

ignite

2016-17



Peace through Religion

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

"Let us be a piece to spread peace "

We are extremely overjoyed to announce the 2nd Edition of the Ignite Magazine. This year magazine is a bunch of articles based on different cultures and religions. We tried our best to capture all sorts of thoughts, ideas and to present a platform where it would get recognition and there was no other place would be better than the Ignite Magazine as it highlights and encourages amateur writers, poets and others to showcase their creativity and to boost and prepare them to express their views on current topics – which is the need of the hour, as each one's ideas/ opinions are welcome without criticism. Ignite 2016-2017 has brought out beautifully how diverse religion and culture, in spite of being distinct can sow seeds of peace to make this world a better place to live in.

The Cardinal Paul Poupard Foundation Chair of Inter-religious and Inter-cultural Dialogue has recently joined hands with UNESCO (The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) in order to expand the goals and objectives of the Chair at a global platform, so that many lives could be touched. This year's International Symposium 2016-17 was carried out on a large scale with eminent speakers worldwide, with the theme "Family and Nation Building" which is a current hot topic, and is needed to be thought of. This magazine wouldn't have been possible without the contribution of the students who took up the responsibility to pen down their thoughts inspite of their busy schedule. The greatest accomplishment for us would be if you kept smiling throughout as you read this magazine and imagine that so many diverse cultures and religions are prevailing in this world and some are yet to be explored.

We express our deep gratitude to the Chair, to Dr. Marie Fernandes, Fr. Magi Murzello, our Professor-in-charge and the Executive Committee for giving us this opportunity to be the editor for the 2nd edition of this Ignite Magazine. We hope you all enjoy reading this magazine. We would pen off by sharing our experience in the form of a poem that we have written:

Being an editor was our desire,
An amazing experience that we will cherish forever,
Working with such great aspirant writers,
Whose articles would set you on fire.
If we said it was a cake-walk we would be a liar.

Essays, poems, news articles are just few to name,
They have excelled the horizon of success and fame,
Being unaware of such topics would never be the case,
If you unfold the pages, you would never be categorized in an 'unknown' cage.

Each page has a story
That's ready to be told,
Some interesting, shocking or awful facts
That will make you behold.

Get ready on this exciting adventure of knowledge,
And hope our work would be acknowledged,
We did our best,
And left to God to do the rest.

Editors

**Mikael D'Souza
(SYBCOM – A) &
Soujanya Rangawar
(FYBA-A)**



His Eminence – Cardinal Paul Poupard: Founder of the Chair.



His Grace – Archbishop Felix Machado:
(Ex-Officio, Established The Cardinal Paul Poupard Foundation Chair in our college)

WELCOME NOTE

A special word of congratulations to the faculty members and students who have worked hard to bring out yet another issue of Ignite. As the name of the journal suggests, we hope that this journal will kindle the spark of tolerance and peace and unite all of us in bonds of love.



The Cardinal Paul Poupard Chair and the UNESCO Chair for Inter-Religious and Inter-Cultural Dialogue has been very vibrant and for over a decade the faculty members have sought to find new ways to engage the students. A special mention must be made of Prof. Sharmila Dhote who is in-charge of this Chair and is ably assisted by the Vice Principal, Prof Saudamini Bhagwat and Dr. Vatika Sibal who co-ordinates the University recognized add on course for the students. We are grateful to our Executive Committee Members for all their support and encouragement to organize the many International seminars we have had each year since the Chair was inaugurated and the many journals that we have been able to publish with all the scholarly articles.

We are proud of our students who work with great enthusiasm to help organize the various activities of the Chair. We hope you enjoy reading this issue and be prompted to come up with something of your own for the next issue.

Dr. Marie Fernandes
Principal

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

St. Andrew's College Management Committee for The Cardinal Paul Poupard
Foundation Chair of Inter-Religious & Inter-Cultural Dialogues

Cardinal Oswald Gracias (Chair Person)

Archbishop Felix Machado (Ex-Officio, Card. Paul Poupard Foundation)

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Fr. Magi Murzello (Manager)

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UNESCO & The Cardinal Paul Poupard Foundation Chair of Inter-Religious & Inter-Cultural Dialogue



**United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization**



**UNESCO, Cardinal Paul Poupard Foundation Chair
Of Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue at
St. Andrew's College of Arts, Science and Commerce
Mumbai, India**

HISTORY

The Centre of Inter - Religious and Inter - Cultural dialogue was established in September 2009 in St. Andrew's College in association with the Cardinal Paul Poupard Chair of Inter – Religious and Inter – Cultural Dialogue.

The Cardinal Paul Poupard Foundation has been constituted under Italian law and recognized by the Republic of Italy. The Foundation intends to conserve and make use of the considerable patrimony of cultures and relationships that the Cardinal created over many years, in seeking to promote and encourage cultural initiatives that can foster the coming together and understanding between religions and cultures all over the world.


It seeks to promote Congresses, Conferences and Publications, to create Chairs in Universities throughout the world, so as to help students with grants, and to promote 'The Dialogue of Cultures'.

The Cardinal Paul Poupard Foundation (Italy) Chair of Inter – Religious and Inter – Cultural Dialogue at St. Andrew's College had collaborated with UNESCO in the year 2011.

UNESCO pursues its objectives through five major programs: education, natural sciences, social/human sciences, culture and communication/information. UNESCO's aim is "to contribute to the building of peace, the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information".


Other priorities of the organization include attaining quality Education For All and lifelong learning, addressing emerging social and ethical challenges, fostering cultural diversity, a culture of peace and building inclusive knowledge societies through information and communication

INTER-RELIGIOUS DIPLOMA



ST. ANDREW'S COLLEGE
OF
ARTS, SCIENCE & COMMERCE

OFFERS



Diploma Course
Religion and Society, Peace and Dialogue

St. Dominic Road, Bandra (West), Mumbai - 50.
Tel: (022) 2640 16 57 | 2642 86 84

ZC CREATION ZENOBIA

Course Co-ordinator: Dr. Vatika Sibal

OBJECTIVES

- To understand the spiritualities of various religions.
- To strategize in order to establish small human communities.
- To grasp the principles of inter-religious harmony.
- To help the students to get to know other cultures and religions.
- To bridge the gap between various religious communities.
- To stem the growing mistrust between religious communities through sound knowledge of each other's beliefs and traditions.
- To train students in a climate of religious intolerance to work for nation building and make them ambassadors of peace and dialogue.
- To help the students to become aware of the transformative role they can play to promote peace and national integration.

Welcome to the Inauguration of **PG Diploma Programme in Inter-Religious Dialogue and Water for Sustainable Development**

Co-branded by



Chief Guest

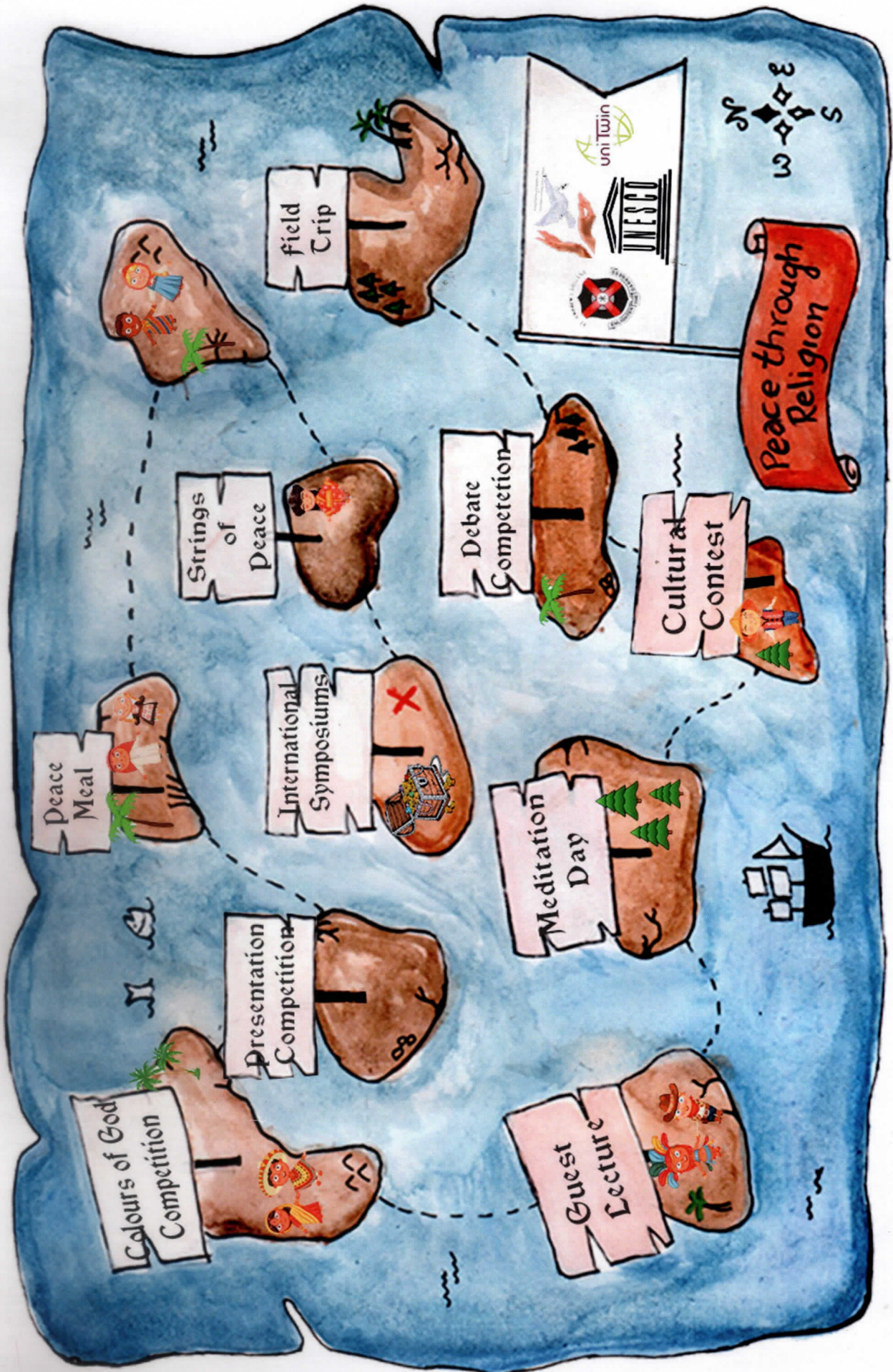


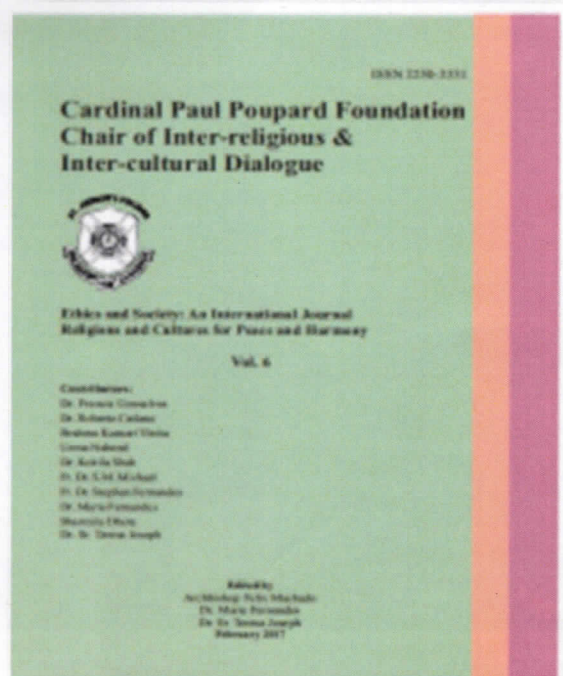
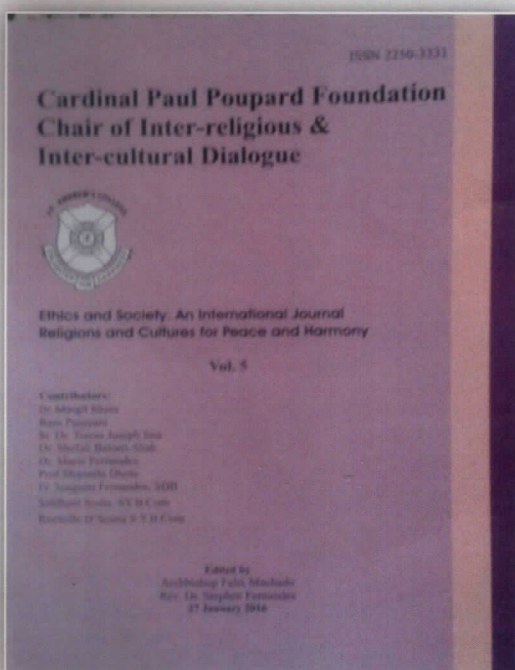
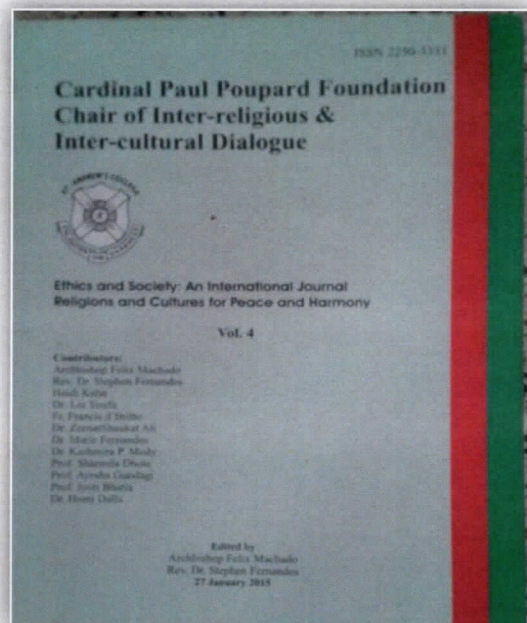
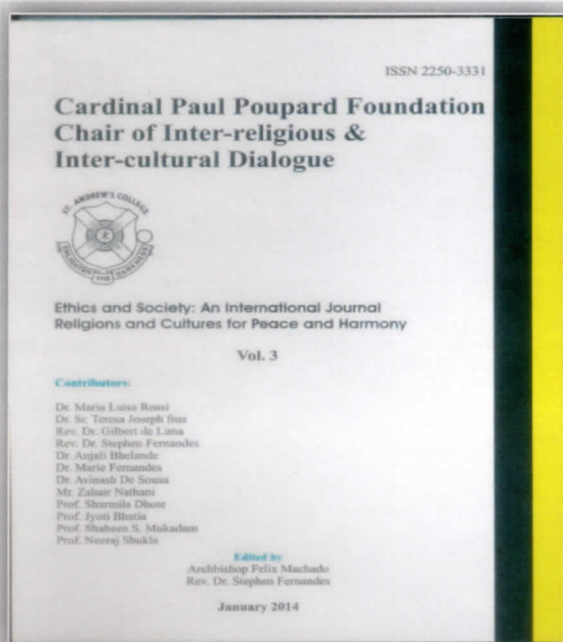
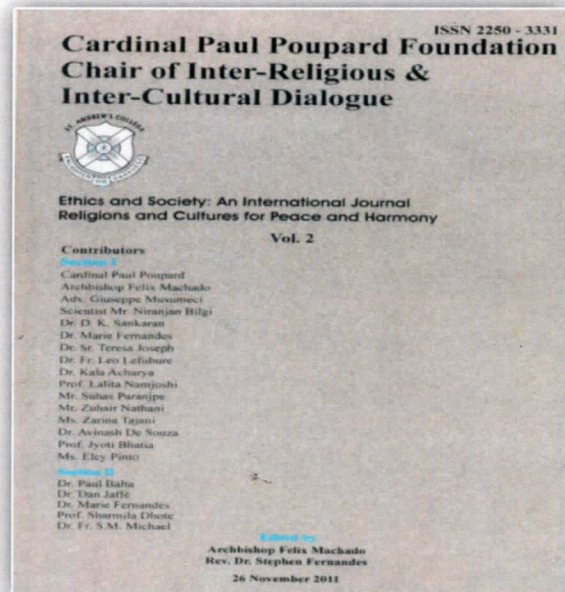
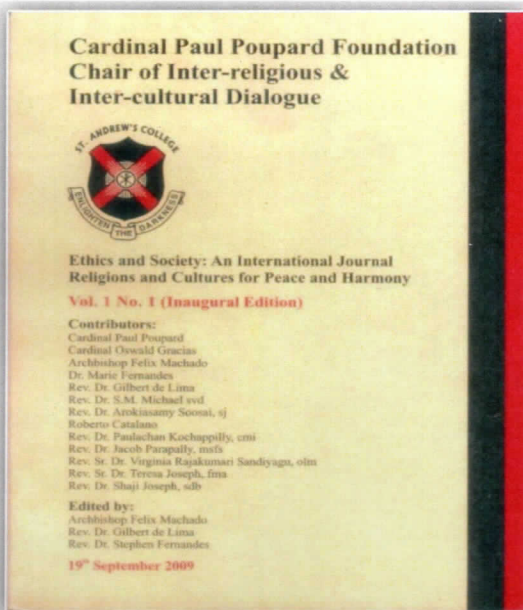
**His Eminence
Oswald Gracias**

Cardinal, Archbishop of Bombay

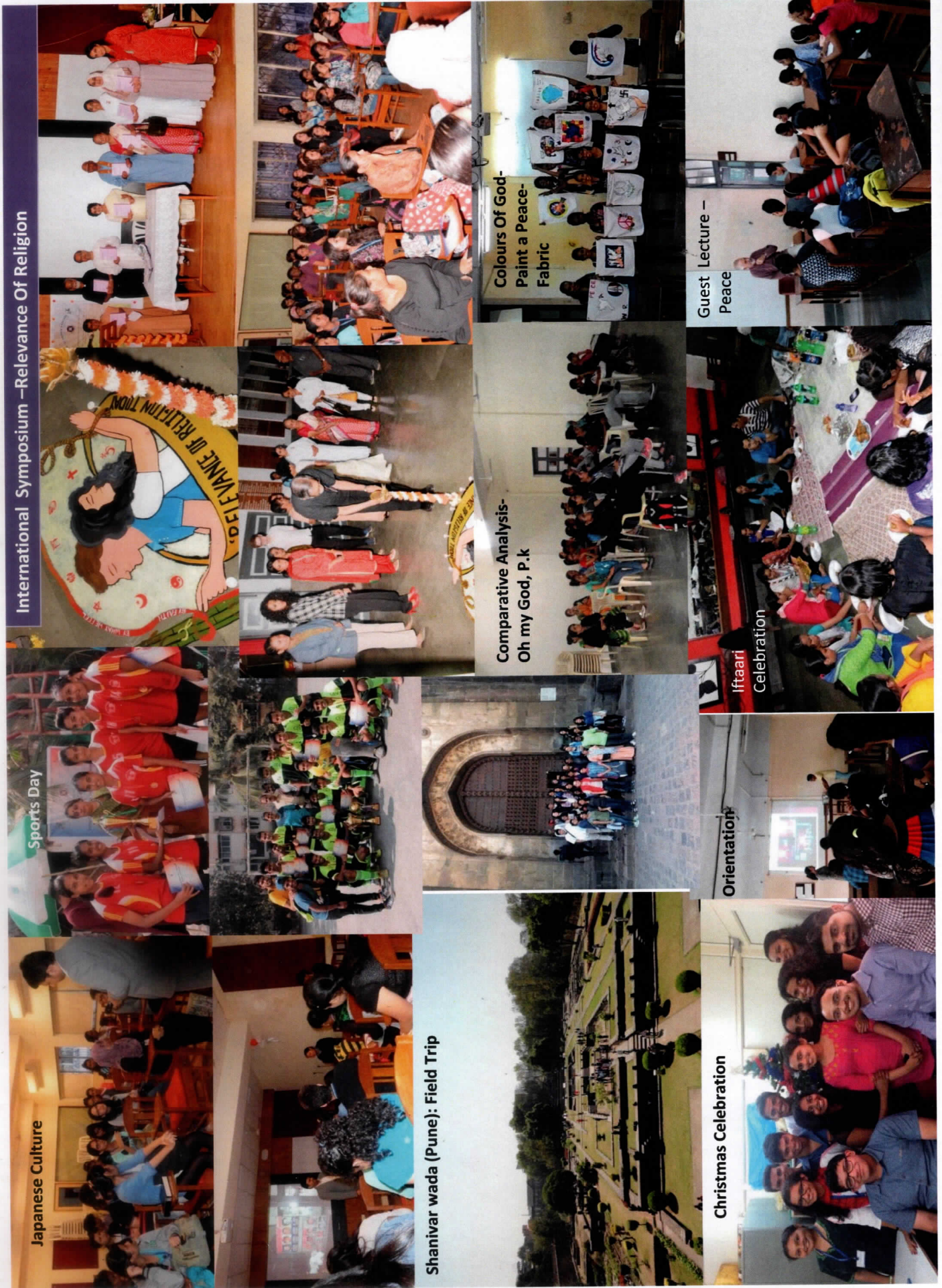
Venue: 1st Floor Hall, College of Social Work, Nirmala Niketan, Churchgate, New Marine Lines, Mumbai-400020.

FLOW CHART OF ACTIVITIES





HIGHLIGHTS OF 2015-2016



GLIMPSES OF 2016-2017



Presentation competition



Ganapati celebrations



Taste of Meditation – Pagoda, Gorai



NAAC Prayer Service



Cultural Stopover – Elephanta Caves



Quiz Competition



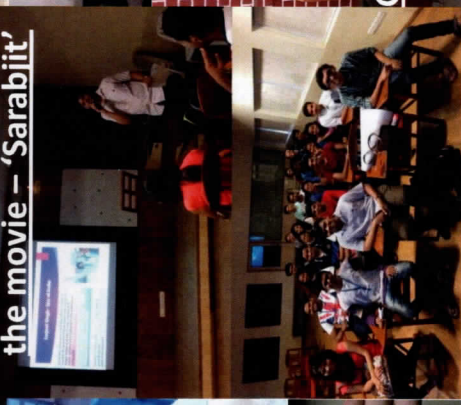
Colors of God competition



Guest lecture



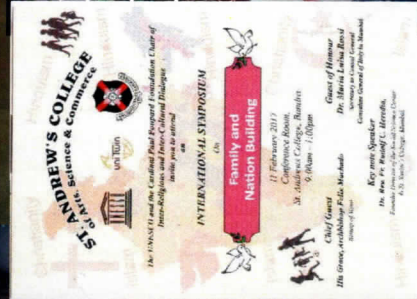
Strings of Peace Day



Critical appreciation of the movie – 'Sarabjit'



Getting dress Traditional



Family and Nation Building



Visit to the Mount Mary Basilica, Bandra

SYMPOSIUM OF 2015-2016

'Relevance of Religion Today' 2015 - 2016



SYMPOSIUM OF 2016-2017

'Family and Nation Building' 2016 – 2017' SYMPOSIUM



VOICES IN PROSE

THE NEW ART OF LIVING

Everyone who scans these pages is alive. The fact that you are able to turn the pages and run your eyes over these words is proof of that. It does not follow, however, that being alive we know the art of living. We are, many of us, in the strange anomaly of living and yet not living. The body functions; its surpassing mechanism does its part well. We live and move and have our being in the flesh, and yet, sadly enough, many miss the joy of life.

Life begins today for the person who meets himself. At whatever age this great event occurs, life's, deep and full, well up and from that time on it can truly be said one lives. Strangely enough, multitudes of men and women are born; spend their lives and die, never having really known themselves or the purpose of their lives. "They die with all their music in them." Long ago Socrates the Father of Philosophy wrote over the old Greek Temple—"Know Thyself"—for he realized that achievement in any field and in the art of living itself is dependent upon an accurate knowledge of oneself. Most of us don't have adequate knowledge about our powers and abilities.

Life for most people would be happy and satisfying if they could overcome worry. If by some miracle one could be assured that he need never worry again, it would seem life an altogether new world. It is both right and possible that worry should be eliminated from your life. To learn the art of living we must bury the worry as it will go along with you and will be your constant companion.

"Better never trouble trouble
Until trouble troubles you,
For you're sure to make your trouble
Double trouble when you do.
And your trouble, like a bubble,
That you're troubling about,
May be nothing but a cipher
With the rim rubbed out."

The time in which we live has made real life difficult. We are a generation busy with things. The

increase of things, instead of providing leisure to be enjoyed, in all too many cases has but multiplied our confusion. Away from the multiple material things we must take time to live. We must take some time to stand and stare, to cultivate friendship, get a song, a lovely poem, to reflect and to meditate to hear the whisper of God's voice into your minds.

Who would not like to have complete peace of mind or at least an approximation of it? It is more to be desired than fine gold or precious jewels, for if one possess everything else and does not have peace of mind, what does he get? We dream for peace, faith gives us peace, but in this era of stress where will we find peace? We may search of it in nature, in God but yet may not find peace. Peace is to be found in your mind alone. It cannot be found anywhere else. If the mind is not at peace, there can be no peace.

We also need to be happy. Happiness is simply a mental state of well-being created by positive and good emotions.

"Happiness is not a possession to be prized; it is a quality of thought, a state of mind." Daphne du Maurier. We need to be happy inside. With peace of mind we can achieve this positive state of mind. We also need to escape from our fears. It is one of man's most common enemies. Fear of one kind or the other haunt us and cast a shadow over our happiness. Also we are not at our full best when we are a victim of our fears.

We need to rethink our lives today. We need to reflect and realize that true peace will only be found within us. The art of living is not just breathing alone but by experiencing the taste of one's life, by overcoming fear, by being happy, by driving worries away and most importantly knowing the purpose of our lives.

Rochelle D'Souza
(TYBCOM)

CONVERSION: A RELIGIOUS SUPREMACY

In the vastness of existence, we cannot deny the possibility of the influence and involvement of a greater power. And no matter how hard we try, we will never have all the answers. Religion is a belief which relates humanity to an order of existence. It is a reassurance we give to ourselves under the pretext of believing in a superior creator.

If we take into account different periods of time, we

are exposed to an array of various religions, each claiming to be 'The Supreme'. Over centuries, man has professed the value 'live and let live', to a point of monotony. However, this ideal is farfetched in a realistic scenario.

From time immemorial, religious conversion through coercion has been a way to manipulate spiritually disoriented masses. Moving through history, no

organization promoting religious ethics is left innocent when it comes to conversion and adoption of their religious denomination by means of excluding others. It is with the utmost care that these denominations target the vulnerable psychological states of their subjects.

Imaginative or cruel, whichever term you may prefer, the masterminds behind such propagandas are usually those who hold positions of authority. They treat government and religious doctrine synonymously. And this, in any time or place, is a dangerous power play. A large majority of people find comfort in being 'guided'. Promises of land, equality, money and afterlife will cause the less fortunate to jump at any opportunity. They want their struggles to end. They want to follow. Does this mean they have offered themselves up as pawns in a ruthless power struggle?

The free thinkers, the ones you and I would encourage, what became of them? It is doubtful that they remained fearful in expressing their opinions. The obvious is subtly hinted, of course. They were condemned.

Wars have been fought to establish the supreme religion, lives lost, cities burned, cultures eradicated, individuals exploited! Mankind claims to have evolved over such tragedies. Then why is it that we forget even today the essence of beauty behind religion? Why do we fight to claim one religion superior over another? Is it so impossible to agree to disagree?

Some of us strongly oppose Karl Marx's idea which states that religion is an 'opiate'. How could religion ever be compared to a substance so demeaning? But through proclamation that the religion we follow is supreme, are we not degrading our very own faith to the ground?

A solution? I could come up with quite a few. What good would it be though, if we aren't going to put it into practice? Ours is the age of thinkers. We ask questions and seek answers. Curiosity may kill the cat, but then again don't cats have nine lives?

The idea of conversion as a religious supremacy is enabled by our fear to take a stand, which allows it to thrive. Religion provides hope, whether you believe in Jesus, Allah, Krishna, Buddha or just the idea of an Almighty. It may be true that a plan has already been laid for us by the master of this universe, but let it not cloud our ability to make a choice. We can either choose to be condemned for what we truly believe in, or live in a state of condemnation by adopting that in which we do not have faith. It is important to remember that even though we may have different ideals, we are not against each other.

Conversion is not the answer to the problems that have risen from our perception of differences. It is essential to acknowledge that religion is important, for the individual and society as a whole. We cannot state the supremacy of a single religion, and certainly cannot use numbers to directly proportionate such a relation.

Kelly Waller
(TYBA)

RELIGION IN 2050

'A pen is mightier than a sword' a very famous proverb but in recent years this proverb has been reframed as 'A sword is mightier than a pen' – a 360° spin when religion is talked about. We have instances where people are forcibly converted into another religion by going against one's own religious scripts preached by one's Prophet / God's Messenger/follower. In recent years ISIS have made their debut of being a villain for forcibly converting people from other faiths into Islam. It's estimated by 2050, Islam would be the prominent religion in the world by crashing Christianity which has been the most practiced religion in the world.

Once in a garden there was a bunch of gorgeous and good looking red roses as red as ruby. One day the youngest rose amongst them had a keen desire to know what was there behind the wall. The red rose had asked everyone but to no avail everyone had warned him not to cross the wall. But knowing the

fact the rose was the youngest his curiosity had forced him to cross the wall. On the top of the wall he was amazed and astonished to see such beautiful white and yellow roses. So alike but beauty beyond boundaries. The red rose started to mingle around with the other roses. The red rose asked them, "If we are so alike then why such wall is striking between the two of us?" The white and yellow rose replied. 'It's because of humans, they distinguish us in the name of color, preference and profitability.' The red rose replied, "If GOD doesn't treat us differently, then who are humans to do so?". From that day all the different roses lived together as one big family.

The amalgamation of different roses was so eye catching and that unity still prevails within God's creation. The striking line that need to be thought about, is "If God treat all of us as one, then why should we use Religion to practice **DIVIDE AND RULE POLICY?**"

All religion in the world promote peace and harmony within one's community and society. Ironically, Peace itself doesn't have any religion. As per recent survey, it is estimated that a rise from 3% to 7% of the world population would consists of Atheists. It's strange , but the real fact is we are stuck in the vicious circle of our religion and custom , that as forced people to believe that God doesn't exist and it's only a human figure with power to judge the good and bad things that we do down on earth. The recent trend in a rise of Atheism needs to be solved by making religion to open up and to change with time. Gone are the days when people used to respect religion and would dare to end their life for it, but nowadays a number of birth of anti-religious band has popped up around the globe. Faith is something personal where even when your back is against the wall you still strive and cling on it to believe in it and live for it which is beautifully brought out by Blossom D. Tuscano in the following stanzas below.

They call you different names,
But you are one and the same.
Its brotherhood what they preach,
But burst in wars when it's time to practice by each.
Let religion be the one not to confine
But a matter of faith that oneself defines.
It's not a thing to be followed by force,
But a heartfelt treasure to be cherished the most.
They sing your praise in melodious voice,

Artis, hymns, kavallis, so vivid and nice.
Like blend of symphony, to sing a song
For You 'Oh Almighty',
let's be one in faith all along.

The best example of change in religion as per modern age is seen in Christianity where Pope Francis had allowed instead of burying the body it could also be burnt just as in Hinduism. Religion need not be too rigid and it needs to change as per trends prevailing in the society. Role of education could help to bridge the gap between what we believe to be and what the reality is. It broadens one's aspect towards one's and others Religion and also helps its people at large to not get their minds and instincts to get influence and to meet the evil intentions of peoples to use Religion as a tool to create destruction and to end mankind in the name of religion. Social Media do influence people at large by making them belief as to false facts that they weren't informed in their religion. Never the rest one must not forget that in spite of diverse religion and culture there are places where peace still prevail and its Peace that sow seeds of harmony, respect and tolerance in the society.

"Faith can move mountains but Prayers could touch the heart of God".

Mikael D'Souza.
(SYBCOM - A)

PEACE

"PEACE" is something which is required in today's world of terrorism and for other violent ways that are used to harm people, the country, and the society as a whole. Bringing about peace is not only the need of the hour but also Peace is the right of any person that is living in the society. People in a country require a peaceful environment and a peaceful society to live in. Bringing about peace will mean not only end of terrorism and war but also end of internal differences amongst individuals, cultural differences, etc. Peace is not only through external environment and society but also inner peace away from anger, stress and others things that makes maintenance of inner peace difficult. As Buddha says "Peace comes from within do not seek it without"....

Every religion is basically propagating peace no religion ever has taught to harm people or disrupt a peaceful environment. In the Gospel of Luke Zechariah celebrates his son John And you, child, will be called prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give his

people knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God by which the daybreak from on high will visit us to shine on those who sit in darkness and death's shadow, to guide our feet into the path of peace. Quran clearly stated "Those who have believed and whose hearts are assured by the remembrance of Allah. Unquestionably, by the remembrance of Allah, hearts are assured" and stated "O you who have believed, when you are told, "Space yourselves" in assemblies, then make space; Allah will make space for you.

And when you are told, "Arise," then arise; Allah will raise those who have believed among you and those who were given knowledge, by degrees. And Allah is acquainted with what you do. "Buddhists believe that peace can be attained once all suffering ends. They regard all suffering as stemming from cravings aversions (fears), or delusions. To eliminate such suffering and achieve personal peace, followers in the path of the Buddha adhere to a set of teachings called the Four Noble Truths— a central tenet in Buddhist philosophy.

Hindu texts contain the following passages:

May there be peace in the heavens, peace in the atmosphere, and peace on the earth. Let there be coolness in the water, healing in the herbs and peace radiating from the trees. Let there be harmony in the planets and in the stars, and perfection in eternal knowledge. May everything in the universe be at peace. Let peace pervade everywhere, at all times. May I experience that peace be within my own heart.

— *Yajur Veda* 36.17)

Let us not concord with our own people, and concord with people who are strangers to us. Celestial Twins, create between us and the strangers a unity of hearts. May we unite in our minds, unite in our purposes, and not fight against the heavenly spirit within us. Let not the battle-cry rise amidst many slain, nor the arrows of the war-god fall with the break of day

— *Yajur Veda* 7.52

This basically means that no religion is based on violence or terrorism. Basically violence and terrorism have NO religion they are basically created and put in practice by individuals who want to harm and disturb the society.

Peace is necessary for people, society and a country as whole. All great leaders have always believed in Peace. "If we are to have peace on earth, our loyalties must transcend our race, our tribe, our class and our nation and this means we must develop a world perspective" This is a quote which is very much applicable in today's world. This is a quote from Martin Luther King.

As we all know that Mahatma Gandhi always believed in non-violence and promoted peace extensively.

"The terms of Peace may be negotiated by political leaders, but the fate of peace is up to each of us"

-Barack Obama

Nicoya Dolaria
(SYBMS - B)

TOLERANCE: THE NEED OF HOUR

Man is a social being and has to live in a spirit of harmony and co-operation with others. In this process some amount of give and take is necessary, a capacity for compromise that is tolerance. Tolerance is a virtue of civilized age. It is a virtue that helps us to put up with those who have different ways and opinions.

Down the ages the spirit of tolerance has been a part of Indian psyche. Man in the twenty first century believes he is more civilized than his ancestors but. Is he more tolerant than them?

Unfortunately, the virtue of tolerance is abundant in the world and is in dire need of it. Without tolerance broad mindedness energy will be wasted in fertile arguments. The world is full of people who don't know each other, don't like the color of each other's skin the shape of their noses, the way others talk or others fondness. We can't love them all or we can't feel inclined but we can try to tolerate them because it is a common sense as we have to live with them in same world.

No individual can live isolation in this world. In fact loneliness is not liked by most of us. People would like to be in the company of others and this calls for tolerance. Yes. Young people have to tolerate the slow speed of elders. Elders will have to tolerate the rash speed of youngsters. Views are also mostly divergent. The rich people have to tolerate the poor in case they want things to be done by them. Poor have to tolerate the inadequacies of rich since they need money for their living.

In recent years or decades, distance between

people has virtually reduced because of better means of communication, which has led to increase in inter-dependence of people. People are now-a-days compelled to look at a broader perspective. Although the concept of loyalty and patriotism towards the nation still prevails people have been forced to have a more global perspective. As a lack of it can adversely affect business or social harmony.

The phenomenon has many names. You may call it globalization or 'World is Shrinking' or 'World is a global village'.

The fact is in today's world the gamut of situations that people experience, the variety of people that we meet, the extent of things we hear or see is far greater today than what it used be. All of it we owe to the globalization phenomenon. Here I have used globalization as a much general term.

In 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states:

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance

Even though not formally legally binding, the Declaration has been adopted in or influenced many national constitutions since 1948. It also serves as the foundation for a growing number of international treaties and national laws and international, regional,

national and sub-national institutions protecting and promoting human rights including the freedom of religion.

In 1965, The Roman Catholic Church Vatican II Council issued the decree (Religious Freedom) that states that all people must have the right to religious freedom

In 1986, the first World Day of Prayer for Peace was held in Assisi. Representatives of one hundred and twenty different religions came together for prayer to their God or gods.

In 1988, in the spirit of Glasnost, Soviet premier Mikhail Gorbachev promised increased religious toleration, until now people have somehow managed to muster enough tolerance to live as one nation.

Although a lack of it is always displayed in the form of racism, casteism, etc.

However now globalization calls for higher amount of tolerance to tackle today's well known enemy 'terrorism' may be it of any form.

People today are required to tolerate people with different color, religion, caste, nationality, even sexual orientation. People should not take tolerance as encroachment or acceptance of new values but simply take tolerance as acknowledgement of the fact that other values exist.

A greater amount of tolerance will bring a lot of peace and harmony into this world. I may sound like a staunch Gandhian but his principle of tolerance still stands.....

Neville Noronha
(FYBCOM -C)

ST. TERESA

"If you are humble nothing will touch you, neither praise nor disgrace, because you know what you are."

-St. TERESA

"What's in a name?"

Quoted by Shakespeare; from a simple person to a mother, and finally a saint, so much transformation in a name, but at the end she is one and the same.

Mother Teresa was a great personality who had spent her whole life in serving the poor. She is widely recognized all over the world. She is a great legend and a symbol of the 'sympathy and care'. She draped herself in simple white sari with a blue border. She always felt herself as a devoted who had sent on a mission to earth to serve the poor, disabled, and suffering of our society.

She was born on 26th August in 1910 at Skopje, Republic of Macedonia and her real name was Agnes Gonxha Bajaxhin. Her family was financially very weak. She started helping her mother in charity work in the church. She was a woman of deep faith, confidence and had trust in God. She was very dedicated and served as a teacher in India for many years to come.

She had started her life as a beginner at Loreto Novitiate, Darjeeling where she learnt Hindi and Bengali, which is how she also acquired the name 'Bengali Teresa'. She returned to Calcutta (now Kolkata) where she joined St. Mary's school as a teacher, and dedicated herself to alleviating the girls' poverty through education.

"The biggest disease today is not leprosy or tuberculosis, but rather the feeling of being unwanted."

Soon, the school became a reality, where she started working in a way that amazed everyone. Later, she found a dispensary and a peace home where poor

people could die. Soon, she was joined by many volunteers, and she received financial support from church organizations and the municipal authorities. On October 7, 1950, Mother Teresa received permission from the Vatican to start her own order.

The Missionaries of Charity, which began as a small order with 12 members in Calcutta, has more than 4,000 nuns running orphanages today. AIDS hospices, charity centres worldwide, and caring for refugees, the blind, disabled, aged, alcoholics, the poor and homeless and victims of floods, epidemics and famine in Asia, Africa, Latin America, North America, Poland, and Australia. In 1965, by granting a Decree of Praise, Pope Paul VI granted Mother Teresa permission to expand her order to other countries. Presently, the "Missionaries of Charity" has presence in more than 100 countries. Mother Teresa's work has been recognized and acclaimed throughout the world and she received a number of awards and distinctions. These include the Pope John XXIII Peace Prize (1971), Nehru Prize for Promotion of International Peace & Understanding (1972), Balzan Prize (1978), Nobel Peace Prize (1979) and Bharat Ratna (1980).

She died on September 5, 1997, nine days after her 87th birthday. Following Mother Teresa's death, the Holy See began the process of beatification, the second step towards possible canonization, or sainthood. This process requires the documentation of a miracle performed from the intercession of Mother Teresa. In 2002, the Vatican recognized the miracle of the healing of a tumour in the abdomen of an Indian woman, Monica Besra. Monica Besra said that a beam of light emanated from the picture of Mother Teresa inside a locket, curing the cancerous tumour

in 1998. Monica was beatified as the “Blessed Teresa of Calcutta”, in a ceremony led by Pope John Paul II. For her unwavering commitment to aid those most in need, Mother Teresa stands out as one of the greatest humanitarians of the 20th century. She combined profound empathy and a fervent commitment to her cause with incredible organizational and managerial skills that allowed her to develop a vast and effective international organization of missionaries to help impoverished citizens all across the globe.

On December 17, 2015, Pope Francis issued a decree that recognized a second miracle attributed to Mother Teresa, clearing the way for her to be canonized as a saint of the Roman Catholic Church.

The second miracle involved the healing of Marcilio Andrino, a Brazilian man who was diagnosed with a viral brain infection and lapsed into coma. His family prayed to Mother Teresa. His symptoms vanished without treatment.

Mother Teresa was canonized as a saint on September 4, 2016, a day before the 19th anniversary of her death. Pope Francis led the canonization mass, which was held in St. Peter’s Square in Vatican City. Tens of thousands of Catholics and pilgrims from around the world attended the canonization to celebrate the woman who is called “The Saint of the Gutters”.

The Pope said, “Mother Teresa, in all aspects of her life, was a generous dispenser of divine mercy, making herself available for everyone through her welcome and defense of human life, those unborn and those abandoned and discarded.”

“Mercy was the salt which gave flavor to her work, it was the light which shone in the darkness of the many who no longer had tears to shed for their poverty and suffering,” he said, adding. “May she be your model of holiness?”

Michelle D’Souza
(SYBCOM – B)

VOICES IN VERSES

A WORLD WITHOUT WALLS

As I close my eyes, I recall those nightmare scenes,
the fear of being in terror, and fear of losing your
loved one’s forever.

We two are so alike, Then why such hatred and
envy?

Why such variance in human figure,
By painting ourselves in black and white.

We were born with a mission
To love, care and spread happiness,
Why can’t we be Messenger of Peace?
To be a Piece to spread Peace,
When World Peace is at stake.

Tolerance is what we need to have,
Empathy towards one in distress,
Let there be no more bloodshed
Or use Religion as a Tool to Fool,
To get their Evil plan in place.

No more Hindu, no more Muslim,
Let’s leave behind our prejudice and reunite as one
to live, let’s spread fragrance of Humanity, to make
this world a better place to live.
Is this a mirage of a blissful oasis?

It could be possible with our Peace mantra,
A solution for better tomorrow,
By sowing seeds of peace and
Growing as an instrument of Peace.

Enough is enough!
It’s time to raise our voices
Let’s give up being a puppet toy,
We can lead as an example
With our Peace Preamble,
Why to worry?
When fear isn’t our fear factor!

Every single step we take,
Leaving behind our footprint of peace,
Our destination would come to an end,
Leaving behind our enemies to quiver,
To prevent them to blow our flame of determination.
As that would be are aspiration.

To conserve human race forever,
To save them
From the clutches of Demons,
It’s time to
WALK TOWARDS PEACE.....

Mikael D’Souza
(SYBCOM - A)

MYRIAD

A land of villages, religions,
Festivals, shrines and youth.
From Narendra Modi to Rahul Gandhi
Pompous politics and piercing poverty
Everything you can find here
None can you fail to spot.

Bustling Bhojpuri to Kannadigas
To vulnerable Meithei and Mizo
Eight hundred and eighty languages
In twenty-nine states, packed with
Beliefs, attitudes, norms and karma.

From rooted misogyny to fierce feminism
Women politics and CEOs to glorified dowry
Everything was cultivated here
Things merged into sub-things
Goddesses worshipped, devadasis dismissed.

On caste commotion, Aryans blamed
Superior to suppress, fear of flame, exposure
These days, Brahmins also loud-speaker
Reservations, and more reservations
Youth only to sit back and bleat?

Lauded startups to screeching schools
Grinning faces of children, incandescent
Hope, hope do we
There subsists so many mores and folks
Who, when, where, and what do you
Find elsewhere which is so much here?

Soujanya Rangawar
(FYBA-A)

JUDGE NOT!!!

I was shocked, confused, bewildered,
As I entered heaven's door,
Not by the beauty of it all,
Nor the lights or its décor.

But it was the folks in heaven
Who made me sputter and gasp?
The thieves, liar's sinners,
The alcoholics and the trash.
There stood the kid from seventh grade
Who swiped my lunch money twice?
Next to him was Mr. Bob
Who never smiled at me nice?

Sam who I always thought
Was rotting in hell,
Was sitting on cloud nine,
Looking incredibly well!

I nudged Jesus "what's the deal?
I would love to hear you say.
How did all of these people get up here this way?
God must have made some big mistake!!

'And why is everyone so quite
So somber all this while?'
"Hush child" he said,
'They all are in a shock,
No one expected they'd see you here.'

JUDGE NOT!!

Remember... just going to church doesn't make you
godly anymore
Than standing in your garage makes you a car.

EVERY SAINT HAS A PAST...
EVERY SINNER HAS A FUTURE...!

Eden Amanna N
(TYBCOM - B)

THINK AGAIN

It's been a while, we are seen as a terrorist in the
media and in the news.
We try to explain that we all are not the same, but
they refuse.

We're as normal as you, eat, sleep, love, we even
feel pain.
Then why do they feel spreading chaos is all we do?
Just because some people blew up a place, why does
everyone think we intend to do the same?
I guess they didn't realize that in the people who
died, included my parent's names.

So much hate, such rejection.
Being an orphan was not my ambition.

All I need was love,
All I craved for was care,
All I wished for was happiness,
But all I got was despair.

I tried to fit in the society, but my name got me
nowhere.
I was frustrated, I was angry.
You all could have saved me, but you all were blind.
Nobody is a terrorist by birth and neither was I,
Yet I'm standing in a market to pull a string.
These are my last words and this is my good-bye!

Asad Shaikh N
(SYBA - A)

RELIGION IN NEWS

BEING A DALIT: IS IT A CRIME?

Despite of the constitutional framework, there are gross violations of human rights of the schedule caste, especially by the upper caste people. One in four Indians admits to practicing untouchability. The biggest caste survey ever according to the records 32,395 cases of atrocities against dalits have been registered between 2005 and August 2014. Various types of violations of human rights are been faced by dalits such as forcibly evicting their land , in human act done by the upper caste people, burning their houses ,discrimination in school etc. According to the survey 45 % of children belong to schedule caste have never seen school. The schedule caste students aren't give attention and are kept isolated and force to clean school, wash utensils etc, resulting them to dropout from school. According to the records 36 % of children's dropout and 18.53 % enrolled but never attended school. The violation are not only faced by children's but as well as the elders. In October 2006 a mob of 60 upper caste villagers stormed the houses of Bhotmanges in Kherlangi village Bhandara district of Maharashtra 40 years old Surekha her daughter, son and husband were dragged from their home stripped naked, beaten and taken to the village square both the women were rapped for over an hour after which all four members were hacked to death. According to the survey 68 rape cases lodged in 2013 as against 39 in 2012, 13 in 2011 and 7 in 2010. Till this August, 19 rape cases (excluding Bhojpuri cases) filed. In India the Hindus who are belonging to schedule caste are converting themselves to Muslim. It is because there are fed up of such types of persecution and violence which there are facing. India being a multi linguistic country even after 68 years of Independence , untouchability remains a matter of shame and concern for our country despite existence provisions have been provided against the practice. Various provision are been provided such as Article (14) : Equality before law , Article (15) : Social equality and equal access to public areas , Article (16) 4 : States that the state may reserve posts for members of the backward class that is schedule caste or schedule tribe for the upliftment of the weaker section of the society , Article (17) : Abolition of untouchability . In which anyone doing so is punishable by law. The untouchability offense Act 1995 provides penalties for preventing person from entering place of worship or from taking water from a tank or well. Article 17 is a charter of emancipation (freedom) for 1/6th of Indian population from humiliation. The inspiration for this article came from the work done by Mahatma Gandhi and others for the upliftment of the weaker section of the society

"I consider untouchability to be a heinous crime against humanity" - Mahatma Gandhi.

According to the records every 18 minutes a crime is committed against a dalits. Every day 3 dalits women is raped, 2 dalits are murdered, 2 dalits houses are burnt and 11 dalits are beaten. The reason for such atrocities against the dalits is because earlier there were very badly treated but today there are benefited a lot. No doubt their fore-father were dalit earlier. But they don't need such benefits because some of the people who is a Dalit take undue advantage of it even if they don't need it. There is a lot of debate against the benefits which is provided to the schedule caste For example :For MBA (Management Business Administration) in IIM institute separate seats are reserve for them even if they get 35 % they get a seat where as people who don't belong to the schedule caste even if they get 97% don't get a seat . Why such type of injustice? This demotivated them a lot. Apart from this we can see that people not belonging to schedule caste finds it very difficult to get admission in reputed colleges and company where as people belong to schedule caste get a direct pull. The government has to take some measure and make sure the people belong to schedule caste earlier their fore father financial condition was bad but if the current generation if their financial condition is better they must take away the benefit from them and the seats in colleges, offices, IIM & IIT institution and other institution, the seats must be given on Merit and not on Reserve Quota. So that they will be no such injustices among the people and everyone can live happily without any such discrimination in our society.

The government also provide various scholarships to schedule caste or schedule tribe students such as Pradhan Mantra Aarush Gram Yojana (infrastructure development in schedule caste village), vocational training in IT IS, construction of houses for homeless schedule caste's and many more. So I would like to pen off by stating a famous quote from a person who himself was a Dalit, He fought for the rights for the dalits and not only that he became a doctor as well as he is the man who frame the "Constitution of India" and yes it is none other than ' DR. BABASAHAEB AMBEDKAR '

"We must stand on our own feet and fight as best as we can for our rights. So carry on your agitation and organize your force power and prestige will come to you through struggle "

Michelle D'Souza
(SYBCOM – B)

8 OUT OF TEN INDIANS BELIEVE THAT RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IS VERY IMPORTANT

A recent study by Pew Research (a US based non-partisan research organization) revealed that a large majority of Indians favor religious freedom and gender equality. Out of the total Indian respondents to the survey, 83% felt that freedom to practice their religion was important and 71% stated that women should have the equal rights as men, compared to the world benchmark of 74% and 65% respectively.

The survey conducted across 38 countries in 2015 shows that religion still holds a sway over a large percentage of the population across the world. It also shows that campaigns against female feticide and human trafficking appear to be successful as most respondents felt the need for equal rights for both men

and women.

However, only 38% of the Indians surveyed seemed to support net neutrality as compared to the world percentage of 50. In a country where censorship is heavily exercised over the media, this is a disconcerting statistic.

The findings reveal that India is slowly breaking away from the shackles of religious intolerance and age-old superstitions. The availability of news channels and newspapers in English and other vernacular languages has enabled the spread of information quickly and efficiently

Aaron D'Souza
(TYBCOM-A)

ISLAMOPHOBIA

Scholars define the term 'Islamophobia' as prejudice or hatred towards the Muslim community or Islam. Events displaying this quality of hatred have been reported in places around the world. In the current scenario; Islamophobia has seemed to have plagued flights especially on at international level. According to reports published; a Muslim couple were reportedly removed from an onboard flight just merely because their co-passengers felt uncomfortable around them. The crew members cited various reasons such as using the name of Allah and perspiring to the couple when they asked for reasons to be brought down from the air-plane. It's a question we really need to ask ourselves as to whether we categorize people we come across on the basis of their religion and creed; although facts remain the same to which we draw conclusions. Many of the attacks carried out by terrorists have been claimed to come forth from the Muslim community. The attacks on the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center carried out on September 9, 2002 in New York City of the United States by Muslim terrorists has left us all an everlasting impression of the Islamic community. It would be unfair to punish all members of the community for the mistake committed by a few members who disagree with the views the world regards as the ultimate for its betterment. Just like the first impression is the last impression, we all have views and conclusions that we build on the first glimpse of news that we receive. Although mass media and telecommunications has played a better role in keeping us updated with the state of current scenarios on a global scale, we need to draw boundaries between factual data and fake data. It's a baffling scenario that even though we are continually developing and progressing we allow indifference in matters of religion to break what

we have created with faith in humanity. The use of violence to portray the strength of any religion is not the foundation we want to lay for the future generations. We need to be alert and learn to treat all humans alike not as a favor but because we Therefore, in order to curb the plague of Islamophobia of spreading further, steps need to be taken not as a country as a whole but; as the entire race of humanity together. This calls for the need to develop pacts and treaties to spread World Peace and make the Earth a better place to live. This surely is not a treat we would like to enjoy but, instead it is a step we need to take to protect our identity as the race of humanity. Deplaning passengers just because they have an Islamic identity is not the solution we are looking for indeed. But that also does not imply that we overlook suspicious objects and people that may really cause threats. Doing so would cause us huge harm. And this exactly the scenario we all are facing right now. Just as we cannot suspect every Muslim to be a terrorist, we have no right to name all terrorists as Muslims. Every human being by the virtue of being a human enjoys the virtue of various rights and we have no right as fellow beings from restraining them from exercising a peaceful living. Just labeling certain groups as terrorists and walking away will not help us dissolve the plague of Islamophobia. If indeed we need to keep the lamp of humanity burning we need to stand together dissolving our differences, respecting our religions and fight towards an ulterior motive of diminishing terrorism, because it is rightly said that religion is one tree with many branches. And to keep the tree blossoming we need to strive hard to protect our identity not as any religious sect but as a human family in our entirety.

Redalia Rodrigues
(SYBCOM -A)

More than half of latest IIT graduates believe in God's existence

VISIT THESE MOSQUES AND SHRINES DURING THE MONTH OF RAMZAN

Mosques and shrines across Mumbai have an even more special significance in this holy month of Ramzan. We tell you about some of the most famous ones where devotees come visiting

MAHIM DARGAH
MAHIM

The Mahim Dargah, locally known as the Dargah of Mahim, is one of the oldest and most famous shrines in Mumbai. It was built in 1431 by Sultan Ahmad Shah from Gujarat in memory of the Islamic scholar during the annual Urs, in the month of Ramzan. It is the Mahim Dargah where the first Urs of the Dargah was held. An attraction is the food here.

Shivaji temple, Moti Mahal replica set to dazzle city

Catholic Church On Organ Donation

Story of the unsung hero Karna

Green Ganesha drive enters 9th yr

Mount Mary masses to also be in Marathi, Tamil & Konkani

Shivaji temple, Moti Mahal replica set to dazzle city

Piety and fanfare mark Feast of Our Lady in city

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The Eternal Mystery Of Lord Jagannatha

Mystery of Missing Muslim Captains of India

Other religious leaders
Christians & Muslims - are likely to be open-minded. The difference essentially is education.

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Open-mindedness key to interfaith marriages

FESTIVE FERVOUR

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LET'S BRAIN STORM

Puzzle on Religion and Culture

G A D E V A V R A H T A N H T
 A U M I E J P M M A N N A M I
 H D R I D A U E O G N R T A R
 T M A U T U L D E S M F A H U
 O D E E G A P L A A E A N A P
 G Z T H S O G I N I M S A V A
 L I M U E A B D H A S C R I T
 O J R S B L I I L C A M A R I
 G E O R I R H I N L U N Y A T
 J R I N S O A T V D Z K A C E
 K E N A A L A A E D S W N T M
 L W H I A H R T T B P I A S P
 R I M D N Y A N I D E M N W L
 B H A R A T A N A T Y A M G E
 Z O R O A S T R I A N I S M H

Search these words:

BETHLEHEM	HARMANDIR-SAHIB
DALAI-LAMA	PATETI
JONAH	TAOISM
GOLGOTHA	NATANARAYANA
MANNA	GURU-GOBIND-SINGH
ANGEL-GABRIEL	ZOROASTRIANISM
BHARATANATYAM	TIRUPATI-TEMPLE
CALVARY	JUDAISM
MEDINA	JERUSALEM
KUCHIPUDI	MOSES

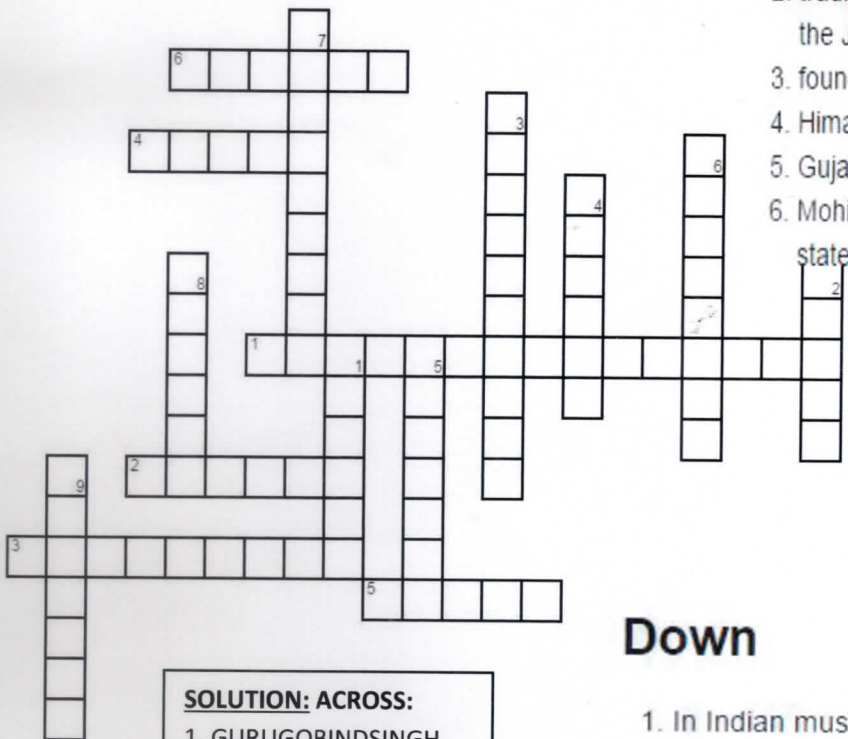
Name the following

- 1) Burial place associated with the Parsis _____
- 2) Festival of Jew _____
- 3) Animal that serves as the 'Vahan' of Lord Ganesh _____
- 4) Often called as the "Arc de Triumph of the East", this monument is located in Hyderabad _____
- 5) The first month according to the Islamic Calendar _____
- 6) State in India where the first mosque was built _____
- 7) Philosophy propounded by Patanjali _____
- 8) Place in India, believed to have been given away as reward to sage Parashuram by Samudraraja, thus, hailed as "ParashuramaSrusti" _____
- 9) Only Hindu island in the world _____
- 10) Ancient Buddhist statues carved in Hindukush Mountains but destroyed by the Taliban _____
- 11) A popular festival of Rajasthan _____
- 12) Brisk dance of Punjabi women _____
- 13) Colonial power that had controlled Nicobar islands in 1868 before passing them on to British rule _____

CROSSWORD

Across

1. established Khalsa the Sikh order
2. traditional Asian performing art derives its name from the Japanese words for 'singing', 'dancing' and 'acting'
3. founded 'Yoga Shastra' the school of Hindu philosophy
4. Himachal Pradesh dance form
5. Gujarat popular folk dance
6. Mohiniyattam dance form was developed in which state



SOLUTION: ACROSS:

1. GURUGOBINDSINGH
2. KABUKI
3. PATANJALI
4. PUNGI
5. GARBA
6. KERALA

DOWN:

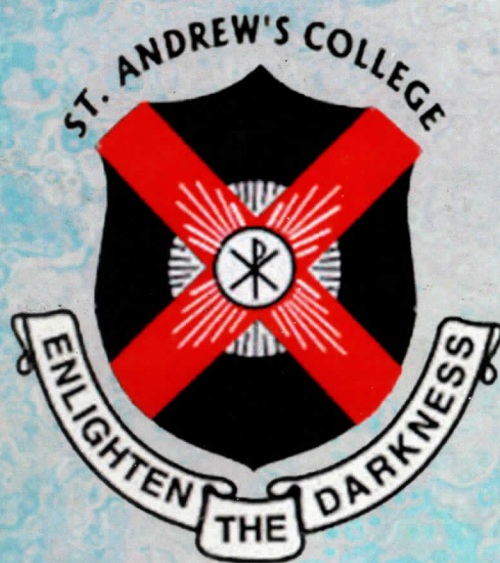
1. RAGINI
2. PAHUL
3. KAUSTUBHAM
4. MEDINA
5. GANESHA
6. MAHAVIRA
7. TAMIL NADU
8. ORISSA
9. BHANGRA

Down

1. In Indian musical terminology, what is the feminine of Raga
2. What term is used for initiation into Sikhism
3. In Hindu mythology, what is the name of the auspicious jewel Lord Vishnu wears on a pendant around his neck
4. What name was given to the city of Yathrib by Prophet Mohammed
5. According to legend, which deity was Ved Vyasa's scribe as he dictated the story of the Mahabharata
6. the historical founder of Jainism
7. indian state banned the forceful religious conversions
8. famous Sun Temple is located
9. Punjab folk dance

SOLUTIONKEY OF NAME THE FOLLOWING:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|------------|
| 1. Tower of Silence | 2. Passover | 3. Rat |
| 4. Charminar | 5. Muharra | 6. Kerala |
| 7. Yoga | 8. Mangalore | 9. Bali |
| 10. Buddha of Bamiyan | 11. Teej | 12. Giddha |
| 13. Denmark | | |



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