

# *The Search*

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YCS/YSM National Newsletter

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## INDIA OF MY DREAMS

Inside this issue

Essays & Poems, articles on  
Unity and Diversity



# ALL INDIANS ARE MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS

Greetings to all!!

From our childhood we have been taking a pledge in our schools, saying 'All Indians are my brothers and sisters'. All of us are citizens of this beautiful nation, our constitution binds us together as brothers and sisters of each other. Be it gender, religion, caste, color, we all come together as one big family. That's what we have learnt from the beginning.

"*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakum*" means the world is one family. This phrase could define our country INDIA and its diversity. Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhism, Jainism and all other religions are like a big family when they are united. The biggest power and strength of our country has been UNITY IN DIVERSITY. But is it the same today? From a young age we see among us, how we all are proud of our culture and we readily accept or try to learn and understand other peoples' traditions as well. I as a Christian take part in all Hindu festivals, have *biryani* with my Muslim friends and be a part in their celebrations. As friendship doesn't have any difference between caste and religion. Therefore I think unity can also be known as friendship.

The youth icon of our country, Swami Vivekananda once rightly said, "*There is only one soul in the universe, there is no you and me, all variety is merged into the absolute unity, the one infinite existence- God. There is no difference between matter, mind, and spirit. They are different phases of experiencing the One.*"

Situation is slowly changing in our country. Everytime we hear and read about controversies and disputes in the name of religion, cast and language. Unfortunately we are divided today and have conveniently forgotten the pledge we used to take daily in our schools: "India is my country and all Indians are my brothers and sisters." We should always remember this line as the present and future of our country is in our hand. We need to decide whether we need to live in peace and harmony or fight against each other and remain divided.

We must ask ourselves, what as a youth of this country, we can do to protect the interest of fellow human beings as well as the unity of our country which makes us and our nation special from all other nations in the world.

We all know that youth and students are the future but we are also the present of our country. Therefore as a present and the future generation of this country we should profess our views, have discussions on this among other friends, understand their views, and start to take proper actions and reiterate the values of our country. Let's promote peace and unity.

- Ashita Jimmy  
Editor - *The Search*





## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

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# By The People

*“As Individuals we are tiny drops but together, we comprise the ocean”.*

India is a country with numerous regions, religions, castes, languages, traditions and customs. It is a land of diversity where people from different backgrounds reside and celebrate their own festivals and practice various fashions and traditions. Despite all these differences, India remains a one united nation. It seems like the whole country is bound with an invisible common thread. India is a republic state that is for the people, by the people and of the people as people play the main role by keeping the country on the run, elect leaders and everything that takes place is solely because of the people's actions and decisions. This unique feature that emerges from the diversity of the country proves that; we are united and that makes our country special and strong. Hence, we have the slogan “Unity in Diversity”.

Unity cannot be enforced on anyone. It is a feeling that comes within. If we, as a country have to achieve success or even develop, we need to work together as a family. Yes, a country is just like another family. To illustrate, just like how in a family, there are problems and unfavorable situations, our country has numerous issues too. Members of the family come together and try to solve the problem and similarly we as the citizens of the nation should strive to solve the problems of our country in whatever small ways we can.

**As educated people, we act like fools by blindly listening to whatever is told and elect irresponsible leaders and contribute in destroying our own unity.**

Presently our country is facing several problems because of disputes due to religion. Our politicians and some religious leaders are provoking people to fight in the name of religion. We were

taught that religion teaches us to love one another and live with peace. Religion is formed so that we step into only good and righteous path. But presently our unity is hampered by vote bank politics, which is completely based on the policy of divide and rule. Dividing in the name of religion is hampering the growth of the country majorly. The entire purpose



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of religion and its practices has lost its true significance and meaning. As educated people, we act like fools by blindly listening to whatever is told and elect irresponsible leaders and contribute in destroying our own unity.

Whenever I talk about unity, I remember my college friends. We are all different but when time comes all are there for each other no matter what. We eat, fight and enjoy together. This gives me a feeling of a family and the greatest example of our unity comes to light when our Indian cricket team is playing. No matter which political party you support, which religion/caste you belong that particular moment we all are one and that's the unity we need to have every single time. That sense of belongingness should be there and it only comes when you and I believe that the country is ours rather than mine alone.

Let's remember that the color of all our blood is same, the air we breathe is same and the country, we live is also same. It nourishes us and it's a great land for which we should stay united. Our religion, region, political preference may be different but when it comes to the safety, integrity and development of the country we should keep all these dividing aspects aside and join hands together to show the world the true Indian Spirit! JAI HIND!

Let YCS/YSM light shine!

**- Deril D'Sa, National Convenor**



## The Country we want

As we are all aware of the fact that India is a democratic country and we have the rights to be treated equally on the basis of caste, religion, gender, language etc. But it's really heartbreaking to say that at some point, the law has not been followed as a result many people have suffered a lot and it's not only just about our country but the whole world.

Every individual must respect each others faith and beliefs as India is a secular country. Our leaders have created such a beautiful constitution but there are some people who are trying to destroy the rights and freedom given to us which is disturbing and traumatizing.

It should not be a practice in any part of the world and we should stop this!!! Everybody is aware of this so it's high time to take actions as actions speak louder than words and we are the rightful sons and daughters of this country.

So let's not watch and pray but let's take more initiatives because if we remain silent it will give them more power. Let's not only focus on individual growth but let's give our attention on our rights and the betterment of our society with the wisdom of knowledge and with the power of unity in diversity

**- Anushka Teronpi, Nexco, Northeast region**



# **GOD BLESS MY COUNTRY INDIA**



Greetings to all YCS/YSMers

As National Chaplain of YCS/YSM India I visit different schools in different regions and meet a lot of young students. I conduct leadership training programmes for students and animators and try to inspire them to become responsible citizens and good human beings. In the past we have reflected on themes like, environment, climate change, civic sense, safety of students, human dignity, religious harmony and much more that helps us to grow as responsible people.

In India YCS/YSM is for students of all faiths. During our programmes we don't talk about one religion but teach about every religion. There is no religion in the world that promotes violence or hatred. Keeping this in mind, our editorial team and YCS/YSM national leaders decided to reflect on the theme: 'Is India united in diversity?'. Our students have expressed their thoughts. It is heartening to learn that that our young students want unity and peace.

India is a beautiful country. This I realised when I went abroad. I have seen and heard from young people from other countries, sharing their problems. There is militancy, war, injustice, crimes against women, slavery, poverty and all sorts of problems. There is no freedom to speak, study, practice religion and express yourself! When I hear these stories, I feel happy and proud of my country. It's true that in our country also there is injustice, crime, abuse and poverty. I don't think there is any country on this planet that hasn't struggled with the same problems. But I feel free, happy and live in dignity here in India.

Unfortunately, some (a few) leaders, both political and religious try to divide people based on their religion and caste. This helps their vote bank politics and also spread religious fanaticism. We have seen this happening in the past. It is happening today and will continue in the coming days if we are not careful and united. Today in our country, colors have region and animals too. You understand what it means. Political leadership thinks that polarizing people helps them and encourage people to give hate speeches and conduct rallies and meetings to speak ill against each other.

I fully agree with our students that in our childhood, we all lived in perfect harmony. We never enquired about people around us about their caste and religion, in the classroom we had no problem to sit along with students of other faiths. We never asked them about their traditions and rituals. We were least bothered about their dress and food. As students we definitely don't want to know all this. We don't want to become exclusive. But someone tells us that you belong to this religion, this is your color, that is your animal, this is your scripture so on and so forth. Poison is already sown in our minds when we were supposed to focus on our studies and live in harmony.

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I personally feel that we elders, parents should teach our children, students to love our country.

It is God who gave me this country. I am born here and it was God's plan. God wanted me to be born in India even when there are problems which I mentioned above. I play my part to bring unity and help this country to progress. I don't listen to those who want to divide and rule like the British did when they ruled. Our strength is our unity.

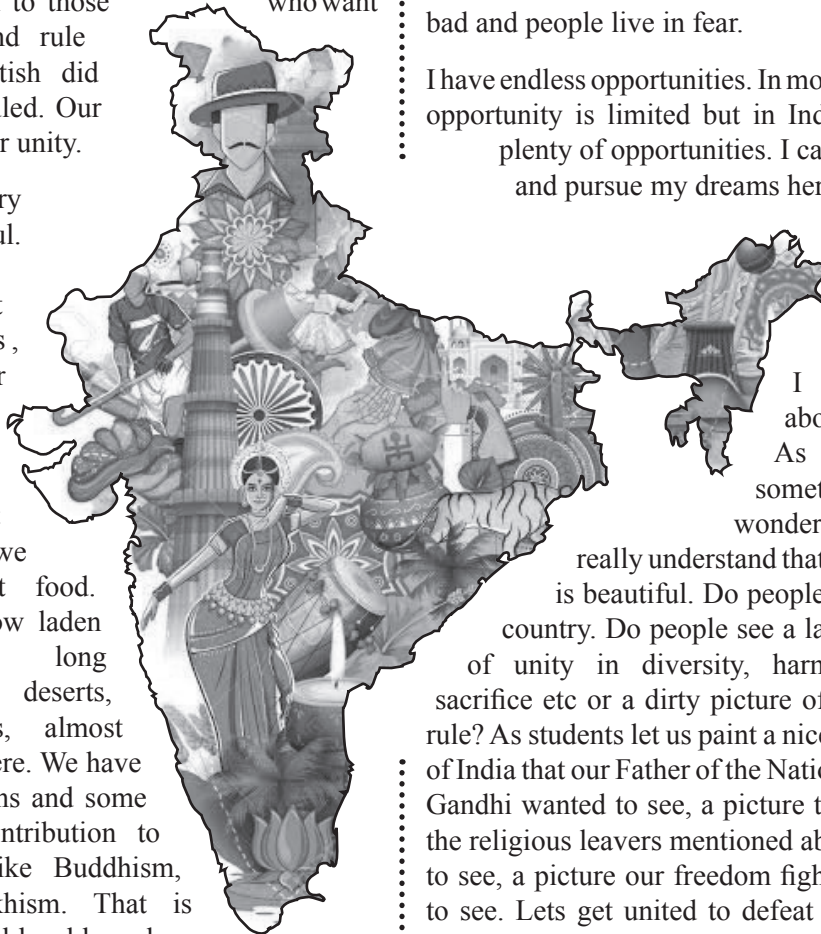
My country is beautiful. We speak different languages, dialects, wear different outfits, we have different cultures, we eat different food. We have snow laden mountains, long coastal belt, deserts, hill stations, almost everything here. We have many religions and some of our own contribution to the world like Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism. That is diversity. God has blessed my country with abundant resources. Our country has a tradition of rishis and munis, great religious leaders like Guru Nanak, Kabirdas, Meerabai, Vivekananda, Mahaveer, Buddha. It is a beautiful country.

I am a free person. I can speak freely and express my views. I can go anywhere within my country. I have rights given by my

constitution, I elect my leader. This isn't the case in many other countries.

I can practice my religion freely. I read about a Chinese refugee describe his imprisonment in China. Because he had led a secret religious group, his home had been confiscated and his entire family was sent to prison for two years. There are other countries where situation is bad and people live in fear.

I have endless opportunities. In most countries, opportunity is limited but in India we have plenty of opportunities. I can dream big and pursue my dreams here.



All that I have said above is true. As students, sometimes we wonder do people really understand that my country is beautiful. Do people respect my country. Do people see a larger picture of unity in diversity, harmony, love, sacrifice etc or a dirty picture of divide and rule? As students let us paint a nice big picture of India that our Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi wanted to see, a picture that some of the religious leavers mentioned above wanted to see, a picture our freedom fighters wanted to see. Let's get united to defeat the attempts of some politicians and petty leaders who are separating us from each other and dividing this country. God bless our country and all its citizens. JAI Hind.

Let YCS/YSM light shine  
- **Fr. Chetan Machado**  
National Chaplain



## A COUNTRY REFLECTING UNITY IN DIVERSITY



Oh, country seems to be a big word. Let's begin from our *taluks*, districts and states. Every morning

**Interesting facts:** We are united when we talk about the soldiers saving our land at the borders, we are united when TEAM

No country is ideal and no person is perfect. But trying to be one should be everyone's motto and goal. When every person realizes his duties and responsibilities towards

the fellow neighbor, we will be close to be role models for one another. As a kid and even now I enjoy celebrating Diwali. I love the tradition of 'Raksha Bandhan'. I am a fan of Garba and Dandiya (Haye Halo). And obviously I love all the festivals I celebrate at home. I'm sure you all enjoy many festivals that you don't celebrate at home but definitely do with your friends or neighbors. When we enjoy and respect one another's traditions, customs, rituals and meaningful practices, there will be no space for hatred and conflicts.

We see the innocence in faces of small kids. They know no differences. They are taught that there existed differences and illogical myths of



inferiority and superiority, are fed to them. Do you think it is necessary for a kid to be taught about it? If a child doesn't know there existed differences in the past, I'm sure she/he will never think about disrespecting any religion, caste or gender. Let us try to build a gender unbiased, caste neutral society and treat every religion with respect.

Give it a thought. Religion exists to create a spirit of conscious within us to never do wrong and always lead the right path. It's a guide to lead a life of love and peace. But in the name of same religion fear is instilled in other people to follow one particular practice and peace is replaced with hatred. What an Irony! ❖

## EXPERIENCE-REXCO LIVE-IN

The regional *live in* was held at St. Joseph's Church, Belman. These 2 days were the best days of my life. This was completely a new experience and we learnt a lot of new things, like how to be more open, expressive, bold and confident. This was the time where all the members bonded and came to know about each other in a better way. Now surely we can all work together trusting each other.

In the beginning it was a bit difficult as we didn't know each other very well but later on we began to trust each other. And with all the unique ideas that we got from each other we learnt a lot.

Now being a member of this team and family it's my duty to do my best in every way I can. My aim for us is to start YCS/YSM in every diocese and school so that students and the upcoming generation gets this wonderful experience and teaching so they can lead and make a better life for themselves and be the guiding light for the upcoming generation.

- **Vance RionD'souza**, Vice-president REXCO, Karnataka region.





# IS INDIA UNITED?



With having an ardently made constitution that pays relevant emphasis on various rights of an individual, and which distinctly speaks about India, the great country it already is about 'Secularism' and its greatness that is found through and through in its diversity, showcased to the outside world. But contrary to popular belief, with the recent developments in the country, it would be a cruel attempt at humor to still believe that India is a united country.

The banner "United Nation, One India" which was flown with great pride for decades has been torn and banished. Thanks to the creed and the behavior of the extremists with the inane and dangerous ideology of tearing down the very thing the country stood for, tolerance.

What may seem to appear as total annihilation of tolerance, still precedes,

as Indians are still tolerating but the wrong things. India today is undeniably a tolerant country.

Tolerant towards hatred, poverty, unemployment, injustice, crimes against women and children and moreover bearing the dent for the 'powerful' and 'majestic' leaders that have run the country to its ruin.

It is high time that the masses understand that India is not made out of its leaders, it's made out of its people. And criticizing the government or the people that run it, does not mean hating the country you live in.

Now is the time to open your eyes and your mind, and see the reality of our country today before its too late. Jai Hind!

**-Jyotsna D'souza,**

ICYM National President

## National Chaplain's Activities

1. 4-10 Jan 2022 - NT/EXCO meeting in Chennai
2. 17-20 Jan 2022 - Nagpur - Yuvagram visit
3. 27-30 Jan 2022 - CCBI Centre, Bangalore
4. 11-13 Feb 2022 - Kathgodam, Bareilly - Training Programme
5. 16-20 Mar 2022 - Regional Hindi Leadership Training, Gwalior
6. Jan/Feb 2022 - Virtual AYD preparatory meetings

### Future Programmes:

1. 23-25 May 2022 - NTA EXCO meeting, Bangalore
2. 25-30 May 2022 - YCS Convention in Bangalore
3. 01-12 June 2022 - Animators & Chaplains Training (ACT), Bangalore
4. August 2022 - National Bible Quiz for YCS/YSM
5. July/Aug 2022 - Wprld Camp, Botswana & Euro Camp, Belgium



**For details contact:** Fr. Chetan Machado, National Chaplain  
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# UNITED INDIA

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*Beloved, if God so loved us we also ought to love one another.(1John 4:11)*

India is gonna mark it's 75th year of independence this year and by this month (January) we are celebrating 73rd year of our constitution.

Indians were a good example for Unity in ancient and in past time, for eg: The unforgettable struggle for independence when the entire country stood on the same platform with different castes and religions. At present and as well as in the past there were difference in religion, caste, languages and gender etc. But in the past there were no differentiation or racism based on caste, religion, languages, occupation, gender, skin color and in many other. Everyone lived in harmony with love and peace. There was no hatred between them. The Unity was the strength of the people. But as a black sheep when the Britishers entered India and to just bring a distraction towards them they brought caste in differences and many other destructions for their Unity. Beginning it was quite difficult but later it became much easier for them to trade.

Scripture says: *For the body does not consist of one member but of many(1Corinthians 12:14)*

In Indian culture our ancestors used to live in a joint families by supporting and understanding each other. But in present scenario it is completely opposite. There's racism present among us. They differentiate their own kind based on caste, religion, occupation, colour etc. People say all should get equal rights and men and women are equal but unfortunately it is only a saying if we see it technically. So we can say there is no Unity among the people in the country. Instead of supporting each other they go against each other. There is individualism, separation, hatred, jealousy everywhere. As I said earlier, people used to live in joint families But now its no more. In present life everyone likes to live in their own way without bothering what's happening around them, they don't even respect each others opinions.

As Scripture says:- Ephesians 5:26 and Peter 3:16

•*Be angry and do not sin, do not let the sun go down on your anger.*

•*For where envying and strife is there, there is confusion and every other evil work.*

There is no Unity left in the country and in politics for example: there are several attacks on minority in the recent times, there are also attacks on women and children. Even children are not spared sometimes raped on the basis of their religion.

Now there's no equality, no harmony and no Unity among people. Whatever field it may be always in the present world we only inequality. So, we have to stay United so that we can overcome any kind of problems that comes our way.

1Peter 3:8 says, *Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love a tender heart and a humble mind.*

Let YCS/YSM light shine

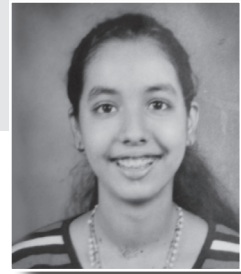
- **Steena Olivia**, NEXCO, Karnataka Region.





# BUILD PEACE AND HARMONY

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*"Don't see anyone from the perception of Caste or Religion, see them through the perception of human being; Things will be so much better if that happens"- Lone Ranger*

India is a country known for its unity and diversity. Our country is famous for its great culture and traditional value all across the world. If we go back to our school days we will find that we have recited the Indian Pledge atleast once in our life were we all have said "India is my country, all Indians are my brothers and sisters. But a question arises in my mind, are we really considering them as our brothers and sisters!!

My teacher used to always say that the discrimination related to gender, caste, religion etc all starts outside the campus. Once we are inside the classroom we



all are one. We all are treated equally. But nowadays if we go through the newspapers or any othersocialmediapageswe will find clashes between students of different religions. In such cases if teachers, parents itself teach students to discriminate then in future it will be very difficult to handle as students belong to the house of tomorrow(Future).

In such a situation education can be used as a powerful weapon. Education helps a lot in building a country of ' Peace and Harmony'.

Apart from that as students, YCS/ YSMers we must normalise celebrating festivals of interreligion. For example celebrating feast like Raksha bandhan inorder to build a feeling of brotherhood. Normalise celebrating and exchange of sweets on Diwalis and Christmas or any other Days with our neigours which will build a stronger bond of love with our neighbours. Invite them to our homes and also visit theirs, talking to elders and grandparents which will enable us to develop a bond of oneness among us.

Let us all try to build " Peace and Harmony" with each and everyone irrespective of one's caste or religion and always avoid discrimination.

- **Carol Alva**, YCS Udupi Diocese, Karnataka

*"Your pride for your country should not come after your country becomes great; your country becomes great because of your pride in it."* — Idowu Koyenikan



# inspiration St. Ignace Search

One of the most promising youngsters in the world of women's cricket, and also a role model for many young girls in the years to come. Shafali was always supported by her family and was never discouraged, albeit she had to face the societal issues that came her way in her hometown, Rohtak. Still, she crossed all the hurdles to achieve her dreams finally.

She made her T20 debut in 2019 for India at the age of 15 years and 239 days, and her remarkable knock of 73 runs of 49 balls a few weeks later made her the youngest ever Indian to score a half-century in first-class cricket. She is a mixture of both, an established and experienced Indian batting top order, and it can be clearly seen that she holds a very bright future.

## EXPERIENCE-REXCO LIVE-IN

Greetings of joy to everyone

On Oct 17, I was elected as regional member of Karnataka which made a massive change in my life. The day where I knew only about some matters of YCS/YSM went on growing and made me realize to know more about YCS/YSM on live in program of Karnataka region which was held on 13 - 14 November.

The live in program was a great challenge to me to overcome my fears and feelings of insecurity. That day I was over-excited to meet my REXCO team and to have fun with them but on that day I realised that along with having fun, I had learnt a lot about YCS/YSM and its growth in other dioceses. We had a session on sharing the happy and sad moments of our life, where everyone shared their life moments with each other and this built a feeling of trust and confidence among us. I was a person who never had any interest over anything but joining YCS made me to be interested over every small matter. The live in program made me change from being a shy and emotional person to overcome every problem. I learnt to change my mindset first rather than pointing at others. By joining the program I got familiar with teamwork, co-operation, coordination, pulling together and many other qualities important to my life. The program taught us to conduct seminars, games and activities to encourage others.

The live In program was the best part of my life. I thank each one who supported me. Being a REXCO member, I will always do my best to serve and to promote the growth of YCS/YSM.

~*Evisha Dmello*, REXCO member  
Udupi diocese, Karnataka region





# INDIA : A united country?

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**Clar-et Ronghangpi**  
Northeast Region

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**INDIA** is a diverse country in terms of its geography as well as its culture . Now let's talk about its people. India is the home to people of varying religion, caste, tribes, culture, etc. There is a lot of diversity. But is there 'UNITY' in this diversity?

Let's bring our attention to the Dalits. Do you know who the Dalits are ? They aren't outsiders. They are Indians living among us and are also known as the most DEPRIVED and SOCIALLY BACKWARD. They do not have access to basic human needs.

Spread the word. Let the people know. Use the social platforms , use your art or your talent to showcase what is actually happening in India because an illness can be treated only when we are aware about it.

Dalit women and children often become victims

of violence . Why, you ask? Simply because they are considered to be belonging from a lower caste. In India today, people are being treated on the basis of their caste , religion, gender and social status.

On 24th December , 2021 a group of 'activists' burnt down effigies of Santa Clause in Agra. Is India really an accepting country ?

The North-eastern people of India are often victims of racial discrimination but people often refuse to acknowledge this reality. Where is the 'UNITY' in diversity now ?

And lastly, let's ask ourselves if our mothers, daughters and sisters are safe on the streets of India. Is India safe enough for every individual?

Child labor, animal abuse, domestic violence, problems on mental health of the youth – all these do exist in India. Something worth mentioning is that according to World

Happiness Index, India ranks 139th among the world's happiest country. Possible causes are degradation of mental health, increasing poverty and lack of access to healthcare, education, basic rights, etc. for all class of people.

Why are these happening at the first place ? Why are we so inconsiderate towards the culture and religion of people that literally belongs to our own land? Why are we falling apart as a country? For all the problems going on in India today, You and I are responsible. You and I are responsible for not voicing up while having given the ability to voice up against all the injustice and violence. We chose not to be concerned about whatever was happening as long as it didn't affect us directly. Of course there is a lot of diversity in India but when will we accept

the diversity? When will we finally accept each and everyone as our own? The core cause behind all these is the negligence of us. We don't talk about it. We are neglecting the existence of racism, casteism, discrimination, sexual abuse and other threats to humanity in

India. Spread the word. Let the people know. Use the social platforms, use your art or your talent to showcase what is actually happening in India because an illness can be treated only when we are aware about it.

I am an Indian and I am proud to be one. But I am

not going to sugarcoat my country's reality just to make it look good in front of the world. I see it, I hear it and I acknowledge it. This is the truth and the truth can't be hidden. India needs help; the help of its own people. India needs a voice and that voice is us.❖



## UNITED INDIA

India is the biggest democracy in the world, which has taken giant strides in the last few decades. We are now the world's third largest economy. We can forget everyday issues, which continue to pose hurdles in the progress of the nation. These social, political and economic issues are meant to be taken into consideration, in order to improve the prevailing condition of our society. Issues like corruption, crime, condition of the road network and so on, need to be looked into immediately. With the proliferation of information and technology, more awareness is spreading among the masses. New organisations are sprouting to find a fruitful solution to these problems. The activists involved are really working hard to eradicate these problems from their very roots.

### Corruption

The most widely spread endemic in India is corruption, which must be handled quickly and wisely. There is hardly any office, in both the private and public sector, that is untouched from this disease. There is no telling how much loss the economy has suffered because of this. Though most of us are concerned, when the time comes to act, we, the people of India, should not be found lacking.

We all need to stop talking about corruption but we need to start ourselves take the initiative to end this. Corruption causes poverty, injustice and a big gap between poor and rich. As students we need to stop corruption in small ways wherever we see it and when we grow up we need to become responsible citizens. This can bring unity in our country.

Courtesy: <https://www.mapsofindia.com/my-india/society/current-major-issues-in-india> and other sources

**Anusha, Tamilnadu, NEXCO**



# UNITY

## WARMTH WE SHARE

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**NAMASKARAM**, how are you all? Hope you all are healthy. Wishing you all Republic day of our independent and democratic country. Let me tell you a short story my political teacher told as the representation of unity in India:

once a deer, a crow, a mouse and turtle were great friends. One day the deer went out to graze. He was caught in a hunter net. In the evening the deer did not return to his friends. The mouse said to the crow, 'will



you fly over the trees and find the deer?' Then fly back to us and tell where he is.'

The crow flew away. He came back after half an hour. 'Our friend, the deer is in the hunters net.' 'What shall we do?' said the mouse and the turtle. 'I will take mouse on my back,' he will cut the net and set deer free. 'Yes,' said the mouse. I will do that. And I will walk to the deer,' said the turtle. The crow took the mouse on his back and flew with him to the deer. The mouse bit through the net. The deer was free. They got their friend. They all were happy together.

UNITY is such an easy and simple term yet we all lack here and there. As we grow

along the term unity changes. When I was young (little kid) unity meant being able to work together in class. Later when we were divided into different house color. It all changed and now when I think I'm not in any class or house color. I'm simply an Indian from minority section.

India is a diverse country and that you can see under one roof that is 'SCHOOL'. Here students learn Bhangra for Lohri. On the other hand, shares cake on Christmas and sweets on diwali. And can also smell and crave for chicken biryani if one of the classmate has brought.

I'm sharing all these so that you can go back into times and feel the warmth you all shared together. Also realize the fact that we've stopped speaking for rights. It's a bitter truth but you all know that we hesitate to raise our voice for what is right. There are many attacks on minorities, women and children including dalits and poor.

Even when read incidents, I hesitate to speak about such incidents.

I can now relate a bit. In the story different animals represented different religion. They all stood for deer though he was from different kind. They helped each other in need.

As we are discussing about unity let's question ourselves that are we living and practicing unity in our daily lives. I'm ready to question and answer as a responsible citizen. ARE YOU???

**- Anjalina Ekka**

Cultural and liturgical secretary.



## THE SHARE SPACE

**Phinu Jose**  
Bangalore, 1995 batch

A Platform for  
Getting connected  
with former YCS YSM  
Members



- 1) **Tell me something about yourself?** - My name is Phinu and I have been a YCSer from the age of 14 when it was first introduced in my school. There has been no turning back since then.
- 2) **What are your likes and dislikes?** - Likes-Reading, Gardening and Traveling  
Dislikes-Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics!
- 3) **What is your present occupation?** - I teach Undergraduate students of Business Management in Bangalore.
- 4) **What made you join YCS YSM?** - My teachers in High School made it sound very interesting and I was excited to impress them
- 5) **Have you ever been elected or posted to any official seats? If yes which all?**  
I was the National Executive Committee Member in the year 1995 representing Karnataka.
- 6) **Can you describe your team to us and your experience with them?** -We had one boy representative and one girl representative from each State of India at the National Level. It was a beautiful experience learning from each other and sharing all the dreams and aspirations we had for the Movement.
- 7) **What YCS YSM meant to you?** - YCS-YSM was the first family I belonged to as a leader, I thoroughly enjoyed every bit of my journey of self-awareness and societal impact young people were capable of creating. Learn to Live, Live to Grow and Grow to Change-I lived by this principle then and continue to do so even to this day.
- 8) **What is your message to the students who aren't yet part of YCS to inspire them to join this auspicious movement?** Joining any Volunteering Body/Association is inspirational not only to you as an individual but also to many others whose lives you touch during your interaction. Your perspective on life can be shaped better, your approach to people who are different will enhance your personality and most importantly it makes your life meaningful and worthy for others around you.



Present photo of along with family

- 9) Past memories Of yours of YCS, in few lines! Along with Photos  
Camps/Travel/Meetings-all are part of growing up and each one of them are filled with memories of people and incidents worth reminiscing till today. Friendships made and strengthened over the years have made us one big family!

### Send your sharings to publish in this column:

Young Catholic Students/Young Students Movement, (An Unit of CCBI Youth Commission) YCS/YSM National Office, Bethania Centre, A-2 Central Green, NIT-5, Faridabad, Haryana -121001, E-mail: [ycsysmindia@gmail.com](mailto:ycsysmindia@gmail.com); website: [www.ycsysmindia.com](http://www.ycsysmindia.com)

## EXPERIENCE-SHARING

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*"Success is when preparation and opportunities meet" :- Bobby Unser.*

This quote is one of my favorite quotes which I follow in my life, it mentions that you have to succeed in your objective. I would like to share an experience of mine about this.

When I was in school I was an introvert, and I didn't liked being in crowded place. But, during the break of corona, I was able to change myself from an introvert to an extrovert. As I entered college, I started participating in activities and started having small goals. My first success was when I became president of AICUF ( All Indian Catholic University Federation) in my college. But I didn't stop there, I became Joint Secretary of Karnataka AICUF.

When I thought these were my goals, I got another opportunity of being a member of the YCS/YSM Karnataka REXCO. Even though I knew this is going to be a bigger task for me, I did not miss the opportunity and I became a member of it. YCS/YSM was a new field to me, it was not the same as AICUF. I got an opportunity to go to Udupi ( place in Karnataka) for my first ever Live-in Program. This program was organised so that all members can get connected and feel a bond of family with each other. As I was a person attending it for the first time, it was exciting and I learnt so many things in such a short period. Some of it is, I became a better leader and began to know the meaning of Unity, my way of expressing myself became better, some of my hidden talents were shown out and I started getting the feel of a new family. Through YCS/YSM my life has changed and see the reality differently. From a person only mingling in small communities to getting opportunities to mingle in bigger communities.

We, adolescents, are in a place where we think whatever we commit is reasonable, but there are things where we got to think twice before taking it. Opportunities will occur in many places but we should think about if that opportunity suits us and how it will be impactful in our lives.

**- Augustine Niel**, Bangalore, Karnataka



### किस्मत का खेल

तकदीर का लिखा, कुदरत का साथ  
कायनात मिलाती है , कयामत अतीत

कायनात उसी से मिलाती है ,  
जो तकदीर में लिखा हो  
किस्मत उसी से खेल खेलती है ,  
जब कुदरत उसके साथ हो ।

किस्मत का खेल कोई रोक नहीं सकता ,  
तकदीर का लिखा कोई मिटा नहीं सकता ,  
कुदरत का साथ कोई तोड़ नहीं सकता ,  
कायनात का मेल कोई रुकवा नहीं सकता ।

जब कयामत आती है तब सबको  
तकलीफे दे जाती है ।

जब कयामत आती है  
किस्मत का खेल रुक जाता है  
कुदरत का साथ छूट जाता है  
कायनात का मिलन रुक जाता है  
पर तकदीर में जो लिखा है वही होता है ।

कायनात और कयामत हमें अतीत से रुबरु  
करवाती है ।

**- Annie Lobo**, Secretary  
YCS/YSM Karnataka region





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REPORTS

## TELUGU

### YCS/YSM FORMER MEMBERS CATCH

**UP:** The Catholic Association of Hyderabad organized “Maranatha” 2021, an unique Christmas Celebration involving various Faithful of the Hyderabad Archdiocese on Saturday the 11th December 2021 at Jeevan Jyothi, Begumpet, Hyderabad.

Mr. Kamal Francis former YSM'er was invited as a special invitee for this event as there were many former YCS / YSM members who were taking part in the



celebrations. Mr. Kamal Francis in his words of gratitude shared the uniqueness of the season of sharing and also signified on the importance of Hope. The meeting was special since there was an attempt made to reconnect with former YCS/ YSM Members at various levels and there were many hands who graced the occasion making the gathering more special.

Among the dignitaries was present Rev. Fr. Arlagadda Joseph, presently the Telangana Catholic Bishops Conference, deputy Secretary who was an Animator

of YCS / YSM during the 80s and the 90s. A Big thanks to Mr. Joseph Babu Sir, our YCS / YSM Animator, Mrs. Louisa Parnell former National EXCO member, Mr. James Sylvester former YCS / YSM National Treasurer, Mr. Alexander Phillips who had attended the World Council in Montral, Canada and many former YCS / YSM members who were present and showed interest in continuing the spirit of the Movement ahead and also assured their involvement at any time needed.

- *Joseph Pranay Reddy* , NEXCO ( Telugu )

## KARNATAKA

Review on “mental illness and saving life” talk by mr.

Rayan Mathias.

*“There is hope even when your brain tells you there isn't”* -Glenn Close

Close

‘Hope’ is such a beautiful word.

Growing up we are thought to be hopeful, to be positive, to work hard to give our best. But it is not always the case, especially for teenagers. When they are going through a phase where they are not able to communicate, be constuctive, or be full of life all the time. Hence end up being the victim of mental illness.

Therefore, guidance about mental health and stress management is crucial. Hence ycs





members of Karkala deanery decided on the theme “stress management and saving life” for denary convention.

Mr. Rayan Mathias was approached as the resource person.

“You dont have to suffer in silence” you can be un silent. You can live well with any mental condition as long as you open up to someone about it, we always question God, “why me” if we suffer some unwelcome situation. But after listening to Mr. Rayan Mathias, I would say otherwiswse. A lot of teenagers face the same problem, being anxious, not being able to communicate, feeling low, left out etc. are some of the common problems faced by the folks of my age. We were provided with some marvellous ways to overcome this kind of situation, briefly mentioning some,

❖ by adopting new hobbies

❖ by communicating

❖ by praying

❖ by meditating

Still many more. we were also given a real-life incident of a person who is about our age through a rough phase in his life through which we were able to understand the depth and value of mental health.

All the ycs members definitely gained knowledge “about mental health and stress management”and this knowlege will surely be helpful in future. as I said in the begining it is not always easy to be kind or full of life, but it is the attempt we make trying to live our best life with good physical and mental health is all that counts.

- *Clissia D’Souza*, Udupi

## **The Most Famous Mom On Facebook Had a Bomb Dropped on Her Home**

Kristina Kuzmic is arguably the most famous, inspiring, and funny mom on Facebook. Her videos have more than one billion views. Kristina is on a mission to get us to be honest with each other and to encourage us along the way.

Kristina’s overcome great obstacles and multiple failures which she attributes to helping shape her path to success today. Kristina immigrated from Croatia as a kid during the war. She experienced the devastation of bombings and loss. As a young mom, she experienced divorce, poverty, and depression.

In 2011 Kristina won “Oprah’s Search for the Next TV Star,” and was on her way to having a successful cooking show when it fell apart. Kristina was disappointed but brushed herself off and found a new way to authentically connect with and inspire others that launched her to where she is today.



Ralph Jayden Dsouza  
Udupi Karnataka

## SHARING Personal STORY



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I was near my house one day when I saw a person coming towards me and I thought he was going to the other side of the road and not to me. But he came to me and shook my hand and asked me with a raspy voice, "boy do you have any money with you?" I had this happen to me a number of times before. The usual story would be that they would come to me and ask for money and if I didn't give them, they would demand and even after that if I refused to give they would rough me till I give them something. But I never thought something different would happen. The man who now was leaning on me and was a bit drowsy and was still reeking of alcohol asked me again "boy, do you have any money with you? Can you please give me something?". I was shocked that it wasn't going the usual way, so I had to do it ... I asked him – "Sir, why do you want money from a boy like me, I'm just a 15 years old, coming back from my tutors house." I was scared, he would hit me or even call some other guys. But even more unexpected things happened. First of all; he cried then he knelt and said a few words which shook me to my core; "boy, you look like my late son, he used to take care of me and I, out of alcohol's effect thought of you as my son, I'm sorry my boy" I who lost my father, because of his silly mistake of over drinking and doing bad things that hurt his body, went numb for a while just thinking about that; 'what if my father was alive? Would he be like this with me? Would he

beg me for some money if mom didn't give him any? Would he kneel before some random kid and beg to give him something? Would he?' Just when I began to go deep into that side of thinking, the man who now was on the ground called out to me in a rather weak voice, "boy, ... water ... I wan... water ..wa ..te..r....-" and passed away. Now I was scared, what should I do? Whom should I call? My mind was going bonkers ... should I call someone should I do something? ....

Just about then some men showed up from the bar and saw the man lying down and lifted him, one of them came to me and asked me if I was ok, and if I knew that guy, to which I said 'no'; after that incident I rushed back home and went for a bath to clear my mind. I didn't want to think about the stuff that just happened and I also had other stuff ... my pre boards were near and I had many things to study, many things to do, also I wasn't a great student and was around average or below sometimes, so I couldn't waste my time with this in my head.

So I took bath, went to the prayer room and spent some time. Then I went to the roof to breath in some fresh air and to clear my mind so that I could study. Getting to the roof, I found a bottle cap on the steps and some chips lying around. I saw a familiar figure leaning towards the wall and trying not to cry with a alcoholic drink in one hand and a packet of chips. I sighed quite

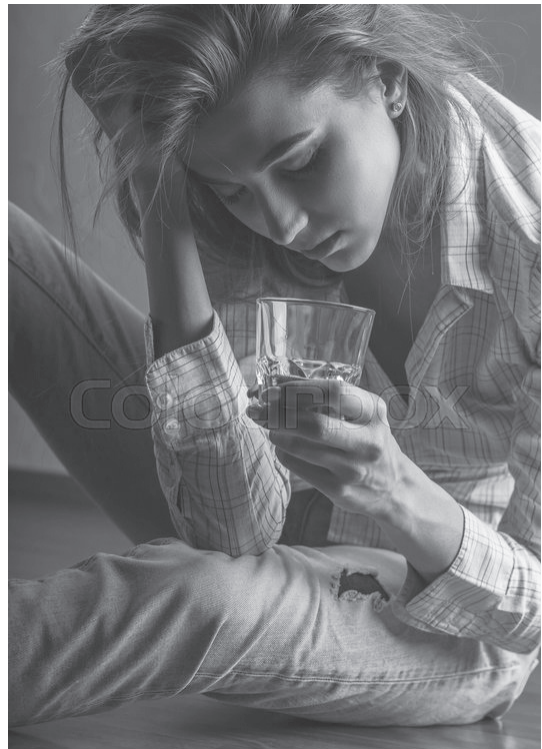
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hard to signal my arrival, she didn't mind. This is my sister, an MBA graduate who can't find a job because of her unhealthy lifestyle and unhealthy body and mind. She was 11 when my dad passed away and I was 4 years old. She went through all that and got into bad company, started drinking, and we couldn't make much difference in her lifestyle even if we tried, so we made a deal with her, but it was hard because she didn't have anything to lose but we had her on the line, so we proposed that she should work out more and eat a lot and that she should put a schedule on when she drinks what she drinks and how much she wants at that time. So now she drinks every Monday, Thursday and Saturday; every week. The other days she tries to find work and stuff. In the present situation she was just standing on the roof but away from the corner of the roof, as she knew she would fall off the roof if she was near. So I went there turned my back towards her and saw the night sky, twinkling with stars which were there even before I was born and will be there even after I die of old age. I wasn't particularly at peace on the roof and so I just sat down. We were there till mom came to call us. When we went down, we saw a new side of mom. It was depressing to see her like this because she looked really depressed. My sister as always didn't care and just went into the bathroom to take a shower and cry in there silently. But I didn't care much about that because that happens everyday, I just wanted to know what happened to mom and why was she sad? Was she assaulted? Did someone say something about dad? Did something happen at work?; I was curious. So, out of curiosity and concern I asked her, "Mom, are you ok? Did something happen?", She slowly lifted her watery eyes and looked into me – when I say

looked into me I mean she looked right in my eyes and that felt like she was seeing inside of me – for a second I was afraid, but seeing me like that she said with a weak and sad tone, "son, don't bother about me; don't you have anything to study today? Do you want some help?" . Even if her tone had changed nothing much had changed though, she still had that intimidating aura and that nice and cool face ; but those eyes ... it was hard to ignore those eyes but I can't go against mom so I just had to do my homework and study a bit .

It was getting dark now... with my mom in bed and my sister on the couch with her mobile I was trying to relax a bit , but can anyone relax after seeing mom like this? I was curious and also I wanted to help her.

My sister was of no help to me, that I knew from the start and mom won't be telling me anything also, but I wanted to know what had happened. " Hey bro, don't go





snooping around what happened to mom , I know your attitude... but seriously if she finds out your doing something like that she'll kick your ass. So chill for now and wait ". That was weird... not because she knew what I was thinking but because she was speaking to me. That was a huge surprise because we never spoke ... she never asked for anything she just took what she wanted, this was a thing which has a probability of happening – 1 out of 10000000. She spoke again, " how are you bro ? Long time since we last spoke, don't you think ?". I was shocked, she is speaking so casually, this is rare. Eventually because of the sheer amount of shock I couldn't answer her and she just left me in the living room. After a few hours mom came out of the room and slept next to me, she spoke with me that night, she told me that she had a person backing her up to go to Israel to work there

and she was so emotional that she was angry and sad at the same time. It's a thing in our family... or emotional states are a bit mixed up. But still, mom went to Israel in a few months after that night, I finished my studies with my mom clearing the loans we had on us and my sister found a guy who took good care of her and she got better! Now they are married and have a cute little girl. I had some pretty decent friends with me throughout college so didn't get into any rash stuff, got a decent enough job, changed houses before my sister had even met her now-husband, stood by her till she found peace with my brother in law. Now , at last ... it's my MARRIAGE!!! I'm super excited, my mom's been with me after sister's marriage so now I can have a nice little family to share peace and happiness (also some saasbahu drama!). ❖

## INDIA IS DEMOCRATIC, BUT WE HAVE TO CREATE IT

Today as a country and a nation, India has been a melting pot of stupendous paradoxes, extremes, diverse- culture religions , languages and the way of living. Still there is a big requirement of "unity" which can only bring the strength for better result. We talk about corruption and illiteracy are creating issues and are drawback for a "New India". Problems like lack of sanitation, poverty, education system, health care system, women's safety etc .... are big things and challenges for developing India which should be ended quickly.

We are seeing that women's safety issues are rising more higher due to increase in rape cases and abuse. Women are equally important for development in any sector. We make gender discrimination at many levels that create a bad image among youth and it makes women's self- confidence down, so removing and decreasing gender inequality is a solution for women empowerment. Also for a "New India". Creating awareness in people for good education is important. Education will change literacy rate and it's output will to great result for country. Moreover, unemployment is also creating problems for youth and nation. So creating awareness about business ideas and entrepreneurship will increase youth thinking about ideas and employment.

So ,I conclude that for "United India" we have to throw out all these problems and have to form unity. It's been said that "India is democratic, but we have to create it ".

- *Arpit Katara*, NEXCO, Madhya Pradesh region.



## YCS/YSM INDIA ACTIVITIES





# YCS/YSM INDIA



welcome  
to  
*Bengaluru, Karnataka*

## 2022 YCS/YSM NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Theme: Young students for youthful life**

**Safe school**

**Self-identity**

**New society**

25-30 | MAY | 2022



**Register Now: For more information call: Fr. Chetan Machado @ 9891792505;  
Deril D'Sa @ 8095644587 or email : [ycsysmindia@gmail.com](mailto:ycsysmindia@gmail.com)**

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