEW ZEALAND :** East Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1996), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., Nursing, Profession : Staff Nurse. Ready to settle in New Zealand. Contact email : sales@nomaplastechind.in

**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

**7240. PUNE :** East Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1987), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 65 kgs, Very Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA, working as a Finance Executive. Contact email : angelina0134@gmail.com

**7234. MANGALORE :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in November 1993), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBBS, MD (ongoing), Doctor by profession. Contact email : samaddy2013@gmail.com

**7230. MUMBAI :** Silm, Smart, Beautiful Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in August 1995), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 50 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working in Pharmaceutical Company. Contact email : alex1947@rediffmail.com

**7065. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1989), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 69 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Sc., & Dip. in Clinical Research, working as Business Process Lead in TCS. Contact email : mendonca\_luke@yahoo.co.in

**7214. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1986), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 52 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. CA CFA Ms Finance M.Com., working as a Senior Manager. Contact email : rfernandes020@gmail.com

**7210. AURANGABAD :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in January 1994), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 50 kgs, Fair Complexion, good looking, beautiful, Coming from business family, Edn. Chartered Accountant, C.A. by Profession. Contact email : putturaurangabad@gmail.com

**7182. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1992), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 72 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., C.A., working as Asst. Manager in TATA Company. Contact : email : matrimonialp27@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

**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

# Royal Christian Family MATRIMONIALS - GROOMS

**7270. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in July 1988), Ht. 4' 11", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Diploma Holder, 3 year diploma in chefs management (culinary mgmt), working as a Sous chef - (Managerial Position) Contact email : kgama@aih.edu.in

**7196. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor (Born in March 1981), Ht. 6', Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., HR Professional. Contact email : denstun@hotmail.com

**7225. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in July 1994), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 70 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. INFT, Profession : Database Developer. Contact email : allan.jones.137@gmail.com

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

**7185. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1984) Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 72 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working for Bank. Contact email : shaun.neo00.outlook.com

**7226. CANADA :** Canadian Citizen Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in August 1990), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 59 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Sc., in Environmental Science and in Energy Management postgraduate degrees from the University of Toronto. Working for a reputed company as Energy Management Analyst in Totonto. Contact email : francisper@gmail.com

**7218. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in November

1988), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 68 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., Aviation, working as a Commercial Pilot. 1st Officer. Contact email : dcostajess@gmail.com

**7097-R MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1991), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 97 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as Sr. Account Recievable in private company. Contact email : dsouzadonald11@gmail.com

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

**7118. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in January 1981), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 87 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Graduate, working in Dhoha Metro, in Doha Qatar. Contact email : josephfernandes10@yahoo.com

**7116. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in December 1988), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 79 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Masters in Financial Management, working for US based Investment Bank in Compliance and Audit dept. Contact email : williamgonsalves123@gmail.com

**7114. GOA :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in January 1973), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 70 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. 12th + Dip. in Technical Field, working as a Projectionst in **KUWAIT**. Contact email : hiliarylobo48@gmail.com

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

**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

**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

**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

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

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

**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

**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

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# Royal Christian Family MATRIMONIALS - BRIDES

**7141. MUMBAI :** Affluent business family Protestant Spinster, (Born in November 1995), Ht. 5', Wt. 55 kgs., Fair complexion, good looking, Edn., M. Pharma, Student. Contact email : saloni.1995naik@gmail.com

**7269. CANADA :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1974), Ht. 5' 3", Wt.60 kgs, Fair, good looking, smart. Edn. B.Sc., working as a IT Officer. Well settled. Contact email : clotty.dsouza@gmail.com

**7195. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1990), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 57 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Com., well settled. Contact email : melinda.522@gmail.com OR Mob.: 9820561036

**7268. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1991), Ht. 5' 2", Wt.54 kgs, Fair, good looking, smart. Edn. MBA., working as an Senior Manager - Human Resources. Contact email : ashitadalmeida22@gmail.com

**7145 MUMBAI :** East Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1992), Ht. 5'1", Wt. 50 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Sc., Lecturer by profession. Contact email : andrea210358@gmail.com

**7262. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in November 1993), Ht. 5' 5", Wt.55 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. BA., BL/LLB, Profession : Air Hostess with SQ. Contact email : suzannedsouza@rediffmail.com

**7143. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1987), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.A. (Literature) working as a Sales & Marketing Manager. Contact email : irisedsouza@gmail.com

**7261. BANGALURU :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in June 1992), Ht. 5' 4", Wt.53 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MD., MS., MD Pathology completing in May

2022. Contact email : melpinto59@gmail.com

**7260. POONA :** Goan Roman Catholic Divorcee having one child. (Born in May 1975), Ht. 5' 5", Wt.56 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MA, working as a Librarian in reputed school in Poona. Contact email : hazelnaronha816@gmail.com

**7142. MUMBAI :** Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1981), Ht. 5'3", Wt. 62 kgs, Very Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA (HR) working as a HR Associate. Contact email : sunrays1227@gmail.com

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

**7139. MUMBAI :** Maharashtra Protestant Spinster, (Born in May 1993), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 47 kgs, Fair Complexion, good looking, Edn. B.Com., working as a Sr. Advisor in MNC. Contact email : shirley.jadhav@gmail.com

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

**7137. MUMBAI :** Karnataka Protestant Spinster, (Born in January 1996), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 54 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as an Accountant. Contact email : sujatareddy209@gmail.com

**7134. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1992), Ht. 5', Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Modification and Writer. Contact email : jacklinemascarenhas@gmail.com

**7131. DUBAI :** Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1990), Ht. 5'

5", Wt. 60 kgs, Tan Complexion, Edn. T.Y. B.Com., working as a Manager. Contact email : rebecca.raj06@gmail.com

**7127. MUMBAI :** Goan R.C. Spinster, (Born in December 1992), Ht. 5' 5", Edn. Ph.D., Student. Contact email : exmi2019@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

**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

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# Write M'lore Konkani in Roman script

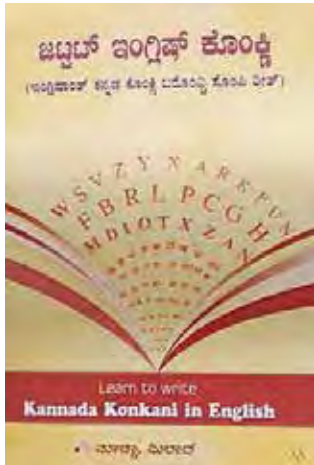
- Ivan Saldanha-Shet.

Konkani enthusiast and author of Mangalore, Marcel M D'Souza (who uses a pen name "Machha Milar") has come out with a bright idea that can help those who are keen in expressing themselves phonetically with high clarity in Mangalore version of Konkani, in Roman(English) script instead of Kannada script/lipi that normally is used, it will prove a boon to those who have no knowledge of Kannada. Konkani users in Goa use Roman/English script but their version is highly influenced by Portuguese pronunciation, which does not suit the current Kanadda orientation. The Govt Sahitya Academy encourages Dev Nagari officially. Mangalore version as other versions have unique norms.

It is said that Konkani has 42 dialects, regionally or community wise, so the possibilities are countless. But, the sweet sounding Mangalore GSB and Catholic Konkani are desired by the people here. With education options mainly English now, children now do not use Kannada as freely as some decades back. Also, the Non-residents are all familiar only with English/Roman script which makes it vital to have a meaningful simple method of writing in Roman script, generally accepted and understood by many more who can write home to elders who read English but are more familiar with Konkani. This two way method of communicating between generations and distance will definitely go a long way, say those aware and enthusiastic about their Mai Bhaas (Mother tongue).

And the creator Marcel M d'Souza all vocal about this.

To make this idea a reality and introduce a real basic system, author Marcel D'Souza has brought out a simple chart like booklet of just 12 pages called "Jatpat English Konkani" to base the use, this also appeals to the fast life of virtual technology now prevailing and is seen as a good tool for the young Konkani enthusiast world wide and it can develop in many ways.



Speaking on this matter, author Marcel Maam

zooms in saying, " My deep desire is to save the language of our ancestors for the future generations. Now that children commonly study English from an early age, the use of it to communicate in Konkani in the future is a must. The method shown in the booklet is not final - by usage and experience gradually a better system will evolve. It also makes me glad to note that this version tested in ...<https://kannada.changathi.com...>



Marcel M D'Souza "Machha Milar")

gives the correct output for the Kannada letters and converts to English script with great accuracy and ease. He adds an elderly lady here stated that she used this charted system to type Konkani prayers in English/roman script for her grandson who recited the prayers with clarity and ease. Hopefully this may set off a new trend and awareness and motivate the younger generation to be better aware in the use and understanding of basic simple Konkani communication and conversation. This may prove a path to save Konkani - a worthy idea and effort – long live Konkani..

# International Men's Day!

IMD is celebrated on 19 November. It recognizes the positive attributes men have made to the world; and spreads awareness about their well-being or health mentally, physically and even spiritually! The Theme for 2021 is, "Better Relations Between Men and Women!"

Dr. Jerome Teelucksingh established IMD in 1999 in honor of his father's birthday: "I realized there was no Day for men. Some have said that there is Father's Day (19 March, feast of St. Joseph), but what about young boys, teenagers, and men who are bachelor fathers like pastors, priests and Bishops?"

IMD highlights 'Six Pillars' of their unique contributions - nation, society, community, family, marriage and childcare. Samuel Johnson aptly defined: "The true measure of a man is how he treats someone who can do him absolutely no good!" This brings to my mind the stellar tasks of the renowned editors of our magazines, who keep us always updated on all aspects of human rights!

In India the inauguration was held on 19 November 2007. In 2014 Confidare Education Consultancy hosted an IMD art gallery in New Delhi. The Save Indian Family in Karnataka in association with two major Hospitals of Bangalore, Aster Hospitals and Real Hospital conducted a #Healthy-Him campaign on prostate cancer awareness. Participants wear a 'Blue Ribbon'. Prostate hyperplasia and cancer were 1.2 million cases in 2018, with a mortality of 359,000. Globally it is the second most common cancer!

As St. Paul instructs: "Let no one despise your youth; but set an example in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity" (1 Timothy 4:12).

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

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Three Our Father, three Hail Mary and three Glory be.

St Jude pray for us and all who invoke your aid. Amen.

(Publication must be promised.)

(This Novena has never been known to fail. This Novena must be said for 9 consecutive days.)

— Sebastian, Bangaluru

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- Certified by Government of India

- Gives protection from mosquitos for 3 months
- Bistar can be used: in house, housing societies, Lawns, Hospitals, hostels of various colleges.

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