

BENGALI CHRONICLE 264, JULY 2022

OUR NEW INDIAN PRESIDENT : ONE ADIVASSI, A GREAT FIRST !



MRS. DRAUPADI MURMU

From the SANTALI tribe and from the MURMU Clan of ODHISHA

A great honor also for WEST BENGAL and its 1,8 millions Santalis!

We have admitted many Adivassis at ICOD, from several tribes. This year, one Santali got married, from the same “Murmu” Clan than our new RASHTRAPATI! And we have actually four Oraons.



Four Oraons : 17, 16, 15, et (below) 9 years



« Santali- Murmu », just married at Midnapur

OUR ICOD FOUNDER GETS 85 YEARS!

I. MORNING THANKSGIVING PRAYER AT THE TEMPLE



At the main gate.

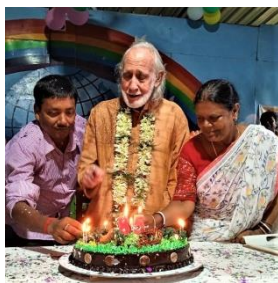


Prayers, songs and sacred dances

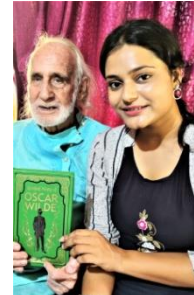


Reading of the Bible, the Holy Quran and the Ramakrishna's Gospel

II. AFTERNOON AND EVENING CULTURAL FESTIVAL



The inevitable cake, raining confettis and thanks for all...



Various gifts and donations : two 'lovebirds' by our President and her policeman husband. Then terracota from the mother of Binay. A nice book from RYA.



Our boys and girls contributed also...and we realized how much friendship was surrounded us!



Eventually, the unexpected visit from our Shyampur Commissioner of Police and his team... as also by the husband of our President, shown us that not only the poor are our friends!

**III. DANCES FOR ALL DURING SOME THREE HOURS ...!
With an impressive star of the rock from Kolkata!**



Our girls, boys and some of our ex-orphan inmates married, and even some mentally sick men or women joined the ball-room!



Binay succeeded to motivat our lost deaf and Dumb Muslim to dance also, although he has not yet found his own family!



autist dancing without any expression with me... Our kitchen lady wild and stormy... The young son of Puja, my nephew, usually a social misfit but became a wonderful leader for his group of children!



And the daughter of Pinky, my niece, always tried to nudge me to join her to dance.

SOME HOSTS



Our doctor Shoikot...



Mukhul, social worker



Asha & Kokhon



Blandina



Pinki and the nice family of Sita (both married orphan, as so many others in the assistance) a Friend of Keka and our accountant Palash ! And scores of others...



Several of our Governing Body's members were also present.

ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO THE OLD MARIAL SANCTUARY OF BANDEL

(Alas the last one with our less than 18 years old who have to leave us early August. May the blessings of Mother Mary follow them throughout their whole difficult life!)



At 35 km North of Kolkata, this Church was erected by the Portuguese on the XV th century, razed by the Moghols, and reconstructed by Emperor Shajahan on 1637. At the summit of the tower is a miraculous statue of Mother Mary, rescued from a shipwreck, where pilgrims of all religions put candles....



Some beautiful artificial landscape with the Lord Jesus Passion. Binay & Mampi his wife, with our President Munmun.

GREAT SHYA IMAMBARA FROM THE MID-XVIII (1841)



At some km from Bandel lies this huge tower bearing 3 bronze bells (one weighing three tons), with exactly the same clock than the London Big Ben). It is now a famous Madrassa.



Our joyous group

VISIT OF OUR FRENCH FRIEND BENJAMINE, LIVING IN BENGALURU



Here with some of our ICOD staff.



Benjamine, two French ergotherapists, and Jimmy from Bengaluru.

THE SO SAD CONDITION OF OUR CULTIVABLE LAND AFTER SEVEN MONTHS OF DRAUGHT!



It is useless to start to plough and to start paddy...No hope to get a good harvest!

Some peasants are trying, but they know that if they get 20% , they will be lucky!



We have found here six cobras' eggs!



Elsewhere, ½ ha of fallow-land where extraordinary undergrowth have surged thanks to the permanent heat, impenetrable! What could we do?

WITH FREQUENTLY 98% OF HYGROMETRY, MUSHROOMS ARE EVERYWHERE!



The moss covering the roads become very dangerous for my wheelchair, especially the electric one!



Delicious fried plates for lunch to-day...



Anamita or emetica? But better not to touch this one, that can be poisonous!

OUR SUSPENDING GARDENS HAVE OFFERED US QUINTALS AFTER QUINTALS...



...of splendid “pothon-pointed gourds”, thanks to daily watering,



A new suspended garden has been started for “Ivy-gourds”, ready for the first arrival of the monsoon...which has not yet really arrived! But the first salads « Sak » has already been started with the rains of 9th June, and are plentiful.



Two Coconut-trees, one Areca-nut-tree and one Ravellana Travellers Palm-tree have been struck by lightning during a storm, and 21 electrical implements have been destroyed, including transformer, Wy-Fy, etc.; more than one lakh loss!



1. Sujit, 11 years, brought by the police, lost in the street. His family is probably from Bihar but he cannot explained in Bengali...
2. Visit from a governmental social service Officer

VARIOUS TREES



We have one precious and perfumed Sandalwood-tree (Chandan) in our Gandhi Bhavan garden. Very young, it has reached 4 m. (See high behind dark green foliage)

But its trunk is as hard as iron. Beloved of the sculptors, their statues of Hindu Gods are extremely appreciated, for scent remains during centuries!



These Dwarf bamboos have more than 15 years.



1. 'Phoenix specialis' with a new natural growth plant besides.
 2. 'Cordiline elephantine foot palmtree'
- Both of them have some 18 years...



Details of the fruits of the 'Horse-tails palmtree'

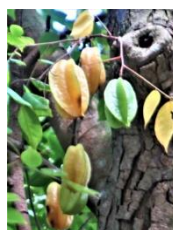


Large teck and Eucalyptus (20 m.) blooming after a four months delay

FRUIT-TREES REJOICING BIRDS, FLYING FOXES AND...CHILDREN



Weekly lemons harvesting... Guavas picked up by the girls

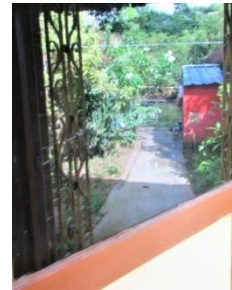


Several kilos of Amloki-Carambole daily during weeks! The rotten ones are daily put under a trunk.

FLOWERS AND FLOWER-TREES'S BIG CONTRIBUTION TO OUR JOY



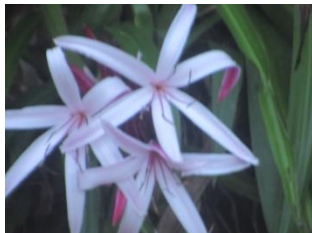
New flowers brought by some friends last year. But we still ignore their names. Within these 2 years, we have made 20 cutting and now all are blooming everywhere, reaching 4 meters.



1. This flower is a 'frangipani- temple-flowers', looks like the others but is completely different. Their beauty and fragrance embellish the whole pond!
2. From my open door, I can contemplate the little Shiv temple, the flowers, the pond and behind at 15 m. where egrets are nesting!



Mauve Hibiscus



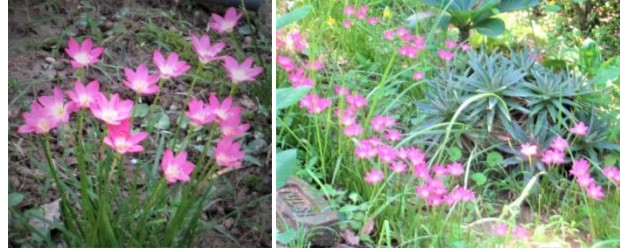
South African Iris



Dark-red frangipani



Wild plants on our protected island for bio-diversity



Bloomed for my birthday

OUR VAST HERONRY

Most of the birds are still roosting here as the monsoon has not yet started for them (not enough rains!) But mostly our egrets are immature (yellow beaks)



This year, for the first time, they are roosting with cormorants in front of Gandhi Bhavan, being disturbed by our mentally sick new patients in other places.



Pyramid just in front of my room at 6 PM. After Goduli, they will be several hundreds more...



- 1. Paddy-herons in full sexual display ((especially blue & yellow beaks):
around 12 nests**
- 2. Cattle ibis (Bulbulcus): 4 or 5 nests (?)**
- 3. Egret garzets immature: shall not nest**

Several other thousands will nest across the Hoogly close to Falta



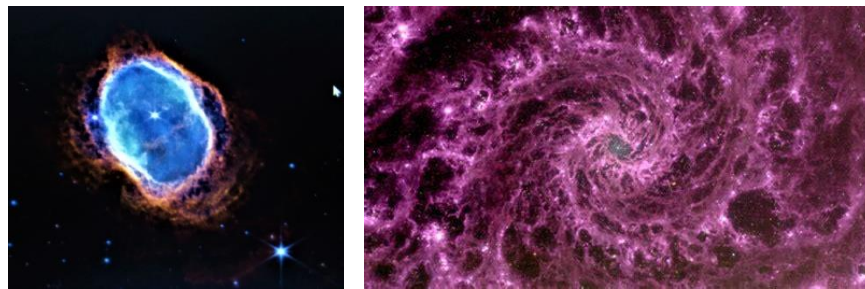
We really need your prayers also !!

**EXTRAORDINARY CELESTIAL FESTIVAL OFFERED BY THE NEW
“JAMES WEBB TELESCOPE”**

Fixed at 1,6 millions of km from earth, here are its first images :



At 300 millions lightyears from the Big Bang, the birthplace of stars at last discovered!



1. 'Carina Nebula' of South-Ring, with an interior white dwarf star
2. Quite farther levitates the 'Phantom Galaxy'
3. It seems that by now, other pictures are taken at 200 millions lightyears from the Big Bang!
4. As the Big Ban is estimated at 13,8 milliiards of Light-years from us, we can imagine the distance! (Or rather, we cannot even imagine it!)

NB. If the figures are not exact, kindly consult a better astrologer than me!

I am but a simple permanent admirer of Nature since my youth, discovering with an infinite wonder the first trace of the light at the Dawn of our Universe, which some people 's brain have chosen to seek instead of favouring war, which is for myself the evident signature of the" ETERNAL BEING OF LOVE" who has created the whole Universe (if not Universes!)