



News & Views

January 2020

Editorial

It's Time to deck up again

It's New Year; we are in 2020! While speaking about Vision 2020, we considered it as a distant reality, and now here we are in 2020. We enter into the New Year with hasty wake up calls to open our eyes to the socio, political, religious and economical realities of the country. We count on the blessings that are given to us, and make the best use of them to counter the atrocities around us.

Recollecting many memories, and noble cause of its beginning, the National Convention of Christian Journalists organized by the Indian Catholic Press Association enters its Silver Jubilee year. As members of this apex press body in the Catholic Church of India, we are called to stand for justice and truth, using our 'Pen Power'. Silver Jubilee is also an occasion to rekindle our fire and steer the organization according to the signs of the time.

All preparations are underway to meet together in Delhi for the 25th National Convention and 56th AGM of ICPA. Although information is passed on and we are already decking up towards the event, this Newsletter gives you detailed information about the forthcoming events as well as events that happened in the lives of ICPA members since our last newsletter in September 2019.

Pen has power to influence, to challenge and to change. Hence all of us are busy in doing our bit to make the society a better one. Let our stories inspire each other.

Wishing you all, a grace filled Year 2020!



Sr Tessa Jacob SSPS
Joint Secretary

Chalo Delhi, See You There!

Dear members of the Indian Catholic Press Association,

Warm and loving greetings to all of you. At the outset let me thank you for the prayer support you gave me during the difficult and rather painful period of my surgery. Thank God, I am almost back to normal. Have to undergo one more test on 24th inst. So, please do continue to remember me in your prayers.

Friends, now it is time that all of us concentrate on our forthcoming Jubilee Convention and the AGM at Delhi. It is my pleasant privilege to cordially invite all of you to the historic event. Having personally seen the ongoing preparations I am sure it will be an enriching, fruitful experience for all of us.

The core committee consisting Father Joby Mathew (Treasurer) Father Suresh Mathew (Secretary) and me had an intense three day meeting (December 9-12) in Delhi to plan out the event. The three of us visited the venue, met and invited some of the prominent guests. A Local Organizing Committee (LOC) was formed in our presence with Father Suresh Mathew as Chairman. You will find details of the ongoing preparations and other relevant information in this newsletter and in the communications that would follow from the secretariat.

The Delhi Convention and the AGM will go down in history as a milestone and success only with our participation and active involvement. It is my earnest desire that all of you are there in Delhi. The theme book (or the booklet of which you will here more from the secretary) is one such attempt to ensure greater engagement and participation of all members.

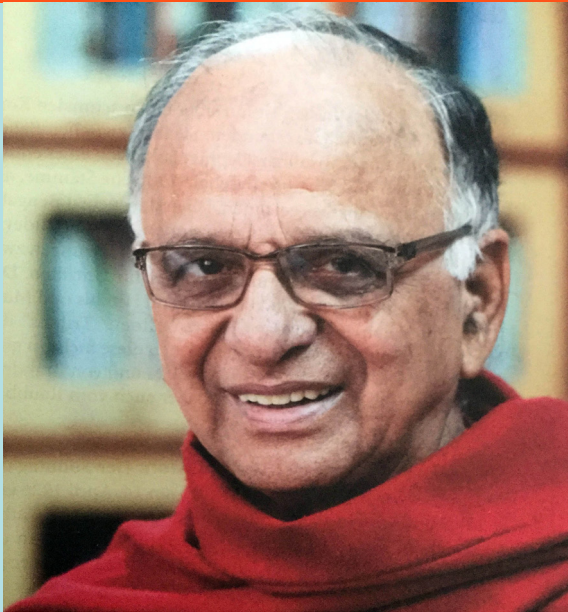
It is my firm belief that our beloved Motherland and the Church expect great things from us as communicators of Christ-values, the core of which is Love and Unity. Let us redeem that faith with prophetic zeal. Your presence in Delhi will be a defining step towards that. Friends, see you there!

Wish each one of you, and your near and dear ones, a Grace-filled 2020.

Ignatius Gonsalves,

Your President in the service of the Word

ICPA Annual Awards 2020



Archbishop Thomas Menamparampil

*Winner of Louis Careno Award for
Excellence in Journalism 2020*

Indian Catholic Press Association will honour noted peace activist Archbishop Thomas Menamparampil, conferring its prestigious annual 'Louis Careno Award for Excellence in Journalism' for his bold writings against communalism and fundamentalism that is gaining ground globally.

Archbishop Menamparampil's name is synonymous with peace, inter-community dialogue and social harmony. His incisive, thought-provoking writings on these subjects have broken new grounds. His razor-sharp analysis of socio-cultural and political issues, especially relating to North-East, have led to soul-searching debates and concrete peace initiatives, for which he was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2011.

Having spent a lion's share of his life in the North-East, the Kerala-born 84 year old Archbishop's writings reflect his deep understanding of the region's cultural values and ethnic diversity. He minces no words in raising his voice against irrational, biased and unfair policies and decisions of the governments of all times. His articles are marked by scholarly insights, adding to their relevance.

Conferred annually on deserving individuals or institutions, Louis Careno Award for excellence in journalism is a joint venture of the Mumbai Province of the Salesians of Don Bosco and the Indian Catholic Press Association (ICPA).

Indian Catholic Press Association (ICPA) has chosen Santhosh Kumar Digal for the award on best reportage on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Santhosh Digal, a Catholic priest-journalist from the Archdiocese of Cuttack Bhubaneswar, has been regularly contributing to major national and international news portals on tribal issues. His stories have appeared in *The Herald* (Calcutta), *The Examiner* (Bombay), *The New Leader* (Chennai), *The Indian Currents* (Delhi), *The Teenager Today* (Bombay), *JIVAN* (Jesuit news and views magazine, Gujarat), *The People's Reporter* (Kerala), *The Tablet* (London), *mattersindia.com* (Delhi), *Union of Asian Catholic News* (UCA News), *Fides* (Rome), *Independent Catholic News* (London), *uca.news/LiCAS.news* (Bangkok), *Philippine News Agency*, *CBCP News*, *The Catholic Times*, and *World Mission* (all from Manila).

Digal's writings have been mainly focusing on human rights, freedom of religion, religious persecution and marginalized communities (Dalits and Tribals) across India. He has also extensively reported on communal violence, most importantly the anti-Christian violence of Kandhamal in 2008 and its aftermath. He has been the voice of people's rights especially of the poor Tribals who are more susceptible to exploitation and injustice.

The SC/ST Reportage Award is a joint venture of the ST Commission of the CBCI and the ICPA.



Fr Santhosh Kumar Digal

*Winner of SC/ST Reportage
Award 2020*

Kindly note the new email id of ICPA office
indiancatholicpress@gmail.com

ICPA Annual Awards 2020



Fr John Deepak Sulya

*Winner of Swami Devanand
Chakkungal Award 2020*

Fr John Deepak Sulya, a Divine Word Missionary based in Indore, has been chosen for the Swami Devanand Chakkungal Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to Hindi Literature. Fr Sulya has been using his pen to make the Word of God as comprehensible as possible in the current literary Hindi that would be appropriate and understandable not only to Catholics but people of other faiths. He uses literary genre that flows smoothly, using words that are delicately and specifically chosen not to hurt the cultural sentiments of the local population.

This award is jointly given by the Indore Province of the Society of the Divine Word (SVD) and the ICPA.

A Unique Opportunity for all ICPA Members

For the 25th National Convention of Christian Journalists we have chosen a theme that calls for wider sharing of knowledge and ideas. Your views and opinions are as important as those that will be shared by the main speakers. However, it's not possible for all of us to share stage and express our views. Hence the organizers have decided to invite articles from our members on themes related to the main theme of our convention. The selected articles as well as the papers presented by the panelists will be collated into a booklet and will be made available to all on the day of our convention.

You may write around 800-1000 words on any one of the topics given below.

Journalism in India Today

Fearless Journalism under Threat in India Today

Truth versus Pragmatism in Indian Journalism

Relevance of Christian Journalists in India

Prophetic identity of Christian Journalists

The final decision on the selection of articles will rest on the editorial team headed by Fr (Dr) Jacob Kani.

Kindly email your articles by 31st January 2020 to: indiancatholicpress@gmail.com

Fr Suresh Mathew
Secretary

ICPA CONVENTION 2020

25th National Convention of Christian Journalists

Theme:

JOURNALISM TODAY: PRAGMATISM TRIUMPHS OVER PRINCIPLES?

Chief Guest: Justice (Retd) Kurien Joseph
&

ICPA Annual General Body Meeting 2020

Venue: Don Bosco Centre, Okhla, Delhi

Date: 29th February 2020 & 1st March 2020

The National Convention: Saturday, 29 February 2020.

ICPA Annual General Body Meeting: 29 February evening (5:30 pm to 8:30 pm)

Delhi Tour: Sunday, 1 March 2020 (Cost per head will be informed later, depending on the number of participants. Should we get a sponsor, then there won't be any cost to members).

Arrival & Departure: You may arrive at the venue on Friday, 28 February 2020 not before 2 pm since the rooms will be available for the members of the ICPA from 2 pm only and you can stay until Monday 2 March, morning 2020 (till 10 am).

Climate: Weather in Delhi during the day will be pleasant with the lowest 10°C and the highest 25°C. You may feel slightly chill in the morning and evening. Kindly pack a light sweater/jacket.

Route:

By FLIGHT) Delhi has three Terminals: T1, T2, T3

From T1, take the **Magenta line metro** route and get down at **Sukhdev Vihar** Metro station: Take Exit Gate # 4 of the Metro station and you can walk into the Don Bosco Bhawan Gate by crossing the road.

From T2 walk to T3 (Five minutes and take a bus to T1 and travel by Magenta line Metro and get down at Sukhdev Vihar Metro station: Take Exit Gate #4 of the Metro station and you can walk into the Don Bosco Bhawan Gate by crossing the road.

From T3 take a bus to T1 and travel by Magenta line Metro and get down at Sukhdev Vihar Metro station: Take Exit Gate # 4 of the Metro station and you can walk into the Don Bosco Bhawan Gate by crossing the road.

By ROAD (Uber/Ola/Yellow Prepaid Taxi): Don Bosco Bhawan near Sukhdev vihar Metro station. Don Bosco Bhawan is close to Gate # 4 of Sukhdev vihar Metro Station. (Other land marks are: Holy Family Hospital Okhla, Fortis Hospital Okhla, Jamia Milia University, Okhla).

By TRAIN (Nearest Railway stations are: **Hazrat Nizamuddin** (NZM) to Don Bosco Bhawan, Okhla 5 kms.; **New Delhi** (NDLS) to Don Bosco Bhawan, Okhla 14 kms. You may take Auto/Uber/Ola/Yellow Prepaid Taxi service to Don Bosco Bhawan near Sukhdev vihar Metro station. Don Bosco Bhawan is close to Gate # 4 of Sukhdev vihar Metro Station.

As part of the 25th National Convention of Christian Journalists, ICPA will **honour 25 Christian Journalists** who have made substantial contribution to print media. They will be honoured by Retd Supreme Court Judge, Justice Kurien Joseph along with the winners of ICPA awards **during the award function on 29th February 2020 at 2:30 pm.**

ICPA CONVENTION 2020

Tentative Convention & AGM Timetable

28 February 2020:

14: 00 Arrival
17: 00 Registration for ICPA Members
20: 00 Dinner

29 February, 2020:

07: 00 Holy Mass
08: 00 Breakfast
08: 30 Registration for Participants of NCCJ
09: 30 Inaugural Session
10: 30 Tea
11: 00 Panel Discussion
13: 00 Lunch
14: 30 Award Function
16:00 High Tea with awardees & other dignitaries
17: 30 AGBM of ICPA
20:30 Dinner

01 March, 2020

07: 00 Holy Mass
08: 00 Breakfast
09: 00 Delhi Tour

ICPA ID Card For Members

ICPA members who have not yet received their official ID Cards may kindly send the following details to the Secretary before 10 February 2020.

A clear passport size photograph
Name in Capital letters
Land line (Office and Residence)
Mobile number (s)
E-Mail ID
Blood group
Full postal address

ICPA Annual Membership Fees

All ICPA members kindly note the following:

Convention Fee: ₹200 per person

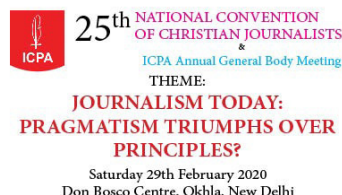
Membership Fee: (Individual: ₹300/-)
(Institutions: ₹1000/-)

Build Your Brand at ICPA Convention!

As you are aware that ICPA neither has a permanent source of income nor does it charge hefty convention fees from the members, we invite generous sponsors (Individuals and Institutions) to offset the cost of the event. Our money in the bank would be depleted soon if we do not find ways to support our expenses during the NCCJ and AGBM.

Hence, the organizing committee has come up with the following proposal:

Logo space on the backdrop (as shown below) and a 3x2 size flex space in the convention hall at ₹5000 only. For every multiples of 5, you will get that many mention on the backdrop (i.e. if you give ₹10000 then your logo will appear twice and so on).



Saturday 29th February 2020
Don Bosco Centre, Okhla, New Delhi



Please note: Your generous sponsorship will not only give your brand visibility, it will also help the organization to offset the high cost of accommodation, food, and other convention expenses. Those who would like to join hands, kindly contact our treasurer (Fr Joby Mathew: 7045340899; jobyssp@gmail.com) for more details.

Accolades for Father Varghese Paul SJ

Gujarati Literary History Highlights Father Varghese As An Essayist

Gujarati Sahityano Itihas (History of Gujarati Literature) Volume 8 has highlighted Jesuit priest Father Varghese Paul as an essayist in Gujarati Literature. The write up about Father Varghese covers his life and literary contributions of 20 books of essays up to 2006. The write up also mentions his two books of character sketches of Old and New Testament Biblical characters as well as his Gujarati translation of a Malayalam novel *Oru Sankeerthanam Pole* by Shri Perumpadavom Shreedharan. The Gujarati title is *Ek Stotragaan-ni Jem*, which is based on the life and literature of Russian novelist Dostoevsky.

Another book listed in the write up is *Yadgar Anubhavo* which is an autobiographical writing as well as travelogue. The write up also mentions his two books which are the collection of his editorial articles in *DOOT* family magazine.

To date Father Varghese has 55 books to his credit of which 46 are in Gujarati. A few of his books are translated to other languages: four in English, three in Malayalam, one each in Hindi and Bengali.

DOOT magazine honoured Father Varghese Paul, SJ on December 1, 2019 presenting him with a **Certificate of Appreciation** which says, “**For his meritorious service and in recognition of his highly esteemed contribution to ‘PAVAN HRUDAYA’ DOOT from 1984 to December 1993 as its Editor**”.

Fr Varghese Paul, SJ also received CERTIFICATE for presenting a research paper titled RELIGION AND ECOLOGY in International Conference on “Environment and culture in the Anthropocene” (ICECA 2019) and Poetry Festival in the auditorium of Berhampur University, Berhampur, Odisha during 1-2 December 2019. The International Conference was jointly organized by the Post Graduate Department of English, Berhampur University and the Guild of Indian English Writers, Editors and Critics (GIWEWC) sponsored by World Bank-OHEPEE. Congratulations dear Father Varghese! We are proud that you are part of ICPA!

The Challenge to be a Catholic Communicator in India Today

Catholic Communicators in India today face challenges as never before! These challenges are intertwined in several dimensions; oftentimes, as Catholic Communicators we really don't seem to know what to do: we are confused, we are tense, we are afraid. But then, the question we need to ask ourselves is: are we justified to trap ourselves in this unnecessary and ungodly mess?

As a Catholic communicator, I feel it is important for me ALWAYS:

- to communicate TRUTH; there is nothing as important. Jesus reminds us “I am the way, the truth and the light.”; our national motto is ‘satyameva jayate’
- to stand for JUSTICE; this is a non-negotiable, we need to take sides, to be with the victims of an unjust, exploitative and inhuman system; with the poor and the excluded
- to protect and promote CONSTITUTIONAL rights and duties
- to propagate GOSPEL values and the mandate received from the Church

It is certainly not easy; oftentimes, we tend to veer towards the cosmetic: fear, ignorance and wanting to ‘please’ the hierarchy seems to be uppermost in our so-called attempts to ‘communicate’.

In the India of today, the ONLY WAY by which we can live up to being authentic Catholic Communicators is by being VISIBLE and VOCAL, by taking a stand for truth and justice and by being tangible witnesses in deed to the Gospels and the Constitution

— Fr Cedric Prakash SJ

Media Discussion Group Meet & World Communication Day

Panaji: Together with a group of media personnel the Daughters of St Paul constituted a media discussion group in Panjim, on November 8, when we met together to reflect on the theme of 53rd World Communications Day- “We are members one of another” (Eph 4,25). From social net work communities to the human community”

The core group consists of journalists including the Deputy Editor of Herald Newspaper Mr Wilfred Pereira, Goa and Mr. Robin De Souza, the Founder member of Catholic Charismatic Renewal Television (CCRTV).

Jovito Lopez, a retired journalist and a visiting professor guided the brainstorming session. It took place in our Pauline Books and Media Centre with an introduction on “relationships” as exhorted by Pope Francis in the message of the 53rd World Communications Day. He also spoke about “climate change” as explained in the encyclical “Laudate Si”.

Mr. Robin D” Souza opined that “Whatever we do we should try to ensure a change of behavior.” He informed, “CCRTV already has programmes on internet addiction, stop tobacco use and similar ones. We welcome more socially relevant programmes. For Robin, “This was an opportunity to network with other media persons with similar values.”

Archbishop Filipe Neri Ferrao of Goa stressed the importance of creating relationship among the members of the family, neighborhood and society.

“Jesus came telling us about a new kind of relationship with God, in one’s family and society at large”. The archbishop said on November 3 while speaking at the 53rd World Communication Day in St.Sebastian’s Chapel in Panaji that celebrated the World Communications Day.

“We are all called to live in relationship, as in a family. When we establish relationships, we are open to help people, especially the sick, suffering and lonely in our neighborhood. When we live in relationship our family life, Christian life and life in the society become beautiful”.

The Programme was planned by the Daughters of St Paul, which coincided with blessing of the renovated St Sebastian’s Chapel.

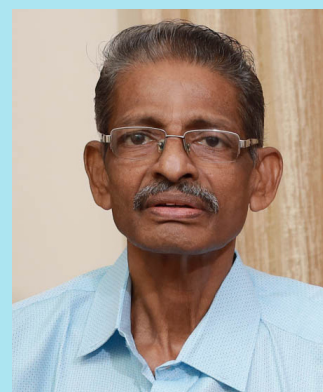
Sr. Lissy Maruthanakuzhy DSP

In Loving Memory of



Mr Varkey Plathottam (100)

Beloved father of Fr George Plathottam SDB and Mr. Mathew Plathottam passed away on 1st January 2020.



Mr Johny Akkara (64)

Elder brother of Mr. Anto Akkara, lost the long battle against cancer and passed away on 2nd January 2020. He is survived by his wife Philomina, son Joffy and daughter Sophy and the two grand children.

May their souls Rest in Peace. AMEN.