

CEO SPEAK



**Mark Clive**  
General Secretary & CEO

Depression, uncertainties, difficulties and much more of it seems to be the stories of the past. By the grace of God, the new year has brought cheers, at least to the New Delhi YMCA.

In the second week of the year itself, within five days to be precise, we managed to acquire Dorothy Villa, a beautiful, well-equipped and furnished huge cottage barely few kilometers from our existing Saatal Camp Site. It will be used as a center for development and skill training and home for senior citizens.

NDY also took on lease a 24-room Inn, next to Saatal Camp site. Like the Dorothy Villa, this property is also functional, and we can soon start business operations there, enabling us to raise much wanted funds.

Yes, God has been kind to us. But for all this, I must also thank the Trustees, the Board and a three-member committee formed to look into the matter. They all played a very positive role. With their total support, all challenging and long administrative work at Nainital Courts looked so much easier.

Let me make it clear. The purpose behind acquiring Dorothy Villa was not to acquire property, but to extend YMCA's commitment for social upliftment of the development, specially senior citizens.

Just at the month's end, Delhi Government announced reopening of physical classes in colleges, polytechnics and diploma institutions. This has come as a good news for us. Now we will be able to start functioning our Education Department. Swimming pool is already set to open. Both are major source of revenue for NDY.

God bless all




New Delhi YMCA began the new year on a high note. Within a span of five days the Association acquired a beautiful property, Dorothy Villa, in Mahargaon and also got 24 room hospitality facility earlier known as Country Inn, on a five-year lease in Saatal. All this happened in less than a week. The Country Inn will now be known as YMCA extension of Campsite. The Trustees, President Jovial Vaghela, Board and the a three-member committee constituted to oversee the transactions were on the same page which made General Secretary Mark Clive and his team to finish the administrative work in a record time.

The Dorothy Villa, a well-furnished and running property was jointly owned by 92-year-old Miss Lillian Wallace and her colleague and friend, well over 80, Miss Eileen Richards. A day before the transaction Miss Wallace had taken ill



and was rushed to hospital while Miss Richards is already bed-ridden. Both were concerned about the property. "But now I am relieved after handing it over to New Delhi YMCA," reacted Miss Wallace after signing the papers. Miss Richards expressed a similar sentiment when the Registrar Nainital asked her if she had any reservation on the deal. "Not at all," a beaming Miss Richards told the Regis-



trar from her bed. Incidentally the Registrar and his staff came to Dorothy Villa to get their signatures on the deal as the two old ladies were not in a position to travel to the Court in Nainital. At the court, however, the General

Secretary Mark Clive and his team spent the entire day getting formalities completed. "But it was worth all the trouble," a relieved Mark Clive said. ■

## EXTENSION OF NDY'S WORK

Taking over Dorothy Villa in Saatal is big forward-looking step for New Delhi YMCA. For this positive initiative, I am thankful to the Trustees and my colleagues on the Board.

Going by the spirit and mission of YMCA Movement and continued efforts of New Delhi YMCA, the Board has decided to use the Cottage (Dorothy Villa) for developmental

work and issues concerning the society. It could be work for women's emancipation, basic education and care for the senior citizens. New Delhi YMCA has already made an indelible impression in the region through Saatal Campsite. And now our latest endeavour will extend our work in the State of Uttarakhand, doing, mainly for the oppressed and the underprivileged in the society. ■



## CHRISTIAN LEADERS MEET PM MODI

The Syro Malabar Church's Archbishop, Cardinal George Alanchery, the Malankara Syrian Church's Archbishop, Cardinal Baselious Mar Cleemis and Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Mumbai's Cardinal Archbishop Oswald Gracias recently met PM Narendra Modi in New Delhi to discuss various issues. The three Cardinals later told the media that the meeting was positive and Mr Modi lent a patient ear. Three Church leaders also urged Mr Modi to invite Pope Francis to India. ■



# SHD CHILDREN CELEBRATE REPUBLIC DAY

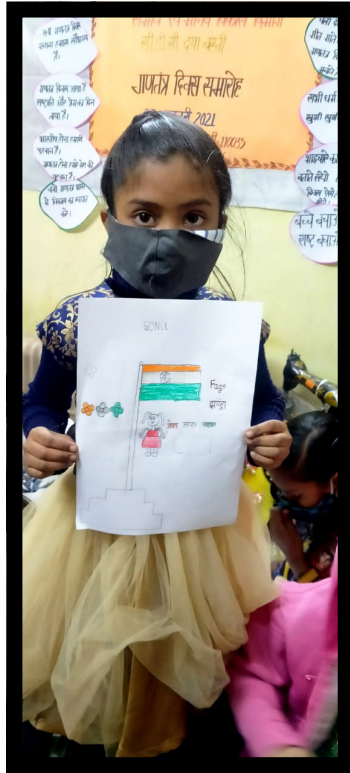
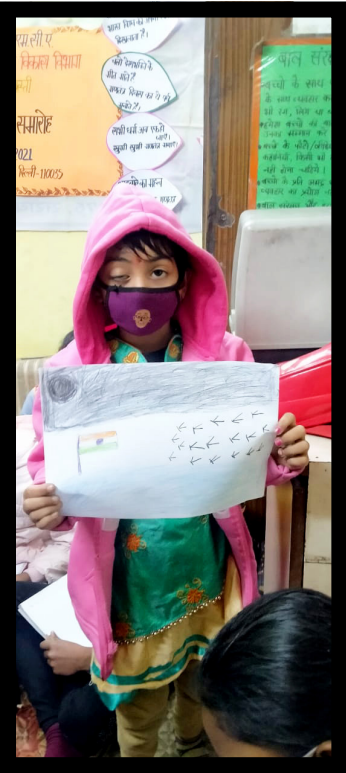
PHOTOS: SHD DEPARTMENT

Even as there was restriction on number of participants due to Covid protocol, children at all the five Community Development Centres of the Social and Human Development department celebrated Republic Day with usual enthusiasm. Usually these programmes are a great hit with children at these centres.

National flag was unfurled at all the centres followed by cultural programmes. Painting competitions were also held at

all the centres. Children participate in large numbers and perform in various events. With relaxation in Covid protocol coming in, children are looking forward anxiously to participate in the forthcoming events.

The Day was celebrated at Kalyan Puri and Daya Basti Centres on January 23 while Savda Ghera, Karpoori Thakur and Sunlight Colony Centres had functions on January 25. ■







## FEROZE AND SHIVANI WIN STAFF TABLE TENNIS TITLES

Feroze Khan of Nizamuddin YMCA and Shivani Moza of Tourist Hostel claimed the men's and women's singles titles respectively in the two-day New Delhi YMCA Inter-Departmental Staff Table Tennis Tournament. In the finals played on January 28, Feroze beat teammate Anup Robinson while Shivani defeated Minakshi Joseph, also from the Tourist Hostel.

Dalip Maccune (IMSIT) finished at the third spot in the men's singles while Jyoti Micah (Tourist Hostel) got the same honour in the women's singles.

Maccune in partnership with Mukesh Daniel (Stores) emerged victorious in the men's doubles beating Feroze and Vineet Masih (HPDP). Anup Robinson and Rohtas Kumar (Nizamuddin) finished at the third spot.

The tournament proved a huge success

— both in terms of participation and enthusiasm. There were 35 participants in the tournament. For two days, the venue, Heinz Hall, turned into a common meeting ground for Secretaries, Executive and other Staff where comradery and enthusiasm prevailed. The mood was upbeat all over.

General Secretary Mark Clive, AGSs Ian Goodwin and Sarvjeet Singh also participated in the tournament while Gladwin Lal appeared in two roles — both as a player and the organiser of the tournament.

Vice Presidents Alope Michyari and Norris Pritam were among the spectators and also gave away the trophies.

Encouraged by the success of the tournament it was decided to organise more such events for the staff. A musical competition may soon be conducted. ■



PHOTOS: RAJINALD VIJAY MILTON

## UN ADOPTS RESOLUTION ON PROTECTING RELIGIOUS SITES

The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution on January 21 calling for greater efforts to protect religious sites from acts of terrorism and asking for a global conference on the subject.

Titled "Promoting a culture of peace and tolerance to safeguard religious sites," the resolution asks Secretary General Antonio Guterres to launch an international conference to discuss the best means of implementing the United Nations Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites.

"Religious sites are representative of the history, social fabric and traditions of people in every country and community all over the world and should be fully respected as such," the resolution says.

The resolution highlights the increasing threats to culturally and spiritually significant sites by terrorists and militias, who have at times destroyed religious property and illicitly trafficked artifacts.

The resolution denounces "all attacks on and in religious places, sites and shrines, including any deliberate de-

struction of relics and monuments" and condemns "all acts or threats of violence, destruction, damage or endangerment, directed against religious sites as such, that continue to occur in the world, and denounces any moves to obliterate or forcibly convert any religious sites."

It calls on the governments to promote these religious sites as vulnerable targets and to implement safeguards to protect them. The resolution states that governments should assess risks and potential targets as well as "ensure that comprehensive measures are in place for the immediate response to an attack."

The resolution also challenges the United Nations to develop "strategies, educational initiatives, and global communications campaigns and tools" that foster greater multicultural respect and media awareness.

Saudi Arabia proposed the resolution, which was co-sponsored by Arab nations including Egypt, Iraq, the UAE, Yemen, Sudan, and Palestine. The resolution was also supported by the United States and the European Union. ■



## SCOTLAND YMCA TRAINING KIDS TO BECOME DIGITAL EXPERTS

The Paisley YMCA in Scotland is training young kids to become digital experts. Since 2015, they have launched six youth digital clubs to equip kids and teenagers with creative, computing and design skills.

Around 120 young people between age 8 and 18 are registered to the Paisley YMCA youth clubs. "We realised that the traditional education does not fully reflect what the future of work is", says Darran Gillan, Youth & Programme Development Manager. "This is why we focus on digital education. There is a clear need for young people to master the new technologies."

Chimindu, 9 years old, had no idea about what coding was: "It is my dad who got me registered. And now, I love it. I am coding, drawing and writing storyboards. It is quite complicated but fun. I am learning a lot and I have lots of friends there".

Charley, 11 years old, agrees: "This is definitely more fun than at school! I think that all this digital learning is important for my future. Most of the jobs will be related to computers".

Paisley YMCA also has a STEM Girls club, for young women to embrace Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. "We know this is a sector usually dominated by men. We offer this space for



girls to come together, experiment, discover new potential, and support each other. This is our most popular youth group" explains Darran Gillan.

Since 2020, due to the pandemic, all these clubs are now held online. "We had to work creatively to ensure digital inclusion", shares Claire McGinley, Youth and Programme Coordinator. "Many young people do not have their own computer, or do not have unlimited internet access. We collected and donated £22,000 worth of materials from various foundations and government programmes. ■





PHOTO: NIKHIL SHARMA ▲

## FAREWELL, WILL MISS YOU MR CHIN AND MR RAMAKRISHNAN!

Friends and colleagues bid a warm farewell to two affable colleagues – Executive Secretary in GS office, Mr Chin Gouthang and liftman Mr N Ramakrishnan. Mr Chin served NDY for 13 years while Mr Ramakrishnan had a 34-year stint with New Delhi YMCA.

In his speech Mr Mark Clive, General Secretary, lauded the working of Mr Gouthang and complimented his work ethics. “He has been a very trust worthy Secretary and never shared official information with anyone unless asked to do so,” the GS said. He said that GS office was the best example of national integration. “We had Mr Chin from the North-East, PA to GS Mrs Leelamma John from the South and GS from North.”

Mrs Leelamma John said Mr Chin was a very helpful colleague and was always willing to help others. Recalling an incident, she said “once when I came back



PHOTOS: RAJINALD VIJAY MILTON



from leave my computer had a technical glitch, and I had lost all my important documents and contacts. But Mr Chin spent a lot time and shared whatever he could from his own computer.”

AGS Mr Sarveet Singh also complimented Mr Chin for his ability to adapt to the new culture and surroundings. “being from the North East he was not very comfortable in Hindi. But in a short time, he adapted himself to the not only language but working culture of New Delhi

YMCA.”

In his return speech Mr China thanked all his colleagues at New Delhi YMCA for being so “supportive and cooperative”.

Mr Ramakrishnan, who spent over three decades at New Delhi YMCA recalled working with many different General Secretaries and Secretaries and other staff members. “They were all very nice and kind to me and I shall never forget the experience of working at New Delhi YMCA,” he said. ■

## RAJEEV ELECTED TREASURER

Rajeev Singh, Assistant General Secretary of New Delhi YMCA, has been elected as the treasurer of the Association Of YMCAs in the annual election held in Bangalore on January 31.

Asir Pandian of Madras YMCA was elected President while Shaji James was elected General Secretary. ■

## IN MEMORIAM

**JOHN PRAKASH BEREAVED:** We regret to announce the passing away of Mr Surender Malik, brother-in-law of NDY HR Manager Mr John Prakash. RIP the departed soul.

**ITALIAN NUN PASSES AWAY:** Mother Giovanna Saveria Alberoni, former superior general of the Ursulines of Mary Immaculate congregation who converted a 22-bed nursing home to a full-fledged multi-specialty institution and medical research centre in Mumbai, died on January 18. She was 94.

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**P J MATHEWS BEREAVED:** Mrs Aleyamma Joshua, mother of senior member, Mr P J Mathews passed away on January 24. RIP.

## 1,500-YEAR-OLD ‘CHRIST, BORN OF MARY’ INSCRIPTION DISCOVERED IN ISRAEL

Archaeologists have unearthed a 1,500-year-old inscribed Christian blessing that begins, “Christ, born of Mary,” the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) has reported.

The stone inscription, written in Greek, was once part of a lintel (the structure that spans the top of door frames) that decorated the entrance of a church, located in what is now et-Taiyiba (also called Taiba), a village in Israel's northern Jezreel Valley.

The church itself dates to the late fifth century A.D., meaning it may have been built during the Byzantine Empire. In addition to the lintel, archaeologists found that the previously unknown church contained mosaic pavements arranged in a geometric design.

The inscription was likely created for the church's opening dedication, according to Leah Di-Segni, a researcher at the

Institute of Archaeology of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, who translated the text. In full, the inscription reads, “Christ born of Mary. This work of the most God-fearing and pious bishop [Theodosius and the miserable Th[omas] was built from the foundation - - . Whoever enters should pray for them.”

The opening line, “Christ born of Mary,” was likely intended to protect the reader of the inscription from evil forces — it's a common phrase used

in inscriptions and documents from that time, Di-Segni said.

Theodosius, one of the men referenced in the inscription, was one of the first Christian bishops and the building's founder. Theodosius was a regional archbishop, meaning he had religious authority over the larger metropolis of Bet She'an, which included what is now et-Taiyiba. ■



## ‘ANDHRA’S ANGLICAN SCHOOLS ARE DYING’

Several Anglican schools in Andhra Pradesh, which did decades long yeoman service in taking free education to the most oppressed sections of the society, have shut down over the years.

According to media reports, even as these schools shut down one after the other, there was gross inaction and negligence from successive governments of the day and officials who let them suffer a silent death.

Anglican schools have closed down in Kalla, Doddanapudi and Yelurupadu in West Godavari district and Takkellapadu village in Krishna district.

Some educational institutions linked to the Anglican church include St. Stephen's College in Delhi, Bishop Cotton Boys and Girls Schools (Bengaluru), The Cathedral and John Connon School (Mumbai) and many others where children from the most elite families in India have obtained education and continue to do so.

A large number of serving and retired bureaucrats went to St. Stephen's College, including the newly appointed Telangana High Court Chief Justice Hima Kohli.

However, in stark contrast, when these schools and colleges continue to thrive, their sister organisations or schools located in rural places and poor neighbourhoods in Andhra Pradesh are reportedly dying. ■