

# DR P J APRAIN RELENTLESS WORKER FOR HARMONY AND PEACE

The communal riots of 1992 shook Mumbai and questioned the secular fabric of the metropolis. Dr P J Aprain, social scientist was moved by the state of affairs and decided to do something to bring back the secular nature of the city. It was under such a scenario that International Society for Peace and Harmony (INSHARP) was established in 1993 through his initiative and efforts. And this gesture describes the essential nature of Dr Aprain.



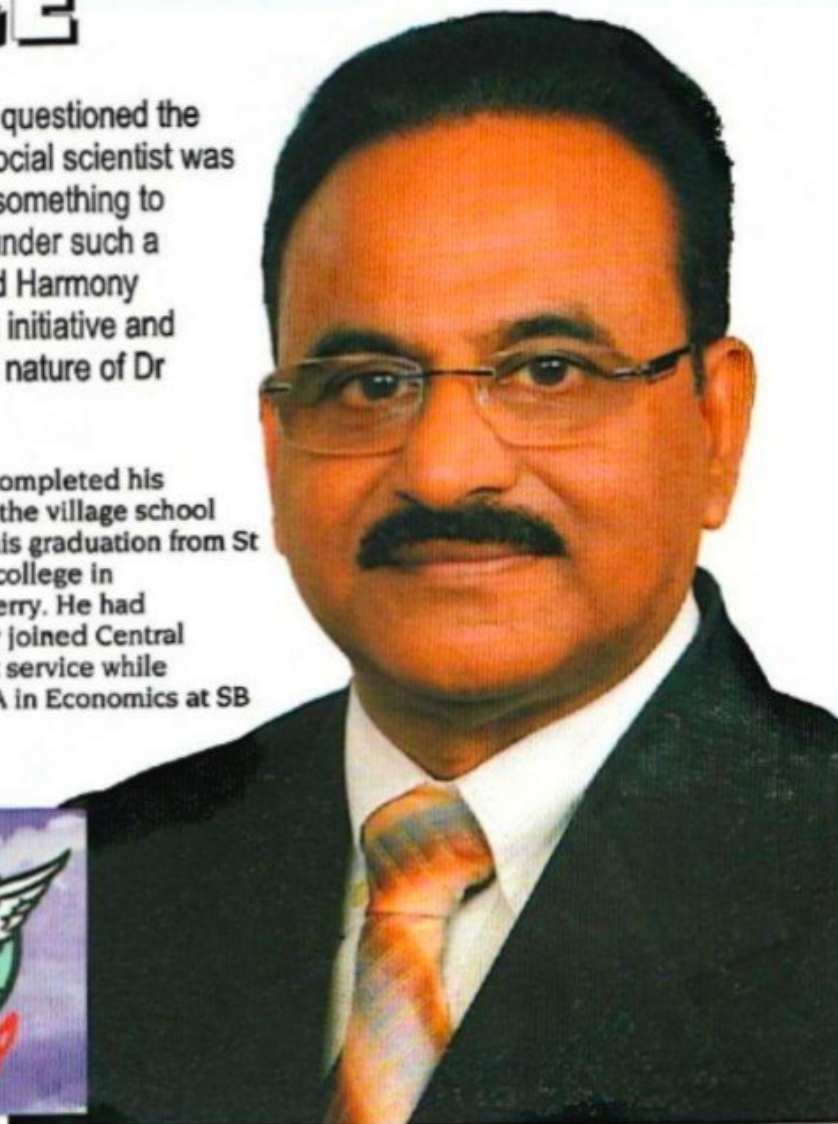
Lakshmi Venkatachalam

■ As an upcoming Officer in the Customs with promotions due, Dr P J Aprain could have led a very comfortable life with all the privileges and perks that a Central

Government employee is entitled to. But he resigned from his job in the customs to take up social work and work towards empowerment through education.

"First of all I wanted to study further," Dr Aprain reveals. A native of Muttar Village in Kuttanad, Dr

Aprain had completed his schooling in the village school and he did his graduation from St Berchman's college in Changanacherry. He had immediately joined Central Government service while pursuing M A in Economics at SB College.



In 1986, while Dr Aprain was working in the Customs in Goa, he could book a kingpin in narcotics for which he received a certificate of commendation for 'Devotion to Duty' and for 'Exemplary Performance' from Customs and Central Excise Department. It involved great risk for him and his family so he was immediately posted to Sahar International Airport as Air Customs Officer.

Dr Aprain's association with Cardinal Padiyara and Archbishop Joseph Powathil in Goa and in Mumbai gave him an opportunity to nurture the spirit of service innate in him. Cardinal Padiyara also introduced him to Mother Theresa,

**In 1997 a research project was undertaken on the current educational system and the role of education in promoting peace and harmony. Over 300 college principals responded to the survey to offer their views and emphasised the need to establish a University of Harmony and Peace.**

Pope John II and several other spiritual leaders. All this motivated him to leave his job at the Customs and render effective social work.

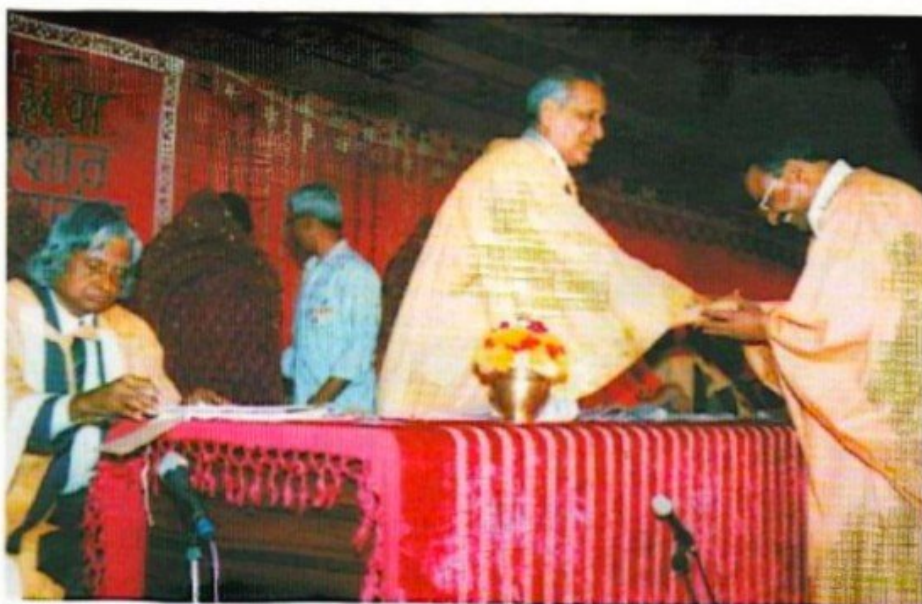
### INSHARP

International Society for Harmony and Peace (INSHARP) was established with the major objectives of promotion of education and introspection for peace and harmony. Padmasree Dr Cardinal Antony Padiyara was the Founder President and R Venkataraman Former President of India was the Chief patron of the Society. Dr Aprain is a founder member and Executive Vice President of INSHARP. The motto of INSHARP is 'Peace comes when harmony is created.' It has organised several symposia, lectures and discussions to create national consensus on social harmony and peace. In 1993 he went as a delegate to the second Conference on Safety Science at Budapest and presented a paper 'Safety through Stress management'. INSHARP has organised seminars on National Unity, Issues and Perspectives on Peace and Security' in association with Lions Club International, and another one on 'Approaches to Meditation' in collaboration with Haridasa Research Centre Bangalore. Prominent personalities like Dr P C Alexander, then Governor of Maharashtra, Manohar Joshi then Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Krishna Kumar, then Union Minister, then Miss World Aishwarya Rai, Dada Vaswani, spiritual leader have all participated in the discussions.

In 1997 a research project was undertaken on the current educational system and the role of education in promoting peace and harmony. Over 300 college principals responded to the survey to offer their views and emphasised the need to establish a University of Harmony and Peace. The survey resulted in INSHARP adopting non formal and life long process of education as its philosophy for attaining its goals.

A colloquium 'Peace and harmony Vision 2000' was held in Mumbai that endorsed the need for evolving a complementary educational system to support the present system of education and reinstate the balance between technological progress and the ethical strength of society.

In 2004, INSHARP organized International Youth leaders



Dr Aprain receiving the Doctorate Degree from the Vice Chancellor of Shivaji University Denagare. Dr Abdul Kalam seated on the left.



Dr Aprain at a KCC function when he was its Chairman.

Convention in Mumbai to evolve a concrete plan for regeneration of the present ailing social systems. The participants were selected from the different universities by their Vice Chancellors and the purpose of the exercise was to stimulate the youth to think for themselves and make better changes in the society.

### Current focus

As time progresses the aims of INSHARP have also shifted and today the focus is on two fronts. Dr Aprain points out that they have a project to form farm clubs where INSHARP will give plots of land to members who will cultivate vegetables and fruits in a co operative manner, healthy and totally organic.

Another project that is in the pipeline is installing village BPOs that will empower and provide

**"Both my wife and I belong to a large family and we know the value of caring and sharing. I want to put more time to lead a meaningful life. Our requirement for money is less. What we require is less of ego and more of giving," he says. "If I take up anything. I put my 100% into it. There is no shortcut in my life."**

employment to the youth of villages by supplying computers to them and providing outsourcing jobs to them. Dr Aprain is happy that his son and daughter are keen to take up these projects forward.

### Karunya Trust

Dr Aprain is the founder trustee and executive Secretary of Karunya Trust. This Trust, established under the diocese of Kalyan with the Bishop as the President, in memory of Mother Theresa, is a multi religious movement for communal harmony, education and rehabilitation of children. The Trust functions through nodal centres which are spread across 14 districts of Maharashtra. The Board of Directors include outstanding luminaries of society like Dr Ashok Mehta, past International President of Lions Club and former Sheriff of Mumbai, Babu Joseph, CEO Axis Foundation, Prof Nilufer Ahmed Former OSD to Government of Maharashtra in Education and NSS co-ordinator in Western India.

Dr Aprain is a trustee and member of the Advisory Board of Karnataka Haridasa Scientific Research Centre. This institution is engaged in the revival and rejuvenation of Indian form of art and drama, and recognized by the Government of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR).

He is the Vice President of Indian Planetary Society. A scientific body with several scientists of international repute, the Society has won national Award for popularising science in the country. It is also recognized by DSIR and the Government of India.

He is also member of Red Cross Society and Lions Club International. Currently he is President of Hiranandani Keralite Association.

### Awards and citations

Being in the social field for so many years, Dr Aprain has received several awards and honours. He was awarded Certificate of Honour for promoting peace and harmony by Dr Albert Kuhlmann President World Conference on Safety Science Cologne Germany.

### Native roots

Dr Aprain was the youngest of ten children born to the late P J Joseph and the late Annamma Joseph. His father was a farmer. His wife Omana Aprain is also one among ten children born to a farmer cum business family belonging to a village Kumaranmary Kuttanad. Omana is founder President of the Matru Sangham in Diocese of Kalyan. It is



Dr Aprain with Swami Anubhavananda of Chinmaya Mission



Mrs Omana Aprain lighting the lamp at the Kalyan Diocese Matru Sangham



Dr Aprain and his wife with their family

an organisation that has 75 centres in the Kalyan Diocese. Omana is also active in social work. They got married in 1978.

Aprain and Omana's son Prem Srampical is a successful businessman who received the young entrepreneur Award from Christian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mumbai. He also received

the Best Entrepreneur Award from AMBA an international Body of Association of Management Education. He is married to Swyta and they have a three and a half year old son Zak. Both Prem and Swyta have done their engineering at Father Agnel's in Vashi and MBA from UK. Both of them are Directors of the companies they manage.

Dr Aprain's daughter Priyanthi is an MA in English literature and married to Roby John whose business is Star Start up company in California, having its back up office in Pune. Roby John is a gold medal winner in his B.E. Their children Serah is 4 years and Nathan one 1 year. Dr Aprain's passion was to do research and after completing his post graduation in Economics, he did his Doctorate, the topic of research being Economics, Education and Security an Integrated Approach. He also had own real estate business for a period of time.

"Both my wife and I belong to a large family and we know the value of caring and sharing. I want to put more time to lead a meaningful life. Our requirement for money is less. What we require is less of ego and more of giving," he says. "If I take up anything, I put my 100% into it. There is no shortcut in my life." He confesses. "My wife Omana is involved in all my activities. We work as a team" he says. ■

**Double Horse**

**Polada Payasom**

**നിപ്പി ടൂപ്രിംഗ്**

**വാണപായസം**

**ഇഷ്ടാഴിതാ, കപ്പിലും!**

എവിടെ ആയാലും എപ്പോൾ വേണമെങ്കിലും ഇനി പായസത്തിന്റെ തുപ്പി ആസ്വദിക്കാം. സൗകര്യപ്രദമായി കൊണ്ടുനടക്കാവുന്ന ഡബിൾ ഹോഴ്സ് കപ്പ് പായസമുണ്ടല്ലോ! പാലട പായസം, ഗോതമ്പ് പായസം, മസൂര പായസം

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