

MINI-BANGALI CHRONICLE 248, MARCH 2021

MY BROTHER POPE FRANCIS IN IRAK, DESPITE ROCKETS & COVID-19!



Pope at Mosul, martyred town, then with the GRAND AYATOLLAH SISTANI, spiritual soul of 200 millions Shia Muslims: "Peace, Respect for all, interreligious harmony"



INTERRELIGIOUS MEEETING AT SUR : Kurds, Sabean and Sunni-Shias Sheikhs, Kakaïs, Yezidis, Mazdean, Baha'is..., all different, sometimes foes, but to-day with the same heart: "We want peace!"

Several historical meetings made with Muslim World by the Pope in 2019 (with the Sheikh of Al-Azhar), then this day with Ayatollah Sistani... It is exactly what we have tried to do at ICOD "Interreligious Centre" since so many years..., despite the oppositions from various quarters, civil or religious...

MARIAGE OF ADIMONI AND JAGADISH AT "JUNGLE MAHAL (MIDNAPUR)



Adimoni, 22 ans et 12 ans at Belari & ICOD. Her husband is electrician. Both are Hindu Adivassi, Santali tribe.



Gopadi, in the name of ICOD and the Swiss family who has paid for her High Secondary Classes, and also offered gold ring and earrings, a sari and a watch. It is a very poor family...



...as we can see when they sit down to wait for gifts...

Right, with our own girls...



Joy and humor are here ...They are living on the second floor.



Left, with Palash.

Right, with Binay.

LET'S GIVE PLACE TO THE DANCES!



The great drums are made with wild buffaloes-skin or wild Gaur (bison) How many times have I danced, sometimes whole nights, when I was working with Oraon in Chota Nagpur or in Bankura (with Santali)!



BEFORE ELECTIONS, VISIT AT ICOD OF MISS PAPIYA, A SCREEN CELEBRITY.



This year, “elections jungle Book-type» in many places: our Bengal was divided in 8 circumscriptions during one month and 52.000 soldiers from the Center to prevent... or provoke troubles. I have participated during 50 years in so many elections here, but never saw such an undemocratic one!



In front of ICOD, the Candidate makes great signs, but the traffic is blocked!



Some people request me to go to meet her, but she herself decided to come to me, despite the 38 degrees centigrade! She was charming!



« Kindly, ask your people to vote for BJP...etc. » - “I shall vote for Peace, love and Harmony among Communities...” –“Give me your blessings!” I gave her with total sincerity, although she belongs to a divisive Party. She left with great and large gestures of friendship.

**IN LESS THAN ONE MONTH, ERECTION OF A 213’ WALL (~71 m.)
TO ISOLATE THE BOYS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD.**



No security behind the boys’ campus, hence the necessity to build a wall.



Puja before starting the first pillar close the boys’ bungalow. Gopadi blesses everything and I throw the first cement inside the pillar and pray.



Everything is prepared on the spot. WE use the coconut-trees trunks to fabricate the cement's molds and pillars of reinforced concrete.



Moulding, then casting the cement, before putting the first bricks and the concrete pillars. This first wall has 40 meters long and 4 m. high.



Our two orphans more than 20 years are helping the workers. Not very keen though!



The 40 m wall is complete, and the beginning of the excavation for the second wall of 31 m.



At last (after 6 months!) our river's water feeds our pond through the canals.

FISHING WITH NET IN OUR POND



Net designed to eliminate the thousands of small fishes (4 cm) coming from the river and becoming a nuisance for our own cultivated fishes.



TOTAL COMPLETION OF THE REPAIRS OF BOYS' FOURTH BUNGALOW...



...AND OF THE MAIN ENTRANCE GATE.



AT LAST, WE FINISH THE ROOFINGS OF 13TH BUNGALOWS WITH Gandhi Bhavan badly damaged!



NEW SECURITY GUARDS WITH NEW SENTRY-CABIN



SECOND VEGETABLE HARVEST (END FEBRUARY & MARCH)

More than two tons of vegetable harvested, despite the failure of 4 crops.



The lemon 'Orchard: they just started already to bloom.

“MAIZE” is aplenty and beautiful!



Late February...

Early and... end of March: our beautiful maize!



Three varieties of spinach: violet, long and, below, round.



Round spinach...

The leaves of pumpkins are prepared as spinach.



Here are three kinds of pumpkins, gourds or courgettes.



Tomatoes are here cultivated only creeping & crawling: huge crop!



Those eggplants are sold green...

Long French beans and tching...

SOME OF OUR GUESTS: see the chronicle text about their history.



1. **JAHANARA** : rejected by her husband (that we have given her !) Her Mother prostitute, but always sick. Married twice, she looks after her and her child. She was 10 years at ICOD.
2. **SUKESHI**: 66 years. I know her since 49 years. Unrivalle for her love & service of the poorest. She has founded with me 4 NGOS (Jhikhira, Jhorkhali, Belari, ABC) She got COVID: 35 days hospitalized. But now OK in her 24 Parganas IMC Home.
3. **PURNIMA**: Known since 50 years. Wife of the rickshaw-walla of the “City of Joy”. They both looked after me since my first day in India. Widowed and married with this Muslim, she has brought 8 abandoned orphan at ICOD from Howrah-Pilkhana. Not met since several years. Already very difficult, I shall be always very grateful to her.



4. GOPAL : 23 years. His mother is a deeply mentally sick woman. He remained at ICOD during 8 years. Made a small training as cook. Now, he is paid-cook at ICOD.

5. ASHOK: 52 years. Brought by the Prodhan of our Panchayat. No family and handicapped. Light Alzheimer.

6. MONIMALA: 28. Remained 2 years at ICOD as a psychiatric patient. Then left and got married. Rejected by her husband, thereafter, she hammered every member of her family and even neighbors. We have re-admitted her with us.

7. ADDITO: 11 years. His mother died by a train accident, 4 years ago, when he was already with us. His grandmother lives in misery at Durgapur. No other member of his family agrees to look after him. We adopt him definitively.

VACCINATIONS OF 25 MEMBERS OF ICOD, ON 5TH MARCH

Our Government gave permission for all old and more than 60 years with comorbidities, to receive the COVID-19 vaccine since 1st March. On 5th, our Panchayat's organized the vaccination for our inmates. I was including for my old age, as also our Secretary Gopa Ghosh (Co-morbidity). Here in front of our School-minibus and the Panchayat's.





First jab to the eldest!

WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR OUR MLA, SHREE PULOK ROY AND OUR PRODHAN, TO HAVE ORGANIZED SO QUICKLY A TEAM FOR THE VACCINATION OF OUR OLD INMATES AND THOSE WITH CO-MORBIDITIES.

HOLI, SPRING FESTIVAL!



Our Governing Body President (extreme right) just arrived with her child and the mother-in-law of the elder daughter of Gopama.

BACKYARD OF THE GIRLS HOME : REPAIRING OF DILAPIDATED WALLING



Before the cyclone, this place was a festival of multicolor flower-show with all our largest flower-trees! We shall try to transform it again into a flower-park, with painted walls.



The only flower-tree that remains after AMPHAN: the medium one CORDIA SEBESTEN, which is blooming all year round. Remark the two large tree-stumps which remain at its foot. All others have been removed...



Perchance, some wild hibiscus remained.

AROUND THE HALL MANY OF THE DESTROYED BOUNGAINCVILLIERS ARE SELF RESTORING, although not with their various colors!



ON THE ISLAND, WHAT APPEARED AS AN IMENSE FRESCO OF COLORS IS NOW BUT A PITEOUS RUIN !

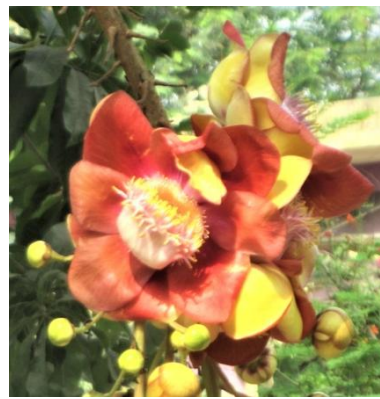


Gopadi has cried about her marvelous Callistemon destroyed, but happily, some spared branches kept blooming like heaven!

FOR THE FIRST TIME, AFTER 10 YEARS, OUR Brazilian 'COUROUPITA' HAD REACHED ITS MATURITY.

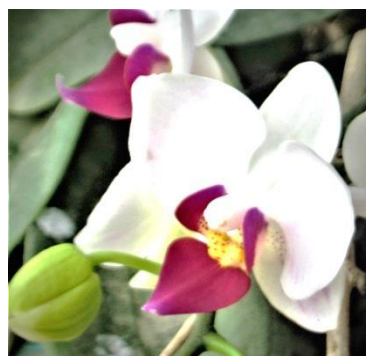
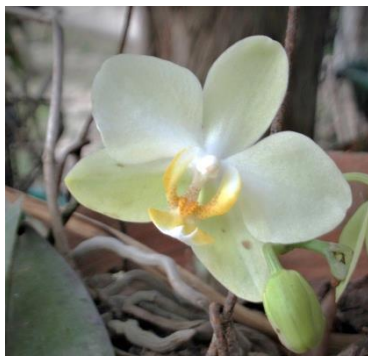


Keka, the younger daughter of Gopama, rejoices at its large flowers!



Since last yer, the flowers circumference has doubled ! This tree has been given by the venerable (and late) Maharaj of Belari (Ramakrishna Mssion). It was coming from an Odhisha Ashram. Its trunk girth can reach 2 m. and it can live moren than 150 years. This is the only large trees that has resisted completely to the ferocity of AMPHAN!

THREE ORCHIDS



Many have been decapitated by the cyclone.... Few are remaining...

SOME NICE ANIMALS...



Eudynamis male (Koel) feeding on the fruits of the Horse-tailed palm-tree, and its female both parading. Extremely shy birds, except for their lancinating callings!



Hurt egret that remained the whole winter on our small islet!



Large Open-billed Stork standing among cormorants.



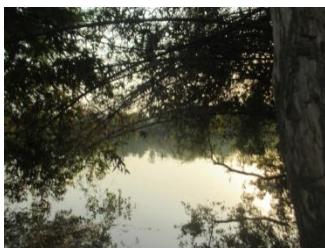
Unknown night moth



Vulgar turkey maybe, but what a marvel of the creation !



Miracle! Two small rabbits had one day emerged from a hole.



Our river at twilight.



Unknown special tree (8 years now)



If a reader does know its scientific name, we should be very grateful !



At the women Ghât, with a spring-bloom.



A Festival of palm-trees:

Three coconut-trees and two Areca nut-trees ...