



**GLIMPSES OF**

# **The 4<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL PEACE CONVENTION KOCHI, KERALA**



From 30th January to 1st February 2018  
IMA HOUSE, COCHIN (Indian Medical Association)  
J.N. International Stadium Road, Palarivattom, Ernakulam, Kerala,

*Organised by*  
**NATIONAL PEACE MOVEMENT**

*In collaboration with*

- Rotary International District 3040 ▪ Universal Solidarity Movement, Indore ▪ Peace Channel, Nagaland
- People's Movement for Peace, Kannur ▪ Chetana Music College, Trichur ▪ Trend Setters, New Delhi

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***"Earth provides enough  
to satisfy every man's need,  
but not anybody's greed."***

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# A REMINDER TO IMPLEMENT THE COMMITMENTS MADE FOR PROMOTING PEACE

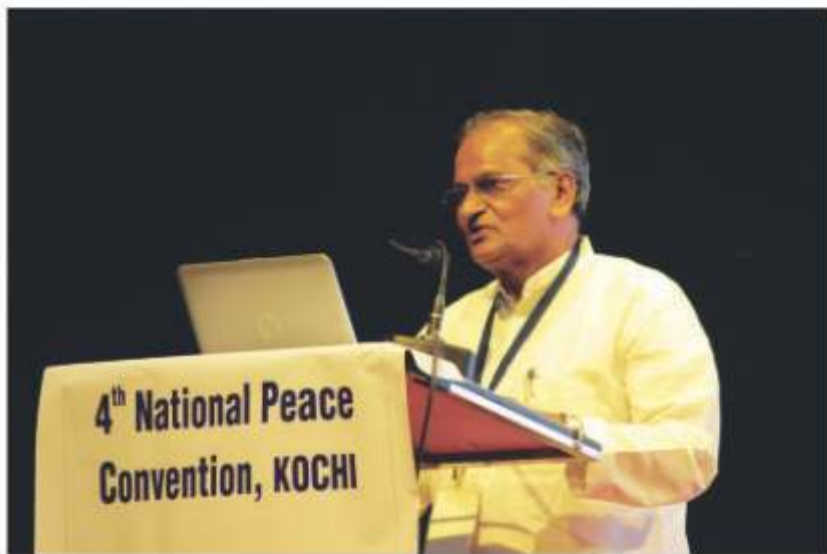
**T**he fourth National Peace Convention in Kochi was rated by the participants as the best of all four national conventions in terms of the quality of the speeches, venue, organization and above all the enthusiasm and involvement of the participants.

Publication of a souvenir of the National Peace Convention has been a practice followed during the last three years. Souvenir is a reminder to the participants to fulfil the commitments they have made to themselves in the form of Peace Declaration at the end of the convention. The souvenir also gives a glimpse of the convention to non-participants and hence it can motivate more number of people to participate in the Fifth National Peace Convention to be held in Delhi in 2019. Finally, it is an effective means to express gratitude to all those who contributed to make the fourth National Peace Convention a memorable one.

In order to make the souvenir reader friendly as well as to reduce the cost we are publishing only the gist of speeches delivered during the fourth National Peace Convention.

The executive Committee of the National Peace Movement is grateful to all those who have contributed to the success of the fourth National Peace Convention Kochi: the Local Organizing Committee members, the speakers, collaborators, sponsors and above all the enthusiastic participants.

As the editor of the souvenir I thank profusely all those who cooperated with me in bringing out this souvenir. Let this souvenir inspire the readers to become promoters of peace!



Jacob Peenikaparambil  
*Editor*

# Kochi Peace Declaration, 2018



## Preface

Realizing the urgent need for nurturing peace and harmony in the society, a National Peace Convention was organized by the Committee for Peace and Conflict Resolution/Prevention of Rotary District 3040 in 2015 in Indore. Besides members of the Rotary International, many individuals from different professions, including teachers and principals of many schools participated in the first National Peace Convention. At the end of the convention it was unanimously decided to launch a National Peace Movement. Fr. Varghese Alengaden was elected as the President of the National Peace Movement.

National Peace Movement consists of citizens from different parts of India and from different professions. Students and teachers also play key role in the National Peace Movement. National Peace Movement, in collaboration with Universal Solidarity Movement Indore, Rotary International and other organizations working for peace, has been organizing National Peace Convention every year since 2015. The second National Peace Convention was organized at Dimapur, Nagaland in 2016, the third convention in Goa in 2017 and the

fourth one in Kochi in 2018. The fourth convention has decided to form state level units of National Peace Movement and organize state level conventions prior to the National Convention.

The National Peace Convention starts every year on 30th January, the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, by paying tributes to Gandhiji and it is concluded on February 1. Throughout the convention the contribution of Gandhiji for peace is highlighted. One of the objectives of the Peace Convention is to disseminate the relevance of Gandhiji and his methods based on non-violence and forgiveness for conflict resolution and prevention.

## Kochi Peace Declaration

When peace and harmony are disturbed and threatened in many parts of the world, particularly in our country, India, we, 372 delegates from 15 states of India, who are keen to nurture and promote peace and reconciliation, participated in the fourth National Peace Convention held from January 30th to February 1, 2018 at IMA House (Indian Medical Association) Kochi. We got



energized and renewed our commitment to become peace makers. The convention was organized by National Peace Movement in collaboration with Rotary International Districts 3040 and 3201, Peace Channel Nagaland, Universal Solidarity Movement Indore, People's Movement for Peace Kannur, Chetana Music College, Trichur, and Trend Setters, New Delhi. The Local Organizing Committee under the vibrant leadership of Dr. Vincent Kundukulam in perfect coordination with Rtn. Varghese Alengadan, the President of National Peace Movement, played a prominent role in making the convention fruitful and a spiritual experience. Participation and sharing by more than 50 students from different schools and colleges reflected the young India's earnest desire to uphold India's core civilizational value, 'Vasudaiva Kudumbakam'.

Interaction with persons belonging to different states, religions, cultures and professions and

exchanging views helped the participants to understand the peace building process. The fact that all participants paid towards the expenses of the convention, besides meeting the cost of their travel and accommodation shows their commitment to peace building.

Erudite and inspiring sharing by persons from various fields on different aspects of peace helped the participants to expand the horizon of their understanding of peace. Prominent among the speakers are 1) Dr. V. P. Gangadharan, a renowned cancer specialist and founder of Cochin Cancer Society 2) Srimati Anuradha Shankar IPS, Additional Director General of Police of Madhya Pradesh and a regular participant of National Peace Convention 3) Bishop Jacob Murickan, who donated his kidney to Hindu young man 4) Shri. Tushar Gandhi, social activist and great grandson of Mahatma Gandhi 5) Dr. Subba Rao, renowned Gandhian and a participant of Quit India Movement 6) Shri. P. V. Rajgopal, social activist, president and founder member of Ekta Parishad 7) Rtn. Varghese Alengadan, founder and national coordinator of Universal Solidarity Movement Indore 8) Shri. Venkitesh Ramakrishnan, Senior Associate Editor of the 'Frontline' magazine 9) Shri. Benjamin Lakhra IAAS, a writer and social activist fighting for the rights of the tribals, 10) Rtn. Gulam A. Vahanvaty, a Trustee of Rotary International 11) Ms. Iram Khan, a Ph. D student of International Law of South Asian University, New Delhi 12) Justice P. K. Shamsuddin, a great Gandhian and a noted humanitarian and 13)





Shri. Jose Punnamparambil, a journalist and writer based in Germany.

The panellists, Dr. Scaria Kallor, a peace activist from Kannur, Dr. C P Anto, founder of Peace Channel, Nagaland, Ashish Franklin, the founder of 'Aspire to Inspire' youth organization and Dr. Jerry Joseph Pulickan, founder of 'Home for Hope' for providing free palliative care inspired the participants with their stories of making a difference. The innovative ideas shared by the student speakers delighted and enriched the participants.

Peace meditation guided by Dr. Paul Poovathinkal, an expert in Carnatic music, enabled the participants to experience peace within them at

the beginning of the day.

We, the participants, reflected and discussed on peace from different perspectives such as:

- Mahatma Gandhi, a Role Model for building Peace and harmony
- "Poverty of Prosperity".
- Moving beyond Identity for Peace and Universal Solidarity
- National Integration through Mahatma Gandhi
- Gender Equality for Peaceful Society
- Role of Media in Promoting Peace and Harmony
- Tribal Values in Building a Civilization of Love
- Rotary's Role in Building International Peace
- Individuals and groups working for Peace and a Civilization of Love.

## Our Significant Learning

- ❖ In order to become a peace maker one has to experience peace within himself or herself.
- ❖ Taking religion to politics and streets is detrimental to peace.
- ❖ Only by caring, sharing and making sacrifices one can contribute to nation building;





- ❖ Wasting the resources is violence against nature and human beings.
- ❖ Instrumentation and manipulation of the media are being used today to fight wars; hence journalists have a great responsibility to expose the facts with details.

## Fruits of the Convention

We, the participants reflected and discussed in state-wise groups about the ways and means for nurturing peace and arrived at the following action plan and suggestions to be implemented at the local and the national levels.

- ❖ mere slogan shouting is not patriotism.
- ❖ Liberty, equality, fraternity, sharing and communion are the core tribal values and they can definitely contribute to peace building.
- ❖ Religion is being used to keep the poor embroiled in a web of poverty and the ever increasing inequalities between the rich and the poor is a threat to peace and harmony. We should be ashamed of the phenomenon of increasing number of billionaires.
- ❖ When we rush after prosperity with greed we actually become poor.
- ❖ Respecting other religions by understanding them and empathizing with them is essential for peace.
- ❖ Gandhi bashing and multi-pronged attack on Mahatma Gandhi have become a fashion today in India; but by bringing back Gandhiji to the centre stage peace can be established not only in India but also in the world.
- ❖ "Transformative non-violence" is an excellent means for conflict resolution and prevention. The state should be non-violent in dealing with conflicts.
- ❖ Spirituality is seeing God in every human being and serving him/her.
- ❖ Education is to be made gender sensitive in order to make gender equality a reality.
- ❖ Peace is at present under siege not only in our country, but all over the world because human hearts are being walled up and the biggest enemy of peace is the differentiation between "we" and "they".

### a) Action Plan:

1. State level peace conventions will be organized prior to the National Peace Convention. State Level committees will be formed for organizing the same.



2. Programmes for promoting peace will be organized at the local level in collaboration with like-minded groups, especially the Rotary clubs.

3. Peace clubs will be formed in schools and colleges for promoting peace.

4. Gandhian values and principles will be disseminated among the students through various co-curricular activities. 2nd October and January 30th will be observed as peace day with special programmes on Mahatma Gandhi.

5. Peace rallies will be organized by the participants in their respective locations, involving other like-minded organizations.

6. One minute silence will be observed during the school assembly for world peace.

7. In order to promote harmony among the followers of different religions, Inter-religious prayer with readings from different sacred scriptures will be conducted; quotations from all scriptures will be exhibited on the walls of



institutions.

8. For promoting the values of the Indian constitution posters of the preamble will be put up in prominent places of the institutions and public places.

9. Conflict resolution skills will be imparted to the students, teachers and the youth through appropriate sessions/trainings.

10. Students and teachers will be participating in the National Peace Convention.



## Suggestions

1. Use social media for promoting peace and sharing information about peace activities undertaken at the local and national levels.

2. Make an appeal to the government to introduce peace education in the curriculum of the educational institutions and form a Ministry for Peace at the centre.

3. Introduce study of all religions as part of value education in view of appreciating the universal values of all religions.

4. Observe a 'Constitution Day' for disseminating the values of the Indian constitution, particularly pluralism, justice, liberty, equality and fraternity.

5. Provide media education to the youth for viewing the media critically.

We, are grateful to all those who have contributed to make the 4th National Peace Convention a great opportunity for learning more about peace and experiencing peace and harmony.



## Welcome Address



### Dr. Vincent Kundukulam

*Dr. Vincent Kundukulam, the Chairman of Local Organizing Committee, is a resident Professor of 'Theology and Religious Sciences' in the Pontifical Institute Alwaye, Kochi since 1997. He participated in the third National Peace Convention in Goa and took initiative to organize the fourth Convention in Kochi.*

# Welcome to Kochi, A Place of Harmony

Conducting Peace Convention 2018 at Kochi is appropriate for many reasons. This is the place of harmony where you can find the legacy of Jainism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Let me recall your memory: we are not very far from Kalady (may be 30 km), the birth place of Jagadguru Sri Sankaracharya, not even 10 kilometers to reach Fort Kochi, one of the ancient Jewish settlements in India. The first communities of Christianity and Islam in India were at Kodungallur, around 35 kilometers from here. And this is the land of Sri Narayanaguru, Mahatma Ayyankali and many other noble souls, whom the luminaries of 20th century like Swami

Vivekananda and Mahatma Gandhi visited several times. Therefore let me acknowledge that we are in the cradle of cultural and religious diversities.

The very concept of peace is becoming a target of attack in our motherland. It is true that there had been episodes of violence in the history of India from the time immemorial as in the case of any other country. But immediately after such unfortunate episodes there were also attempts to re-establish peace and harmony. National Peace Convention 2018 is a concerted effort to revitalize and reenergize the peace movements in India.





### **Rtn. Varghese Alengaden**

Founder President National Peace Movement;  
Founder & National Coordinator of Universal  
Solidarity Movement of Value Education for Peace;  
Motivational speaker and author of 26 Books.



# Peace Pilgrimage

**L**et me begin with a brief background of National Peace Movement and Peace Convention.

A vast majority of people in the society get frustrated by the increasing violence, cancer like corruption spreading at all levels, communalism, discrimination, intolerance to authors and artists who speak truth, crimes against women and the marginalized sections of the society. Hypocrisy of the religious leaders, opportunism of politicians and indifference/ culture of silence of the so called good people further discourage the common people.

National Peace Movement is a proactive response to these above mentioned challenges. The inspiration behind this initiative is the spirituality of

"lighting a candle instead of cursing the darkness". It is a call to each citizen of this country to adopt the possibility thinking of "WHY NOT" I do something creative which no one has done so far?

National Peace Movement was the fruit of this possibility thinking by all delegates of the 1st National Peace Convention held in Indore, M. P. in 2015 by Rotary International District 3040. The core team of National Peace Movement went on asking many challenging questions in their discussion and found an answer based on the POSSIBILITY THINKING: Why don't we organize a National Peace Convention every year in different parts of the country to promote peace and harmony? The dream was realized when we formed NATIONAL



PEACE MOVEMENT and successfully organized peace conventions in Dimapur (Nagaland), Goa and now in Kochi, Kerala.

Daring to be different at all levels led by the 'possibility thinking' proved that we could organize great events without having political leaders and ministers as speakers, make all participants pay for their registration and accommodation as part of their commitment for peace. Support of renowned speakers who hold responsible positions affirmed our conviction. We also refuse to bring celebrities who demand appearance fee to this programme. We firmly believe that volunteerism with the passion for mission like our freedom fighters are needed to rebuild the nation with peace and values enshrined in our Constitution. The culture of gathering crowds with free food and free travel will not bear any lasting fruit.

I welcome all of you who have made a choice to be here. You have left your responsibilities and travelled many days from distant places like Nagaland, Odissa, UP and Uttarakahnd. Large number of you have come from M.P., Maharashtra and T.N.

A special word of appreciation to the young students from schools and colleges who opted to be here. Your participation gives us hope because it is



you, the youth, who will have to rebuild this country and free from our Motherland from the corrupt and divisive forces. India is young with more than half of its population below 25 years of age. Youth shall stand up and speak! Youth shall act, act here and NOW!

All of you have come for a sacred mission. I consider it a special pilgrimage, PEACE PILGRIMAGE. I say this because there are those who have come for the 4th time and 3rd time for the Convention from different states. I salute you for your commitment!

Before concluding I want to urge all of you to take charge NOW! We shall not leave peacemaking to politicians and governments! We shall not wait for God to bring peace because each one of us is an incarnation of God and we carry God within us! Let peace come forth from each one of us; in our thoughts, words and actions.

*Each one should believe that nothing is impossible! The more the problems, the greater should be our determination; the more the darkness, the greater the need for us to be the light; the more the indifference, the greater should be our sensitivity.*

**- Varghese Alengaden**





### **Dr. V. P. Gangadharan**

*Dr. V. P. Gangadharan is presently working as Senior Consultant and Head of Medical & Pediatric Oncology at VPS Lakeshore, Welcare Hospital Kochi & Caritas Cancer Centre, Kottayam. He is actively involved in the mission of educating the public on prevention, early detection and treatment of cancer through various camps and classes.*



# **This Moment is the Time to Help Others**

**W**hen you pray to God, you say, "I should have cancer and I should come out of cancer". When you have cancer you learn to realize that you are a human being. The patients teach us what human life is.

When your life is at stake then you will have no ego. When there is a flood nobody thinks of religion but saving lives. Your next breath is in the hands of somebody. If you can think that your life is at stake then you will be a better person to live on earth.

An IAS Officer who was his patient told him when he gave her on the festival of Vishu one rupee coin as a part of the ritual on the that feast, "If I had

the intuition about the life that I am experiencing now I would have done differently as an IAS officer. If I get a second chance I would definitely do better. There is no use of repenting over the lost opportunities. We will not be able to bring back the lost opportunities. This moment is the time to help others. "If you are not able to do it today you have lost that chance". In life we get enough chances to help others and we have to make use of them. If our life is to be meaningful, it should be useful to others. We must be able to say,

"I don't want kingdom, heaven, reincarnation  
I should be able to reduce the pain of all creatures"





### **Ms. Anuradha Shankar, IPS**

*Smt. Anuradha Shankar, an IPS officer of 1990 batch, is presently the Additional Director General of Police, Madhya Pradesh. She has participated in all National Peace Conventions. Being a lover of literature and a person of continuous learning, she is a scholar and an influential speaker.*

# Poverty of Prosperity

**W**hile delivering her speech on the topic, 'Poverty of Prosperity' she said, "A tendency that is found in India is to keep poor people poor always in order keep some people always rich. Religion is being used to keep poor embroiled in the web of poverty. The youth of this country and religion are being used by the political parties to achieve their divisive goals. Why should we protect our Gods and religion? In fact, God has to protect us. Because of mixing religion with politics certain groups are dividing the people of this country. Against this backdrop a person who advises us to be inclusive may be physically eliminated and later his/her ideology could be buried.

What is prosperity? When you rush after prosperity you are poor. Those who have enough have the responsibility to share with others and when you share with others you become rich and that is real prosperity."

We have forgotten the talisman of Mahatma

Gandhi and that is the cause for many of our problems. "I will give you a talisman. Whenever you are in doubt, or when the self becomes too much with you, apply the following test. Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man [woman] whom you may have seen, and ask yourself, if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him [her]. Will he [she] gain anything by it? Will it restore him [her] to a control over his [her] own life and destiny? In other words, will it lead to swaraj [freedom] for the hungry and spiritually starving millions? Then you will find your doubts and your self melt away."

Unfortunately, the system in which we live today, each one is running in competition with the other. We have forgotten that we belonged to a civilization where all ate together, shared with each other and lived together in harmony. We have to go back to Gandhian economy and Gandhian spirituality.





## Shri Tushar Gandhi

*Renowned writer and social activist and great grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, Shri Tushar Gandhi, is the founder of Mahatma Gandhi Foundation. He has authored the book, 'Let us Kill Gandhi'.*



# Peace is Our Responsibility

**P**ace is at present under siege not only in our country, but all over the world. Countries want to build walls around them. The hearts are being walled up, space and everything becomes "mine" and not "ours". This is the biggest challenge today. We are actually becoming islands. This tendency towards isolation is very dangerous for peace.

In our present we don't have examples. Hence we have to go back to Bapu. Bapu has taught us to use anger positively for reforming the persons who are responsible for injustice. For example when cow vigilantes indulge in violence we can approach court through Public Interest Litigation. We have to respond to injustice, but without resorting to violence. Not responding to injustice is irresponsibility.

We have to find out a way of life by which we understand the other, why he or she behaves in a particular way. If we understand that no two people are going to be identical then we are going to respect differences. Accepting and respecting difference are essential for peace and that is our responsibility.

Greed and wasteful ways are violence against nature and contribute to global warming. We have a great responsibility to prevent the catastrophe due to global warming by liberating ourselves from greed and avoiding wasteful ways. Icons like Bapu are mirrors which reflect our souls. There is no use of worshipping them. We have to follow the way they have shown us. We have to appeal to the tiny goodness hidden in every person.





### **Dr. S. N. Subba Rao**

*89 year old S. N. Subba Rao is a true Gandhian and a dynamic social reformer. He was conferred with the first-ever Mahatma Gandhi Seva Award, instituted in 2014 by the Karnataka Government.*

# National Integration through Mahatma Gandhi

**R**eligion cannot lead to national integration, but spirituality can. Spirituality is speaking the truth, being honest, feeding the hungry and uniting people.

There should not be anything that divides human beings. Mere absence of war is not peace. Peace is mutual cooperation and brotherhood among people. That is why UNESCO states, "War begins in the minds of men and the defence of peace should come from the minds of men".

Today science can treat all kinds of diseases. Plague could be controlled in Surat within 15 days. But there is no medicine by which we can make a dishonest man honest. Only spirituality can do it. So

long as a dog is hungry in my country my spirituality compels me to feed it. For me spirituality means no hunger in the world and no violence in the society.

All religions are equal. India is the only country that has produced four religions. Four religions came to India from outside and have become part and parcel of this nation. If this country is to survive, religions should respect each other. How can we make India united and happy? What we need today is all religion prayers. True religion teaches us that God is within in all human beings. That is why Jesus said, "Kingdom of God is within you". When we are able to see God in all human beings then there will be no fights and wars.





## Shri P. V. Rajagopal

*Shri P.V. Rajagopal is a social activist and dynamic Gandhian who is fully wedded to the development of the nation and its people. He is the former Vice Chairman of Gandhi Peace Foundation and the president and founding member of Ekta Parishad.*



# Moving beyond Identity for Peace and Universal Solidarity

**T**he world is slowly moving from ideology based politics to identity based politics today and from territorial politics to religion based politics and caste based politics, and even sub-caste based politics. This is happening all over the world. This phenomenon is happening by accusing and targeting others. Hence reconciliation becomes very difficult.

The solution is transformative politics as practised by Mahatma Gandhi. Your action should transform your enemy. If you want freedom from injustice, you must be able to liberate your opponent from doing injustice.

On the one side there is globalization and on the other hand we don't have global leadership. We have only small leaders and the problems are very big. Small visions will not together make a global vision. Hence we need leaders with global vision to transcend small identities for building Peace and Universal Solidarity.

People from other countries ask us, "You have a rich heritage of peace, why are you not helping the world with your heritage of peace. We come to India because this is a land where great people were born and worked for peace and non-violence". We Indians have failed to highlight the contribution of India to build a peaceful world.



“

*First of all peace should be established in the hearts of Individuals. Then it has to flow to the family, neighbourhood, the nation and the whole world.*

”

*Greetings and Best Wishes*



**Rtn. Dr. Zamin Hussain**

**District Governor - 2017-18**

**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 3040**



## **Rtn. Gustad Anklesaria**

District Governor Elect 2018-19,  
Rotary District 3040



# Find Peace Within

**T**he contribution of Rotary District 3040 to the Peace Movement is commendable. Rotary Dist. 3040 is happy that we could organise such National Conventions in different parts of the country and mobilize people from all works of life to participation advisory.

It is unfortunate that in today's rat race, many a times Peace is misconstrued as an ornamental state of life or mind, not accessible to the common man.

I strongly believe, before we search for Peace in the outer world, we need to find Peace within oneself. That is only possible, when the mind is without fear & we harness our thoughts into action in a positive manner with a selfless attitude.

This is where Rotary, USM & the common man

can network to create a world worth living. Our initiative to conceive & successfully organize the Peace Convention each year is the seed sown in the right direction.



May Wisdom Prevail on All Brethren to make  
this World - A Better Place to Live!





### **PDG Rtn. Gulam A. Vahanvaty**

*Rtn. Gulam Vahanvaty, an industrialist from Mumbai, is a shining star in the firmament of Rotary International. He is appointed as a Trustee of Rotary International for four years (2018-20).*

## **Rotary's Role in Building International Peace**

**T**he fourth Objective of Rotary International is promoting peace. Rotary works with 7 universities in the world for conducting short and long term courses in peace building. Rotary peace fellowship is made available to those who attend the courses.

Many Rotary districts around the world now allocate from their District Designated Funds thousands of dollars to support a Rotary World Peace Scholar for study at one of the seven Rotary Centers for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution.

Rotary Peace Fellows are leaders promoting national and international cooperation, peace, and the successful resolution of conflict throughout their lives, in their careers, and through service activities.

Alumni work in a variety of areas, including grassroots and local nongovernmental organizations, national governments, the military, law enforcement, and bilateral and international organizations such as the United Nations, World Bank, International Organization for Migration, and Organization of American States.

Through its service projects, peace fellowships, and scholarships, Rotary members are taking action to address the underlining causes of conflict, including poverty, ethnic tension, lack of access to education, and unequal distribution of resources. For example Rotary members founded the People for People Foundation, which has helped 10,000 families afford food, clothing, rent, utilities, medications and other necessities.





## Rtn. Dr. Zamin Hussain

*Rtn. Dr. Zamin Hussain is a medical doctor providing his service to the common people of Sonkatch town in Madhya Pradesh. As the District Governor of the Rotary District 3040, he introduced a culture of sincerity, simplicity and service in the functioning of the Rotary and expanded the horizon of services of Rotary International*



# Loving One Another is Patriotism

**P**ace is a rare commodity in the world. Peace is needed for the progress in the world. Peace is often disturbed by the politicians and religious leaders. Mixing politics with religion is very dangerous and it is detrimental to peace in any country. Religion is to be kept within the four walls of the House. When I come out my house I am purely an Indian and I see others as human beings and Indians and not as Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Buddhists or Jains.

Shouting slogans is not patriotism. By shouting slogans nothing is going to happen. Speaking ill of other faiths only create bitterness between two communities. No religion teaches to hate other human beings on the basis of religion or caste or

language. Spreading the venom of hatred is a serious crime which every citizen should avoid. Peace loving citizens can never tolerate hate speeches. Liberating the society from hatred and revenge is the duty of every citizen. It will only create divisions in the society. Patriotism means loving one another, helping the poor and the needy, building harmony among different sections of the society and protecting the environment.

First of all peace should be established in the hearts of Individuals. Then it has to flow to the family, neighbourhood, the nation and the whole world. The very purpose of the National Peace Convention is to motivate each one of us to become peace makers in the society.



God is mainly present in every human person. When the people are able to see God in all human beings and serve that God, there will be peace in our country.

*Greetings and Best Wishes*



**Rtn. Satya Narayan Lathi**

PDG RID 3040

District Trainer



## **Rt. Rev. Dr. Jacob Murickan**

*Bishop Jacob Murickan is the auxiliary bishop of Palai diocese who donated his kidney to E Sooraj, a 30 year old poor Hindu man from Kottakal in the South India, the only bread winner of his family.*



# **Giving Peace by Donating Kidney**

“I was inspired by the example of Fr. Davis Chiramel to donate one of my kidneys to a needy person. It was very difficult to find most deserving person. When I came to know that Sooraj was the only bread winner of his family and he was in a critical stage of life I decided to donate to him a kidney of mine.

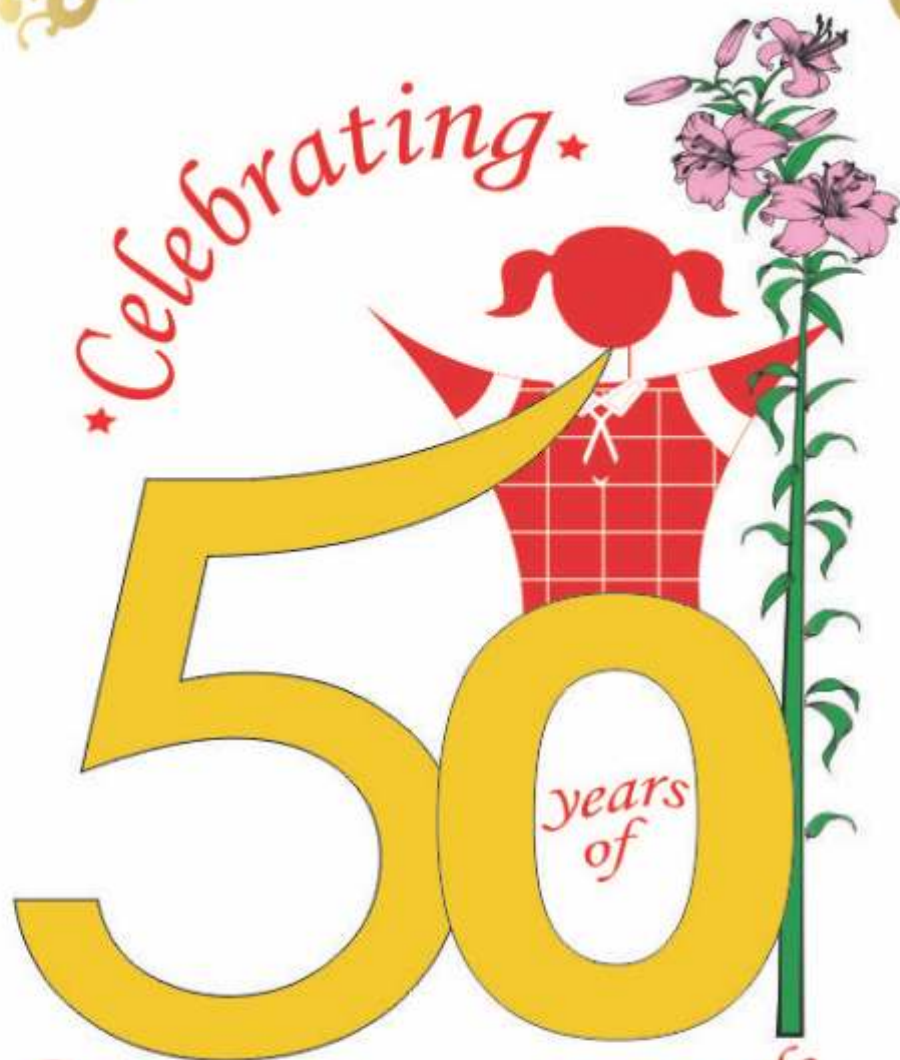
Jesus is meant for all mankind. Love is the only unifying element in the world. It was only by the divine providence that I could do such a noble act. I am experiencing the joy of giving. Only by sharing, caring and sacrificing that we can build a better India”.

“Pope Francis backs such acts of organ donation. It's in the spirit of the Church. I believe this

should be a strong message for people around me, to be open to donate organs. It is significant that I was doing it in the Holy Year of Mercy, following the call by Pope Francis to love each other without the barrier of caste or creed. By donating kidney to Sooraj I could become a bridge of love and God's grace”.

The recipient E.Sooraj, was diagnosed with kidney failure two years ago, and had been on dialysis since then, and struggling to support his wife and his mother. Realizing the critical situation of Sooraj and his family Bishop Jacob Murickan responded proactively, setting an example for the bishops, priests, and all other people. His action in itself is a miracle.





*Grace Growth Gratitude*

*1967-2017*

**Best Wishes from  
the management, staff & students of  
Carmel of St. Joseph School  
Malad, Mumbai**



## Shri Venkitesh Ramakrishnan

*Venkitesh Ramakrishnan, Senior Associate Editor of Frontline is a journalist with 34 years experience in print, broadcast and electronic media in leading regional, national and international organisations.*



# Role of Media in Promoting Peace and Harmony

When one looks at the history it can be seen that media was not often used positively to promote peace. A devious telegram was responsible for the First World War and the Second World War. Fictitious stories televised were responsible for America getting involved in Kuwait War.

In our present time also media often manipulate news and foment violence instead of preventing violence. For example some TV channels aired the names of persons belonging to minority communities involved in the attack on school bus carrying children during the agitation against the

movie Padmaavati. When a group of journalist met the police officers and saw the list of the persons arrested they did not find anyone belonging to minority communities. Often media has played a negative role instead of promoting peace and harmony.

The media should be an independent and unbiased medium. The job of responsible media is to present the audience with facts and NOT opinions. Once opinions are fed instead of facts the opinions become facts and the media persons take away the natural thinking process of a person's mind.





### **Shri Benjamin Lakra, IAAS**

*Shri Benjamin Lakra is a social activist, writer and a motivational speaker. After retirement from IAAS he joined politics to fight for the rights of the tribals. For the last few years he has been working relentlessly to organize the tribals for their land rights.*

# **Tribal Values in Building Civilization of Love**

**T**he core tribal values are Justice, Equality and Fraternity which are enshrined in the Indian Constitution. The only people who truly practice these values are the tribals. It can be seen in all aspects of their lives. People dance and sing together interconnected as a chain and any one can initiate the dance. All of them sit in a circle under a tree for meeting. In hunting and fishing everyone participates and everybody gets equal share including the dog. There is no tribal beggar in the whole of Chhota Nagpur.

The mother of all these human values is the communitarian life. A child is named by the community elders. Finding a bride is the responsibility of the community. Performing death rites is the responsibility of the entire community.

They have an inherent tendency to share with others. Wealth is to be shared and used and not to be hoarded. Tribal people live in the present and not in the future and hence there is no hoarding. This is the reason for contentment among the tribals. Their economy is need based and not greed based. They are the biggest protector of ecology. They use the natural resources without damaging nature.

Respect for women is a core value for the tribals. A Girl has the right to accept or reject the boy. There is no demand for dowry. Parents are equally concerned about the welfare of their daughters.

These values are disappearing due to detribalization. The modern economy is based on plundering.





## Ms. Iram Khan

Ms. Iram Khan is currently pursuing Ph. D in the Faculty of Legal Studies of South Asian University, New Delhi. She has taken LL. M and M. Phil from the same university after completing her B.A.LLB from Aligarh Muslim University in 2012.



# 'Gender Equality for a Peaceful Society'

**A**lthough stringent laws have been put in place in India against atrocities on women, they have not changed the everyday realities of women. One third of women in India experience violence. 21 women die every day due to dowry related violence. It is because women are not able to overcome gender barriers. Dalit women and women of minorities face double discrimination.

While the incidence like Nirbhaya shook the 'public conscience' of this country and we saw a huge uproar of women and men on the streets of Indian capital resulting in the amendments of criminal law, it did not change the everyday reality of Indian women. They are abused and harassed inside their own houses, at workplaces, in the schools and universities, on the streets and even on cyberspace. While social media has given a space for women to speak out and express their opinions, the

same old patriarchal notions continue to infect these spaces. Women are trolled and given rape threats with total impunity.

While we are battling for our minimum civil and political rights, the demand for the equal economic and social rights for women is missing. The equal inheritance rights are still a mirage in our country. While some personal laws have recognized women as equal holders of inheritance rights, there are others, which failed to reach that mark.

Lack of sufficient participation of women in politics and in public life is the main cause for the continued violence against women. Women's reservation bill is languishing in the parliament. Making education gender sensitive and providing women equal opportunities for education is the best means to overcome gender inequalities.





# PEACE CHANNEL

## *A Youth Peace Movement*

An Initiative of the Diocese of Kohima, Nagaland

## *Be a Channel of Peace*

### Our Journey from 2005—2018

We have trained on Peace and Dialogue above 1.5 Lakh Children and Youth,  
above 500 School and College Teachers and above 2000 Church & Public Leaders



### **Peace Channel Theory of Peace**

Founder and Director: Rev. Dr. C.P. Anto

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## Justice P. K. Shamsuddin

*Hon. Justice P K Shamsuddin, who was the chief guest of the valedictory function of the 4th National Peace Convention, is a retired judge of Kerala High Court. He is a great Gandhian and a noted humanitarian, who could successfully steer World Fellowship of Inter-religious Councils as chairman of International Interfaith Dialogue India.*



# Religious Pluralism, Bedrock of Indian Secularism

**T**here will not be any peace without peace among the followers of different faiths and ethnic groups. Our constitution envisages a socialistic pattern of society which should reduce the gulf between the poor and the rich, the 'haves' and 'have nots' to the minimal and create an egalitarian society. We cannot bring peace and harmony without eliminating poverty. Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of our Nation said the first and foremost task of free India is wipe tear from every eye. Equitable, if not equal, distribution of wealth is a sine qua non for creating a peaceful and harmonious society which is an essential requirement for a sustained development.

"Pluralism is the key stone of Indian culture and religious tolerance is the bed rock of Indian secularism. It is based on the belief that all religions are equally good and efficacious path way to perfection of God realization". I would add that respect to other religions is the essence of Indian Cultural heritage. Our constitution mandates to develop scientific temper, humanism and spirit of enquiry and direct to promote harmony and common brotherhood among all people of India transcending religions, linguistic, regional or sectional diversities. It is necessary to educate the students on the life and message of Mahatma Gandhi.





### **Rt. Rev. Dr. Chacko Thottumarickal SVD**

*Rt. Rev. Dr. Chacko Thottumarickal, SVD is the bishop of Indore Diocese in Madhya Pradesh. He promotes peace by participating in inter-religious gatherings and supporting the peace initiatives of people belonging to different religions. Bishop Chacko participated in the National Peace Conventions in Indore and Dimapur.*

# **Pluralistic Heritage of India**

**B**ishop Chacko in his address as the chairman of the third session of National Peace Convention on January 31 appreciated the views of the speakers: Shri. Benjamin Lakra, PDG, Gulam A. Vahanvaty and Ms. Aishwarya Tara Bhai Anish. He also lauded the efforts of National Peace Movement to create awareness among the people about the urgent need for peace and harmony. He emphasized that India is a country of diversity in terms of religion, culture, language, etc.

Unity in diversity has been the hallmark of this country for centuries. The constitution of India has imbibed the pluralistic heritage of India and affirmed it as the very foundation of this country. Hence imposing any kind of uniformity is not only against the heritage of India but also a violation of

the Indian constitution.

The experience of India has shown that any imposition of uniformity or any particular ideology on the people of India results in conflicts and loss of peace and harmony. He recommended dissemination of the values enshrined in the Indian constitution as an excellent means for promoting peace and understanding among the different sections of the Indian Society. He also advocated collaboration among the followers of different religions in solving the problems of the country. This collaboration will slowly lead to mutual understanding and appreciation among the different faiths and religious traditions.





### **Dr. Scaria Kallur, OFM, Cap**

*Dr. Scaria, a member of the Franciscan Order of Friar minor capuchins, is presently involved in a unique mission of establishing Peace Clubs in Colleges and Higher Secondary Schools of Northern Kerala. His target is to prepare one lakh students as peace makers.*



# People's Movement for Peace

**P**ace can be built not by one person but many are needed. People's Movement for Peace under the leadership of Dr. Scaria Kallur is working in this direction. Kallur has been in the limelight for some years because of the frequent political murders taking place in the area due to the clashes between the members of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and the members of Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh (RSS). Many social organizations have come together and formed a wider organization under the name, People's Movement for Peace. The activities undertaken under the auspices of the movement are the following.

- Organizing peace rallies whenever a political murder takes place
- Negotiation with the opposing political forces
- Street gathering
- Visiting the houses of victims of political violence

- Giving awards for positive news by the media that are working for peace
- Peace web of peace clubs.

Peace can never be achieved by surrendering weapons alone but only through dialogue. Laying down arms however creates a good atmosphere for peace. People's movement is an attempt in North Kerala to realize this vision of peace namely peace through dialogue. It is an evolutionary growth of various peace attempts by various groups and individuals maturing to a more organized form under the leadership of Sri. P. V. Rajagopal, the proud son of Kannur, but engaged totally on a global mission for peace. Our aim is to make the decade's long tradition of violence and political killings in Kannur as a story of the past and to lay the foundation for a new Kannur, built upon peace and harmony and we too join our hands and hearts with the millions of Indians who await the gift of peace.





### **Dr. C.P. Anto**

*Dr. Anto is the the founder director of Peace Channel and Principal of MSW college, Dimapur, Nagaland. He is an active partner in National Peace Movement. He took initiative to organise the 2nd National Peace Convention in Dimapur.*

# Peace Channel

**D**r. C.P. Anto has been involved in promoting peace through peace channel, the organization he started in Dimapur, Nagaland.

Peace channel is a youth movement aiming at organizing the youth as peace lovers, peace makers, and promoters through information, formation and transformation. Peace channel seeks to renew the humanity through promoting the youth as leaders and peace activists. The youth are trained as peace activists. They in turn form Peace Channel units in schools, colleges, Self Help Groups and in other institutions. They get together twice a month to celebrate peace by following the seven steps of Peace Channel. They promote peace and development in the locality, by under-taking short term projects of social interest that need immediate attention.

The objectives of the Peace Channel are the

following:

- To bring together people, especially the youth, under the banner of 'Peace Channel' to work for universal peace, justice, equality, and brotherhood.
- To explore strategies of building peace and bringing about development by working together on socio-economic, cultural, educational, environmental and other inclusive issues.
- To promote human rights and peace education in educational institutions, families and communities.
- To organize children, youth and parents in communities for peace and human rights development activities.
- To mobilize individuals from various walks of life as associate members of the movement, to assist and mobilize public support for Peace & Development.





### **Dr. Jerry Joseph Pulicken**

*Dr. Jerry, with PG Diploma in Palliative Medicine and Hospital Management, is the founder of 'Home of Hope', an Educational and Charitable Trust that provides free palliative care for anyone who is in need. Till date 1000 patients were given palliative care under the 'Home for Hope'.*



# **Palliative Care Perspective of Peace Building**

**T**he person whom I am expected to meet may not be in this world tomorrow. But...what guarantee do I have that I will be there tomorrow! We should not wait till our most comfortable occasion to provide peace and hope to anyone in need. It should be provided at the right time, at the right place. Work for peace and hope cannot wait. Now is the right time and this is the right place. We do not need MSc, MD or PhD to be a good listener; all we need is a willingness to hear, keeping our mouths shut, even if we have lots to comment on what we hear.

Have I been of any help to anyone in need at the right time and right place? This question needs to be repeatedly brought to our mind on a regular basis and not just when we are made known that our days are numbered and steps measured. We are the doctors to initiate preventive measures, treat if symptoms are visible and strive to eradicate any situation that leads to absence of peace, on an individual level, in our families and in communities of which we are apart, directly or otherwise. Only qualification we need is a willingness to serve along with faith, hope and love.





### Mr. Ashish Franklin Tirkey

Ashish Franklin, a cancer survivor, is the founder of 'Aspire to Inspire', an organization dedicated to the empowerment of youth. He transformed not only his life but also the life of many youth through start-ups.

# Aspire to Inspire

**A**s a cancer patient at the prime of his youth negative thoughts were torturing him. He described the miracle happened in him in the following words. "That one word 'human' really changed my life. I reflected upon that word 'human'. Who made this human? When I reflected and saw myself in the mirror, I remembered the word of God that I am created in the image and likeness of God and God is residing in me. These two things really helped me out and I challenged myself that if God is residing in me then why am I thinking that I am moving closer to death. I thought this impossibility can be possible if God is residing in me. I broke down the word "impossible" to 'I Am Possible'".

"It's because I am a human with a life and I have

to help other humans to propagate this life in fullest. This is my mission "to promote life through holistic education and not literacy". After coming back from my treatments I met with friends of my brother and sister, also visited the schools back there in Rourkela. I thought this is the chance to propagate life. We started talking with each other, sharing with each other. Gradually we could build small platforms. Many of them were not good in studies, so I helped them out with their talents. They shared that they don't like to study. So I asked what they loved to do. Some loved sports; some loved cooking, and some loved programming. So we thought of moving ahead with our talent". Thus 'Aspire to Inspire' was born





## Shri Jose Punnamparambil

*Shri Jose Punnamparambil is a journalist and author based in Germany for the last 52 years. He has made magnificent efforts to promote Indo-German cultural ties and understanding.*



# Peace in Great Danger Today

Peace is in great danger today because of various factors. Prominent among them are 1) the identity factor 2) the rich-poor divide 3) the armament build-up and 4) the ecological destruction. The modernisation process has destabilised the traditional base of many communities which has led to the emergence of fundamentalism and exclusion, resulting in violent conflicts in various parts of the world, disturbing peace. The profit oriented market economy has widened the gap between the rich and the poor, resulting in impoverishment and destitution in countries of the South to such an extent that the situation may explode into a violent revolution. Vast resources are being diverted throughout the world to develop and produce weapons with capabilities

to destroy our planet several times. The resource intensive and high-technology based development activity in the past five decades has seriously disrupted the ecological stability of life support systems. The alarming increase in the number of typhoons, floods and tsunamis in recent times clearly show that our planet is on the edge of a big catastrophe.

In order to face these dangerous challenges we have to look for alternative models of attaining higher satisfaction in life, anchored in a system of values and norms which puts equity, ecology and simple living at the centre of our development goals. This historical change must begin from each one of us. To quote Gandhiji "Be the change that you wish to see in the world".





### **Rtn. Dr. Abraham Thomas**

*Rtn. Abraham Thomas FCA is a senior Chartered Accountant and Management consultant with nearly 40 years of rich and varied experience in industry and Public practice. He has held senior positions in several large undertakings both in Public and Private sectors. Presently he is the director of three educational institutions and Treasurer of CBSC School Management Association, Kerala. He was a very dynamic member and treasurer of Local Organizing Committee of 4th National Peace Convention.*

## **Everyone Needs Peace**

**W**e were fortunate to be inspired by the enlightening speeches by many distinguished personalities and enthusiastic students during the 4th National Peace Convention. No one has any doubt about the significance of peace. Everyone needs peace: individuals, organizations and even global conglomerates that are producing deadly atomic and chemical weapons. Against this backdrop it is essential to bring back Mahatma Gandhi and his weapon of non-violence to the centre stage of political discourse. His core values are to be imbibed by individuals and groups in order to enjoy peace.

Participation of enlightened members of Universal Solidarity Movement (USM), Rotary International and many other organizations and professions contributed to the richness of the

fourth National Peace Convention. The participation of large number of students gives great hope for the expansion of National Peace Movement. I can see the sparkle in their eyes, radiating dynamism and enthusiasm to be the torch bearers of this great movement, initiated by Rtn. Fr. Varghese Alengaden. Dear youngsters, your active participation and involvement demonstrate your commitment to promote peace. If the speakers have ignited your minds and thought process, the convention has achieved its objectives. Together we shall continue our journey to peace, fraternity and freedom, leading to universal brotherhood.

I take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to the success of the fourth National Peace Convention, particularly our our mentor Fr. Alengaden.





## Dr. Paul Poovathingal

*Dr. Paul is a Catholic priest with a doctorate in Carnatic Music. He is known in Kerala as Singing Priest (Paadum Paadiri). He is a vocalist, composer and lyricist and is the first vocologist in India. He has composed around 1000 songs and released 35 music albums. He is the first Indian Christian priest in the world to earn PhD in Carnatic music. He has performed classical music before A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, President of India and before Bharat Ratna M.S. Subbulakshmi.*



# Music Meditation for Peace

**D**r. Paul Poovathingal made a significant contribution to the 4th National Peace Convention. The prayer dance presented by the students of his Dance and Music College was superb. It inspired and motivated the participants to dedicate themselves to work for the peace and unity.

Dr. Paul also conducted music meditation on the second and third day of the convention. The meditation was something very unique and it helped the participants to experience peace within themselves at the beginning of the day and thereby focus on the sharing by different persons. All participants appreciated the unique way of conducting meditation.

Music is a useful tool in meditation, as it can help one clear his/her mind and stay in the moment.

There are different forms of meditation, and different ways to use music with each one. The steps followed in the meditation by Dr. Paul were the following.

- Keep a good posture, keep one's eyes closed, and relax neck and shoulders while one meditates
- Focus breathing: Breath is an essential aspect of any form of meditation. One has to make sure that he/she is breathing deeply and slowly, and that he/she is aware of breath as it enters and leaves the body.
- Listening to music can be seen as a form of meditation. By focusing on it and being aware of oneself and his/her thoughts while one listens, he/she is essentially practicing mindfulness meditation in the process.





## **Rtn. Advocate Satya Narayan Lathi**

*Rtn. Satya Narayan Lathi, the chairperson of the this session, is an active Rotarian from Sonkatch in Madhya Pradesh. He is a Previous District Governor of RID 3040. He motivated 30 persons, mostly young people, to participate in the Goa Convention. He participates in all meetings organized in Madhya Pradesh under the auspices of the National Peace Movement.*

# **Bring Gandhiji to the Centre of Governance**

**G**andhiji, the Father of the Nation, is not to be adored but to be emulated. The main cause for the conflicts and violence in our country is that as a nation we have drifted away from the principles Mahatma Gandhi. Bringing Gandhiji and his principles to the centre of governance of the nation is the remedy to bring peace in our country.

God is mainly present in every human person. When the people are able to see God in all human beings and serve that God, there will be peace in our country. One of the causes of unrest and conflict in the society is poverty. Poverty alleviation is not only the task of the government; every citizen has a

responsibility to remove poverty from the country. Hence giving is to be made a part of the habit of the citizens. Every citizen has to set apart a particular percentage of his/her resource to help the needy. Giving is to be practised without making any publicity.

Another requirement for promoting peace is to love the environment by keeping away from anything that pollutes the environment and planting trees.

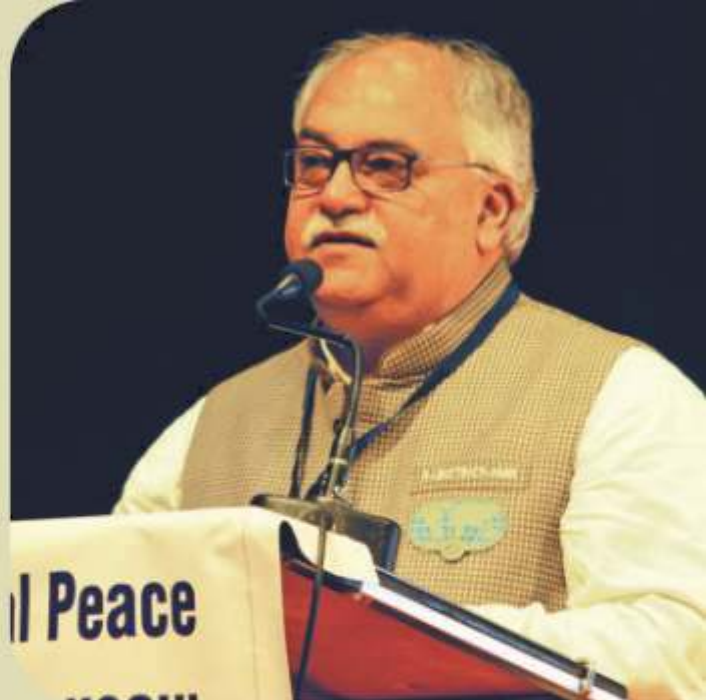
Give attention to your families by caring for the children and the aged members. Never make our parents suffering





## Rtn. Dhiran Datta

Rtn. Dhiran Datta is the District Governor nominee for the year 2019-20 of the Rotary District 3040. His journey with Rotary International started in the year 1999 and he has made significant contribution to the Rotary and the society in different capacities. By profession he is a successful businessman, marketing of a Hosiery product under the brand name, Dixcy.



# I Know that Peace is Possible

Peace is not only the absence of conflict, but the presence of justice. Peace and justice are two sides of the same coin. The 16th Sustainable Development Goal refers to "peaceful and inclusive societies", "access to justice for all" and "effective, accountable and inclusive institutions". This is welcome, but innovation will be needed to advance peace and justice as complementary objectives. Justice is not something that is merely dispensed through courts and the police. Instead, it is experienced either positively or negatively through the quality of opportunities, relationships, transactions and behaviours right across society. Peace is obtained after a long struggle towards positive thinking. Peace in a country does not mean absence of war; it means that things are in order.

When power of love overcomes the power of hatred and revenge peace will prevail in a person, community or country. The cost one has to pay for peace is understanding, accepting and appreciating persons and communities in their diversities. Hence unity in diversity is a sure sign of peace. Nurturing peace is more important than winning a war.

If you cannot find peace within yourself, you will never find it anywhere else. Hence building peace is to start with oneself; then it is to be extended to family, neighbourhood, nation and the whole world. Establishing peace at different levels requires resolving conflicts by handling conflicts by peaceful means. Dialogue is one of the best means for resolving conflicts between individuals and groups.





### Dr. Alias Thomas

*Rtn. Dr. Alias Thomas is a practicing a dental surgeon for the past 28 years in Thodupuzha, Kerala. He has played various leadership roles in the Indian Dental Association as secretary and president of IDA Kerala state as well as the National Vice-President and the National President. He also functioned as the Executive Committee member of Federation of Dentaire Internationale, the Association of Dental Surgeons from all over the world. He chaired the second session of the convention on the second day.*

# Peace, Essential to Create a Better World

**P**ace and Harmony is the basic need of any nation. Only if a nation enjoys peace and harmony would it be able to prosper. The Constitution of our country includes laws to ensure political and social equality among the citizens in order to avoid clashes and maintain harmony among its citizens.

Though the people of our country live peacefully with each other, often the peace is disturbed owing to some political, social, economic and religious factors. Price rise and unemployment also creates unrest among the people. People often come forward to protest against these issues due to which the normal functioning of the society is

disrupted. Terrorism is another factor that hampers the peaceful living of the people. Several terrorist attacks have been carried out in the past and the life of people has been disturbed owing to these. Lastly, I would like to conclude by saying that peace and harmony is needed among people in order to make this world a better place for everyone to live in.

We have to learn the true meaning of friendship by respecting each other's values & help in times of need. Even if we know or do not know a person, giving them a big hearty smile is more than enough to grow a lovely relationship towards everyone and also to make their day peaceful and great.





## Ms. Aishwarya Thara Bhai Anish

*Ms. Aishwarya Thara Bhai Anish is a student of Kerala University. During the National Peace Convention Kochi she shared her thoughts on the topic, "World Peace through Mahatma Gandhi".*



# World Peace through Mahatma Gandhi

**T**he historians have not described the struggle for freedom of India as War of Indian Independence but Movement for Independence because there was no call to take up arms and no buildings were bombed down. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, a young barrister having practised non-violent method to fight against racial discrimination in South Africa, took upon his shoulders the titanic task of getting for India freedom through a collective method of peace and non-violence. Gandhiji proved to the world how conflicts could be resolved through non-violent and peaceful methods, including dialogue.

Nations today mistake security in having number of nuclear warheads and the technology to

make superior killing machines such as atom bombs. In reality, national security for a country should be in its political stability, economic strength and diplomatic relations. World peace still remains a concept because the countries that have the power to bring out a change still rely on armament and the use of violence to achieve it. Thus, whatever peace achieved through violence is only temporary; the panacea of non-violence is very rarely used. As a result we see the same issue crop up again more complicated than before. Gandhi has laid down the policy for ensuring peace and harmony: "Peace will not come out of a clash of arms but out of justice lived and done by unarmed nations in the face of odds."





### **Ms. Zara Farooqui**

*Ms. Zara Farooqui is a student of Canossa High School Mahim. During the inaugural session of the convention she shared with the audience her views on Mahatma Gandhi, A Role Model of Forgiveness and Reconciliation.*

## **Peace begins with oneself**

**T**he world today is in the midst of a great turmoil in the form of war, violence, crime against children and women, deceit and fraudulence. The root cause of the turbulence is reluctance to forgive. My grandpa always quoted his great hero when he taught me the value of forgiveness.

"The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong". His Hero is certainly not Spiderman or Amitabh Bachchan, but our dear messenger of Peace whom grandpa proudly called Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. Our history textbooks are replete with incidents of how this noble man led three popular movements against the British but adhered to the path of ahimsa and forgiveness. What is noteworthy is that besides his personal practice of love and forgiveness, he has

inspired and continues to inspire millions all over the world to live in a similar way.

This great apostle of Peace has rightly said, "If we have no charity and no tolerance, we shall never settle our differences amicably ....." Today we need to slow down and pay heed to these words of wisdom. World peace begins with us, the youth. We have to stop, go back, and listen to OUR inner voices so that we find peace there and spread it around.

We cannot give what we do not have. So let us build on the inner peace that we all possess by being still and drawing from within. Once we discover that peace, we can spread it to the rest of this world. Yes, dear friends, you and I, can become beacons of peace spreading quietude, stillness and tranquility.





### **Ms. Sibi Sunil Pulimootil**

*Sibi Sunil Pulimootil is class XI student of St. Joseph's Convent Girls High School, Thrissur Kerala*



# **Relevance of Gandhian Values in the Present Scenario**

**M**ahatma Gandhi and his values are relevant to a world plagued by greed, corruption, violence and the adverse effects of climate change. When the gap between the rich and the poor are increasing Gandhiji's principle of simple living by satisfying the needs rather than greed will lead to the creation of an equitable society. When unemployment is soaring, practice of the Gandhian principle, 'production by masses' will provide employment to many. Gandhiji's approach of accepting, respecting and appreciating different religions as different ways to reach one and the same goal is all the more relevant when conflicts among religions are increasing in different parts of the world.

As violence only begets violence, non-violent methods are to be used to fight against injustice and

resolve conflicts.

The root cause of most of the conflicts in the world in the past as well as in the present is reluctance to forgive and the desire to take revenge. Gandhiji through his life and teaching have shown to the world that hatred and revenge can only beget hatred and revenge. Hence he told people to hate evil, but love evil doers. Gandhiji opposed the discriminative, exploitative and oppressive policies of the British government, but he did not hate the people of England. He had many close friends from England. He also appreciated the goodness of the British people. In the life of Gandhiji we do not find any shred of revenge. He was a synonym of forgiveness. The world is urgently in need of this attitude of Mahatma Gandhi.





### Ms. Hind R. Chetwani

Hind R. Chetwani is a student of Nazareth Convent High School and junior college, Ooty, Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu.



# The Need of the Hour; Peace

“An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind”, said Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhiji was the first person who fought a battle devoid of violence and armaments and yet stirred the masses of a large country towards the cause of peace, justice, freedom, inclusiveness and pluralism. Today also what our country needs is peace. We need to have a holistic view of peace covering all aspects of our social life. Harmonious co-existence, respect for women, child centred education and basic education for everyone will definitely lead to the enjoyment of peace. Gandhiji strongly believed that poverty is the greatest enemy of peace. “Poverty is the worst form of violence”, Gandhiji used to say. Gandhi's economic vision was aimed at the removal of poverty and exploitation, economic inequality and a world order based on non-violence and peaceful co-existence. He conceptualized the ideas of cooperation and sharing, universal participation

in physical labour, voluntary limitation of wants, decentralization of economic activities, a new technology called “Swadeshi” in consonance with the new goals, and the transformation of private ownership into trusteeship. According to him greed leads to accumulation of wealth in the hands of a few and poverty of the masses. If there is poverty in the world it is not due to the lack of resources but because of the greed of human beings. “The Earth has enough resources to meet the needs of all but not enough to satisfy the greed of even one person”.

“I promise to be a promoter of peace and I am sure that all of us will do the same, for that is the very purpose for which we have travelled miles to participate in this peace convention. I hope all of you and other youth will join me in this pledge. We, the youth, will contribute towards this noble cause. Let us work with the fire and fervour, with ahimsa and moral courage!”



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# FOURTH NATIONAL PEACE CONVENTION, KOCHI 2018:

## REPORT OF THE EVALUATION BY THE PARTICIPANTS

### Introduction

Out of the 372 participants only 271 filled the evaluation form. 73% response is considered to be very good in any evaluation. However, care must be taken that all participants fill up the evaluation form.

Some participants left just after the first session on the last day without waiting to fill up the forms. The following is the tabulation of the responses to different questions.

Sl. No	Item	Excellent		Very Good		Good		Average			
1	Organization	176	65%	85	31.3%	08	3%	02	0.7%	271	100%
2	Sessions and Talks	160	59%	94	35%	14	5%	03	1%	271	100%
3	Food	131	48.7%	112	41%	25	9.3%	03	1%	271	100%
4	Welcome	134	49.5%	111	40.9%	22	8.1%	04	1.5%	271	100%

### Analysis of the Responses

- No one has given the response "poor".
- With regard to organization 96.3% have assessed as either excellent or very good.
- Regarding the resource persons and talks the assessment of 94% of participants is either excellent or very good.
- Food is assessed by 89.7% participants as either excellent or very good.
- 96.4% of the participants have assessed welcome as either excellent or very good.
- Among the different aspects of the convention 'ORGANIZATION' gets the highest percentage of excellence (65%) followed by RESOURCE PERSONS AND TALKS (59%).

### Comments/Suggestions

1. Use social media to promote peace.
  2. Increase the duration of the convention to full three days.
  3. Include more students as speakers.
  4. Afternoon session shall be devoted for group discussion and use more video clippings.
  5. Organize state and district level conventions also.
  6. Start Peace movement in all schools and colleges as a follow up of the Convention.
  7. There should be more time for question answers.
  8. Get written copies of the speeches of the speakers and make them available to the participants.
- In general the evaluation by the participants is very positive. Many have given positive comments in their evaluation sheet and promised their participation in the next national convention.

*Report Prepared by Fr. Jacob Peenikaparambil*

After Indore, Dimapur, Goa, Kochi Welcome to New Delhi for  
**5th NATIONAL PEACE CONVENTION**  
**30th January to 1st February, 2019**

Venue:  
**New Delhi**

Organised by  
**NATIONAL PEACE MOVEMENT**

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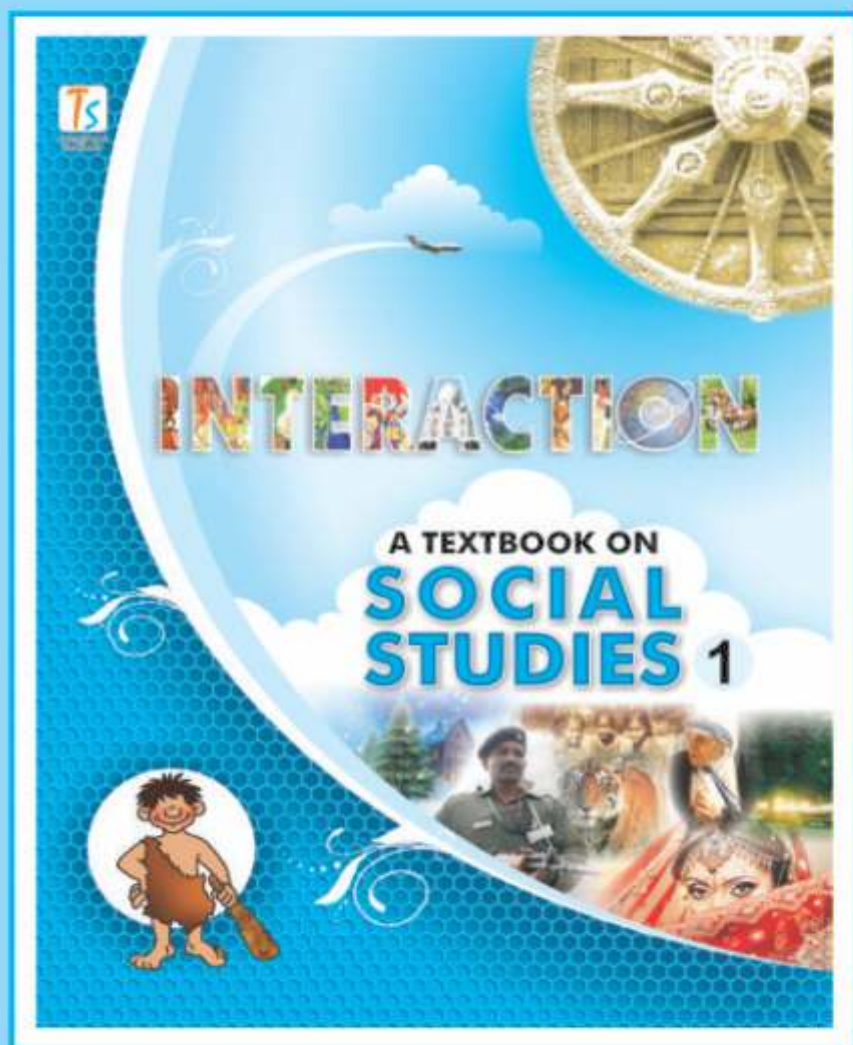
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