

CEO SPEAK



Mark Clive
General Secretary & CEO

It was Easter with a difference. For years, I used to eagerly await the annual Easter Pageant presented by New Delhi YMCA. For the past several years I have also been playing the role of Mathew. Due to Covid-19 safety restrictions in place, this year the audio-visual was not staged. Instead, we planned a Gospel Musical on the eve of Easter. And what a grand success it was!

Full marks to our own choir for performing so well despite a short notice. Systems Officer Reginald Vijay Milton did a good job as Choir Director.

Besides the Choir, there were some brilliant individual performances also. Martin and Fulfill from the Indian Air Force did full justice to their reputation. The duo is part of the Band that performs at the annual Beating Retreat.

Anuradha Raman and Dilasha Seth (both senior journalists) also performed so well. So did Shawn and Shanon – talented children of Reginald Milton. John and Steve Alexander, popularly known as Alex Brothers, was another brilliant duo who made the evening so memorable. Elizabeth Campbell as a soloist also enthralled the audience.

The annual convocation of the Department of HPDP was another highlight of the fortnight gone by. More than one thousand students passed out this year. The Chief Guest on the occasion, Ms. Shubra Singh, Chairperson of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority, blessed the outgoing students.

But amidst this success we had some sad moments also. We lost Anjan Mukherjee, a former Senior colleague from the National Council who also worked for some time with us at the New Delhi YMCA. Raj Murch, a veteran member, also passed away. We are indeed sad by this loss. But life must go on.

God bless each one of us

Mark



ANOTHER FIRST BY NDY PROVES GRAND SUCCESS

It was yet another first by New Delhi YMCA. And what a success! 'A Wondrous Cross', A Gospel Music presentation, on the eve of Easter, enthralled the audience no end. Once the IAF duo of Martin (on cellos) and Fulfill (on guitar) set the pace, it was time for one brilliant performance followed by another.

After the professional IAF Band members, who play at the annual Beating Retreat, it was time for young brothers, Steve and John Alexander.



Steve began with Old Rugged Cross on Saxophone with John on the piano. Later, they changed instruments (guitar and piano) between them and sang 'In Christ Alone' and 'Celebrate Jesus Celebrate' much to the delight of the audience.

Then came another talented duo – Shawn and Shanon Milton. Due to health reasons, they performed online but it had no effect on their performance.

Anuradha Raman was next. As a soloist, accompanied by Mr Pandianraj



on piano, Senior Editor with the Hindu newspaper, Anuradha regaled everyone with her passionate rendition of the popular hymn 'How Great Thou Art'. Anuradha's soulful presentation amply demonstrated her skill as a trained voice. She is a Hindustan Classical singer.

Another journalist, Dilasha Seth, a Special Correspondent with the Business Standard newspaper, was also brilliant as she presented 'Amazing Grace' in her pleasant voice.

Then came Elizabeth Campbell, who



beautifully sang 'Vo Pyari Saleeb....'

New Delhi YMCA Choir, under the baton of Rajinald Vijay Milton, brought the curtains down. Formed at a short notice, the choir performed creditably and looks set for bigger things.

On the whole, the event, anchored by young Ashish Abraham, was a good maiden attempt. Full marks to the organising team -- Ian Goodwin, Gladwin Lal and Philip Harold and not forgetting Nikhil Sharma and Amit Sharma who provided excellent technical support. ■

“YOU HAVE MY BLESSINGS,” SAYS CHIEF GUEST TO HPDP STUDENTS



It was a momentous day for 1064 successful students at the annual Convocation of the HPDP Department at New Delhi YMCA on March 24. Due to Covid-19 SOP, only 205 meritorious could be present for the function at the Heinz Hall. The rest, attended it online. But for all of them, the presence of the Chief Guest Ms Shubra Singh, IAS, made it a big day in their life. And the address by her made the day even bigger and meaningful. “With added skills acquired at New Delhi YMCA, I am confident that you shall shine and you have my blessings,” said the Chief Guest Ms Shubra Singh, Chairperson of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority.

Explaining how management of Covid had invaluable learning for all of us over the last one year, Ms Singh told the students “as you go into life remember students, EQ is as important as IQ.”

Explaining the ethos and work culture

to the budding professionals, the Chief Guest asked the students to bring passion to their work. “Employers would love to officers who loved their work. Continue to grow personally. Enjoy work, enjoy life, keep learning and keep faith,” she said.

After President of the New Delhi YMCA Mr Jovial Vaghela declared opened the Convocation, Chairman HPDP, Mr Stephen DaCosta complimented both students and the faculty. “It was a difficult year but it taught us many new things, including use of technology and faculty taught students sitting at home,” he said.

The combined Convocation had students from six institutes. -- Institute of Career Studies, Institute of Office Management, Institute for Fashion Technology and Design, Institute for Management Studies, Institute of Media Studies and Information Technology and Institute for Hotel Management and Catering Technology. ■



THANK YOU AND GOOD LUCK TO ASPIRING CANDIDATES

Dear Friends and members of the NDY,

Greetings from the office of the President, NDY!

As we complete yet another business year and as the elections to the Board of Directors are also announced, it is time to look back and take stock of the term 2019-20 extended up to 2020-21. We began the year with much enthusiasm while celebrating the 175 years of Y Movement worldwide and were looking forward to growth and development across all sectors of NDY. But ended the year with the onset of Covid-19 and the subsequent lockdowns.

The following year was full of challenges with the businesses shut and revenues drying up. I am overwhelmed to share that, we at NDY held on to our nerves all through. We quickly changed

tracks, went digital/ online, adopted to the new 'normal' of Covid protocols, pushed for succession and other administrative reforms, dug out some reserves, prudently managed the fiscals, and finally came back to business as much as was possible under those circumstances.

Now NDY is all set and ready like steel-out-of-fire to begin the coming business year with all enthusiasm even as the Pandemic is once again raising its head.

For this, I must thank the Office Bearers, the members of the Board of Directors and the membership of the New Delhi YMCA for their unstinted support during this difficult period.

All the staff, executives and secretaries, led by the dynamic and hardworking GS & CEO, Mr. Mark Clive, who took over

amid all these uncertainties, deserve special accolades! The team has stood rock solid while even sharing some financial burden.

While signing off for this 'term' as President NDY, I bring my good wishes to all the aspiring candidates for the forthcoming elections to the Board of Directors of NDY....

Much regards and God bless!!

Jovial Vaghela



IN MEMORIAM

I am very sad to receive this news. Anjan was a good friend and the most eloquent writer I know. I will miss him a lot, he was a friend of the worldwide movement of YMCA and I thank the Lord above for all of Anjan's. Services to all of us.

- Johan Vilhelm Eltvik

I am extremely sorry to hear that Anjan has passed away. Undoubtedly, it's a painful news for all of us, who worked with him. He was one of the closest friends of our family too. He had a large number of friends in the Movement among both lay and professionals. He served the Indian YMCA in several important positions like the General Secretary of Calcutta YMCA, Senior Secretary of the NCYI and Gen. Secretary of YMCA Indian Students Hostel, London. Our heartfelt condolences to Ruby, Gaurav and other members in the bereaved family. May God Almighty console and strengthen them as they pass through the painful times. May his soul rest in heaven. Our prayers for consolation of the bereaved family members.

- John Varughese

Difficult to believe that Anjan has left us. May his soul rest in peace with Almighty God. Condolences to the immediate family and friends.

- Jacob Koshy

My heartfelt condolences. A senior leader of the Indian YMCA, Anjan was a good friend who

My deep condolences
- Sampson David

Lost a friend and good human being. RIP
- Rev. John Caleb

Condolences to the bereaved families
- Ernest Joseph



encouraged me in my work. It is loss to the Indian YMCAs and also to the world YMCA family. May his soul rest in peace.

- Muktinath Acharya

So sad to hear about Anjan. Our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. May his soul rest in peace.

- Chonhas Emmanuel Kujur

RIP Anjan.

- YMCA Thuckalay

Deepest condolences.

- Maung Win (Myanmar)

Sorry to hear about the sudden demise of Mr. Anjan Mukherjee. May his soul Rest in Peace. As he has left for his heavenly abode, may God give His supernatural peace to all the family members This is our Prayer.

- Sanjeet Singh

We are shocked and saddened to learn about the sudden and untimely demise of Mr. Anjan Mukherjee. "Anjan Da", as we used to call him lovingly, will always be remembered for his most affectionate nature, warm friendliness, modest mannerism, fighting spirit, profound knowledge of YMCA and his commitment towards the Y Movement, and his extraordinary eloquence.

At this time of acute personal anguish and profound grief, we offer our deepest condolences to his wife Ruby, son Gaurav and everyone else in the bereaved family.

May his soul Rest in Eternal Peace with the Lord. We are thankful to the Almighty for the love, inspiration & blessings, all of us received through Anjan Da's life on this earth.

- Alope Michyari

Very Sad. Mr Anjan Mukherjee was a good friend of the masses with a smiling look. Our most heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. May the noble departed soul rest in peace.

- J F Williams

NO OVERSEAS FANS TO ATTEND TOKYO 2020 OLYMPICS AND PARALYMPICS

No overseas fans will be permitted to attend the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, organisers have confirmed. The International Olympic Committee (IOC), International Paralympic Committee (IPC), the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Tokyo 2020 and the Japanese Government met virtually to discuss the issue. Japanese officials concluded that the current COVID-19 situation made it unlikely that they could guarantee entry to international fans for the Games.

"During the meeting, the IOC and IPC were informed about the conclusion of the Japanese parties not to allow entry into Japan for overseas spectators for the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 due to the prevailing worldwide COVID-19 pandemic," a statement read.

"Olympic and Paralympic tickets purchased by overseas residents from the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee will be refunded. "Currently, the COVID-19 situation in Japan and many other countries around the world is still very challenging and a number of variant strains have emerged, whilst international travel remains severely restricted globally.

"In order to give clarity to ticket holders living overseas and to enable them to adjust

their travel plans at this stage, the parties on the Japanese side have come to the conclusion that they will not be able to enter into Japan at the time of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

"This conclusion will further contribute to ensure safe and secure Games for all participants and the Japanese public."

The IOC and IPC said they "fully respect and accept this conclusion". Organisers say ticket-holders from overseas will soon be informed about how to secure refunds.

Tokyo 2020 President Seiko Hashimoto said organisers were working on specific plans to help fans support the Games across the world. "In many ways the Tokyo 2020 Games will be completely different to any previous Games," Hashimoto said. However, the essential of the Games will remain unchanged, as athletes give their utmost and inspire the world with transcendent performances. We are currently working on specific plans to share support remotely from around the world and help bring people together in ways suited to our current times." IOC President Thomas Bach said he was "truly sorry" to disappoint families and friends of athletes, who will now be unable to attend the Game."



I HOPE THAT THIS EASTER CAN BE ANOTHER LANDMARK MOMENT: CARLOS SANVEE

Easter is the greatest moment of the Christian year for me, as the time when I connect best - like so many in the community of like-minded believers - to the story of the highest and deepest expression of God's love for humankind.

As a worldwide movement founded on the Christian faith, it's a great moment for the YMCA too.

And as I write to you again this year, it feels like an even bigger moment in 2021, after a year of real disruption and real suffering brought about by a global pandemic.

I hope that this Easter can be another landmark moment, as we continue to make sense of who we are and who we want to become. 'Who we are' derives in large part from what we believe.

What we believe is of course our individual choice, often influenced by our upbringing, by those around us, or the groups to which we belong.

That's why we are rightly proud of the fact that the YMCA is a place called home for people of all faiths and no faith, and for people of every culture.



A healing Movement

As we and the world seek to emerge into the new, post-Covid world, can our YMCA Movement be a vehicle of the thing that the world needs most, which is healing? It's a healing that goes way beyond what a vaccine can do. It's a healing for our whole selves in body, mind, and spirit, and through our work to help our brothers and sisters worldwide to reconcile with themselves, with others, and with all of God's Creation.

A joyous and happy Easter to you all in the worldwide YMCA Movement. ■

Easter is to commemorate Christ's resurrection from the dead three days after crucifixion. But in China, Easter is only a special holiday for the Catholics, Orthodox and most established Christian churches. Millions of Christians celebrate in some fashion. But most people don't observe it or believe in the resurrection at all, and other millions of Chinese have taken up Western customs for children, such as Easter eggs hunts just for the fun or novelty. Some of the established churches with buildings treat it like a mini Chinese New Year complete with red paper slogans called chūnlíán on the church building and in the homes, special bands or music, and special decorations.

At those established churches with buildings, Easter eggs might be given

CHINESE WAY TO CELEBRATE EASTER

as gifts or sold outside the church, and everyone attends a special mass or service. The official Chinese Catholic churches are among those with big celebrations. In them, new Catholics are also traditionally baptized on Easter. In recent years, there has been a big jump in baptisms in Catholic churches on Easter even as Chinese Catholic Churches don't have an official connection to the Pope. However, smaller home groups might celebrate as family or friends quietly or even secretly saying simple prayers and talking about the resurrection of Jesus.

For many people, especially for children, eating and painting Easter eggs is the most important and fun custom on

Easter Sunday. Among Catholics and the Eastern Orthodox around Russian influenced Heilongjiang Province, making, painting, and decorating Easter eggs is a special custom.

Chinese People in Hong Kong celebrate Easter more avidly. This is partly because of their English traditions, and partly because there are a lot of Christians, established churches, and foreign Christian expats living there. If you are a tourist visiting Hong Kong during Easter, you might be surprised about the extent of the celebrations. A place for tourists to go for services might be St. Andrews Church. It is renowned for its architecture and friendly atmosphere.

Easter Monday, the day after Easter,



and Easter Sunday are public holidays in Hong Kong. The banks, the post office and the government departments will be closed. Some of the museums, theme parks and other attractions may have different hours. ■

COVID LOCKDOWN HASN'T LED TO MORE BABIES

For those who thought that lockdown would leave couples with little else to do than procreate, there was a surprise – not a baby boom but a baby bust. Research shows that the US is facing the biggest slump in births in a century and in parts of Europe the decline is even steeper.

When Frederike moved in with her parents to care for an elderly relative at the beginning of the pandemic she thought of it as a gift, a chance to spend time with her family. But a few months in, the 33-year-old from Germany started to feel a deep sense of loss. Frederike is single and realised that the pandemic was robbing her of the chance to meet someone and start a family. "Time feels really precious at the moment and my life has been put on hold," she said.

She tried online dating, but going on walks in winter in sub-zero temperatures



didn't encourage romance.

Now, when she's feeling low the same thought swirls obsessively inside her head: "When this is over I'm going to be infertile."

"I'm sitting indoors in the years when I can have a child." For those who study population the baby bust was not a revelation. In June last year economists at the Brookings Institute in the US estimated that American births would fall by 300,000 to half a million babies.

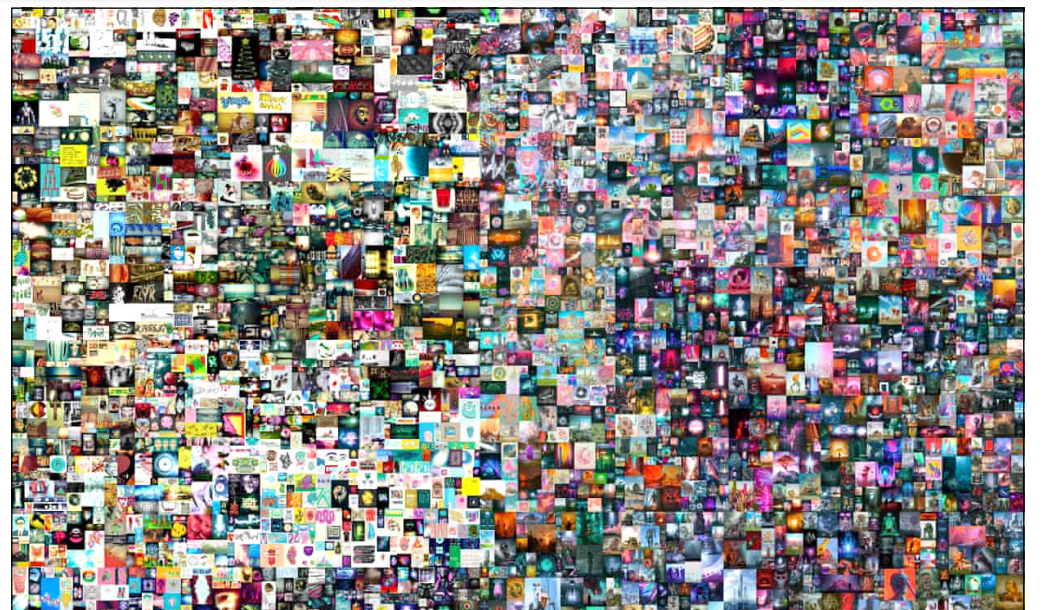
At the same time a survey of fertility plans in Europe showed that 50% of people in Germany and France who had planned to have a child in 2020 were going to postpone it. In Italy 37% said they had abandoned the idea altogether. France, Korea, Taiwan, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have all reported monthly birth figures that were their lowest in more than 20 years. ■

DIGITAL ARTWORK FETCHES \$69 MILLION

On 11 March, one of the art world's signature can-you-believe-it moments made global headlines: a digital-only artwork sold for more than \$69 million, the third highest price ever paid for an artwork at auction. It was a digital collage by the artist Mike Winkelmann, known as Beeple, who until October had never sold a print for more than \$100.

This sensational auction came on the heels of simmering interest in "non-fungible tokens", or NFTs, which finally boiled over into the annals of art auction houses. NFTs are unique assets verified by blockchain technology; as with cryptocurrency, a record of who owns what is stored on a decentralised public ledger of sorts. Thus NFTs function like a digital certificate of authenticity that can be attached to all manner of things, virtual or physical. Mostly now, they are being used to monetise digital assets such as audio files, videos, Gifs, tweets and even virtual versions of sneakers; 621 of them recently sold for a combined \$3.1m.

It's worth noting: buying an NFT does not necessarily mean you are buying the



copyright to something, or even the only digital copy; many NFTs are minted for videos or images that are easily accessible elsewhere on the internet. (Even images of Beeple's record-smashing work are visible all over the web.) But an NFT confers a particular kind of ownership rights – it's like purchasing not a particular thing, but your ownership of that thing.

The NFT-meets-art-world craze is the latest in a series of blockchain-backed experiments around the authentication

of property and digital art on the internet. NFTs are a way for artists working in new technologies to make money in a space that has been historically difficult to monetise. Viewed less generously, the whole ordeal is a fad for the rich, who are speculating with crypto on things no one needs or perhaps even really wants, possibly as a way to quickly flip the assets for more crypto. Or, as Jacob Silverman put it in the New Republic: "[NFTs] are title deeds for increasingly useless crap." ■

BUSINESSMAN ACCUSES AUNG SAN SU KYI OF BRIBERY

A Myanmar construction magnate with links to the country's military rulers has claimed that he gave more than \$500,000 in cash to deposed leader Aung San Suu Kyi. The man said it in a broadcast on state television apparently aimed at discrediting the ousted civilian government.

The statement by Maung Waik could pave the way for more serious charges against Aung San Suu Kyi, who has been detained since the 1 February military takeover while security forces increasingly use lethal force against a popular uprising demanding the restoration of democratically elected leaders.

The military has already

tried to implicate Aung San Suu Kyi in corruption, alleging she was given \$600,000 plus gold bars by a political ally. She and the deposed president, Win Myint, have been charged so far with inciting unrest, possession of walkie-talkies and violating a pandemic order limiting public gatherings. Suu Kyi's lawyer, Khin

Maung Zaw, has rejected the previous corruption claims as "groundless".

In the latest salvo of allegations, Maung Waik, who has previously been convicted of drug trafficking, told state television he gave cash to government ministers to help his businesses. He said the money included \$100,000 given to Aung San Suu Kyi in 2018



for a charitable foundation named after her mother, \$150,000 in 2019 for which he did not specify a reason, \$50,000 last February and \$250,000 in April, again with no purpose specified.

At least two people were shot dead in Kalay in north-western Myanmar, according to media and social media posts that included photos of the victims.

Smoke and fires were seen in Kalay and Yangon on Wednesday night, reportedly from authorities burning down barricades protesters had set up during the day.

Pope Francis appealed for an end to the bloodshed. In an apparent reference to widely broadcast images of a nun in Myanmar, kneeling on the street in front of armed security forces begging them not to shoot protesters, Francis said: "I, too, kneel on the streets of Myanmar and say: may violence cease." ■