

# THE SECULAR CITIZEN

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A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY

## Stop Looking For Mistakes From The Past

By PACHU MENON

*The country is now on the horns of a dilemma!*

A new generation of know-alls is hell-bent on raking up controversies with their vitriolic outbursts against - no, not the system mind you; but against personalities and events which have always been thought of and accepted as historic and momentous.

Somehow it is the penchant for zeroing in on the events of the pre-independence and the immediate period following it which has kept the controversy-makers engrossed.

Inflammatory statements by celebrities about incidents of the by-gone and the more testing era of Indian history - which have become a bit too frequent for comfort - demand an immediate censure and calls for stringent action to be initiated against the celebrated stars.

And it is all the more shocking to note that those raking up the controversies are neither the 'midnight children' - a passing reference to those born in 1947 or immediately thereafter - nor are they even remotely connected with the instances or individuals which have become the contentious issues.

Unfortunately, social media too, of late, has become a convenient platform for the contemporary generation to cast aspersions on the integrity of some of the icons of Indian history who have made a name for themselves as the architects of modern India.

Getting the country liberated from the shackles of colonial bondage was never an easy task and those who valiantly fought and gained us our freedom deserve the eternal admiration and gratitude of the countrymen.

Ascribing their own meaning to the freedom crusade, every individual and various other groups involved in

the freedom struggle drew up their own blueprints to give the motherland a dignified existence, free from the slavery and oppression of the British Empire.

While some favoured armed uprisings to the more non-violent methods others preached, they all will be equally remembered for their single-minded devotion to the task at hand.

Not to say that there was unanimity amongst the leaders about the approach chosen even then. But for many, the end justified the means. Yet, countless were the sacrifices made along the way!

Hence each and every one of them deserves the glorious mention in the nation's history for posterity to be proud of them.

But lately many youngsters seem to have developed a fondness for hauling highly revered leaders of the pre-independence era over the coals for 'mistakes' that could otherwise have steered the country in a totally different course, one that could have put the nation in a different orbit altogether.

While everyone has a right to form their own views and opinions about anything and everything under the sky, are we in a position today to deliberate on what prompted the great men to a particular course of action in the face of the adversities then.

No doubt we have largely depended on text books authored by the English for assimilating the facts on these matters. Despite repeated appeals, why were attempts then not made to change our syllabi and school texts to educate later generations from the Indian perspective!

Basically it is all about teaching youngsters Indian history as it was chronicled by Indian historians. For ages now, we are being fed an overdose of English

(Contd.. on p. 3)



## Secure School Children's Health

In pandemic, even with uncertainty, we must take actions that we anticipate will do the greatest good. Covid-19 infections and deaths are falling but investments in public health. So far, data suggests that children under the age of 18 years represent about 8.5% of reported cases, with relatively few deaths compared to other age groups and usually mild disease.

However, cases of critical illness have been reported. As with adults, pre-existing medical conditions have been suggested as a risk factor for severe disease and intensive care admission in children. Further studies are underway to assess the risk of infection in children and to better understand transmission in this age group.

Deciding to close, partially close or reopen schools should be guided by a risk-based approach, to maximize

the educational, well-being and health benefit for students, teachers, staff, and the wider community, and help prevent a new outbreak of COVID-19 in the community. Several elements should be assessed in deciding to reopen schools or keep them open: The epidemiology of COVID-19 at the local level: This may vary from one place to another within a country



C.K. Subramaniam

In India we achieved 100 crore jabs recently and it is commendable. But for children it is getting delayed. Children are the future of this country and we should do a world of good in assessing

the children's health condition at short notice and make positive moves in achieving 100% vaccination for children sooner. The target for children is further delayed and it seems that it is expected by February-March early next year. Without administering Co-

vid19 jab it is very risky to send children to school. It is high time that the process should begin at a faster pace so that the children can get ready for the next session and attend school without fear.

It is already 2 years of online classes going on and as such basic fundamentals are totally forgotten. The education aspect of 1st and second standard children is being compromised in the process. Nothing can be better than attending school and learning the basics in the best way possible. Whether a child should go to school depends on their health condition, the current transmission of COVID-19 within their community, and the protective measures the school and community have in place to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. While current evidence suggests that the risk of severe disease for children is lower overall than for adults, special precautions can be taken to minimize the risk of infection among children, and the benefits of returning to school should also be considered.

Current evidence suggests that people with underlying conditions such as chronic respiratory illness including asthma (moderate-to-severe), obesity, diabetes or cancer, are at higher risk of developing severe disease and death than people without other health conditions. This also appears to be the case for children, but more information is still needed. There are several actions and requirements that should be reviewed and put in place to prevent the introduction and spread of COVID-19 in schools and into the community; and to ensure the safety of children and school staff while at school. Special provisions should be considered for early childhood development, higher learning institutions, residential schools or specialized institutions. The learning curve should be completed with much focus on physical presence of children in classes and for which we need to have classes with science labs etc., for any useful learning. There is no doubt about it.

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(Contd.. from p. 1)

narratives authored by British and other European historians.

But it has always remained a wonder that even after decades of independence, successive governments have shunned any attempts to ameliorate the standards of education by moving away from the style instituted by the British and adopted a 'desi' version where the thrust would have been more on educating youngsters from the Indian perspective.

The Anglicization of Indians has been so thorough and complete that even after seven-odd decades the British in us has yet to set us free. But how right would it be to deny our children the knowledge that would make them 'pucca' Indians!

Beginning from the glorification of the Moghul dynasty to the advent of the East India Company and the subsequent suppression of native Indians, we are always taught that foreigners always invaded India and ruled it. Are we to believe that our nation has always lived in subjugation!

There is hence an urgent need to 'Indianize' not only our education sys-

tem but also our mindset and the very way we think!

Great men and women, some known and an equal number of unknowns; some who died in glory while others embraced anonymity to their graves; it has been a long list of patriotic Indians who fought valiantly and gained freedom for the motherland, quite often at the cost of their lives.

Besides this there were leaders who were directing the freedom movement through daring acts of defiance and deliberations with the British rulers. With both sides either gaining or conceding advantages during the parleys, some politics would have inadvertently characterized the proceedings.

If it is however the 'conceding' element that is bringing them 'disrepute' from the modern generation, let us not forget that no matter how great the leaders, they too were humans and not above erring in their decisions.

Both the above mentioned 'classes' strived for the same cause and gained the country freedom from the yokes of slavery. Shouldn't that be enough to place them on the high-pedestal of eminence and revered through the ages!

But no, many have mastered this art of unnecessarily delving into the past and summarily dismissing the documented proof of the heroics of those whom they have decided to discredit and condemn into the depths of ignominy without understanding the facts.

It's time we decided to look straight ahead, at a future that could be as rosy as it was bleak during the colonial era. Contributing to the nation-building plans envisaged, it can be ensured that India takes up an effective role within the world community.

Instead of living in the past, the younger generation should be streamlining all its energy towards steering India onto the path of self-reliance - an Aatmanirbhar Bharat!



by Pachu Menon

## Nature's Wonders Point to the Great Unknown

The distant hills keep moving towards the Great Unknown,  
The great ocean rolls on to meet the vast blue sky,  
The clouds above sail thro' the mighty vaults of space,  
The brown earth stretches forth to reach the Elysian Fields.

The darkness of night descends upon weary Mother Earth,  
While a million stars peep thro' the firmament on high,  
Showers of light pour down from the radiant Realm above,  
Filling hearts that look up yonder, with much hope and joy.

Far, far away, from the bustle of this life,  
Way beyond the curtain of the starry sky,  
There's an Abode -- everserene, calm and still,  
Where the simple and the humble will find eternal peace.

Miles and miles of desert sand never seem to end,  
Stretching thro' a lonely, dry and lifeless wilderness,  
Leading to that Great Oasis, balmy, cool and green,  
Haven for the folks who'll only rest, when life's goal's attained.

The lush green forests and verdant grasslands,  
Spread o'er hills and valleys and glorious plains,  
Lead to an Eden full of flowers -- ever fragrant, ever fresh,  
Where true servants of the people find eternal bliss.

Dancing streams and roaring rivers surging ever forward,  
Along their scenic paths to the mighty ocean waters.  
Give life to every kind, of fish, and bird and beast,  
And humans ever restless till they meet the Great Unknown.

—Joseph M. Dias, S.J.  
Snehasadan, Mumbai.

## Rev. Dr John Baptist Saldanha as the New PRO for the diocese of Mangalore

Mangaluru, Nov 22: Most Rev. Dr Peter Paul Saldanha, Bishop of Mangalore has appointed Rev. Dr John Baptist Saldanha as the new Public Relations Officer (PRO) for the diocese of Mangalore for a period of three years. He will assume office today, November 22, 2021 and will work along with Roy Castelino, the Lay PRO appointed last year.



He succeeds Fr Vijay Victor Lobo, procurator, diocese of Mangalore who was holding this office so far. Currently, Fr J B Saldanha serves as the Parish Priest of St Francis Xavier's Church, Bejai Church and Manager of the prestigious Lourdes Central School, Bejai. In addition, Fr J B Saldanha has been also appointed as the diocesan spiritual director of Catholic Sabha with effect from November 15. This office was lying vacant due to the sudden demise of Fr Mathew Vas.

Fr J B Saldanha has earlier served as the Professor and Head of Chair in Christianity, Mangalore University. He holds a Ph.D. from the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, and MA in Sociology (Osmania University), MA in Applied Ethics (Leuven University, Belgium), MA in Religious Studies (Leuven University, Belgium), diploma in Depth Counselling and Diploma in Developmental Journalism. He has authored several books and religious articles.

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## Make Hindi Mass compulsory for all Catholics!

The English language Mass celebrated in our local parish churches on Sundays, weekdays and on church feast days are very boring. No action songs are sung like retreat centres. At retreat centres, the Mass is celebrated for more than two hours with a lively homily and action songs unlike the Mass celebrated in our parish churches. The homily in our parish churches are very boring and no action songs are sung. Hindi Mass and Hindi action songs are more meaningful than the English Mass. Hence, English language Mass should be discontinued in all churches across India. Hindi is also our national language.

—**Jubel D'Cruz,**  
**Dombivili, Mumbai**

## Amalgamation of PMC bank

RBI's draft scheme for the amalgamation of the beleaguered Punjab Maharashtra Co-operative Bank (PMC) with the newly set up Unity Small Finance Bank (USFB) will undoubtedly bring some relief to the lakhs of PMC bank depositors whose hard earned life savings have been locked up and in jeopardy since September 23, 2019. It may be recalled that during this period several depositors have undergone mental trauma and a harrowing time struggling to make ends meet with the measly Rs 1 lakh permitted as maximum withdrawal amount by the RBI. While many have died for

want of money to meet their medical expenses, a few others have ended their life in desperation. And now with the new RBI draft that proposes to pay depositors their money in stages and their full amount only after 10 years, I wonder how many of the senior citizens in particular will live to see the light of day and enjoy their hard earned life savings. An amendment of the draft scheme is therefore necessary to make it more meaningful and beneficial.

—**A. F. Nazareth,**  
**Alto Porvorim, Goa**

## Withdrawal of Farm Laws

The three contentious Farm Laws are being withdrawn in parliament, after all. After having repeatedly stated by several ruling party leaders that the farm laws would not be withdrawn, come what may, the government seems to have finally blinked. The prime minister himself made the announcement for withdrawal of the three laws.

So, why are the laws being withdrawn? Is it the upcoming elections in several states including U.P. that prompted them to initiate withdrawal of the Laws? In spite of the government insistence that the laws were meant to protect the interests of the farmers, why this climb down? The farmers on their part must be complemented for the grit and determination displayed in their protests. They endured the hostile weather conditions, heat & rains and did not budge. It is said that, once the farmer takes the plough, there is no way he can turn back; he would return only after the job is complete. They seem to have done just that when they left their

homes a year back and set out for the agitation on the road to the Delhi borders.

What are the lessons to be learnt from this episode? Well, the most important thing is not to underestimate the power of the people, not to take them for granted. Going forward, while formulating Laws in future, the authorities need to take into confidence those likely to be affected. And this is true, not just in the case of framing laws but the several infrastructure projects which are undertaken only to get stalled on account of protests by those affected by these projects. You cannot bulldoze your way through all the time. And it has been proved on several occasions where the might of the citizens has prevailed. Consensus is the key, not the brute majority in parliament.

—**Melville X. D'Souza**  
**Orlem, Malad West**  
**Mumbai**

## The soaring price of tomatoes

The price of tomatoes has risen to more than Rs 100 a kilo in several states of India, including Maharashtra and has become even costlier than apples.

Torrential rains in Karnataka and other parts of the country have spoiled the crops very badly, raising the prices of tomatoes and other vegetables to over Rs 100 a kilo. This is posing a financial burden on both farmers and consumers. Very soon, the common man will have to cook food without using tomatoes.

Tomatoes are the major dietary source of the antioxidant lycopene, which has been linked to many health benefits, including reduced risk of heart disease and cancer. They are also a great source of vitamin C, potassium, folate and vitamin K.

—**Jubel D'Cruz,**  
**Dombivili, Mumbai**

# Some Things Never Change

by Don Aguiar.

During the depths of the Great Depression in 1932 an Ohio lawyer named Benjamin Roth wrote in his diary:

*People think if more money were printed business would be better. This is a false and vicious theory ... I am personally very much concerned with the question of inflation and it seems to me there is a grave possibility it will come unless the government at once balances its budget. With an election coming this seems out of the question.*

*A few months later, he wrote: There is also considerable discussion about the new science of "technography" which holds that new machinery has replaced many men in industry who will never find a job again.*

When I first read those a decade ago I couldn't believe how similar they were to what people said after the 2008 recession and the 2019-2020 pandemic. Now they're relevant again today. You can copy and paste those paragraphs into any current newspaper and they'd fit right in. Some things never change.

Emperor Ashoka, in one of his Rock

Edicts said, "One should not honour only one's own religion and condemn other religions. Instead, one should honour other religions for various reasons. By so doing one helps one's own religion to grow and also renders service to the religions of others. In acting otherwise one digs the grave of one's own religion and harms other religions as well. Someone who honours his own religion and condemns other religions may do so out of devotion to his religion, thinking, "I will glorify my religion"; but his actions injure his own religion more gravely. Concord is good. Let all listen and be willing to listen to the doctrines professed by others."

If the protestant pastors in India could understand the above that we may profess Christ by our actions of love and not accusing the other religions especially Hindus that they are worshipping the devil. Jesus is the only God..... If you don't worship Jesus you will go to hell..... Salvation is only through Jesus..... And invite problems, about 80 percent attacks on Christians could be avoided. They preach like this to others. If they can stop this and share love, practically, the attacks on Christians may reduce to the minimum. They even call Catholics as idol worshippers and not faithful people to God. Why are more than eighty percent attacks on protestant pastors? Alas, there is no difference for them between criticising other religions and criticising other denominations or Rites. Some things never change.

Anthropologist Franz Boas says, "Every culture has its own genius and should be judged in its own terms."

Sure, but every culture and era also share universal characteristics that repeat again and again. The same attitudes, the same flaws, the same stories that show up all over the place.

They're reflections of how people's heads work no matter where they live or when they were born.

Those common behaviours are what I find the most interesting from history because they're not just trivia – you can be nearly assured that they'll eventually impact your own life.

Social sciences get a bad rap because so many insights are hard or impossible to reproduce. I think the only solution is paying special attention to the few behaviours that have repeated themselves throughout history.

One that sticks out: *No one knows how they'll respond to risk and setback until they're in the moment of terror.*

Varlam Shalamov was a poet who spent 15 years imprisoned in the Gulag. He once wrote how quickly normal people can crack under stress and uncertainty. Take a good, honest, loving person and strip them of basic necessities and you'll soon get an unrecognizable monster who'll do anything to survive. Under high stress, "A man becomes a beast in three weeks".

That, he said, is why history is full of so many unspeakable acts. It doesn't take much stress for people to abandon their beliefs and say, "Fine, let's go this other way now." So you never know what people are capable of believing or doing until they're backed in a corner.

The stakes are lower and outcomes far different, but a similar thing happens when people find themselves trapped in economic stress and uncertainty. There's a long history of countries embracing policies they would have found unthinkable until they're hit with an economic shock, when fringe ideas are quickly embraced.

(Contd.. on p. 7)

## THE SECULAR CITIZEN

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(Contd.. from p. 6)

Low taxes were the most popular economic platform before the 2014s, and anyone suggesting a hike was pushed aside. Then everything broke with the election of the NDA Government. In 2018 Prime Minister Modi said: "I do not think that the economy is spiraling downwards nor is secularism and democratic values being deprived to any Indian citizen." He was re-elected in a landslide the next year.

Same with the NDA assured revolution for economic upliftment. Almost 80% of Indians had high trust in the government in 2014. Then the 2019s happened.

*After years of high inflation with high unemployment, gas shortages, chaos in liberal cities, and epic government corruption, communalism, and incompetence, by 2020 a large audience of Indians was ready to listen when the opposition parties blamed the country's decline on business regulations and other government interventions in the market.*

Same with the three farm laws introduced quickly through ordinance. The farmers protest erupted in November 2020 following the government's announcement to promulgate the three controversial farm laws. For almost a year the government used its entire might of the state power to make the farmers prostrate on their knees. The government remained firm not to budge an inch come what may, but equally the farmers stood their ground. It was such a big topic in the early 2021s, even among the opposition parties. In the end, the government relented when it got convinced that it's likely to be guillotined at the altar of democracy in the coming hustings at Uttar Pradesh and Punjab.

The spiking of the farm laws is not the first incidence of going back foot: Modi has done this three times before reverting its decision under popular pressure.

First it was compelled to freeze the Land Acquisition and Resettlement

(Second Amendment) Bill, 2015 that aimed to dilute the 2013 law which replaced 1894 colonial law, because of the protest by the farmers and common people.

Second, the government was forced to stop the implementation of the biometric National Population Register (NPR) part of the UID/Aadhar Number project under the Citizenship Act because of massive protest across the country.

Third, the government withdrew the Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance (FRDI) Bill, 2017 due to a movement led by the All India Bank Employees Association (AIBEA), All India Bank Officers Confederation (AIBOC), and Bank Employees Federation of India (BEFI).

The withdrawal of the FRDI Bill from the Lok Sabha gave a huge sigh of relief to bank depositors and account holders because their deposits will no longer be used to bail out failing institutions as was proposed.

However, the government with its scorpion mentality has been trying since 2019 to reintroduce the with-

drawn FRDI bill in the guise of the Financial Sector Development and Regulation (Resolution) Bill (FSDR). This bill has so far not been passed by the parliament but after repealing the farm laws, it remains to be seen will the government try to get it passed or eat its humble pie.

Time and again we see that preferences are fickle, and views that a big chunk of society would have thought unthinkable can be quickly embraced when the policies/economy changes direction. So we really have no idea what policies we'll be pushing for in, say, five or ten years. Hard times make people do and think things they'd never imagine when things are calm.

Your personal views fall for the same trap. In investing, saying "I will be greedy when others are fearful" is easier said than done, because people underestimate how much their views and goals can change when markets break.

You never know what the Indian public is going to do, but you know that they will do it all at once. Some things never change.

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# ' The strawberry / pink / golden/ leucistic leopard

By Peter Castellino

**F**or the very first time in India's history people in Rajasthan's Pali district in the Ranakpur region in the Aarvalli hills and Rajasmand district 's Kumbhalgarh areas spotted a rare pink leopard which was confirmed by officials and the DCF Fateh Singh Rathore said it was only recently caught on camera which experts say is due to a genetic condition but people in Ranakpur had spotted the pink leopard several times earlier but only recently was the strawberry-coloured coat leopard photographed in the region and retired India Forest Officer Sunayan Sharma said the leopard was a mature female with a cub and pink colour is an example of a rare mutation he has not come across.

Mr Fateh Singh the deputy conservator of forests said that the colour is due to a skin mutation and scientist Dr Y V Jhala of Wildlife Institute of India said that the leopard had a light coat colour and a natural variation but was not an albino.

Anil Rodgers of the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau said this was India's first strawberry / leucistic leopard and that the wildlife department should step up monitoring of this animal as there was a threat from poachers and photographers who might disturb its habitat.

Zoologists say that the strawberry leopard is a variant of cats due its body and photographer Hitesh Motwani photographed the leopard after a four-day search and said it five to six years old.

Last month Pune's forest department officials launched an investigation after receiving reports of leopard sightings in the city's Mohammad wadi area and the department said that they have received the reports along with security camera footage from residents of two housing societies of

the area.

A leopard cannot change its spots but it can change its colour and African leopards have tawny coats with black spots but conservationists said that a male leopard with a strawberry coloured coat was seen in South Africa's Madikwe Game Reserve in April 14 , 2012 and tourists in the reserve sometimes see the unusual animal and recently photographer and safari guide Deon De Villiers sent a photograph to experts at Panthera- a US based wildcat conservation group to ask them about the leopard's odd colouration whose President Luke Hunter suspects that the leopard has erythrism - a little -understood genetic condition that causes either an overproduction of red pigments or an underproduction of dark pigments and Hunter whose group collaborates with National Geographic's Big Cats Initiative ie the Society which owns National Geographic News says it is really rare and he does not know about a credible example in leopards and is surprising that the leopard was not photographed earlier since it is used to vehicles.

Hunter noted that erythrism is very unusual in carnivores appearing mostly in raccoons, Eurasian badgers and coyotes and there are some spotted leopard skins and melanistic specimens ie black panthers in museums with red undertones caused by fading.

Melanism is an unusual development of black or nearly black colour in an animal's skin fur or plumage and the strawberry leopard is healthy and suffers no ill consequences from its pinkish hue according to Hunter and the leopard's coat provides it some camouflage- since leopards rely on their spotted fur to sneak up on prey and ambush them from as close as 13 feet/ 4 meters away.

On August 20 , 2019 a couple captured stunning images on a motion sensitive camera set up by Alan Watson , 45 and his wife Lynsey 41 at the

Thaba Tholo Wilderness Reserve in late July with the camera pinned on a tree near a dead giraffe killed in an intense thunderstorm as per the UK based outlet SWNS to capture images of scavengers coming for their next meal but instead got the first pictures of a rare strawberry leopard named for its red coat feasting/ eating a dead giraffe at a South African game reserve in the wild according to the Daily Mail.

Alan told SWNS they thought they would get photos of grass blades but shockingly captured the unusual creature on camera which is the rarest leopard colour in the world and hopefully will bring new people to the lodge according to Alan the Black Leopard Mountain Lodge owner in the reserve.

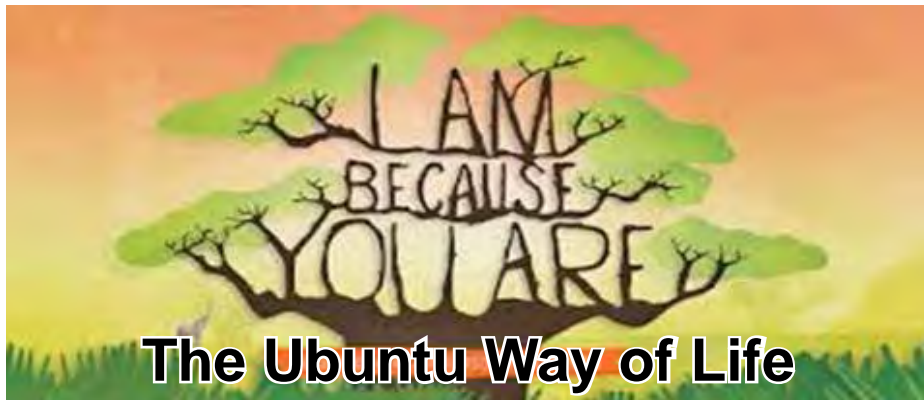
People come to see wildlife in the area and go away disappointed not seeing leopards since they are well camouflaged and incredibly elusive - even the ones going through the long grass cannot be seen and they do not want to be seen nobody can see them.

According to SWNS the strawberry leopard was first discovered in 2012 near Botswana's border and the cats are pink due to a recessive mutation called erythrism and the mutation is caused by a recessive gene similar to that which affects albino animals according to a 2013 National Geographic blog post where the mutation results with the animal overproducing red pigments or underproducing dark pigments and in humans erythrism causes red hair and freckles according to the Huffington Post.

A pink grasshopper with the same mutation was recently spotted in an English garden.

Thus we see the importance of the strawberry / pink / golden / leucistic leopard which must be studied holistically and more thoroughly in India in all aspects of its life and breeding behavior to fully understand it and find out unique aspects of it.





**U**buntu is an African word meaning 'humanity to others'. It emphasizes a bond among all humanity. It encompasses the social, political and cultural life of the individual. It is Jesus' gospel of love "Love one another as I have loved you."

It is said that Nelson Mandela was influenced by the ubuntu philosophy. He believed that we are all united by the common thread of humanity. He won over people with gestures such as the introduction of his jailers as guests at his inauguration ceremony. He was indeed a great statesman and humanist.

There are cases galore where ubuntu is practiced, though those practicing it were unaware of this word. The Acts of the Apostles describes how early Christians stayed in a commune and shared everything in common. The Christians in Rome sent a large sum of money to their brethren in Corinth.

In India, the nuclear family is gradually replacing the large joint families. As with every social organization, the joint family had its drawbacks but at the same time, it provided a support system for the very young, the elderly and the sick. A child in a nuclear family, for instance, was left in the hands of a paid maid to take care of him while the parents went off to work whereas in a joint family, the child would have had doting grandparents to teach him and give him abundant love.

I once read this story where a bunch of kids were told that they should run a race and the one who came first would win all the sweets. To the surprise of the organizers, the kids joined hands

and happily ran to the finish point in order to equally share the sweets.

Atmavishwas in Verna, Goa is a workshop for mentally challenged young adults. There are strong bonds within the group. There was one incident when the entire group was to sing on the stage. Who doesn't want to be in the limelight? To the chagrin of the teachers of Atmavishwas, the youngsters started backing out because one girl got cold feet and absented herself from the venue. A delegation with some of her friends was sent to her house to persuade her to join the group on stage. It was only after she arrived that the group happily trooped onto the stage.



by *Monica Fernandes*

A heartwarming event took place at the recent Tokyo Olympics. Both Mutaz-Essa Barshim of Qatar and Gianmarco Tamberi despite three attempts, could not clear the 2.39 meter bar. In the true spirit of sportsmanship, instead of having a 'jump off', Mutaz suggested that he and Gianmarco could share the gold medal. The rest is history.

The camaraderie and fellowship shared among our valiant jawans guarding our borders braving the icy winds and the biting cold is truly inspirational. Caste, creed, social status – all these are forgotten. United we stand, divided we fall.

We could follow the ubuntu principle in numerous ways. Rayna and Sunita were classmates. While Rayna excelled in English, she was weak in Maths. With Sunita it was just the reverse. Both the girls decided to study

together. Rayna coached Sunita in English while Sunita helped Rayna to improve her Maths.

Sheila was part of a very tight group of girls from her school. Sheila's parents were going through a messy divorce. While her father paid for Sheila's school fees, he refused to provide them with food and would even raise his hand on them. Poor Sheila would land up at a friend's house in the evenings and say that she just wanted to taste the food whereas she was actually starving. Her friends had warned their parents to carry on the charade and pretend to believe Sheila. When Sheila claimed that her black eye was because she bumped into the fridge, they just told her to be more careful. Sheila's mother's family were a great support during the divorce proceedings. The story has a happy ending. After Sheila's parents divorced, her mother started working with the encouragement of her family. Today Sheila is a happy person.

The family is the building block of society and hence, the home is the ideal place for the ubuntu principle. The younger generation could help their parents in chores and teach them how to operate various apps. The family could pray, play games such as scrabble and watch TV programs together. The family meal on the dining table together is a good place to foster closer bonds between grandparents, parents and children.

Society could be likened to the human body. Each organ has a role to play. If there is a malfunction in one part of the body, say one has a massive headache, the entire body suffers. So too, it's not altruism but to our own self interest to co-operate with one another. This humanistic approach may appear idealistic in a world increasingly dominated by cut throat competition and individualism. But it is a way of life needed during these times.

I conclude with the words of a hymn which are so relevant today :  
 "The world stands in need of liberation, my Lord,  
 It still has to learn to love."

**B**eing the only child, I was the apple of my parents' eyes. Everything they did revolved around me and my happiness. Being a daughter, as the rule goes, I was always a daddy's girl. Though I loved both of them equally yet somewhere dad always had a special place. Like in all the houses dad was the softer one and mom the tougher one. Mom's scolding would not affect me so much but one stare from dad was enough to make me cry. I lived a beautiful childhood with lot of care and support from my parents.

If this was one side of the story the other part was the relationship which my parents shared. They were and still are the couple I look up to as my role model. Dad always helped Mom even before her asking since she also works. He made it a point to make all things easy for her so that she needn't had to struggle for anything. My mom on the other hand managed the work and house perfectly never complaining.

Our relatives and friends always envied my mom and often called her fragile because she did not know how to manage the worldly affairs, her world sort of revolved around her work and family. They used to always talk about her dependency on dad and what she would do without him. Though I never felt she was weak but very often I wondered how she would manage if any situation would occur and my dad wouldn't be around to help her.

After almost two-and-a-half years of my marriage I conceived and this was a great joy to my parents, they had cherished this dream from long and were all happy and waiting for the arrival of their little grandchild. All went on smoothly; my mom had begun her preparations collecting little clothes for baby, arranging for a caretaker etc.



When everything looked smooth and bright that's when on a fateful morning, I began experiencing severe stomach pain and back ache. I was in unbearable pain and trauma and I was rushed to the hospital and made to lie there still. Everything was normal - I had completed 3 months 20 days, I had built dreams and had painted my life hoping for the arrival of the little one.

I remember lying in the bed and screaming out of pain and I could



by Sonal Lobo

see just one face all the time next to me holding my hands and that was my mother. She stood there as I cried and screamed in pain and despair, she stood there when I began bleeding, she stood there when the doctors failed to detect baby's heart beat and she stood there when doctor told me my baby was dead and it had to be pulled out. She stood there strong without showing her grief. When I blamed myself and wondered why, she held me tight and told me that it was okay and everything would be fine.

I knew it was not fine for her, I knew how much she wanted to hold my little one in her hands. Yet she did not let a tear drop from her eyes just to assure that I wouldn't feel bad. I knew my husband and my dad standing outside were crying. They couldn't come inside and look into my eyes; they had lost their strength and were sitting quiet. But my mom whom the entire world

termed as weak and fragile stood with me continuously. I struggled for 5 hours to put my baby outside and she stood by her daughter those 5 hours supporting her. Even after I was discharged and brought home never did, she cry, never did she blame the doctor nor the almighty, she just took care of me and again managed her work, my house and saw that I was safe and secure.

This incident was an eye opener for me, though I had lost my child the mother in me was crying but the daughter in me recognized the value of my mother. I realized her strength, patience and her immense ability. She was going through a storm yet she remained calm and handled me, my dad and my husband. I am sure she would have gone out and wept loudly but she saw to that every time she faced me, she was calm and showed no remorse. My dad and my husband had gone blank not knowing what to do. But the so-called weak woman stood beside me like a pillar and handled everything smoothly.

That day I acknowledged the strength and grit of my mom, she was a lady of substance. I always loved her but from that day my respect for her had taken a new dimension. She is the kind of woman I want to be. She is not the lady who roams around with branded phones and speaks fluent English. She does not attend parties and she is not a member of ladies' club. But I realized she was a lady with class and dignity. She was a perfect mother and her love for her child was priceless. Even today when the entire world asks me again when I plan for a kid she never ever forces me and asks me to recover completely, not just physically but also emotionally, exhibiting the selfless attitude of her love.

It is said God does everything for the good of His people, even though losing my kid was devastating it taught me so many things. It made me stronger, it made me understand the worth of people around me and above all the real essence of being a mother.

# Return To Holiness: Christ Is Coming

## INVITATION FOR JOURNEYING TOGETHER

### 3RD Sunday in Advent

Be not sanctimonious. It is wrong. Be genuine, provide honest, authentic thoughts to inspire and encourage family members, loved ones and neighbors, including the disbelievers among us. This is the precious Season of Advent, a time to share in the joy and happiness of the coming Christ. Let this moment be a call to faith – a call to legitimize evangelization.

John the Baptist spoke in holiness to his listeners and with authority to pave the way for the Messiah, through repentance and in changing the way they lived. He told them not to cheat, or exploit, but honestly share their possessions with family and friends. (Lk.3:10-18).

At one point the Baptist said: "I baptize you with water, but someone is coming, who is more powerful than me, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

Today's Gospel informs us of the Baptist's exhortation. John believed that in order to be fruitful we should do good and lead others to doing good, making the faithful assist the poor in their daily needs, and to give them advice.

Let us tap into the rich tapestry of the nativity; of charismatic men and women, sages and prophets who embody the love for Christian proselytizing. The prophet Isaiah said: "Shout and sing for joy, for great is your midst is the Holy One of Israel". Isaiah went on to say, "behold, God is my salvation, I will trust, and will not be afraid. For the Lord God is my strength and my song, and he has become my salva-

tion". (Is.12:2-3).

Saint Paul, in his letter to the Philipians stated: "Rejoice in the Lord, always! I say it again: rejoice, and may everyone experience your gentle and understanding heart. The Lord is near...." (Phil.4:4-7).

Advent takes on an extra spiritual dimension when we prepare the way in prayer, meditation and the rituals we possess, in the values and traditions of the Church." Do this for the Lord God, who comes."

The apostle of Christ writes, that Christ brought us the message of peace, love, justice and truth. Christmas is the ultimate celebration for mankind. God is with us. Our long wait is over. The journey of Faith will be harnessed for the common good of all.



BY MELVYN BROWN

Return to holiness, for the Word has become flesh and lives with us. St. John, the apostle, in his Gospel wrote: "And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us; and we have seen his glory, the glory of the only Son of the Father: fullness of truth and loving kindness." (Jn.1:14).

A Well-intentioned priest once told me across a varnished coffee table: "We don't live in a vacuum, but in Christ Jesus. The occasion of Advent helps us over the years, each time, to prepare our spiritual lives to overcome mundane burdens darkened always by the vicissitudes of life."

Rejoice in the Lord. Share in the reflected understanding of his love and compassion, which Jesus Brings us this Third Sunday in Advent. Pave the way, for the Lord is coming !

The Indian Catholic Forum, a collective of Catholics in India seeking the reform and renewal of the church, is organising a gathering of like minded persons on 5th/6th February 2022 in Bangalore, to reflect on the Synod 2021-23 called by Pope Francis. As per the Synod Guidelines such initiatives by lateral organizations are expected to submit a 10 page synthesis (not consensus) of their findings to the Vatican by 30th April 2022.

In the spirit of the Synod this gathering "Journeying Together – the Path Ahead" will be one of Sharing – Praying – Listening – Dialoguing – Recording and Synthesising. Hence there will be no Chief Guests, ceremonies or key note speakers. Jesus will be the Chief Guest and every participant will be a Guest of Honour.

For details of the programme and registration contact the undersigned at Mob 9415130822 email: noronha.kp@gmail.com or Sri Anil Piers, Organising Secretary at Bangalore, Mob 9980326064 email: anil.piers@deejayfarm.com

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### Doctor's advice

Wife: Why do you wear your specs only when I come in.  
Husband: The doctor has ordered me to wear my specs whenever I get an headache.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Sick and Silly PJ

Teacher: How many letters are there totally in "A.B.C.D"?  
Student: 4  
Teacher: I meant the complete set, not just "A.B.C.D"  
Student: 52  
Teacher: What?! How?  
Student: Lower case 26 and Upper case 26.

\*\*\*\*\*

### The funny soup

Customer in a hotel: Waiter, this soup tastes funny!  
Waiter: Oh!, the chef must have been laughing when he prepared it sir.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Knock Knock Max

Knock knock!  
Who's there?  
Max.  
Max who?  
Max no difference to you, just open up and let me in!

\*\*\*\*\*

### Lady next door

Man1: Your kid just looks like you.  
Man2: Shhh, not so loud. That's the next door lady's kid.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Man and his son joke

Man 1: My son does not listen to anything that I say.  
Man 2: Is he so adamant?  
Man 1: No, he is deaf.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Two men in a bar

Two men were chatting in a bar. One says "Where are you from?".  
Second man replies "I come from somewhere where we do not end a sentence with a preposition".

"Alright" says the first man, "Where are you from idiot?"

\*\*\*\*\*

### Months of the year

Teacher: What is the first month?



Student: January  
Teacher: What is the second month?  
Student: February  
Teacher: What is the tenth month?  
Student: Delivery

\*\*\*\*

### Silly Amy

Teacher: "Amy, what do you call the outside of a tree?"  
Student: "No idea miss"  
Teacher told angrily: "Bark, Amy".  
Amy: "Bow Wow Wow Miss"

\*\*\*\*

### Thieves in the kitchen

Wife to her husband: Wake up. Some thieves have broken into our house. I think they are now eating the food I made last night.  
Husband: Oh! Let's better call the ambulance then.

\*\*\*\*

### Stale

An elderly married couple were walking in the park the other day and noticed a young man and woman sitting on a bench, kissing passionately.

The wife asked, "Why don't you do like that man?"

The husband replied, "I don't even know that woman!"

\*\*\*\*

### Husband and Wife

My wife always told me that if I wanted breakfast in bed, then I would have to sleep in the kitchen

Husband: Do you know that John who lives next door has two girlfriends unknown to wife.

Wife: Who is the other one?

\*\*\*\*

### Mother in law and the clock

My wife complained the other day that our kitchen clock almost killed her mother.  
It fell seconds after where she had been sitting. That darned clock al-

ways was slow.

\*\*\*\*

### Doctor and Patient

Doctor: Have you ever fainted before?  
Patient: Yes, the last time you told me your fees.

Wife: The doctor has come to see you.  
Husband: Tell him that I am not feeling well and won't be able to see anyone.

Patient to his friend: The nurse in this hospital is really wonderful. She touched me and my fever got cured immediately.  
Friend: Yeah, I could hear her touch your cheek in the next room.

\*\*\*\*

### Funny Patients and Doctors

Doctor to a rich man: Do you prefer a local anesthesia?  
Rich man: I would rather prefer an imported one.

A woman went to the Doctor and said "When I looked in the mirror this morning, I saw my hair was frizzy, my skin wrinkly, my eyes bloodshot – what is wrong with me?".  
The Doctor replied "Well the good news is that your eyesight is fine".

\*\*\*\*

### LOL

Man 1: After buying this new hearing aid, I am able to hear something two blocks away.  
Man 2: Cool, how much did it cost?  
Man 1: The time is three past ten.

\*\*\*\*

### The insult

My brother is a terrible musician. The other day he asked my sister if she had heard his last recital.  
She replied: "I certainly hope so".

\*\*\*\*

### Hilarious one or two line jokes

Question: If you catch it, you will throw it away. If you don't catch it, you will keep it. What is it?  
Answer: Lice

Dad's writes on son's Facebook wall: "Dear Son, How are you?  
All are fine here. We miss you a lot. Please!! TURN OFF THE COMPUTER & COME DOWN FOR DINNER!!!"

# Inviting Proposals for **USA Settled** Indian Christian Brides and Grooms

## Grooms

MU291119 - Age 34, Edn. MBA., PG.  
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 MU121586 - Age 50, Edn. M. Eng.  
 MU311596 - Age 43, Edn. B.Sc.,  
 MU221671 - Age 35, Edn. ME., M.Tech. MS  
 MU231795 - Age 42, Edn. MBA, PG., MS  
 MU111888 - Age 35, Edn. Masters (IT)  
 MU412052 - Age 30, Edn. ME., M.Tech.  
 MU222121 - Age 32, Edn. M.Phil., Neu.Sc.  
 MU112144 - Age 34, Edn. BE., B.Tech.,  
 MU212208 - Age 41, Edn. BE., B.Tech.,  
 MU332212 - Age 31, Edn. BE., B.Tech., (IT)  
 MU212277 - Age 30. Edn. M.Sc., Masters  
 MU332283 - Age 33. Edn. BE., (IT)  
 MU122288 - Age 32. Edn. Masters. BE.,  
 MU142503 - Age 40 Edn. M.Sc.,  
 MU122509 - Age 36. Edn. MD., MS., (IT)  
 MU112929 - Age 35. Edn. M.Sc.,  
 MU112936 - Age 30. Edn. ME., M.Tech., MS

## Brides

FU322205 - Age 30, Edn. M.Pharma.Mastrs  
 FU112233 - Age 29, Edn. ME., M.Tech.  
 FU232338 - Age 28, Edn. B.Sc.,  
 FU211009 - Age 32, Edn. BE., B.Tech. (IT)  
 FU321130 - Age 36, Edn. MA., MBA.  
 FU221208 - Age 32, Edn. M.Sc., Medical  
 FU311427 - Age 35, Edn. MBA., PG., BE.  
 FU221435 - Age 31, Edn. MD., MS.  
 FU231576 - Age 29, Edn. Masters, MS.,  
 FU132065 - Age 29, Edn. M.Sc.,  
 FU332561 - Age 28, Edn. B.E., B.Tech.,  
 FU112658 - Age 27, Edn. M.Phil / Ph.D.,  
 FU122697 - Age 29, Edn. M.Sc., Computer  
 FU142755 - Age 28, Edn. MD., MS.,  
 FU122970 - Age 29, Edn. ME., M.Tech., MS  
 FU333045 - Age 26, Edn. Degree in Medical

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### Ingredients:

4 medium-sized potatoes (boiled and diced)  
 2 cups curd  
 2 tsp gram flour (chana atta)  
 1/2 tsp ginger, chopped finely  
 2 red chillies (dry)  
 Salt to taste

### For garnishing:

1 tbsp coriander leaves, finely chopped

### Method:

1. Soak and grind the red chillies with a little water to make a fine paste.
2. Take a bowl, mix the gram flour and 1 tsp of red chilli paste with the curd.
3. Strain the mixture through a stainer.
4. Heat oil in a pan.
5. Add chopped ginger and potatoes and fry for a minute.
6. Add the curd and atta mixture and let it boil.
7. Add salt according to taste
8. Garnish with chopped coriander leaves and serve hot.



by Jubel D'Cruz

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# Indian Poultry Industry Progressive

**F**ather of Indian Poultry Industry' Dr. Banda Vasudev Rao (B.V.Rao) was the architect of Indian poultry industry's growth and modernization that created world-class facilities in the country. Because of his significant and numerous contributions to the Indian poultry industry, in 1990, he received one of the highest honours conferred by the President of India, the "Padmashree" award.



He decided to revive the egg industry and put it back on the path of orderly progress.

The National Egg Coordination Committee's (NECC) advertising campaign, which used to appear regularly on television in the early 1990s certainly caught the imagination of the nation. A catchy tune combined with visuals were used to promote the consumption of eggs.

The campaign's creativity won many accolades. But its success was really felt when egg consumption went up significantly and this hugely benefited farmers across the country. In effect, it was farmers,



Jayanthy Subramaniam

under the banner of the NECC, who began the movement, causing a revolution of sorts. With its faith in farmers and in marketing techniques and its commitment towards the cause of agriculture, the NECC is singularly responsible for bolstering India's poultry sector.

Between 1979 and 1981, the cost of inputs, particularly chicken feed, increased by about 250 per cent. The selling price of an egg, however, remained more or less stagnant at 33 to 35 paise, affecting profitability. By 1981, over 40 per cent of the farms across the country were forced to close down, and the very survival of the egg industry was threatened. Dr. B.V. Rao, the founder of Venkateshwar Hatcheries Limited, the pioneering poultry production company, de-

B.V. Rao believed that like Operation Flood, egg production and poultry farming would fetch a guaranteed income for farmers. In 1982, his clarion call - "my egg, my price, my life" - brought thousands of farmers from across the country into a common platform under the National Egg

Co-ordination Committee (NECC). Today, the NECC has a membership of more than 25,000 farmers.

India is the fourth largest producer of eggs in the world. Maharashtra

is amongst the top five egg producing States in India. Along with Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Punjab, the western region of the State accounts for more than 56 per cent of the country's total egg production. Over the past few years, egg production has grown by 5-6 per cent per annum.

India primarily exports table eggs and hatching eggs to West Asia catering mainly to the Non-resident Indian population there. India also exports egg powder to a number of European Union nations and East Asian countries. Compared to other egg products, the export of table eggs has increased significantly. Like white revolution of milk was brought by Verghese Kurien, Dr. B.V. Rao brought poultry revolution in the country.

## ' Very interesting -uses of the peacock '

With reference to the article titled : *Peacock The National Bird* By C K Subramaniam in *The Secular Citizen* dated 8 November 2021 the peacock's typical quill feather used for flying is used for preparing Mayurapuccha Bhasma Calx of peacock feathers since it has antitietic and antispasmodic properties and is widely used in Ayurveda to treat diseases like nausea, vomiting, hiccup, cough, respiratory disorder etc. and churnam -peacock feather ash sold in siddha drug stores in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Delhi, Gujarat and Rajasthan is used to cure hiccups, vomiting and morning sickness etc.

Traditional Peacock feather oil is a pure herbal oil famous in South India for curing bone and joint problems and fractures.

Rajasthan's Rebari community uses peafowl feather ash mixed with honey to cure asthma and peafowl feathers mixed with coconut is used for headaches and one bolus with cow milk daily which has resulted in the rampant killing of the bird is used to get a male child.

Peacocks play an important role in agricultural ecosystems by aiding insect dispersal, scavenging and for control of insects and rodents.

Carvings can be done on peacock eggs since they are thicker and stronger than chicken's eggs.

These then are the very interesting uses - of the peacock.

— Peter Castellino

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# Matrimonials

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**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 : frfernandes020@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

**7277. USA :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1989), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MS (ECE), working as an Engineer, Research and Development. Contact email : xm4304@gmail.com

**6885. USA :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in November 1986), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E. (I.T.), University of Mumbai, Executive MBA University of Utah - USA, Job : Senior Director of Software Automation in USA. Currently he his in Mumbai. Contact Email :

jane\_3105@yahoo.co.in

**7236. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in March 1986), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 67 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Edn MBA. PGDM., MBA from NMIMS, working as a Manager in Bank. Contact email : sallysylviana@yahoo.in

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

rajesh.dsz15@gmail.com

**7175. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in July 1989) Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 74 kgs, Wheatish, Edn. B.Sc (H.C.M.) Hotel and Catering Management, 2nd Photographer/Merchandise Sales Dept., Contact email :

osbertagneloalmeida@gmail.com

**7172. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in August 1992 ) Ht. 6' 1", Wt. 90 kgs, Fair, Edn. Graduate, Diploma in Social Communications in Sophia and then done a Fellowship with Piramal House of Leadership. Working with an NGO - sports foundation. Contact eamil :

florencemendonca@rediffmail.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

**7227. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in August 1990), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 73 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Senior HR. Contact email :

baptistadarryl@yahoo.in

**7152. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in December 1989) Ht. 6", Wt. 70 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., having business. Contact email :

emi\_dalmeida@yahoo.com

**7168. USA :** US Citizen Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in June 1985 ) Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 73 kgs, Fair, Edn. M.Sc., working for a Global Pharmaceutical Company. Contact email :

ispinto84@gmail.com

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

**7157. PUNE :** Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in September 1990) Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA(Marketing) & M.Com., working as a Senior Executive, Sales and Development. Contact email :

amlahenry11@gmail.com

**7159. MUMBAI :** Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in September 1982 ) Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 65 kgs, Ethical, Healthy, Simple, Sober, Wheatish, B.E. Software Engineer, works @ Mumbai, 9224335003,

mariosofttech@gmail.com

**7144 POONA :** Goan RC Bachelor, (Born in October 1985) Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Hotel Management Graduate, working as an Executive. Contact email :

merrolmenezes@gmail.com

**7130. DUBAI :** Mangalorean RC Divorcee, (Born in July 1972) Ht. 5'11", Wt. 80 kgs, air Complexion, handsome, simple down to earth, Edn. B.E. (Mech.), Working as an Engineer. Contact email :

francisdsouza472@gmail.com OR 00971501532702

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

**7150. POONA :** East Indian RC Divorcee, (Born in November 1960) Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 69 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Graduate Engineer from CWIT University of Pune, working as an Engineer. Contact email :

joeskf@gmail.com

**7133. MUMBAI :** Goan RC Handsome Bachelor, (Born in February 1977) Ht. 5'9", Wt. 78 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., PG, MBA, working as a Sr. Manager in US IT Company. Contact email :

trinidadefranco@gmail.com

**7133. MUMBAI :** Goan RC Handsome Bachelor, (Born in February 1977) Ht. 5'9", Wt. 78 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., PG, MBA, working as a Sr. Manager in US IT Company. Contact email :

trinidadefranco@gmail.com

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# Royal Christian Family MATRIMONIALS - BRIDES

**7276. MUMBAI-POONA :** Anglo Indian Protestant Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1989), Ht. 5' 7", Wt.60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. SIM Management, working as a HR Business Development. Working in Mumbai. Contact email : sibloomjs@yahoo.com

**7254. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1981), Ht. 5' 7", Wt.69 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. F.Y. B.Com., Completed Aviation Course & holds knowledge of French Language and computer course. Contact email : evane\_martis@yahoo.co.in

**7275. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in February 1991), Ht. 5' 7", Wt.65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Sc and MA in Child and Clinical Psychology, working as a School Counselor. Contact email : cordeiro0911@gmail.com

**7219. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Born Again Spinster, (Born in October 1993), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 61 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Post Graduate Diploma in Human Resources, working as a HR in MNC. Seeks only Born Again Bachelor. Contact email : gladfer\_9@yahoo.com

**7274. POONA :** Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1993), Ht. 5' 1", Wt.70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.Com., B.Ed., working as a Accounts Analyst. Contact email : jennifermarian910@gmail.com

**7191. BANGALORE :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1991), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 57 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.S (Electrical Engineering in US), M.S in Robotics Engineering, working as a Software for a reputed Company in **New York**. Contact email : alfnan@yahoo.com

**7273. DUBAI :** Anglo Idnian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1993), Ht. 5' 6", Wt.75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MA, Working in Dubai.

Contact email : janelle3034@gmail.com

**7123. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1987), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., CS., M.Sc., working as a Sr. Manager Programmer. Contact email : r.douza.co@gmail.com

**7272. USA :** East Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1996), Ht. 5' 10", Wt.60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Beautiful, Dynamic personality, Edn. Bachelor in Electronics, CPL,CFI, MS pursuing, working as Flight Instructor. Contact email : dr\_rekha@ymail.com

**7122. MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1993), Ht. 5', Wt. 45 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Sc. IT., working as a Tech Support Engineer. Contact email : lynettelewis67@gmail.com

**7264. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1987), Ht. 5' 4", Wt.58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., Ticketing, GNW (Nurse), working as a General Registered Nurse. Contact email : sds333@gmail.com

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

**7253 MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1992), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 50 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. M.A., Profession : Professor. Contact email : basileitao@gmail.com

**7250 BHOPAL :** Anglo Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in June 1988), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 48 kgs, Slim, Very Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., MBA., working as a HR Manager. Contact email : xaviers2k11@gmail.com

**7109 MUMBAI :** Mangalorean Ro-

man 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

**7208. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in March 1987), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 78 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. BE, IT, working as Product Marketing for an e-commerce beauty Company. Contact email : temp123fab@gmail.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

**7190. BANGALORE :** Tamilian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in January 1990), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.E., Electronics and communications, working as a Technical Specialist. Contact email :

jmj.lionofjudah@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

**7189. MUMBAI :** Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1993), Ht. 4' 9", Wt. 40 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A. B.Ed., Teacher by profession. Contact email : dcruz\_liselle@yahoo.in

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## St Juan Diego

## She Chose an Old Tribal Peasant

By Fr F. M. Britto

**T**he vision to a tribal peasant is drawing thousands of pilgrims every day, making it one of the world's major Christian pilgrim-centers.

The simple villager Juan Diego was born in 1474 in today's Mexico City. His original name was Cuauhtlah-toatzin. Since his father died when he was small, he was brought by his uncle. They grew up in their Aztec religion.

The 50 years old Diego, his wife Maria Lucia and his uncle Juan Bernardino were among the first to be baptized by the Spanish Franciscan missionaries. Diego had no children.

According to the tradition, while Diego was on his way for the Mass to his parish church on the morning of Dec 9, 1531, Mary appeared to him, surrounded in heavenly light, on the footsteps of the Tepeyac Hill, on the outskirts of what is now Mexico City. This was also a former sanctuary to the Aztec goddess Tonanzin.

Mary asked him to go and tell the bishop in Mexico City to build a shrine to her on that hill. She promised protection of his indigenous people. When Diego asked her name, she told him in his mother tongue Nahuatl as "Tlecuatlecupe" meaning the "one who crushes the head of the serpent," referring to Genesis 3:15. Bishop Juan de Zumarraga was a saintly man, very just, compassionate and a protector of the Indians. Not believing his story, the bishop asked for proof that Mary had really appeared to that rural convert.

While Diego was on his way to the priest on December 12 to ask him administer the last rites to his uncle, Mary appeared to him again. He told her of the bishop's response. She instructed him to gather the roses on the

hill, and take them to the bishop as a heavenly sign. She also informed him that his uncle has recovered from his



sickness.

Unusually he found many roses on the snow-covered hill, blooming out of season. Collecting them in his cloak, he took them to the bishop. When Diego opened his rough cloak in front of the bishop, dozens of roses fell out and also an image of Mary imprinted on the inside of his cloak. Having received this as a proof, the bishop ordered a church to be built on Tepeyac Hill. Returning home, Diego found his uncle too in good health.

Since Tlecuatlecupe sounds like Guadalupe, the bishop confused it with the familiar Spanish name Guadalupe, a city with a prominent Marian shrine. In her fifth and final appearance to him she wanted her to be known as Our Lady of Guadalupe. In that miraculous image we see a woman with native features and dress. The miraculous image on the cloak is preserved in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mexico City. But the image has started to fade.

Diego lived the rest of his life in a hut next to the church, caring the pilgrims and leading a life of prayer and charity to God and others. The 74 years old Diego died on May 30, 1548 and was buried inside the church.

Cardinal Ernesto Corripio Ahumada of Mexico City initiated in 1984 the process to canonize him. But doubts as to whether Diego really existed

had slowed down the process. Some Catholics and non-Catholics allege that Diego had been a myth, developed to convert Mexico's Indians to the Roman Catholicism. And to counter the spread of Protestantism.

A historical commission was then formed. Father Joe Luis Guerrero, an expert on Nahuatl language and culture, aided by Father Eduardo Chavez, a professional historian, concluded that Juan Diego really existed. "His existence cannot be denied," Father Chavez says. The vision had been recounted in oral and written colonial sources such as the Huei tiama huicoltica. Dr. Miguel Leon-Portilla, one of the leading Mexican scholars writes, "Long before 1556, the tradition of Juan Diego and the apparitions of Tonantzin (Guadalupe) had already spread." And the Vatican finally confirmed it.

When the Vatican approved his canonization, many of Mexico's 10 million Indians welcomed it as vindication of their struggle to overcome centuries of racism. Travelling both the times to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Pope John Paul II beatified Diego on May 6, 1990 and canonized him there on July 31, 2002. Pope John Paul II then remarked of the new saint as a "simple, humble Indian." The pope urged the Mexican laity to take up the responsibilities of passing on the good news and witness to it by their lives.

Juan Diego became the first Roman Catholic indigenous saint from the Americas. Various miracles are attributed to him and he remains one of the most popular saints in Mexico. He has helped shepherd thousands into Christianity.

Our Lady of Guadalupe continues to protect the indigenous people as well as all those who invoke her name. The church celebrates his feast day on December 9 and the apparition on December 12.

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