

Anatomy of
a nexus

On Friday, Hyderabad police caught small-time film producer Murali Srinivas, brother of well-known Telugu film actress Jeevitha. He was allegedly buying cocaine from one P Bhanuchander alias DJ Nash, a Nigerian national named Daniel Fernandes alias Simba, and one P Rambabu. The three were allegedly selling cocaine to Murali in the city's posh Jubilee Hills area. Police say the trio had in their possession a massive 305 grams of cocaine.

For a drug peddler, Bhanuchander is not quite the down-and-out type. He comes from a respectable middle class family. His father is a retired Indian Forest Service (IFS) officer. But ever since he dropped out from Hyderabad's Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Technology (MGIT) for lack of attendance, Bhanuchander has been working as a DJ, spinning discs at various pubs, first in Hyderabad and later in Goa, and calling himself 'DJ Nash'.

But why are we telling you this story? That's because it is one of those very familiar cases, which link Goa with drugs. DJ Nash, say the Hyderabad police, started taking up pub assignments in Goa just six months ago. It seems his agenda was not just trance music, but trances of a completely different kind.

During a press conference held to announce the seizure, Hyderabad Police Commissioner A K Khan told the media that many pub owners in Goa are "hand-in-glove with peddlers". DJ Nash had no problem finding his way deep into the drug network here, and he allegedly began supplying the stuff to 'friends' back home in Hyderabad. They were selling cocaine for Rs4,000 per gram to an 'A' list clientele that apparently included a number of prominent Tollywood personalities (as the Telugu film industry is called). Hyderabad police, the Commissioner said, had been waiting for an opportunity to catch film producer Murali ever since they found his name in the mobile phone contacts list of a known drug peddler.

DJ Nash and his Nigerian associate Simba have revealed that they bought their cocaine from members of a "foreign drug ring" in Goa. The duo says they usually had the drugs delivered to them by bus from Karnataka, though this time they carried the stuff themselves on a Goa-Hyderabad bus.

Even if they are wealthy high-flyers, drug peddlers, say the Hyderabad police, rarely move their contraband by plane. Instead, they go from place to place by bus or travel Second Class by train, where there is little likelihood of an anti-narcotics check. The cocaine is packed in small packets with a tiny quantity in each, so that it is easier to conceal.

Obviously, Goa Head Constable Arun Dessai's case (caught with 26kg of 'charas' in his car in Belgaum) is not an isolated one. Time and again, drug peddlers caught in Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Mangalore and even Kerala say that they sourced their drugs from Goa. These cases get reported in national newspapers. We give them publicity in 'Herald' too. But has the Goa Anti-Narcotics Cell (ANC) ever sought custody of these suspects or sent a team to interrogate them about where they sourced their drugs from in Goa?

When the Belgaum cops caught Dessai and Co, they lost no time in interrogating them. They then promptly raided some premises in Goa, including a nightclub at Colva. If Goa's ANC personnel showed the same alacrity every time a drug peddler caught in some other state confesses that (s)he sourced the stuff in Goa, they would be able to bust Goa's drug 'mafia' in no time at all.

But they don't...

While this in no way is evidence of a 'nexus', at very least, does it not indicate a strange and curious disinterest among these cops about doing their duty to the best of their abilities?

Christianity in history: Postcolonial perspective

Historians have successfully pointed to new ways of re-writing Christianity's history, says TEOTÓNIO R de SOUZA

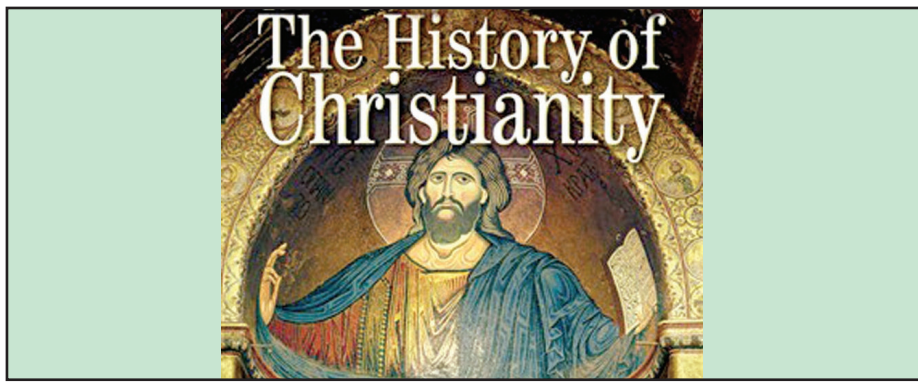
An international conference, gathering 30 scholars from various nationalities and continents, debated the "Christianity in History: Encounters, Engagements and Experiences" during three days (2-4 February 2011). It was organised at the Centre of Historical Studies of the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in New Delhi. It may be regarded as a positive expression of the secular approach that is loudly touted in India, but not always so successfully practiced.

Organised by Dr Joy Pachau, and her colleagues, the major themes covered in 11 sessions, which included: Class, Caste and Christianity, Ethnic Mobilisation and Identity Construction, Heterogeneity in Faith and Praxis, Roberto De Nobili and Cultural Dialogue, Folk Traditions and Popular Christianity, Local Voices and the Expansion of Christianity, Missionaries and Images of the Other, The Inquisition: Perceptions and Reality.

One main objective of this conference was to help developing a historiography that could be liberated from the near-monopolistic domain of a few 'religious' and western experts, who focused largely on the origin and nature of mission societies from their metropolitan countries, the personnel that were involved, the numbers that were converted, and how much charity was exercised or hunger relieved.

My keynote address, entitled "Christianity in Asia and its Historiography in the Postcolonial Context: A Review and Challenges" took into account the expressed objectives of the conference and focused on the postcolonial context, risking obviously the displeasure of some western participants and their accusations of simplifying the issues.

I saw no need to be led by the agendas aimed at completing an "unfinished business", an expression that opens the Introduction to the Missions and Empire (OUP, 2005) by Norman Etherington, edited as Companion Series for the Oxford history of the British empire. It seeks to impress upon the international community (aimed particularly at the ex-colonies) and remind us how the missionary sons and daughters of the western colonial powers promoted the spiritual and material welfare of the colonised and converted Asians, helping to break away from the injustices of the local cultures. The general ten-



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dency in such historiography is to eschew handling the complexity of the process that bred new forms of injustices that the colonial west exported to Asia, under the guise of modernity and civilizing mission.

I chose to remind the audience that empires had not disappeared altogether, and that colonial hangovers persist on both sides of the divide. There is no reason otherwise, why the European scholars should find fault with 'postcolonial studies' as vague and undefined, but still seek to appropriate them to their advantage. Is it an acquired habit of the orientalist and their pretensely superior models of scientism, which fail to recognise other forms of knowledge and perception? The washing of guilt feelings often takes the form of resorting to contra-factual history, which affects the ongoing re-evaluations of the mission history as constructed in the West.

It is curious to note how the above mentioned Missions and Empire denounces the aphorisms that popularised the relationship between evangelisation and imperial expansion. The frequent use of such aphorisms is attributed to spokesmen of anti-colonial nationalisms. We are told that it hardly corresponded to reality, where the missionaries were more often seen as a nuisance and even barred from interfering into imperial schemes. Then it goes on to uphold Christian Mission in the Twentieth Century (Cambridge, 1994) by Timothy Yates as a good model of post-

colonial historiography of Christian missions, because it studies the Christian missions in our times, as predominantly non-Western, and more importantly, the book contains only five references to imperialism, two references to British, and none to colonialism.

The missionary strategy of cultural adaptation was a sort of a generous concession to the Asian cultures. In postcolonial Asia, the FABC (Federation of Asian Bishops Conferences) documentation does not contain any recrimination or resentments against past colonial experiences. It is a positive signal and could be the basis of all postcolonial challenges: To sublimate, without bypassing or ignoring, the colonial experiences.

Since we were hosted by Jawaharlal Nehru University, I thought it proper to recall the advice of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, in his Glances of World History: "Our study of history has shown us that life is often very cruel and callous. To get excited over it, or merely to blame people, is foolish and does not help. It is much more sensible to try to understand the causes of poverty, misery and exploitation, and then try to remove them." [OUP, New Delhi, 1997 (12th ed.), p. 435]

Referring to Jesus and Christianity in Ch 31 of his Glances of World History, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru lamented that despite much similarity in all religions, they are often distorted by intolerant bigots, and served as handmaidens to politics. He also expressed his surprise at how the poor and

non-violent Jesus was preached by loud-voiced followers, with their imperialism and armaments and wars and worship of wealth: the Sermon on the Mount and modern European and American Christianity – how amazingly dissimilar they were!

The JNU Conference on the Christianity in History brought into debate variety of sources, including novels and oral traditions, that could help giving voice to the Dalits and tribal people. Paul Jenkins (Basel Mission), John Webster (USA), Shashi Joshi (IAS, Shimla), S Karmegam (JNU), Joy Pachau (JNU) were among the participants who emphasised these aspects. Ines Zupanov and Margherita Trento (EHES, Paris) analysed the traditional missionary Jesuit linguistic contributions. Goa was very well represented by Savio Abreu, SJ (IIT, Mumbai), presenting facts and figures about shifting religious, caste and gender equations in postcolonial Goa.

The last session on the Inquisition chaired by me drew immense interest: Pius Malekandathil (JNU) showed how the Portuguese settlers in Cochín used the Inquisition to destroy their rival merchants, the Portuguese Jews converted to Christianity. The older resident Jews benefited from the protection of native ruler in Mattanchery. Céila Tavares (Brasil) described her ongoing research project of creating a database of the documentation on Goa Inquisition available in Rio de Janeiro. She promised to make it available online in the near future. Paolo Aranha (Rome) disclosed a different adaptation of Christianity in the context of the English settlement at Fort St George (Madras). Unlike De Nobili's concern about the Hindu customs, the Capuchin Fr Ephrem de Nevers sought to respond to the Anglican challenge with a Catholic recognition of the legitimacy of Anglican priesthood and sacraments, and by renouncing the Catholic practices of veneration of images. The Capuchin Friar won a rare victory in his conflict with the Goa Inquisition over the tridentine Catholic eclesiology.

The historians gathered in the JNU Conference were successful in pointing to new ways of re-writing the history of Christianity in the post-colonial context. The space limitation permits me only to say that we hope to see soon the published proceedings to appreciate better this commendable exercise.

Wise Counsel

Cupid's day out: The look of love

By Arlette Azavedo

Valentine's Day is celebrated all over the world with much glamour and glitz. When I think about Valentine's Day, I, of course, think about love! Love is a many a splendid thing, love lifts us up to where we belong. Valentine's Day is supposedly a day to express and show love, isn't it? Then aren't we supposed to show love to our loved ones regardless what day it is? Well, some people might have different views about it. Everyday should be treated as the same. If a person decides to be happy and cheerful that day, then that day will be a day filled with hopes and love. Well, most couples spend a lot on gifts and costly dinner on Valentine's Day.

Why not give from your heart and save the cash in your wallet? But who cares, love is in the air! Many celebrated their Valentine Day with their beloved spouse and their children. Well, spending special time together is what Valentine's Day is all about and going out for a romantic dinner together makes it extra special day.

Well, there's no need to spend big amounts of money getting gifts as what matters is the time that is spent with our loved ones. Oh yah, roses are nice but how long will they last? Plus it's double

the price on that day! Is it worth it? I sometimes wonder when some men send large bouquets of flowers to their loved ones and the rest of the year they do not give their time to them! In fact, the thought is more important than the gifts, isn't it? Love comes in many shapes and flavours and is expressed differently by people. Love is like a friendship caught on fire. As love grows older, our hearts mature and our love become as coals, deep-burning and unquenchable. Actually, it does not have to be a special time of the year like Valentine Day to celebrate love as each day is a cause for celebration to love and honour your spouse as well as all the people, who are a part of our lives. Just a plain hug and warm kiss from your spouse says it all, since the hug and kiss comes straight from the heart. Finally, I believe as love is a feeling in motion that once shared, remains precious for all eternity.

Love is all we need to live for, to smile and to cherish the moments for a lifetime. People say love comes in all packages and in all forms from our parents to children, between siblings, husband and wife, spouses, lovers, friends to every small matter in this universe. We live in a typical conservative society where contemporary fashion and definition of love has not changed the concept

of love.

Don't you think a little acknowledgment of love will do miraculously in the life of our loved ones? After all, everybody understands the magic of love and no one can get away with its spell, it is a bliss that brings rich colours to our routine life.

Valentine day is one such occasion to celebrate the feeling of love, to express oneself and to acknowledge to the world that you have someone worthy and beautiful to love for, and to be loved by someone. It's the day that gives us some beautiful moments to cherish beautiful relations, lovely memories of the future and immunity from the bondage of the world. In this world driven by losses and gains, love is the only thread that's binds us together, weaves the ecstatic bondage of commitment, and instigates the feelings of caring and sharing with our loved ones.

Caught in this chaotic world, let's make love a tool to bring smiles and peace. Let flowers do the magic, let music set the mood, let love notes make you smile, let us light a candle in the night to see through, let's express love for a day, cause there are more than pains everywhere.

Letters to the Editor

Statues bind judges

Irineu Gonsalves, Verna

Your editorial "A travesty of justice" (*Herald*, 11 Feb) has come not a day too soon. The suspension comes as a surprise to laymen like me for a matter which the judge decided and against which no appeal was filed by the state.

It is the police who should be pulled up for their shoddy and biased investigations and suspended. In this growing atmosphere where the witnesses turn hostile the judges should be given the power to find out as to why witnesses turn hostile.

Judges like D'Costa have minds that can arrive at the truth, with the speed of lightning. While this may stand in good stead for the Judges, it is the statutes that bind them while pronouncing the judgment. Commonsense is the most important tool needed to tackle the intrinsic capacity of lawyers, who twist matters and have earned them a dubious name.

An eye-opener

Subhash Surlakar, Vasco Da Gama

The present conflict between the Goa State

Horticulture Corporation (GSHC) and Cantonment Wholesale Vegetable Merchants Association (CWVMA) was very much expected and should serve as an eye opener to the Goa government. This is blackmail and has to be stopped. It is a big shame that Goa has to depend on neighbouring states for vegetables. The horticulture market is being run by non-Goans from Karnataka for decades, and the monopoly is such that Goans dare not venture into this business. The white collar attitude has only helped in encouragement of more non-Goan inflow into this tiny state for business. Goa, with all its natural resources, can not only become self-sufficient in vegetable produce, but can even top the list of vegetable exports, if agriculture is given the same importance as mining.

Herald's new look

Augustus Alphonso, Vasco/Kuwait

The letter 'Always a leader' by Nelson Lopes, Chinchinim, (*Herald*, 12 Feb) was a good response of reader opinion regarding *Herald's* new look. I, however, disagree that its size should be changed to a tabloid paper size although at first thought, I

Letter of the Day

Goa's hall of shame!

Orlando da Silva, Carmona

The short duration of the session, saw MLAs attacking their own government with facts, figures and documentary proof. This should be an eye opener, which has been appreciated by all. But ultimately, it is the *Aam Admi*, who has to bear the brunt of corruption.

Being a member of VP Carmona and aggrieved of unfair distribution of water tanks in my ward, by the concerned minister, directly through his cronies, I was shocked to know that most of the tanks were given to affluent people who do not fit into the poor man's category. These beneficiaries are owners of posh bungalows and villas, and have cars parked in their porches. Even the so-called food provisions distributed on several occasions in the village are cornered by them. This is misuse of exchequer's money for political gains and definitely needs to be probed.

All right thinking Goans should hang their heads in shame as Goa has attained the distinction and hallmark of a state, where not only its ministers are corrupt, but also includes the voters. The Aam Admi in Goa has been rendered bankrupt, both financially and morally, and I feel this is the creation of the present Congress government. On the rolls of Carmona Panchayat there are 177 NREG card holders, but none are available for work under the NREG scheme. The NREG scheme in Goa may just be the tip of another iceberg of unlawful dealings.

thought that the aforesaid size would be a good idea for the purpose of comfortable handling and reading. But I later realised that these regular 'large' size newspapers, for ages, have been serving as an easily available bio-degradable replacement to plastic bags. Due to Goa's phenomenal garbage problems, the regular size newspapers are usually preferable.

Injustice to the just?

Ayres Sequeira, Salvador do Mundo

Judge Desmond D'Costa has been suspended, the reasons unknown. Adv Anacleto Viegas rightly asks whether this is a reward for speedy justice dispensed, when the judiciary received brickbats for postponements resulting in delays. If the judge's order of acquittal is being disputed, the recourse is the appeal and not suspension. Earlier, it was Judge Anuja Prabhudesai who was suspended for no valid reason. Both she and Desmond have been acclaimed as upright judges. We have enough criminals in our legislatures and endless scams involving the bureaucracy and the

executive. Our last ray of hope was the judiciary. Unfortunately, of late, it has not been impeccable either. But if, with obnoxious motives, it targets its own honest, efficient and upright officers, then very sadly it will be joining the band of those, whose unscrupulous actions have prompted the Supreme Court to proclaim that "not even God can save this country."

What is the problem?

Ayres Sequeira, Salvador do Mundo

The sudden suspension of Judge Desmond D'Costa took the legal fraternity in South Goa by surprise. Immediate reinstatement has been demanded. The suspension order, quite interestingly, also cites no valid reason. In the earlier case too of the lady Judge Anuja Prabhudesai, Mapusa, her suspension did not go well with the legal professionals. They too had protested. Undoubtedly, both the judges are Goans well versed with the local language and the populace, upright as well, on whom the axe fell most selectively. It points to the needle of suspicion of a nexus, to free

the judiciary of the Goan judges. This trend is too dangerous and the advocates must remain firm and united to walk the path of righteousness.

Who is to blame?

Michael Vaz, Mercedes

The UP Chief Minister, Ms Mayawati, who is known to be obsessed in idolising herself, is a well known fact. The multi-crore project of installing statues including her own, all over UP under the garb of extolling the Dalits, has evoked everyone's wrath.

Our politicians have lost track of the fact that apart from being elected representatives, they are the servants of the masses. Their top priority is to serve the people. Who is to be blamed for this change of order; the politicians or we?

Truth must come out

Adelmo Fernandes, Vasco

The Aarushi-Hemraj twin murder case is getting murkier by the day. This has caught the attention of the entire nation. The dentist couple have been accused of charges of murder and, destruction of evidence. The rejection of the CBI closure report by a lower court has come as a big jolt to the parents of the slain teenager.

However, one cannot run away from the long hands of the law. One can hope that the truth will come out, and the murderers will be brought to book.

Land disputes

A C Menezes, Chinchinim

Since time immemorial, there have been disputes about the ownership of land whether between landlords and tenants, or as is in the case of Goa, between bhatkars/communidades and mundkars. In Goa, there is apparently, a government machinery that deals with disputes in private land transactions, but when a central agency illegally occupies large tracts of land, as a result of its armed might, and refuses to part even with a small portion of it to the original owner, – the state government – it speaks volumes about lack of social obligations prevailing in the upper echelons of our society.

Good work

Keith Blackwell, via email

I recently used the Betim to Panjim ferry in both directions. Upon landing one employee, a winch operator took charge of the ramp and would not allow people on until the boat was empty. He also ensured that a gap the width of the ramp was clear for people to offload.

This action completely stopped the usual chaos and the unloading and loading happened much quicker and easier than usual.

Well done that employee. What a shame other employees do not do the same.

Rules made to be broken

Ashley Fernandes, Margao

Considering that many lives are lost due to road accidents, I sincerely feel that the root cause of all this is "refusal to obey and observe traffic rules."

People park wherever they want, and do not care if they block another vehicle or someone's entrance. Motorists boldly drive on the wrong side of the road and through 'no entry' lanes. Some drive without number plates and some do not even possess a driving licence.

Is there a system in place, to keep a check on this blatant flouting of traffic rules? Or is the traffic police inept?

Tell us on these, Guv!

P L Fernandes, Old Goa

With all due respect to H.E. The Governor, his address looked akin to he, being an agent or the mouth piece of the Government, gave statistics, growth percentages and portrayal of our standing, in the spectrum of tourism, both nationally and internationally. He has his own image and discretion, and should not to fall prey to criticism or agree with everything.

What steps are being taken, as he sought to "allay" people's suspicions on national highways. We need to hear how crime will be tackled; we need to know that the two islands in Mormugao would be allowed so that it would help fisherfolk to sustain their livelihood, instead of being taken over by the Defence. Issues of the people in Khari-vaddo, are also sought.