

# Mangalore

Organ of the Catholic Association of South Kanara

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**Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come to him and eat with him, and he with me.**

**~ Revelation 3:20**

*And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for... Keep on seeking, and you will find.... Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you.... For everyone who asks, receives.... Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.*

**Luke the Evangelist**

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# CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH KANARA

Founded in 1914

(Regn. No. MNG/130/2021-2023)

## CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH KANARA

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## EDITORIAL

A recent headline said that 37 lakh students of Karnataka did not make it to college, because they dropped out of school or Pre-university courses, for various reasons. This has negatively affected the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of Karnataka State. This is a extremely disheartening news. The reasons for the drop-out are many – schools discouraging weak students; failure in examinations at school or PUC levels; the economic situation of the family by which parents cannot afford fees and other expenses related to education. All stakeholders need to bring about progressive changes in order to create a more enabling atmosphere to increase school and college enrolment. The Government, School Managements and Non-Government Organizations have to substantially enhance the Scholarships they offer to students from marginalized families.

CASK is a small but important player in providing Annual Scholarships to deserving students and probably the only organization that considers the economic situation of the families and not merit as the criteria for granting scholarships. I hope CASK can increase the Scholarship Fund to provide the benefit of education to more students from marginalized families.

**11 February is observed as the World Day for the Sick as well as International Day of Women and Girls in Science.**

It is observed to recognize the role of women and girls in science, not only as beneficiaries but also as agents of change. Therefore, the day focuses on achieving full and equal access to and participation in science for women and girls and also, to achieve gender equality and empowerment of women and girls. There is evidence that girls are increasingly getting enrolled in the Science stream and this trend should be encouraged and supported.

We have a thought provoking article by Fr Cedric Prakash on India’s 74<sup>th</sup> Republic Day and an interesting article by the Swaddle Team on Artificial Intelligence (AI) impacting the legal profession and other articles which I hope you find useful and interesting.

**Until next time.....Patsy Lobo**



## THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS...

Greetings to all our readers. If you know and believe God walked you safely through January and opened your eyes to see February, let's thank Him! Thank you, God, for your blessings each day. Please guide us in February with your love and care.

**We celebrated 74<sup>th</sup> Republic day on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January. It is time to ponder how much our country has progressed since the 1<sup>st</sup> Republic day.**

February is a **month** that has only 28 days. All the employees are happy as they have to work 2 days less for the same salary. It is also a month which draws us closer to our creator. The lenten season starts in February this year and ends in April. Many people think of works of charity during these months. Also these months are - months of fasting and penance and contemplating on the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ

Do you know how it is determined when Easter should be celebrated every year? It's got a lot to do with the Moon. According to Christian tradition, Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday following the full Moon that occurs on or just after the spring equinox (and the Christian Church calendars state that the spring equinox always falls on March 21).

In 2023, the first full Moon after March 21 takes place on April 2, which means Easter falls on the following Sunday, April 9. Subtract 46 days from that and you get the first day of Lent. We celebrate Ash Wednesday on February 22.

Valentine's Day is celebrated in the middle of February to commemorate the anniversary of St. Valentine's death or burial—which probably occurred around 270 A.D.—the Christian church decided to place St. Valentine's feast day on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February.

As per the western traditions, the whole week preceding Valentine's Day on February 14 is celebrated in honour of love - Rose Day, Propose Day, Chocolate Day, Teddy Day, Promise Day etc.

Karnataka State is getting ready for its election this year. National elections are due next year. So we can expect a lot of sops from the

state and central governments. As citizens of our country every one of us has a right to vote. Please ensure that your name is in the voters list.

We at CASK will start our activities for this year once again in earnest. All functions and festivities are over and done with. So back to work.

**Till next month take care.....Capt Vincent Pais**

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## **CELEBRATING THE REPUBLIC @ 74 !!**

*Fr. Cedric Prakash SJ*

At a Press Conference held in Delhi on 18 January, the Government spokesman said, *“The Nation will celebrate its 74<sup>th</sup> Republic Day on January 26, 2023. The celebrations include the traditional march past at Kartavya Path comprising a grand parade by the contingents of the Armed Forces & Paramilitary Forces; tableaux display by the States and Central Ministries/Departments; cultural performances by children; acrobatic motorcycle rides and a fly-past, besides Beating the Retreat ceremony. The Republic Day celebrations are going to be week-long commencing on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, the birth anniversary of great national icon Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and culminate on 30<sup>th</sup> January which is observed as Martyrs’ Day... Many new events are being organised as part of the Republic Day celebrations this year. These include Military Tattoo & Tribal dance festival; Veer Gatha 2.0; second edition of Vande Bharatam dance competition; performances of Military & Coast Guard bands at the National War Memorial; an All-India School Band Competition at the NWM; a Drone Show and projection mapping during Beating the Retreat ceremony”.*

This definitely needs to be applauded. There will be much pomp and pageantry at the grand parade; the muscle of India’s military might will be demonstrated with full spectacle. The Egyptian President will be the Chief Guest with a huge entourage at the flag hoisting ceremony and parade! During the day there will be the plethora of speeches everywhere; politicians and eminent persons will wax eloquent. Few will remember that on that first Republic Day: 26 January 1950, we the people of India, began to live by a visionary Constitution. The day (26 January) itself is very significant: it was chosen by our freedom

fighters and the first Government of India, because on this day in 1930, the Indian National Congress revealed *Purna Swaraj*, the declaration of India's independence from the colonial rule. Celebrating the Republic@ 74 is important and pregnant with meaning!

At the heart of Celebrating the Republic@ 74, is the Preamble of the Constitution, which unequivocally states “*we, the people of India, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a sovereign socialist secular democratic republic and to secure to all its citizens: justice, social, economic and political; liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; equality of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all fraternity assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the nation*”. A couple of months earlier, on 26 November 1949, the Constituent Assembly ‘*adopted, enacted and gave to ourselves*’ a visionary Constitution.

In February 2019, Justice DY Chandrachud (now Chief Justice of India), delivering the Justice K. T. Desai Memorial Lecture at the Bombay High Court on ‘Why Constitution Matters’, strongly said, “*the people who work the constitution may go wrong and sometimes they do as when we jail a cartoonist for sedition or when jail instead of bail is given to a blogger who is critical of our religious architecture. When a mob lynches a person for the food that she or he eats it is the constitution which is lynched. When we deny to human beings the power of love for reasons of religion or caste it is the constitution which is made to weep. That is exactly what happened yesterday when a groom belonging to the Dalit community was asked to climb down from a horse in a wedding procession. Let's make no two bones about it. It is the constitution which weeps when we read of such incidents*”

Celebrating the Republic@ 74 is the Supreme Court collegium challenging the government's rejection of Advocate Saurabh Kirpal, as a Delhi High Court judge because he is gay and has a foreign national as a partner. Kirpal is the son of former Chief Justice of India B.N. Kirpal; he has vast knowledge of commercial law and successfully helped fight a decade-long legal battle for LGBT rights, culminating in the apex court de-criminalising gay sex between consenting adults in September 2018. The collegium says, “*Decisions of the constitution bench of this court have established the constitutional position that*

*every individual is entitled to maintain their own dignity and individuality, based on sexual orientation. about his orientation...In view of the constitutionally recognised rights which the candidate espouses, it would be manifestly contrary to the constitutional principles laid down by the Supreme Court to reject his candidature on that ground. Shri Saurabh Kirpal possesses competence, integrity and intellect. His appointment will add value to the bench of Delhi High Court and provide inclusion and diversity. His conduct and behaviour have been above board.”*

Celebrating the Republic@ 74 is the courage to work on the independence and the autonomous functioning of several Constitutional and other statutory bodies. We need to ensure that agencies like the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), the Enforcement Directorate (ED) the National Investigating Agency (NIA) or the Reserve Bank of India do not become ‘caged parrots’. We need to ensure that these agencies, together with the Income Tax Department, are not used to throttle truth and justice and genuine voices of dissent. Media, the fourth pillar of a vibrant democracy, and other important bodies, like the Information Commission, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) have to be sensitive and supportive of the citizen’s rights and welfare.

Celebrating the Republic@ 74 is the awareness that in our nation, the rich become richer and the poor become poorer. *Oxfam India’s report which was released on the opening day of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland* reveals that the total number of billionaires in India increased from 102 in 2020 to 166 in 2022. From 2012 to 2021, 40% of the wealth created in India has gone to just 1% of the population and only a mere 3% of the wealth has gone to the bottom 50%. The combined wealth of India’s 100 richest has touched \$660 billion (INR 54.12 lakh crore) – an amount that could fund the entire Union Budget for more than 18 months!

Celebrating the Republic@ 74 is the openness to internalize the passionate speech by Dr BR Ambedkar to the Constituent Assembly (25 November 1949). He said, *“If we wish to maintain democracy not merely in form, but also in fact, what must we do? The first thing in*



*my judgement we must do is to hold fast to constitutional methods of achieving our social and economic objectives.... where constitutional methods are open, there can be no justification for unconstitutional methods. These methods are nothing but the Grammar of Anarchy and the sooner they are abandoned, the better for us. The second thing we must do is to observe the caution which John Stuart Mill has given to all who are interested in the maintenance of democracy, namely, not “to lay their liberties at the feet of even a great man, or to trust him with power which enable him to subvert their institutions in politics, Bhakti or hero-worship is a sure road to degradation and to eventual dictatorship. The third thing we must do is not to be content with mere political democracy. We must make our political democracy a social democracy as well. Political democracy cannot last unless there lies at the base of it, social democracy. We must be determined to defend our independence with the last drop of our blood!”*

The Republic @ 74 above all, is the courage of *we the people* to take a visible and vocal stand to make our Constitution and all that is enshrined in it – a reality for every citizen of India!

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## **WORLD DAY OF THE SICK 2023 : 11TH FEBRUARY**

February 11 is observed universally as the World Day of the Sick. On this day, people around the world take time to pray for the sick and for those who work very hard to alleviate the sufferings of the sick. World Day of the Sick is an observation started by Pope John Paul II as a way for people to offer prayers for those suffering from chronic illnesses. The day coincides with the commemoration day of Our Lady of Lourdes. Many organizations mark this day especially to provide the sick with medicines, food, and spiritual guidance.

**World Day of the Sick 2023 – History** - Pope John Paul II was diagnosed with Parkinson’s Disease in 1991, a disease which has no cure but can be treated to relieve the symptoms and maintain the quality of life. It is believed that this illness prompted the Pope to set aside a day to pray for those suffering from illnesses. It is also believed that the Pope chose this day to be observed as the World Day of Sick as it is the day of commemoration of Our Lady of Lourdes. February 11 is

the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, which is a name given to Virgin Mary in honor of the apparitions that were said to have been seen in and around Lourdes, France, by a young girl called Bernadette Soubirous. It is also reported that many visitors and pilgrims who visited Lourdes, France have been healed at the Marian Sanctuary.

The day was first observed on February 11, 1993. On this day, people offer prayers for those suffering from illness and also for their caregivers who have dedicated their time and health for the care and treatment of the sick. Pope Benedict XVI declared his decision to resign from his post as the Pope, on this day in 2013. His failing health was cited as the reason behind this decision.

**World Day of the Sick 2023 – Theme - “Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful (Lk 6:36); standing beside those who suffer on a path of charity”.** This message of Pope Francis for the 30th World Day of the Sick, is considered as the theme of the day for 2023.

**World Day of the Sick 2023 – Wishes :**

“Look with abundant mercy on all who suffer in body, mind or spirit. Help them and take care of them on this World Day of Sick”

“The World Day of the sick is a chance for those who work in the health ministry to reflect on how they care for the sick and those who care for them.

“Grant healing and hope to the sick, the wounded and the dying in their darkest hours, so they may witness the power of your healing presence in the world.

“Those who care for the sick and give of themselves with generosity and straightforward love like St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta are amongst the God’s most loved.”

“Caring for the sick requires professionalism, tenderness, straightforward and simple gestures freely given, like a caress that makes others feel loved”

“Come together to pray for those who are sick and for all who participate in their care and celebrate this World Day of the Sick. Do your part, Make a difference.”

**Observing Word Day of the Sick 2023** - Every individual can do their bit on this day by praying for the sick and their caretakers. Visit the sick in local hospitals, old age houses etc., pray for them and volunteer to help them. One can also provide food and medication to the less fortunate. Create awareness about the World Day of the Sick by using the hashtag #World Day Of The Sick on social media.

**Conclusion** : It has been observed that nearly 95% of ‘rare diseases’ don’t have an FDA-approved treatment for them. In such cases, the one suffering from the illness needs tender care and support from their loved ones and those around them. Being familiar with some of the common illness affecting the people will help us reach out to those suffering in a much better way. Listed below are some of the common disease people suffer from:

Alzheimer’s – a brain disorder that slowly destroys memory and thinking skills.

Heart disease – a condition that cause cardiovascular problems

Cancer – a disease in which some of the body’s cells grow uncontrollably and spread to other parts of the body.

Parkinson’s – a brain disorder that leads to shaking, stiffness, and difficulty with walking, balance, and coordination.

Chronic Kidney Failure

**Let us make World Sickness Day 2023 happy and eventful  
to all those who are Sick**

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## **THANK YOU**

### ***DONATIONS TO CASK CENTENARY TRUST***

1. Mrs Vera Corera – ₹ 30,000/- for Charitable Activities.
2. Dr Anand Pereira – ₹ 25,000/- for family support programme.
3. Name with-held on request – ₹ 20,000/- for Charitable Activities.

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## **ECONOMIC HEADWINDS ARE HURTING THE WORLD**

*Frank Islam (Article dated October 2022 that has relevance for 2023)*

Finance ministers, economists and representatives of 180 countries convened in Washington DC earlier this month for the first in-person annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)-World Bank Group since the onset of Covid-19 in 2020. With the global economy on shaky ground, the mood was sombre. Days before the event, World Bank president David Malpass warned, ***“A series of harsh events and unprecedented macroeconomic policies are combining to throw development into crisis. The human consequence of these overlapping crises is catastrophic.”***

The crises that Malpass, a former United States (US) under-secretary of the treasury for international affairs, alluded to is manifesting in different ways in different parts of the world. In the US and much of the western world, runaway inflation, along with high gas prices, has made life difficult. The situation is much worse in low-income countries, many of which are in the throes of a debt crises.

There are a whole range of reasons — from systemic and structural ones to the pandemic-related supply-chain disruption and the geopolitical power play by Russia in Ukraine — that are triggering massive economic headwinds. Then, there are also consequential policy decisions by governments, such as the US Federal Reserve’s rate hikes and a decision by oil-producing nations to limit output. Unfortunately, the impending economic crisis has come at a time when the world is yet to recover from the misery inflicted by the pandemic.

Political effects of the downturn are being felt in many countries. In the United Kingdom, two prime ministers have lost their jobs in two months. Italian voters have turned to a far-Right politician to lead their nation. As with most economic slumps, more than affluent nations, it is the developing world that is witnessing food shortages and an increase in poverty.

Another casualty is the global climate agenda. Last year, the World Bank Group presented a green, resilient, inclusive and development (GRID) strategy to tackle “rising poverty and deepening inequality

while addressing both the immediate devastation wrought by Covid-19 and the longer-term challenge of climate change.” This was in addition to ambitious initiatives and policies the United Nations, the US, and various other western governments have been championing for years. These policies will probably take a backseat in the event of a major growth deceleration. Even before the pandemic, China, India and other major non-western economies were not on board on the climate crisis front. If a global recession kicks in, they are certain to ask whether green growth can be afforded.

At the IMF-World Bank Group meeting, many of the discussions were centred on lessening the impact of the crisis. Most of the participants felt that there was no single solution. This was because the current crises were attributable to multiple causes.

Take the case of inflation, which started with the supply chain disruptions at the beginning of the pandemic and got worse when the US and other rich nations announced stimulus packages. The Russian invasion of Ukraine, which led to highly punitive western sanctions against Moscow – coupled with the fact that the Chinese manufacturing sector has not been able to amp up production to pre-Covid levels – kept prices high despite measures to contain inflation.

Consider the energy crisis. As long as the Ukraine war continues and oil-producing nations do not increase production, gas prices will remain high.

And then, there is the debt crisis. Most of the debt of the middle- and low-income countries is owned by China and private creditors and investors. So, it requires financial discipline on the part of the debtor nations, as well as substantial outside help, to get out of the debt trap.

Taking this into account, most participants at the IMF-World Bank Group event knew that the options were limited. Consequently, they heeded the message delivered by IMF managing director Kristalina Georgieva: **“Buckle up, and keep going.”** They concentrated their attention not on grandiose, but on preparing the world for the bumpy ride ahead.

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## **ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY TOWARDS VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

*Courtesy – ‘Majlis’ Mumbai*

**‘Ummeed’ celebrates the courage, determination and journey of women who have stood up against violence and emerged stronger. Through this sharing, we hope to inspire others to take the first step.**

For over 30 years Majlis’ team of lawyers and social workers have provided legal and social support to victims of child sexual abuse and domestic violence. During our case work when we come across lapses by the state we raise these issues with the respective stakeholder to ensure accountability towards the victim.

15 year old Minal was repeatedly sexually assaulted by her father. One day her mother walked in and saw the incident. A big fight ensued and the mother went to the police station and filed the FIR on 27th January, 2017. The accused father was arrested but later in May 2017 he was granted bail. The victim and her mother faced continuous threat and harassment from the accused and hence the victim was put in a shelter home. In November 2017, Majlis got this case from the shelter home. In December 2018, when the child went home for her holidays, the accused father came home and beat the child mercilessly. We helped get her medical done and filed an NC. We then filed an application for cancellation of bail. The judge rejected our application and a mere warning was given to the accused father.

In June 2019, the accused father again beat the mother such that he broke her hand. We again approached the police and this time an FIR was filed and the police took the accused father into custody. On 26th August 2019, we informed the court that the accused father was in judicial custody, yet the judge did not direct the police to produce the accused. Later the accused father got bail. Since then he has moved to another city and does not bother to attend the matter.

S.35 of POCSO Act 2012, states that the trial shall be completed within one year, however this matter has been pending for six long years. On each date the judge merely mentions that the accused and

the police were not present and a next date would be given.

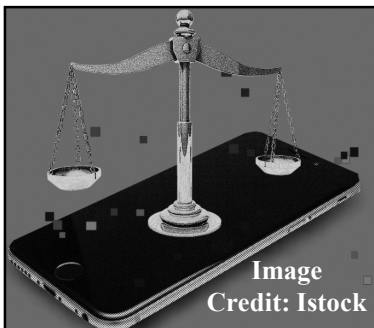
On 29th December, 2022 we raised the issue of undue delay with the Principal Judge. On 2nd January, 2023 we were presently surprised to see that the judge issued an order asking the commissioner of police Mumbai, to appoint a special squad for execution of the arrest warrant. The judge went on to state that if the police fail to produce the accused, he would record the evidence of the victim in the absence of the accused.

This has brought a huge relief to the victim and her mother who for the first time, feel a sense of hope. Making the state accountable by addressing their complacency and callousness towards victims is a critical and unique intervention by Majlis.

**About Majlis** - We are a team of women lawyers and social workers who work for the protection and promotion of women and children's rights through legal representation, advocacy and training. We provide social and legal support to women and children victims of sexual and domestic violence.

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## WORLD'S FIRST "ROBOT LAWYER" WILL SOON DEFEND A HUMAN IN COURT



*Ananya Singh, Swaddle Team*

In a historic first, an **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** powered legal assistant will advise a defendant in a US court next month, reported New Scientist. Dubbed as the world's first "**robot lawyer**," the artificial intelligence algorithm – created by the startup DoNotPay – will run on a smartphone, listen in on arguments being made in court and then advise the defendant on what to say through an ear-piece. Amid the raging debate around what the world may look like in an AI-dominated world, the experiment not only reveals AI's potential applications in the justice system, but may also give new impetus to fears surrounding AI pushing certain professions to obsolescence.

**The New York Post reported that Browder claimed his app's aim is to replace some lawyers and help save defendants' money.** "It's all about language, and that's what lawyers charge hundreds or thousands of dollars an hour to do... There'll still be a lot of good lawyers out there who may be arguing in the European Court of Human Rights, but a lot of lawyers are just charging way too much money to copy and paste documents and I think they will definitely be replaced, and they should be replaced," Browder said.

According to reports, the defendant in this case will be appearing in court to challenge a speeding ticket. However, the court's location and name of the defendant are being kept under wraps by the company. Apart from the defendant, no one in court will know that an AI lawyer is involved, Do Not Pay's CEO Joshua Browder confirmed. This is perhaps because the experiment is in violation of courtroom protocols, as phones and internet-connected devices are banned from courts in many countries. However, DoNotPay is using a loophole around "hearing accessibility standards" that allows the use of Apple AirPods in the courtroom.

Training the AI app on case law has taken a while – the software has reportedly been adjusted so that it does not react to everything being said in court but only picks up the arguments, analyzing them before advising the defendant on how to respond. Once the client informs the AI legal assistant on what the problem is, the app then attempts to find a "loophole" that it then turns into a legal letter that can be sent to a relevant institution. If the experiment fails or the defendant loses, DoNotPay will be covering the fine. The defendant is also being compensated for their participation, reported Gizmodo.

The potential for biases filtering into the justice system with the use of AI has led many to state that AI systems reaching a stage where they effectively replace lawyers or judges is still a while away. However, DoNotPay's experiment may be a step in this direction. In fact, the company's initial AI chatbot has already successfully contested 160,000 parking tickets in London and New York, *'The Guardian'* reported in 2016.



AI's application in courts has, till now, been more or less restricted to automating back-end work or parsing through large datasets to identify precedents. While AI algorithms and machine learning systems may be good at analyzing vast amounts of data, it could introduce biases into resulting judgments-a central concern.

“While a judge may also have incomplete information and unknown biases, protections – such as open justice including providing reasons for a decision and procedural fairness – allow for transparency in decision-making and therefore, challenge or critique. The human judge can also seek to weigh the incommensurables and exercise compassion,” said professor Michael Legg who has extensively studied the impact of technology on litigation.

“If the AI cannot be tested to make sure it operates in a fair and transparent manner then it cannot be used. No ifs or buts trying to argue for efficiency or cost saving. Reducing cost and delay is important but not at the expense of the core requirements of justice,” Legg continued.

Still, while this is the first instance of Artificial Intelligence entering the courtroom to perform the role of a lawyer, there has already been significant conversation around AI's application in the judicial system. For instance, Malaysian courts have been mulling over the introduction of AI as a tool to assist judges in the decision-making process – the technology is already in place to help judges decide on drug possession cases in two Malaysian states. AI could help pull up a vast database of similar cases and previous judgments, while the responsibility to sentence the accused would still lie in the hands of human judges. ChatGPT, OpenAI's chatbot that has recently been making headlines, has also been used to write legal briefs as an experiment with moderate success, while AI systems being developed have shown they can even predict the length of a sentence.

In India, the Supreme Court instituted the Artificial Intelligence Committee that, according to the Minister of Law and Justice, Kiren Rijiju, “...identified application of AI technology in Translation of judicial documents; Legal research assistance and Process automation.” Translation of judicial documents into vernacular

languages is one way that AI tools are helping streamline the functioning of courts. Researchers at IIT Kharagpur also created an AI tool to read legal judgements that would “...give guidance to the common man about which laws are being violated in a given situation, or if there is merit in taking a particular situation to court, so that legal costs can be minimized.”

Browder told Gizmodo that the company is also working on another speeding ticket case, the trial for which will be conducted on Zoom. In this particular case, DoNotPay is reportedly contemplating the use of a teleprompter. The AI-powered robot lawyer that will appear in court in February is only a “**proof of concept**” at this stage, which, in Browder’s words, is an attempt to encourage courts to embrace technology and help citizens access justice. While the experiment may tie in with DoNotPay’s aim to “fight corporations, beat bureaucracy and sue anyone at the press of a button,” it also raises questions about the future of AI in courts – one where AI is no longer just a tool, but plays a more active role in the judicial system.

**Editor’s Note** – Artificial Intelligence will impact not just the legal profession but also many other professions – healthcare, hospitality, education, banking, finance.

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## **34TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY – CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF INDIA**

### **Spread the Message of Love Urges Cardinal Tagle**

*Rev. Dr. Stephen Alathara, Deputy Secretary General, CCBI*

Inaugurating the 34th Plenary Assembly of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI) of the Latin Church, in Bangalore on Tuesday, 24 January 2023, His Eminence Antonio Luis Cardinal Tagle, the Pro-Prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization, exhorted the Bishops in India to promote the message of love.

Cardinal Tagle encouraged the Bishops to tell the story of love in order to promote communion and participation in the Church and the society. He reminded that it is the duty of each person to transform our

society into a peaceful society through the message of love.

His Eminence Filipe Neri Cardinal Ferrão, the President of the CCBI and the Archbishop of Goa and Daman, presided over the inaugural function. He highlighted the beautiful diversity of India in his presidential address. He said that “Our country is a loom holding diverse threads of religions, spiritualities, cultures, traditions, languages and social strata that blend together to form a complex and beautiful tapestry. Alongside a profound spirituality, social and economic disparities deeply fragment the fabric of this nation.”

The 34th Plenary Assembly began with solemn Eucharistic Celebration presided over by His Eminence Cardinal Antonio Tagle. His Eminence Filipe Neri Ferrão, the President, CCBI, His Excellency Leopoldo Girelli, Apostolic Nuncio to India and Nepal, His Eminence Oswald Cardinal Gracias, His Eminence Anthony Poola, Archbishop George Antonysamy, Vice President CCBI, Archbishop Anil Couto, Secretary General, CCBI, Archbishop Peter Machado of Bangalore and Rev. Dr. Stephen Alathara, Deputy Secretary General of the CCBI were the main concelebrants. More than 130 Bishops and 200 priests concelebrated the inaugural Holy Mass.

The inaugural meeting began with the prayer to the Holy Spirit by chanting the traditional hymn ‘*Veni Creator Spiritus*’. Then the dignitaries lighted the traditional Indian lamp as a symbolic sign of the beginning of the Assembly, while the choir chanted Shanti Mantra (*asato mâ sadgamaya* - Mantra of Peace).

Most Rev. Peter Machado welcomed the gathering. Archbishop Leopoldo Girelli delivered the benedictory message. The message of His Holiness Pope Francis was read by Archbishop George Antonysamy. The annual report of the CCBI was presented by Most Rev. Anil Couto, Secretary General, CCBI and the Archbishop of Delhi. Rev. Dr. Paul Parathazham, Director of St. John’s, provided some relevant information about the accommodation and other facilities. Rev. Dr. Stephen Alathara, the Deputy Secretary General of the CCBI, proposed the vote of thanks. The inaugural session concluded with the prayer led by His Eminence Anthony Cardinal Poola, Archbishop of Hyderabad.

His Eminence Antonio Cardinal Tagle was felicitated as it was the first time he participated at the Plenary Assembly of the CCBI. Abp. Anil Couto honoured him with a Kashmiri shawl, Abp. George Antonysamy garlanded him with the traditional sandal wood garland, a wooden statute of St. Anthony was given to him by Abp. Leopoldo Girelli and the painting of the Indian saints was gifted to him by Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrão.

The recently appointed Bishop-Designate Sebastião Mascarenhas, S.F.X., former Superior General of the Missionaries of St. Francis Xavier (Pilar Fathers), was accorded a warm welcome as member of the Conference. Pope Benedict XVI who passed away on 31 December 2022 and Bp. Alphonse Bilung, SVD, Bishop Emeritus of Rourkela Diocese in Odisha who passed away on 11 November 2022 were gratefully remembered. A moment of silence was observed in their memory.

The Guidelines for the Basic Ecclesial Communities were released by Cardinal Tagle handing over its first copy to Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrão. The Guideline have been prepared by the CCBI Commission for Basic Ecclesial Communities.

The theme of the Plenary Assembly is “Telling the Story of Jesus in our Context: The Synodal Way.” In the afternoon, in two sessions of the first day His Eminence Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle addressed the Bishops on the theme.

Late in the evening of the day a cultural evening was organized in honour of Cardinal Tagle. Mount Carmel, Jyoti Nivas, St. John’s Medical College and the musical group of Dr. Maya Mascarenhas put up various cultural items.

The 34th Plenary Assembly will conclude on 30 January 2023. The CCBI consists of **132** dioceses and **190** Bishops. The CCBI animates the Church in India through its 16 Commissions, 6 Departments and 4 Apostolates. Its main Secretariat is in Bangalore with extensions in Goa, Delhi and Pachmarhi (MP). The CCBI which is the Canonical National Episcopal Conference, is the largest in Asia and the fourth largest in the world.

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# A SHORT REFLECTION ON THE LENTEN SEASON

*Patsy Lobo*

**The Lenten Season for Catholics all over the world is fast approaching. It throws light on the passion of Jesus who died for us.**

Pope Francis in 2019 speaks of Lenten practices of penance. He appealed to all to give up gossip and make room for prayer and read the word of God

He speaks of lent as a time for prayer and charity to the weaker sections of society. He said lent should replace screen time with the opening of the bible and then use the time to read and reflect on the 'Word of God' along with fasting and prayer .

He would like us to keep remembering why Jesus died for us. For me, this is the most meaningful service that we Catholics follow. What did His mother go through when she saw her son bleeding, carrying the heavy burden of the cross on his shoulder? Many questions arise, many thoughts follow. Why did Jesus die for us?

The Lenten season is a time for penance and a deep examination of conscience. Let us read the word to discover the Reconciliation of God, as we walk through the stations of the Cross recommended by Saint Alphonsus Liguori :

**Opening Prayer:** Lord Jesus Christ, you have made this journey to die for me with infinite love. So many times I have sinned, but I repent sincerely because I love you. My God - Pardon me. I will love you all my life.

## **First Station: Jesus Is Condemned to Death**

**Meditation:** Jesus, after having been scourged and crowned with thorns, was unjustly condemned to die on the Cross.

**Prayer:** Jesus, it is because of my sins that You are going to die. Through the merits of Your sorrowful journey, help me in my journey to Heaven.

## **Second Station: Jesus Is Made to Bear His Cross**

**Meditation:** Jesus, in making this journey with the Cross on His shoulders, thought of us, and offered for us, to His Father, the death that he was about to undergo.

**Prayer:** Jesus, I embrace all the suffering that you send to me. Through the merits of your pain in carrying your cross, help me to carry my cross with patience and resignation.

## **Third Station: Jesus Falls the First Time**

**Meditation:** Jesus fell for the first time under his cross. He had been scourged and had a crown of thorns on his head, and the soldiers hit him. He was in so much pain He could barely walk, but He had to carry the heavy Cross.

**Prayer:** Jesus, the weight of my sins adds to your suffering and makes it infinitely worse. Through the merits of your first fall, deliver me from falling into mortal sin.

## **Fourth Station: Jesus Meets His Mother**

**Meditation:** Jesus met His Mother Mary along His journey. They loved each other so deeply.

**Prayer:** Jesus, through the sorrow and joy you had in meeting your Mother Mary, help me to be truly devoted to her. Mary, help me to remember in my heart the suffering your Son underwent for me.

## **Fifth Station: Simon Helps Jesus Carry His Cross**

**Meditation:** When the Jews saw how weak Jesus was, they feared he might die on the way, before he was crucified, so they forced a man named Simon the Cyrenian to carry the cross behind our lord.

**Prayer:** Jesus, I accept the cross you give to me, and I accept how you want me to die. I offer all my sufferings and troubles to you.

## **Sixth Station: Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus**

**Meditation:** A woman named Veronica, seeing Jesus suffering so much, and sweat and blood dripping down His face, gave him a towel to wipe his face. By a miracle, He left an image of his face on the towel.

**Prayer:** Jesus, your face was once clean and good to look upon, but blood and sweat disfigured it, and Veronica wiped your face clean. My soul was once clean and beautiful when I was baptized, but sin disfigured it. Through your suffering, wipe my soul clean.

### **Seventh Station: Jesus Falls a Second Time**

**Meditation:** Jesus fell the second time under the cross. The fall renews all the pain in His body and makes His head throb.

**Prayer:** Jesus, so many times you have forgiven me, and so many times I have sinned again. Through the merits of your second fall, help me and preserve me in your grace until I die. Help me to call on you every time I am tempted.

### **Eighth Station: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem**

**Meditation:** These women wept with compassion at seeing Jesus walking to His death. But Jesus said to them, “Weep not for me but for your children.”

**Prayer:** Jesus, I am sorry for all my sins, because of the pain and sadness they cause you, who loves me so much.

### **Ninth Station: Jesus Falls the Third Time**

**Meditation:** Jesus fell for the third time. He was so weak and the soldiers pushed Him to walk faster, but He could barely move.

**Prayer:** Jesus, by my weakness in temptation, you are going to Calvary. Give me strength to conquer temptation.

### **Tenth Station: Jesus Is Stripped of His Garments**

**Meditation:** The soldiers snatched Jesus’ robe off Him.

**Prayer:** Jesus, help me to strip my soul of bad habits so I can give all my love to you, who are so worthy of all my love.

### **Eleventh Station: Jesus Is Nailed to the Cross**

**Meditation:** Jesus was thrown down onto the Cross. He stretched out His arms and offered His life to the Father for our salvation. The soldiers nailed Him to the Cross and pushed the Cross to stand up.

**Prayer:** Jesus, keep my heart. Keep me always close to you.

## **Twelfth Station: Jesus Dies on the Cross**

**Meditation:** After suffering for three hours on the Cross, Jesus gave up His life to the Father and died.

**Prayer:** Jesus, through my sins, I deserve to be punished, but your death is my hope. Through the merits of your death, give me the grace that when I die, I will die as you want me to. I entrust my soul into your hands.

## **Thirteenth Station: Jesus Is Taken Down from the Cross**

**Meditation:** Two of Jesus' disciples took Jesus down from the Cross and Mary His Mother held Him close to her heart.

**Prayer:** Mary, sorrowful Mother, pray to your Son for me. Jesus, you have died because you love me. Help me to love you always.

## **Fourteenth Station: Jesus Is Laid in His Tomb**

**Meditation:** The two disciples and Mary laid Jesus in a tomb.

**Prayer:** Jesus, You rose on the third day. Through your Resurrection, make me rise glorious on the last day, to be always with you in Heaven, praising and loving you.

**Concluding Prayer :** Jesus - I love you, and I repent of my sins. Help me to never sin again and to love you always and to do your will.

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## **GENTLE REMINDER**

**To all subscribers of 'Mangalore' in India and Abroad.  
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# RACHANA AWARDS 2023

## INTRODUCTION TO THE FIVE AWARD WINNERS

On 15th January 2023, at a glittering function at the Milagres Hall-Mangalore, Five eminent personalities of the Mangalorean Catholic community, from five different professional backgrounds, were honoured with the RACHANA – Catholic Chamber of Commerce & Industry awards in recognition of their achievements in their respective fields and valuable contributions to the society.

**We are pleased to give an Introduction to the five award winners :**

**1. Agriculturist of the year 2023 – Mr Leo Fernandes – Allipade, Bantwal Taluk. In recognition of :**



- His contribution to agriculture economy of India as a cultivator of multiple crops – areca, pepper and coconuts in his 20 acres of land;
- His contribution to Dairy farming by owning 100 cows of various breeds and supplying 600 litres of milk every day to Allipade and Sarapady Societies;
- His support to the local farmers in marketing their products through his outlet – Anthony Traders;
- His efforts in providing employment and livelihood to a large number of local people through his various ventures related to agriculture, dairy farming, trading and catering enterprises;
- His successful efforts in transforming barren land obtained on lease into green farms of cultivation;

**2. Entrepreneur of the year 2023 – Dr Jerry Vincent Dias, Udupi. In recognition of :**



- His enormous contributions to the real estate sector of the twin cities of Udupi-Manipal, with over 50 projects comprising 4,000 residential and 250 commercial units;
- His vision in building the biggest Mall of Udupi district named 'Mandavi Times Square' with a star category luxury hotel and developing 'Mandavi Royal Prince' considered to be the best residential building in Udupi district;

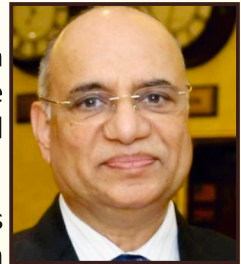
- His contribution to the Industrial wealth of Udupi through JJ Industries and contribution to the cultural heritage of the state by producing Feature Films under the banner of 'JJ Cine Productions';
- His yeomen service to society individually and through service organizations like Lions International and Parish Organizations;

**3. Professional of the year 2023 – Sr Dr Gladys Menezes, Piusnagar-Kundapur working in 'Snehalaya' Hospital, Solur, Ramnagar district of Karnataka. In recognition of :**



- Her exemplary contribution through specialized gynaecological services rendered at the "Snehalaya Hospital' in Solur, Ramnagar district of Karnataka State catering to predominantly women from marginalised and under-privileged sections of society from the most remote and backward areas, who have no access to Quality Health Care;
- Her contribution to the Health manpower of India by training 300 Midwives and 200 community health workers hailing from rural India;
- Her yeomen services by treating an average 150 patients a day and performing an average 80 deliveries a week;

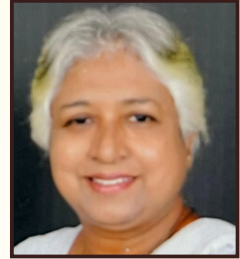
**4. NRI of the year 2023 – Mr Michael D'Souza, Dubai-UAE. In recognition of :**



- His contribution to Dubai's economy through development of its hospitality infra-structure with widely acclaimed dunes and Ivory Grand Hotels;
- His support in empowering 3,500 students through 'Educare' Scholarship programme in association with CODP, Diocese of Mangalore;
- His support in helping 10,000 families through the 'Self-Help' programme under the aegis of CODP, Mangalore Diocese;
- His initiative to establish 'Civil Service Academy' at St Aloysius College to encourage youth to appear for Civil Services examination;

- His support to the young entrepreneurs by funding their 'start-up' projects;
- His support to Konkani language, art and culture by sponsoring cultural events and literary activities;
- His many humanitarian services by helping the needy with housing, advanced treatment and generously funding the special schools in DK and Udupi districts;

**5. Outstanding Woman of the year 2023 –  
Dr Lavina M Noronha. In recognition of:**



- Her vision in setting up a 15-bed hospice called 'Ave Maria Palliative Care' at Mangalore which is run with utmost professionalism and dedication, open to all regardless of religion. Class or caste;
- Her mission to educate and train the youth in the areas of mental health, hospice care, health crisis and spreading awareness as a member of the India Association of Palliative Care;
- Her contribution to the knowledge base through several professional publications and presentations on a variety of topics at national and international levels;
- Her compassion in assisting more than 2,700 callers in distress till date, as a Coordinator of the 24 x 7 Suicide Lifeline – an unit of Susheg Charitable Trust and assisting people with 'Dementia' as Director of Susheg Jivith Neuro Care – an Assisted Living facility;

**We are pleased to know that Dr Lavina is also the recipient of the  
Vishwa Konkani Award for Social Service 2023**

In his address, the Chief Guest - Mr Sanjay D'Souza, Vice-President, HDFC Bank Congratulated the award winners and said, "All the five award winners have already influenced society with their charitable outlook. They have a common thread of discipline and commitment to their responsibilities".

*Continued on page 29...*

“At the same time, the event provokes us to think about our entrepreneurs who come under unorganized finance sectors. Even today, 30-40% of the entrepreneurs are unaware of online banking transactions or digital banking which is more apt for current market conditions. Secondly, compared to other neighbouring cities, Bengaluru’s socio-economic growth is remarkable and appreciable. We can see well constructed multi-storeyed houses, huge bungalows, and flats in and around the city. But the sad part is that we can’t find a single youth or child among the residents. Elderly people spend their time in loneliness. Somewhere it indicates the danger. Here the responsibility on local entrepreneurs and associations like Rachana increases. They should find a solution to put a brake on the continued migration of the young generation to other countries. They should create a job market for them and bring them back to the city.”

In his presidential address, Bishop Dr Peter Paul said, “It is not just an award night, I can say this is an inspirational night. I noticed one thing that all winners mentioned the Almighty and his blessings in their speeches. So we can also call this night a holy night. Along with their respective fields, all the five are highlighted for their charity and social service. Blindly we can say all five addressed the society with a single word and that is ‘kindness.’ They may vary in their fields. But they spoke in one language called ‘kindness.’ Awards and appreciation are much needed to handle criticism and stick to the good work with courage.”

President Vincent Cutinha welcomed. Convener of the Awards event CA Rudolph Rodrigues explained the procedures for selection of awardees and secretary Lavina Monteiro proposed the Vote of Thanks. St Rita Band, Cascia entertained the gathering with its live music. The past presidents and sponsors were duly recognised.

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## **NOVEL ECUMENICAL PEACE MISSION IN SOUTH SUDAN**

In a first and extraordinary gesture, Pope Francis along with the Archbishop of Canterbury-Justin Welby, and the moderator of the Church of Scotland-the Rt. Rev. Iain Greenshields jointly visited South Sudan on a Mission of Peace from February 02-05, 2023. The aim of the Catholic, Anglican and Presbyterian leaders was to push President Salva Kiir and the opposition leader Riek Machar to recommit themselves to the 2018 deal.

President Salva Kiir, his long time rival Riek Machar and other opposition groups signed a peace agreement in 2018, but the deal's provisions, including the formation of a national unified army, remain largely unimplemented and fighting has continued to flare.

Welby and Greenshields joined Francis on the altar at Mass on 5<sup>th</sup> February and accompanied him on the flight back to Rome.

The three also aimed to put a global spotlight on the plight of the country, oil-rich and yet one of the world's poorest, where humanitarian needs are soaring for the 2 million people who have been displaced by continued clashes and years of above-average flooding. Watchdogs' allegations of corruption are also widespread; some South Sudanese upon the pope's arrival noted that his modest vehicle was overshadowed by local officials' luxury ones.

During the three-day visit, Francis, Welby and Greenshields sought to draw attention to the plight of South Sudan's most vulnerable people, the women and children who have borne the brunt of displacement and make up the majority of people living in temporary camps.

They raised in particular the plight of women in a country where sexual violence is rampant, child brides are common and the maternal mortality rate is the highest in the world.

Edmund Yakani, executive director of the Community Empowerment for Progress Organization, said the visit of the three leaders was an important push to the peace process.

He called it a "critical exposure of our political leaders towards their personal responsibility for making peace and stability prevail in the country."

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## BOOK LAUNCH OF “WE, INDIAN CHRISTIANS”

*Shefali Alvares*

On the evening of 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023, the book “**We, Indian Christians**” was launched by the author Dr. Kranti Kiran Farias in the presence of family, close friends and some of the people featured in the book. The event was held at Loyola Hall, St. Stanislaus High School, Bandra, Mumbai. The book is published under the aegis of the Church History Association of India, Western India Branch to commemorate and celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of India’s Independence in 2022-23.

The event started after guests enjoyed light refreshments while mingling with the crowd. The author’s daughter Namita Farias compered the evening. After sharing an overview of the agenda for the evening, she invited Rev.



Thomas Jacob, Priest, St. Stephen’s Church, C.N.I., Bandra to begin the event with a Prayer. This was followed with the singing of the National Anthem. Then followed the introduction of the Chief Guest, Dr. Mohan D. David, President

of the Church History Association of India, Western India Branch and an invitation to the author to join him at the dais.

Dr. David, President shared an excellent overview of the Book, showering the author and the work with praises. While talking on the contents of the book, he touched upon the research done by Dr. Farias on the Indian Christian community and their involvement in nationalism and in nation building belying some accusations that Christians were ‘indifferent’ citizens of India. He also highlighted the chapter on the Christian members of the Constituent Assembly of India, a fact which is not well known to many. He made reference to Dr. Farias’ erudition and scholarship as seen in her previous book, ” The Christian Impact in South Kanara” which was based on her Doctoral thesis and had also been published under the aegis of the Church History

Association of India, Western India Branch in August 1999. Dr. David recalled that the Chief Guest, Padma Bhushan Dr. Usha Mehta had shared with them that Alice Alvares, the Mother of the author was in Yeravada Jail, Pune with her. Both ladies had been incarcerated for their involvement in the “Quit India Movement of 1942” and she informed of the husband of Alicebai (as she affectionately referred to her as), Cyprian Alvares, also being jailed. There were other Christians of Bombay who were front line agitators including Joachim and Violet Alva and Peter and Leela Alvares. The new book has three chapters devoted to Indian Christian freedom fighters.

Dr. David informed the audience about her research on the Jewish communities of India, which she hopes to publish soon after the current book. He concluded his speech with a humorous but apt observation about the character of Dr. Farias: “She has grit and determination... she writes her book, edits her book, publishes her book and also markets her book!”

With great pride and joy Zoe and Zara Farias, the grand daughters of the Author presented a wrapped copy of the book to Dr. David and the author for launch. Floral bouquets were also presented by Zoe and Zara followed by close family, friends and well wishers.

Following the unveiling of the book, Shefali Alvares, niece of the Author, read two poems composed by Alice Alvares which are featured in the Book. One small poem on freedom was composed in jail and the other during the Indo-Chinese War of 1962.

Dr. Farias spoke last to share other highlights of her book which include: the history and the origins of South Kanara Christians, their unique culture, and the contribution of Kanarities to various aspects of regional life in South Kanara and elsewhere. She spoke about ‘Kaka’ Joseph Baptista, and the role played by the Catholics of Mumbai in Indian Nationalism. Other chapters showcase the dedicated work of Christians as educationists, health care givers, social workers and activists who are dedicated to uplifting the marginalised in Society.

The books for sale will be available in March 2023 and anyone interested in the purchase of the book may look out for a Press release or notices in local and community papers closer to that date.

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## GOAN ART AND ARCHITECTURE

### *Philomena & Gilbert Lawrence (Insights into Colonial Goa)*

Vestiges of colonial Art and Architecture form the foundation of 15 UNESCO World Heritage Sites in the former colonial capital at Old Goa. The buildings and others were adorned with art and architecture typical of the Renaissance and Post-Renaissance era. Artists of that period were renowned for their ability to take inert canvas or stone and make them express the human emotions of joy and desire. Through the use of paint brushes or chisels, these artists succeeded in capturing sublime and imaginary concepts and presenting them with intricate physical details.

Native artisans were quick to pick up the Renaissance-era skills of the colonizers. Not all art was religious, and some was indigenized. The architectural styles were contagious and spread in the construction of other churches in Goa, as well as other churches in the OT (Cochin, Diu, Bombay, Mangalore, etc.) and in the Raj (Calcutta, Karachi, Delhi, etc.). The stained glass windows in the Holy Name Cathedral (Mumbai) was *Munich Glass* imported from Bavaria, Germany depicting that Goa put Asia on the world's international art and architectural scene.

Visitors who tour Old Goa ruins would be well advised to imagine traveling back in time to the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, when the splendid buildings, served as government offices, civilian housing, churches and monasteries, were constructed and adorned with artistic facades. The small city of 75,000 near the port, buzzed with activity around theaters, casinos, gambling dens, clubs, bars, and bordellos – all rowdy, social places with an overwhelming male population. In fact, the city's reputation as a “pleasure capital” was no secret in Europe and led the explorers to make Old Goa their first stop on their voyage eastwards. Goa became the playground of European Casanovas obsessed with the pursuit of pleasure and social climbing. While today's carnivals last for a mere a day or two, in the heyday of colonialism, carnivals began in October – the end of the monsoon season – and continued until the onset of summer in April. The interim months were known for the wild society events, with masked balls etc.

**Affluence and a broader outlook in life** - International trade boosted agricultural productivity and consumption and contributed to the affluence of the residents in India, Portugal and rest of the world. From 1500 to 1700, Asia's population doubled as per Sanjay Subrahmanyam – the fastest rise than in any period in time. For the natives, colonization opened the doors to a wider world. It was just a matter of time before every native or their descendants could walk through those doors. The natives voluntarily absorbed overt and covert cultural practices of the colonizer, and some became a part of the ruling political-economic circle, which contributed to their higher socio-economic status. There were White, Mestizo, and Brown *fidalgos*. Close associations with government agencies produced a need for a cultural shift. The self-serving **family** alliances among native Christians and Hindus put them in competition with the new populaces – White and Mestizo. This involved adapting to the colonizer's language, attire, mannerisms, and religion. While local tradition and wider society restricted the native-born in what they could and could not do, the White and not-so-White (Mestizos, Jews, Muslims, and Conversios) did not feel any guilt not to live up to Lisbon's norms, mores, and morals. As always, those with money, power, and access to power called the shots. The mostly male population of bureaucrats, traders and soldiers owned slaves, concubines and was the “Wild West” in Goa.

“Mimicry” or learning-and-adapting to new ways was practiced more by the upper strata to preserve their privileged status and strengthen their relationships with the ruler. It was a process of “eager emulation,” which created an imitative culture.

Some academics confuse progress and adaptation to a better way of life with denationalization or loss of culture, and/or conversion. This is like claiming that today's Goans have lost their heritage because they no longer walk the dusty roads barefooted like their great-grandparents did, but travel by bus. As another example, just because a busy home-maker uses ready-made spice blends rather than grinds the spices by hand in preparing the curry indicates a loss of heritage. Clearly, there is confusion between colonialism, loss of nationalism, education, progress, and adaptation to a better way of life. The change in native attire and outlook on life are not related to religion or the

colonizer's coercion but rather to education, socioeconomic progress, broadening of horizons through contact with other foreign nationalities, the families' diaspora – in short it is Affluence. Elite Goans, GEMS and Indians of all faiths looked upon themselves as a link between India and Europe THEN AS THEY DO NOW.

**Effects of Emigration on Native Population** - The 70-year-old writings of Freyre and Ribeiro, as well as of contemporary writers such as AB Xavier, TR de Souza, and other Portuguese and Indian literati (pundits, magazine editors, and writers) do not acknowledge the contributions that GEMs (Goans, East Indians & Mangaloreans) living in Iberian and British colonies made towards expanding the horizons and aspirations of the natives, who were restricted to the confines of the OTs. Since the 1800s, (especially with British occupation 1799-1815), the GEMs recognized the lucrative job-market lay in the British colonies, and their lingua franca should be English. As a result, only 3% spoke Portuguese in the 20<sup>th</sup> century despite compulsory primary education in Goa. Additionally, GEMs were aware of the chaos in and out of Lisbon's royal palace as well as Iberia's change in priorities, which shifted from Asia to Brazil to Africa. The European market for Asian spices became increasingly dominated by Dutch and British merchants, who also ruled the sea routes in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans.

From the 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards, the increasing numbers of Konkan and Canara diaspora, which regularly and faithfully returned to their roots, made many subtle contributions never before witnessed — no thanks to the colonizer. To their families and community, the diaspora brought skills, affluence, knowledge, and success. The colony, in turn, thrived in the resulting stability, peace, and contentment of the people. They practiced religious tolerance and were spared any outbursts of communal hatred. Yet subtly, society changed. The *nouveaux riches* replaced the old bourgeoisie of *bhatcars* (landowners) and *empregados* (bureaucrats) a.k.a brown *fidalgos* (who previously replaced the white *fidalgos*) with *lusophilic* inclinations. The Anglosphere slowly distorted the Lusosphere in Goa and completely replaced it in Mangalore, Bassein, and Bombay. In doing so, the returning diaspora shaped the narrative of upward mobility as well as became part of the landed

gentry in economic power, learning, skills, self-confidence, and social status. Internally there were less barriers and at times migration across caste strata.

CDS (Center for Development Studies) report on Goa's emigration in 1961 stated that 80% of emigration occurred from Old Conquest territories, and 75% of the émigrés were Catholic (despite representing only 33% of the population). The “Emigration rate” was pegged at 42 per 100 among Christians and five per hundred for the Hindus. The spread was along imperial (Lusitania and Anglo-Saxon) highways of human migration. However within India, Hindus accounted for 71% of out-migration and rest were Christians.

The GEM Diasporas and their monetary contributions to their families created a middle class both in the diaspora and in the native villages. These émigrés knew how to appear poised in their double-breasted suits and neckties, as well as speak with English accents. They exuded charm and old world courtesy the way royals do, and learned the art of casual name-dropping in the course of conversations. However, GEM diasporas were too busy to join the café society. After work, they often extended the courtesy of joining their co-workers for a drink and engaged in enthusiastic small talk in their own clubs. They cooked non-vegetarian meals, including pork and beef, served liquor, baked bread, and played western musical instruments. They worked as professionals as well as support staff — tailors, waiters, barmen, musicians, bakers, domestics, and cooks – in European households and businesses. Many set up their own small businesses in the service sectors. By 1961, the diaspora accounted for 20 percent of the population per Goa Migration Study (GMS). Unfortunately, post-1961, (a period free from colonization and conversion), a slow, relentless social change took place. The previous cooperative spirit within the community gradually diminished as did the mutual respect natives had for each other. Sadly, modernity, rhetoric, democracy, political instability, and extremism have contributed to making harmony an endangered commodity.

**Creation of a Remittance Economy** - In 1933, Lisbon imposed an immigration tax to generate revenue for it. Of course, Goans had been

immigrating to Bombay for nearly a century prior to that. According to Valmiki Faleiro, by the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, expat transfers accounted for a third of the colony's revenue receipts and contributed to the village economy. This injection of large amount of funds created a demand for goods and services, which led to a positive ripple effect throughout the local economy. The remittances continue to date.

Goa's remittance economy implies that Portugal was doing well exporting GEM brain power. Clearly from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Mideast and Europe was increasingly profiting from importing Goan and Indian brain power – a complete transition from importing spices and other commodities. The World Bank estimated in 2022, India earned 100 billion US dollars in annual remittances.

Portugal ruled Goa for 451 years and 23 days – a chapter in history which began two and a half centuries before the British owned any territory in Asia. Goans' Iberian-style, mentality, religion, language, food, and attire, are the result of colonialism and its resultant intermingling of two cultures. In addition, GEMs were influenced by the western education they received from Renaissance-era priests and nuns, who brought with them a broad spectrum of innovative ideas and outlook on life. When Portuguese culture and Latin Christianity were introduced to the west coast of India, they added to the many other cultures and religions that influenced the coast over more than 5,000 years of history. As Faleiro points out in his extensive writings about waves of in-migration into Goa since antiquity, "Every successive people that descended on Goa subjugated the older settlers" to form the current composite layered society.

**Improved Farming Techniques and Introduction of New Plant Species** - Prior to Lusitania's arrival, Indians practiced subsistence farming – planting just enough crops to feed their families. To keep the cost of farming low, the poor farmers did not engage in intense farming, which involved the use of fertilizers, better seeds, improved irrigation methods, crop rotation, and allowing the land to lay fallow at regular intervals to permit soil rejuvenation. Over time, the soil deteriorated, and the yield decreased. The Konkan region grew rice (staple crop) but not in sufficient quantities to feed its people, which led to frequent famines and starvation. Droughts or flooding

compounded the crises and encouraged out-migration of the population.

The European / Renaissance monks established horticultural farms, where they introduced the above mentioned farming techniques. In addition, the colonizer's control over the Canara region (Mangalore), the rice basket of the west coast, assured the Konkan people of adequate rice supplies, eliminating starvation. The monks introduced 50 new species of plants — vegetables, spices, and fruits - from Africa and South America, including corn (maize) and potatoes. The latter crops eliminated mass starvation in Goa and other parts of Asia as these plants could thrive in poor soil conditions and the harvests were plentiful. The farming techniques were so successful that the Ikkeri and Keladi rulers specifically recruited Goan farmers to tend the fields in Canara and even gave them land grants. It is interesting to note that the monks also transported Asian plants to Africa and Brazil.

**Missed Opportunities** - In addition to discussing the colonizers' contributions, it is also important to enumerate some of their missed opportunities. For example, Goa's valuable asset — its deep harbor at Mormugao — could have turned the port into the Hong Kong or Singapore of India had Lisbon accepted Britain's offer in 1815 to purchase Goa for half a million pounds. In today's economic jargon, the British had the advantages of “the economies of scale” of world commerce and the thriving Industrial Revolution; and their focused colonial approach extended all the way from the throne in London to the “white sahib” in the field. Lisbon declined the offer and held on to Goa for sentimental reasons.

A single word, ‘**Paralysis**’ best describes the post-World War II governments both in Panjim and Lisbon. In fact, many would use the term to portray the conditions since the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when many development “projects” lay stagnant on the drawing board *ad infinitum*. Lisbon focused on Africa, Brazil, and its own internal chaos in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

In 1843, Lisbon expelled several religious orders, which were closely involved in sustaining the otherwise stagnant economy. This expulsion resulted in a turmoil in the field of education and in the economy. Lisbon's string of royal dynasties, which began in 1139,

experienced displacements, upheavals, royal assassinations, and finally ended in 1910 with the monarchy replaced by the first republic. It is understandable that GEMs did not want to hitch their wagons to Portugal's fading star! That country was destined to discover its own shortcomings in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when it joined the EU.

**Sharing Cultural Opportunities** - In our view, there are great opportunities for the strengthening of lusofonia in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. For starters, we suggest that GEM (Goan, East Indian & Mangalorean) diaspora groups worldwide should foster cultural exchanges and network with each other. Another step would be to encourage interactions with those who lived through the struggle for independence in 1961. These individuals are part of the last living generation with a wealth of first-hand information on Iberian colonialism in the East and in Africa. It would benefit present and future generations to have access to the documented recollections of those who lived during that period. Such oral discourses and printed reminiscences should include input from the then young military recruits who completed tours of duty through the East in the 1950s. Such exchanges could even help the participants re-live their youth.

In addition, sports can also play an important role in fostering lusofonia. For example, Portugal could organize a world-class competitive soccer program for all its former colonies, similar to the one Britain established with the game of cricket. As world powerhouses in football, Portugal and Brazil could organize soccer camps in various parts of the Lusosphere to promote the next Edson Pele or Cristiano Ronaldo. The camps can also serve to train GEMs and Indians in professional and competitive soccer. A football league across the Lusosphere would be great for the economies of the countries, individual players, cities and clubs in addition to enhancing tourism and goodwill. Within lusotropicalism, GEMs could become badminton, table-tennis, and field hockey coaches. GEMs would also be excellent English and Hindi teachers in the Lusosphere. Looking ahead to the future, India is expected to become the third largest world economy within the next decade. The GEMs could be the entrepôt to India's economy. And for Indians, the key to Lusosphere economies and markets in Europe, Africa, and South America could lie in Goa and

coastal Karnataka!

Goa is just one of the many places Lusitanos should be encouraged to visit. Lisbon had 50 *fortalezas* all along the Asian coast, the most famous of these being Bon Bahia, located 250 miles north of Goa. Lisbon bestowed the desolate islands to England as a dowry for their queen Catherine de Braganza (q 1662-1685). Over time, the English, along with Bomoicars and others, transformed the seven islands of Bombay into a major metropolis. After independence, the city's prosperity, referred to as the 'Bombay Boom' — Brash, Messy and Racy – captured India's dreams and ambitions. The entrepreneurial energy and the ingenuity of 21 million *Mumbaikars*, all privately hustling, make Mumbai a 24/7 supercharged city. The young and entrepreneurial GEM, Indian and Lusitano have long since moved beyond colonialism and its history. They are likely to encounter each other in their diaspora groups, colleagues in universities, and peers in international high tech industries. They eagerly look to the future rather than to the past.

Clearly, the challenge for young and old is to adopt the new as well as adhere to the old values that have worked well in the past. The younger generation is literate, educated, and lives in a fast-paced world. Life in the fast lane is not necessarily incompatible with old cultural values. It does require a conscious effort to maintain the "old customs," which, of course, can only be done if we know the "old traditions." Hence the educated and intelligent generations of the future will have to determine ways that permit adapting to the new without discarding the useful traits that have endured over 3,000 years of experience, practice, and rehearsals.

Self-employed small-businesses create the most jobs in any region and are consequently the backbone of a free-market economy. The lack of job creation has been a blemish on the records of the colonial government as well as elected governments. Unfortunately, due to negative attitudes towards establishing small businesses, GEMs have relied on the government (pre- and post- colonial) for job creation. But what can the government do other than pass some tax-favorable legislation? In the past, the lack of small businesses in Goa, Mangalore etc was compensated for by the massive emigration, especially of



Catholics. The émigrés found lucrative employment outside Goa, Mangalore etc and sustained the native economy. That door of opportunity is slowly closing. It is imperative that establishing and running small businesses should be encouraged and made respectable, which would break down caste barriers and eliminate false perceptions and pretenses. The challenge for the current diaspora, then as now, is to hold on to the good and shed the bad. The **GEMs** of past generations have achieved great successes despite access only to minimal education and technology.

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## SHARING LOVE

*Trisha D'Souza*

With a year that seems to be racing past us, we dive right into the season of love. Valentine's Day had the patter of tiny feet in the early days of the 14th century. Legend has it that a Priest who was martyred by Emperor Gothicus, wrote a letter to his jailer's daughter whom he fell in love with. He signed the letter, 'from your Valentine'. Another tale speaks of St. Valentine who married couples in secret in order to have their better halves saved from going off to war. From each of these fables amongst a few others, one thing is for certain and is the unrelenting love that surrounds this day.

It used to be just a day spent with a close one which went on to a week that defined a few gestures of love. But today, the world of advertising has brought to us an extended period of kindred hearts and mystery gestures. It was in the middle of January when I saw ads promoting gifts for your Valentine. I thought to myself that I must start putting something together for all my Valentines this year! You read it right, I said 'all my Valentines'. Back in high school, it was the exchange of trinkets and greetings cards, some of which were seen and confiscated but some that brought the joy of thoughtfulness. As the years past it was a day that young lovers would share a meal together or simply spend time on a long drive. Moreover, a day serenaded by flowers, chocolates and presents packed with tender loving care.

Around this time last year, we were still recovering from the horrors post Covid. It still had so many people stuck in different parts of the

world, relatives who found their heavenly abode too soon and common people struggling between education and making ends meet. I did what I do most years and shared flowers and Valentine curios with close friends and family - A rose for Dad, some cake for Mom and Valentine themed gifts for friends. We have now stepped into days where love eludes most of us. Aged people whose family is far away, children who have lost their parents, patients who seldom see the beauty of life and the list goes on. As I see it, Valentine's Day is not a day for just one person. It's seen as the possibility of kindness that brings more love into our lives. It's a whole month that can be dedicated to making people feel loved. To know that there is someone looking out for you. More so, to let people have a moment that lasts longer than a quick hello and goodbye.

This Valentine's Day let's share the love with small gestures of kindness, spending time with our special ones. Share home cooked meals and goodies. Or as I plan to, with a cheese filled dinner and sweet, sweet dessert. I wish you all, a Happy Valentine's Day. I wish you days that remind you of love to be thankful for. And to remember that the smiles you bring to others will reward you tenfold.

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## **POINTS TO PONDER – FEBRUARY 2023**

*Norbert Shenoy*

2023 – The Defence Sector Beckons.....

Mughal Emperor Babur is popularly credited with introducing canons in the Battle of Panipat in 1526. He had then decisively used gunpowder firearms and field artillery to defeat the much larger army of Ibrahim Lodhi. In fact, the once impregnable forts that had safeguarded many a kingdom for centuries were easily conquered with might of the canons. Over the centuries, countries that invested in ever evolving defence technologies, managed to outlast wars, invasions and border conflicts.

In India, unlike in the past, private sector is now playing a significant role in the manufacture of defence equipment and providing support services within the defence ecosystem. The prospects of a

few successful companies which have entered the defence sector are discussed below. In the financial year 2022, Indian defence exports touched a record high of Rs 130 bn. 70% of it came from the private sector. Further, there was a substantial increase in exports to the US, the Philippines, West Asia, and Africa. The target is to triple the size of India's defence exports by 2025. But we face serious challenges in meeting the changing and yet growing demand for sophisticated defence equipment both for our own defence forces and exports. For instance, India spends only 0.7 per cent of its GDP on defence R&D as compared to 4.5 per cent by South Korea and 3 per cent by the US. On design and development side, Indian engineers and scientists are at par with the best in the world, so are our defence labs. We can quickly produce complex prototypes. But we lack required infrastructure for mass production of these prototypes. Anecdotal evidence suggests that a few start ups have been successful in creating some disruptive/innovative products. But mass production of these products would require state of the art fabricating centers and given the rate of obsolescence, such facilities would call for huge and continuing investments which would be beyond the means of startups unless the government steps in to support such initiatives.

Nevertheless quite a few companies have successfully set up facilities for defence production. In 2018, for instance, Bharath Forge started making a big shift from being mainly a forging and auto ancillary company to a manufacturer of defence equipment; significance of which was not recognized by the stock exchanges quickly enough. It went in for defence joint ventures with three companies, two from Israel and one from Sweden. On the aerospace front the company is looking to get into the supply chain of HAL and domestic aerospace companies, and looking at building systems and sub-systems to cater to the needs of the defence sector. It expects to be the frontrunner in these businesses in about five years. Over the past decade, Bharat Forge has focused on platform development, metallurgy and material science as well as embedded electronics. With these efforts, the company has positioned itself as a product supplier and not just a component supplier. In the defence vertical, Bharat Forge's offerings include artillery

business (towered and mounted guns), vehicle business (protected vehicles), and armoured vehicles for defence forces.

Meanwhile Solar Industries is the modern-day equivalent of a canon ball maker. It is one of the world's leading manufactures of bulk explosives, packaged explosives and initiating systems, which find applications in the mining, infrastructure, and construction industries. But over the past five years the company has pivoted its business model to focus on the defence supply chain. The company has orders for making propellants for the Akash missile, a medium-range surface-to-air missile, and the Pinaka, a multiple rocket launcher, as well as for pyrotechnics, which helps initiate the explosion, and igniters, which provide the spark for the ammunition. In July 2022, Solar Industries became the first indigenous supplier of boosters for the Brahmos missiles, a medium-range missile that can be fired from submarines, ships, aircraft or land.

At L&T, a team that once worked under the guidance of Dr Abdul Kalam, leads the defence efforts. L&T's team is working on artificial intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), virtual reality (VR), augmented reality (AR), geo-spatial technology, and cyber security for India's defence forces. L&T's defence business took the path of digitalisation almost over a decade before anyone was even talking of digital. To add to that, there was strong technical collaborations too.

For instance, L&T's partner in the manufacture of the gun systems is Hanwha Land Systems, South Korea's largest defence conglomerate. Hanwha is the largest producer of tracked self-propelled guns globally, with over 1,000 pieces in service with various armies. The guns produced by L&T-Hanwha have been modified to suit Indian requirements. It has greater than 50% indigenous content. Also, there is sufficient capacity in the offing. L&T has concurrently built a whole new manufacturing complex at its Hazira premises for the manufacture of these gun systems. It includes state-of-the-art test tracks to qualify mobility of every gun system produced here.

Although BEL is an well established and the biggest player in the area of defence and aerospace electronics; over the last three decades

Data Patterns has emerged as a significant and profitable player in this space. The company is a vertically integrated defence and aerospace electronics solutions provider, catering to the indigenously developed defence products industry. The company has proven in-house design & development capabilities. It is a recently listed company and is almost debt free and has delivered handsome profit growth of 163% CAGR over the last 5 years. But it is richly valued at a PE of over 52 at present.

So, private sector companies like Bharat Forge, Solar Industries, Data Patterns and L&T that have transformed themselves into key players in the defence supply chain and their nimble ability to specialize in technical innovation provide the crucial spokes in the wheel of India's defence evolution.

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## NEWS & NOTES

### FATHER OF 'ORAL REHYDRATION SOLUTION' – DR DILIP MAHALANABIS BESTOWED PADMA VIBHUSHAN POSTHUMOUSLY



Dr Dilip Mahalanabis has been posthumously conferred the Padma Vibhushan, the second highest Indian civilian award, by the Government of India. This is a belated recognition of his pioneering work in the field of diarrhoeal diseases control and advocating of the '**Oral Rehydration Solution**' (ORS) and **Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT)** for treatment of diarrhoea. Dr Mahalanabis was globally known as the father of ORS.

Dr Dilip Mahalanabis was trained as a Paediatrician. He returned from USA and worked in overflowing refugee camps during the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation war when he came up with Oral Rehydration Solution, which The Lancet called "**the most important medical discovery of the 20th century.**"

Indeed Dr Mahalanabis was a legend, the pillar and architect of ORT (Oral Rehydration Therapy), which has saved at least 5 million children every year from death due to diarrhoeal diseases.

Apart from his enormous contribution in saving millions of children, he donated his life savings of Rs. One Crore to the Institute of Child Health in Kolkata. He passed away on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2022 in Kolkata.

**CASK takes pride in introducing this great son of India to our readers. May the legacy of the legend Dr Dilip Mahalanabis continue to inspire young doctors, scientists and researchers in India!**

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**MRS JOYCE OZARIO & ANDREW L.D’CUNHA –  
RECIPIENTS OF SANDESHA AWARD 2023**



Joyce Ozario was born on 26<sup>th</sup> November 1952, in Jeppu, Mangaluru. She has been singing and winning contests for the last 60 years. She is considered one of Konkani’s sweetest female voices and has been singing as a lead female singer for Mandd Sobhann in all its shows and recordings, ever since its inception in the year 1986.

In honour of her immense contribution to Konkani music, has been accorded with the title of ‘Konkani Abolem’, in the year 2011, at the 3rd Konkani Global Music Awards. She is still actively singing on stage and recording even at the age of 70. She is the wife of Mandd Sobhann Gurkar Eric Ozario.

**ANDREW L.D’CUNHA – Sandesha Literacy Award 2023**



Andrew L D’Cunha has been active in Konkani literature for over 40 years, He is renowned as a creative contemporary Konkani poet. More than 600 of his poems, three poetry collections, 30 short stories, 50 articles, columns for children and poetry lovers, on contemporary social issues have been published in various Konkani magazines and websites.

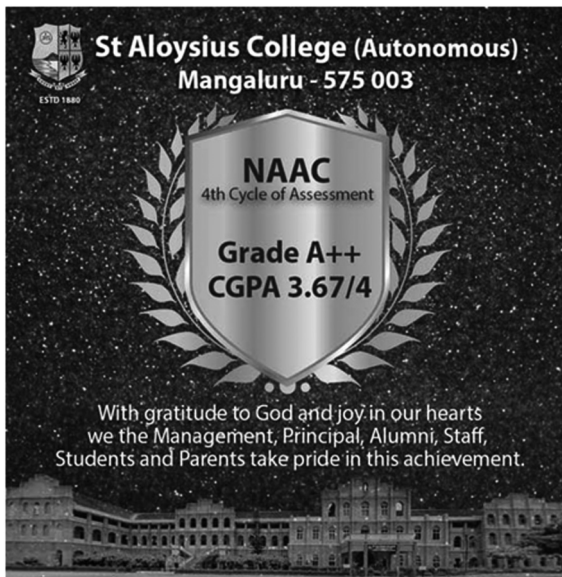
He has also served as a judge for several Konkani literary competitions. His poetry collections have received Karnataka Konkani Sahitya Academy Book Award, All India Konkani Writers’ Association

Award, Vimala V Pai World Konkani Sahitya Puraskar, Dr TMA Pai Konkani Sahitya Puraskar.

**CASK offers its congratulations to Joyce Ozario and Andrew D’Cunha on being recipients of the Sandesha Awards 2023 and wishes both of them further success.**

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**CONGRATULATIONS ST ALOYSIUS COLLEGE ON SECURING NAAC – GRADE-A++**



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**HOMOSEXUALITY IS A SIN BUT NOT A CRIME – POPE FRANCIS**

Pope Francis has condemned the criminalization of homosexuality, becoming the first Roman pontiff to officially back the repeal of such legislation in countries where it exists, saying that the Catholic Church must work towards an end to what he described as “unjust” laws.

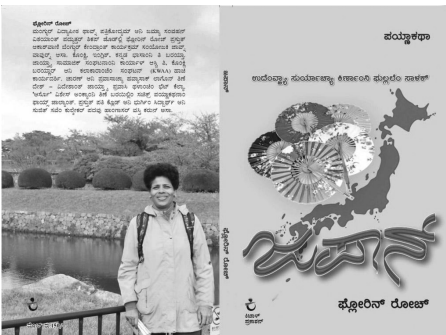
“Being homosexual is not a crime,” he said in an exclusive interview with The Associated Press released on Jan. 25. “It’s not a crime. Yes, but it’s a sin. Fine, but first let’s distinguish between a sin and a crime.”

# A KONKANI TRAVELOGUE TITLED ‘THE LOTUS THAT BLOOMED IN THE LAND OF THE RISING SON – JAPAN’



‘The Lotus that Bloomed in the Land of Rising Sun – Japan’, a travelogue in Konkani authored by **Florine Roche (extreme right in the photo above)**, was released on January 26 2023, at the World Konkani Centre, Shaktinagar.

The book was released by the former President of Karnataka Konkani Sahitya Academy Dr K. Jagadeesh Pai (Centre). NRI entrepreneur and philanthropist Michael D’Souza (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) was the chief guest and president of World Konkani Centre CA Nandagopal Shenoy presided over the function. Mr Gilbert D’Souza (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) was also present.



The programme included a dialogue with the author of the book on the subject ‘Travel as a hobby and Travelogues’ The discussion was moderated by eminent theatre personality and artiste Eddie Sequeira, Bendur.

The book is published by ‘Kittall Publications’ under the guidance of poet, critic H M Pernal (extreme left in the photo) and editor of ‘Arso’. Konkani monthly Wilson Kateel has written the foreword for the book.

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## **OBITUARIES - JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2023**

**CASK offers its sincere condolences to the families of the following members of our community, who passed away recently:**

- ❖ Mary Peregrina Fernandes (Parry) (74), Chikmagalur, wife of the late Austine Fernandes, mother of Suraj Daniel/Athena, sister of the late Franklin, the late Percy, John, Stanley, Richard, Wilfred, Donald, Rose, Patricia and Juliet, on January 09, 2023.
- ❖ Ashok Merwin Lobo (54), Kulshekar, husband of Wilma L D'Souza, on January 09, 2023.
- ❖ Veronica D'Souza (83), Attavar, wife of late John D'Souza, on January 10, 2023.
- ❖ Hilda Saldanha (76), Bendur, wife of late Robert Saldanha, mother of Sujay, Sudeep, Sujeeth, Sachit/Reema and Sakith/Jyothica, on January 11, 2023.
- ❖ Fr Thomas Serrao (80), Allahabad, on January 12, 2023.
- ❖ Stany D'Souza (80), Bejai, husband of Margaret D'Souza, father of Clara/Maxim, Vincent/Apoline, Stephen/Jyothi, Lorine/Prem and Ivan, on January 12, 2023.
- ❖ Alice Mascarenhas (96), Milagres, wife of late Joseph Mascarenhas, mother of Roque/Genevieve, Tresa/Richard D'Costa, Molly, Noreen/Richard Dias and Austin/Jacintha, on January 12, 2023.
- ❖ Augustine Paul Rodrigues (83), Kulshekar, husband of Emiliana Rodrigues, father of Brian, Brenda and Sonia/Steven, on January 12, 2023.
- ❖ Arthur Sylvester D'Souza (83), Urwa, husband of Triza D'Souza, father of Blasius/Primrose, Anil/Prema, Arun/Pallavi, Kiran/Jawahar, on January 13, 2023.
- ❖ John Sushil Noronha (61), Kulshekar, husband of Edna Noronha, father of Agnelo Suchet Noronha, on January 13, 2023.
- ❖ Leander Vernon Noronha (17), Kulshekar, (student of St Aloysius PU College, Mangalore), son of Vinitha and Loy Noronha, brother of Lorraine Noronha, on January 14, 2023.
- ❖ Ida Praveen Raj (65), Valencia, wife of Praveen Raj, mother of Patra/Vinay Vidyasagar, Prajwal and Poline, on January 15, 2023.

- ❖ Harold Noronha (80), Bendore, husband of Jettu Noronha, father of Arun/Ashwini, Lavina/Nithin and Ashley/Trisha, on January 16, 2023.
- ❖ Joyce Texeira (nee Goveas) (87), Rosario, wife of late Dr Michael Texeira, mother of Norman/Maxima, Steven/Brenda, Ivan/Marjorie (CASK GC Member) & Kevin, on January 19, 2023.
- ❖ Lilly Pinto (90), Bendur/Kelarai, wife of late Basil Pinto, mother of Lawrence/Mabel, late Richard/Mabel, Theresa/Alphonse, Stella/Alwyn, Robert/Anita and Fatima/Rudy, on January 22, 2023.
- ❖ Sr M Ima BS (80), Siddakatte, nee Alias Assumption D'Souza, of the Bethany Congregation, daughter of late Monthu D'Souza and late Cecilia D'Souza, on January 26, 2023.
- ❖ Apoline Mascarenhas (86), Bendur, wife of late Benedict Stany Mascarenhas, mother of Dr Harold/Dr Usha, late Richard/Judith, Joyce/late Lawrence Fernandes, Premilla/Irwin Moniz, Rose Marie/Wilfred D'Souza, Violet Mascarenhas, on January 26, 2023.
- ❖ Sr Benedicta Antonette Machado (86), St Charles Convent, Belgaum, sister of Fr Victor Machado (Sr), Chaplain, Little Sisters of the Poor, Kulshekar, on January 27, 2023.
- ❖ Pamela Mary Pinto (63), Bejai, wife of John Louis Pinto, mother of Shebonnie M C Pinto, on January 27, 2023.
- ❖ Sr Amy D'Silva BS (72), Bengaluru, daughter of late Piad and late Martha D'Silva, sister of late Cecilia Moras, late Lily Noronha, late Joseph D'Silva, late Theresa Monteiro, late Rosie Menezes, late Mary Fernandes, late Thomas D'Silva, on January 28, 2023.
- ❖ Francis Sequeira (90), Milagres, husband of late Stella and father of Florence/Tom Sequeira nee Graves, on January 28, 2023.
- ❖ Lilly Pinto (98), Bejai, (former Headmistress of St Francis Xavier Primary School, Bejai), sister of late Fr Aloysius Pinto, late Fr Denis Pinto, late Sr Agatha, late Dulcine Pinto and late Cyril/Amy Pinto, on January 29, 2023.
- ❖ Joyce Lewis (78), Milagres, mother of Desmond Lewis/Josline Barnes and Maria James, on February 01, 2023.
- ❖ Gilbert Vijay D'Souza (52), Milagres, husband of late Wilma Reshma D'Souza, father of Bianca & Belisha, on February 3, 2023.



International Day of Women and Girls in Science  
February 11

## Vision & Mission of CASK

### Vision

Striving to create and enrich a connected community that cares, of all those with roots in this beautiful corner of the globe, called Konkan Karaval

### Mission

Reaching out to the marginalized by extending support for their education, health care and housing needs. Preserving and promoting the unique culture of this region and joining hands with all those committed to the preservation of environment.



## *World Day of Sick*

*It is observed on 11 February. The day was introduced by Pope John Paul II in 1992, as a way for people to offer prayers for those suffering from illness.*

*“Caring for the sick requires professionalism, tenderness, straightforward and simple gestures freely given, like a caress that makes others feel loved”.*

**If not delivered, please return to: Catholic Association of South Kanara,  
Pio Mall, Third Floor, Jail Road, Bejai, Mangalore 575 004**

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