



Poona Jesuit Schools' Society's

**ST. VINCENT COLLEGE OF COMMERCE**

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## Report

### Online inter faith talks on

### **The Goal of Human Existence and the path to attain it according to my religion**

Vincent's College of Commerce, Pune, in collaboration with the **Snehasadan Institute for the Study of Religion (SISR)** organized an online, inter-religious, reflection on the topic, "What resources does my Religion have to foster peace at the Individual and community levels, especially in the face of a culture of hate?", for the year 2022

The Religions invited to participate were **Sikhism, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Jainism, Islam, Zoroastrianism, Tribal Religions** and **Judaism**. An expert from one religion would give an exposition on the topic from his/her religious point of view and followed by discussion and clarifications.

Religion is used as tool to divide people for the benefit of socio-economic and political needs. The process of dividing the people on the basis of caste, creed and colour in the human history many a times. But now this is being done in a more organized manner and even the political and government machinery is deliberately involved in promoting it. Various laws are being drawn up to determine what one can eat and how one can dress, how one should pray, and whom one should marry. People are not allowed to stay or do business in certain areas. We forget that by fencing in any group we are creating a volatile situation that can lead to an explosion. History is being interpreted in such a way to foster a divide among peoples who have lived together for centuries irrespective of their diverse religious beliefs and have joined in each other's joys and sorrows.

In this context each speaker explained what his/her religion teach on peace, harmony, loving and respecting one another, protecting and safeguarding life and assets of fellow human being... etc.

Each one spoke these aspects of peaceful co-existence referring to the Holy Books, ancient teaching of saints and leaders, tradition and practice that are followed, prayers and rituals etc.

All speakers affirmed that the purpose of all Religions is ultimately to unite the individual adherent to God and all creation. Hence, the focus of a Religion should not be on itself but on the sublime, all-encompassing Mystery, called God, to which they all point!

### **Christianity**

**Speaker - Fr. Arun Kumar S.J., Director, Centre for Ignatian Spirituality and Research, DNC, Pune.**

The context of communal hate is development and perpetuated through mixing religious identity with cultural and ethnic identity, defensive fundamentalism and political tools. He explained what Christianity teaches on peace and harmony, taking examples from Holy Bible, Saints and Church teachings. The term peace is Shalom (Heb.) which is best understood as “the spiritual and material well-being of persons individually and the community as a whole that results from fidelity to the covenant with God”.

### **Hinduism**

**Speaker - Dr. Kumar Saptarshi, Chairman of Maharashtra Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, Pune**

Dr. Saptarshi emphasised on the fact that India is a land of multiple religion and there was co-existence of religion. Due to political and separatists view and country is facing intolerance today. Individual and collective efforts to fight against these forces will bring up harmony and peace.

### **Islam**

**Speaker - Mr. Muhammad Abdullah Javed Director, A. J. Academy for Research and Development, Raichur, Karnataka**

Peace is interaction between inner world and outer world. A person with inner peace can spread. Inner world is the reflection of outer world. There should not be any disparity between inner and outer world- words and actions. Muslim means peace keeper. He pointed out various teachings such as no disorder, protection of human dignity, no communal hatred, neighbour a testimony etc of the Prophet and Quran on peace and how to attain peace. He said by being embodiment of peace one can spread peace.

## **Jainism**

**Speaker - Dr. Sunitha Jain. M.A., Ph.D in Jainology from University of Madras, Chennai.**

Dr. Jain explained causes of cultural hate are due to dispute, quarrel, disagreement, difference of opinion, inconsistent and conflict. One who conquer the self and have victory over inner opponent, and self realized souls can attain peace. Solution to shared hate can be reduced by considering all equal, all the being have the right to exist, believe in no caste and through individual self-effort. She emphasised on individual formation for spreading the peace around.

## **Judaism**

**Speaker - Rabbi Joshua Kolet,**

Rabbi spoke importance of peace, justice and truth. Taking examples from the Torah, he showed how scripture speaks about co-existence of entire world in peace. He also explained meaning of peace from the teachings of the prophets. He concluded that peace is a grace from God and given to all.

## **Sikhism**

**Speaker - Mr. N. P. Singh Bakshi**

Mr. Singh spoke importance of treating everyone is equal. Guru the removal of darkness and giver of light. Ignorance can be removed though light. Gurus have shown how one can live a life of light. He enlightened the listeners with teachings of Guru. He implore the audience not to promote negativity and cautioned the use of social media that spreads violence.

## **Tribal Religions**

**Speaker Dr. (Fr.) Lenin Antony SJ, Samskriti, Pariyaram, Kannur, Kerala**

Dr. Lenin gave the background of Tribals in India. Multiple ways and systems are there in tribal life to promote peace and harmony. By being in the nature they always be in harmony with nature and people.

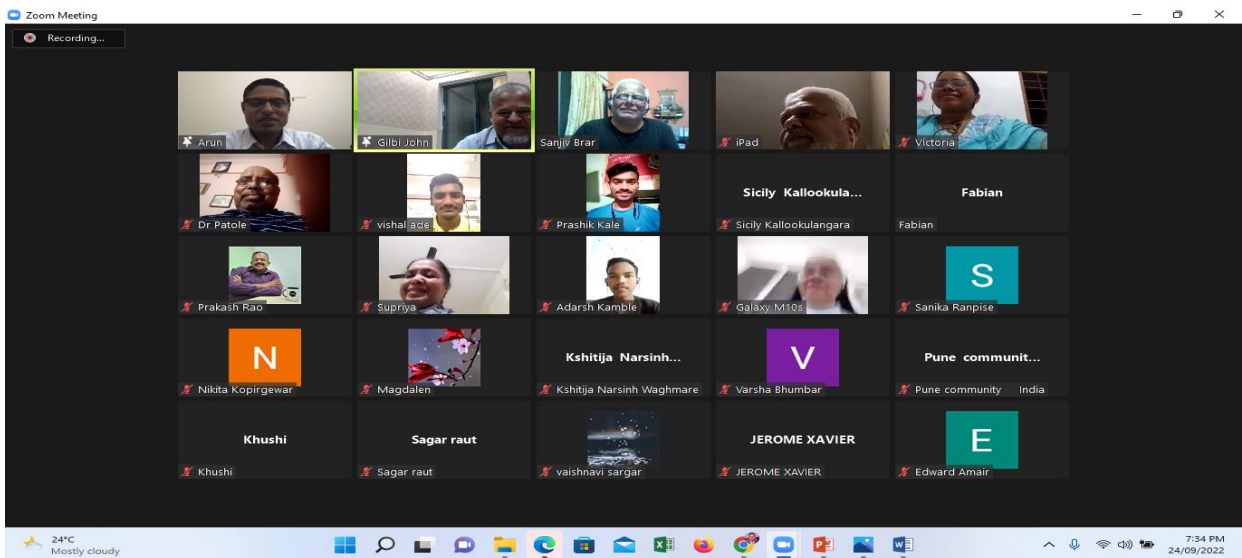
## **Zoroastrianism**

**Speaker - Mr. Ervad Parvez Bajan**

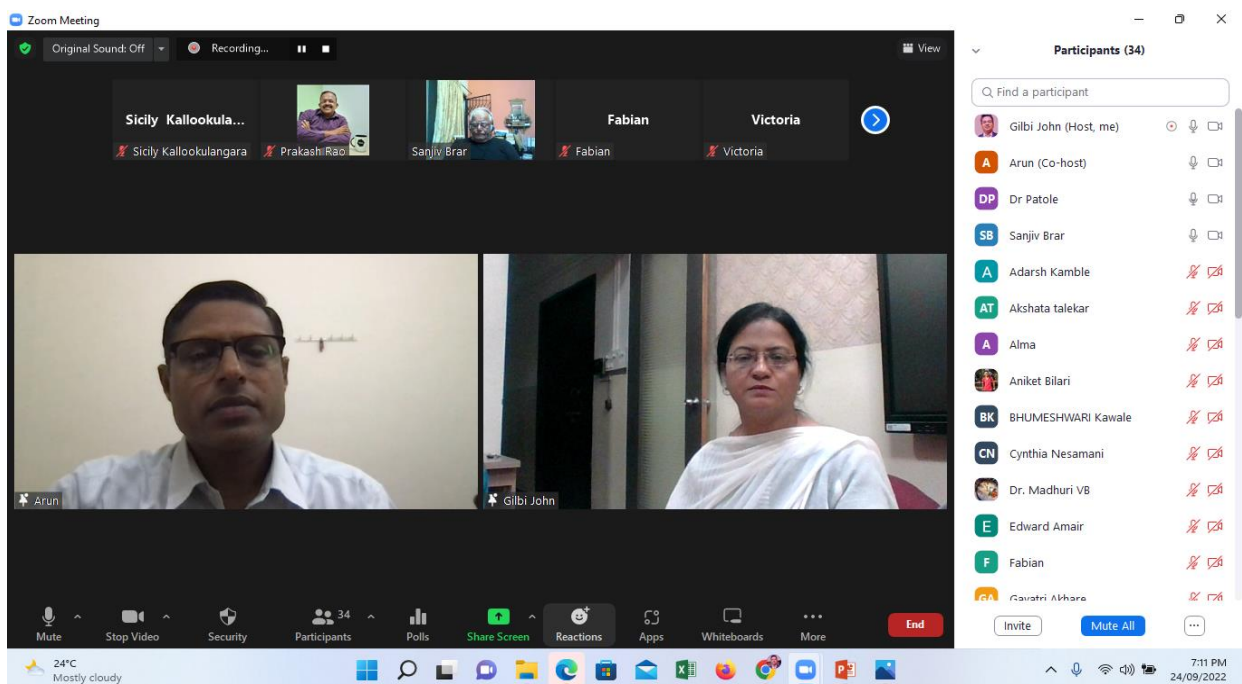
Zoroastrianism is the oldest living religion in the world. Everyone born on this earth has a purpose and everyone need to achieve it. Religious is pious and virtues living. Human being is the best creation of the God Almighty. Noble way of living is a reward to God. He gave examples from Zoroastrian scriptures on various walks of life and need for virtues needed for best living.

Every Religion has divine and human elements in it that are closely bound together over time. All religions teach and all scriptures lead us to a just, loving and caring life. Teach us to be respectful to all human being and the nature. After each presentation there were fruitful discussion on the same. All the participants are invited to understand the historical context of each Religion and to see how it struggles through history to attain its end of uniting people to God. In the process participants learned from the speakers that each one has to foster and build up peace traditions through its scriptures and practices, so that all of us can be enriched. As it is often affirmed, ‘to be a religious person today, is to be inter-religious’!

### Online Attendance



### Online Attendance



## Online Attendance

The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface. The main window displays a presentation slide with the following text:

In the name of Allah the Gracious the Merciful

- Praise be to Almighty Allah
- **Snehasadan, Institute for the study of religion**  
**St Vincent College of commerce, Pune**  
efforts are commendable
- Etiquettes of Living in a Plural society

At the bottom of the slide, it says "RJ Academy for Research and Development".

On the right side, there is a 'Participants (20)' list with a search bar and several names, including Gilbi John (Host, me), Muhammad Abd..., ABDUL QADER BASHA, Abhishek Sontakke, and Aishwarya Sanjay Narawade. Below the list is a 'Chat' section with a message: "Me to Waiting Room Participants we will be starting soon".

The Zoom control bar at the bottom includes icons for Unmute, Start Video, Security, Participants (20), Polls, Share Screen, Reactions, Apps, Whiteboards, and More. The system tray at the very bottom shows the date and time as 6:55 PM on 06/10/2022.

## Online Attendance

The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting grid with several participants. The names visible are Robert Das, Mary, Punyakumar, yogesh mate, Laila, and Lien Trinh. A large slide is shared in the foreground, featuring a central circular emblem with various religious symbols (cross, crescent, Om, star, etc.) and the text:

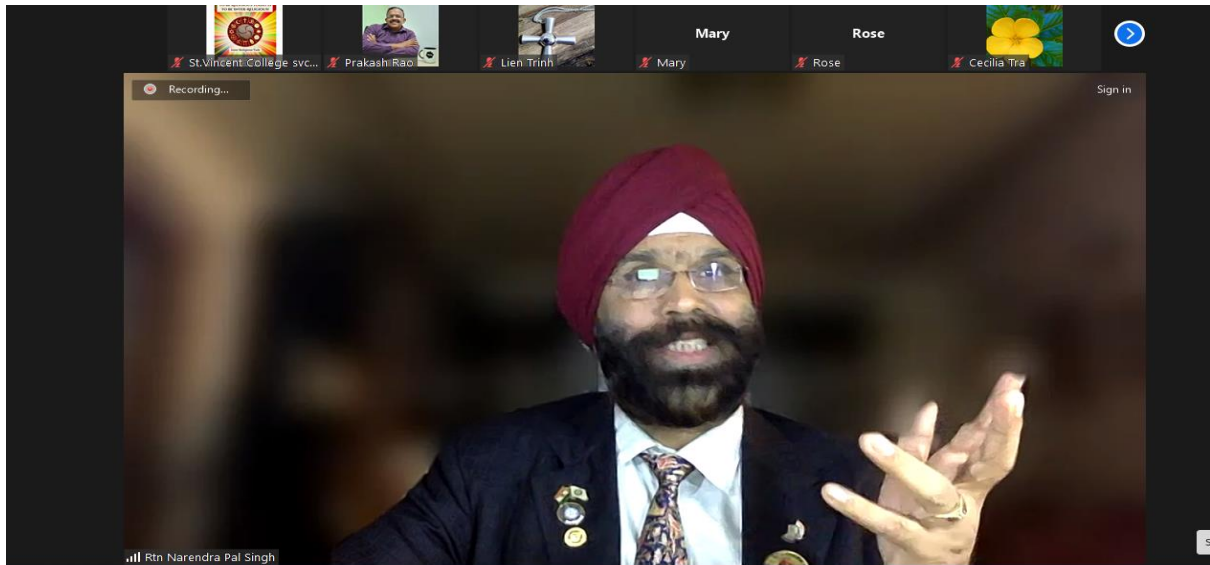
TO BE RELIGIOUS TODAY IS  
TO BE INTER-RELIGIOUS!

Inter Religious Talk

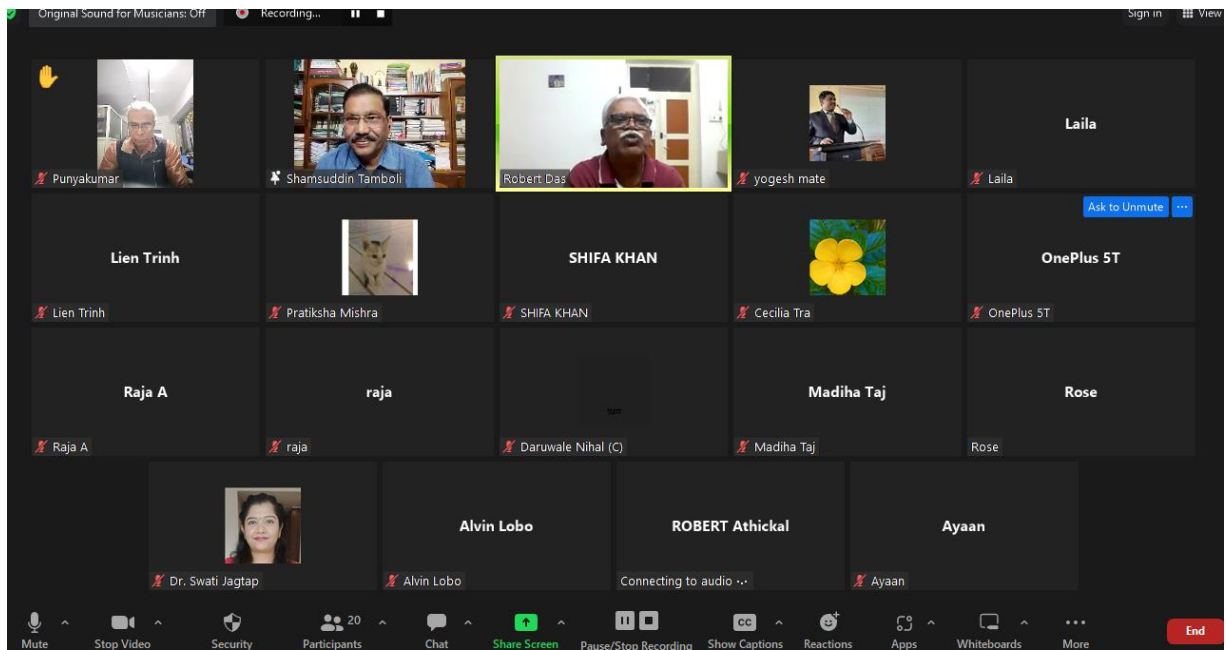
St.Vincent. College. svcplacementcell@gmail.com

The Zoom control bar at the bottom shows icons for Unmute, Start Video, Participants (17), Chat, Share Screen, and other controls. The system tray at the very bottom shows the date and time as 6:55 PM on 06/10/2022.

## Online Attendance



## Online Attendance



## Online Attendance

The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface. On the left is a list of participants with their names and initials, including Dr. Jeewendra Jadhav, Jesus Vivian Raja, Victor Edwin SJ, Kenneth misquitta, Alzira Fernandes, Daniel Das, Dr. A. Felix, Effie D'Souza, Fr. Bhausahab SJ, Jayasri, Mamta Shende, martin robert, and Nancy. The central screen displays a presentation slide with the text: "TO BE RELIGIOUS TODAY IS TO BE INTER-RELIGIOUS!" at the top, a central circular graphic containing various religious symbols (cross, crescent, Om, Star of David, Yin Yang, Khanda, Wheel, etc.), "Inter Religious Talk" below the graphic, and "St. Vincent College, Pune in Collaboration with Institute for Interfaith Dialogue" at the bottom. On the right, a list of active participants includes Jesus Vivian Raja, Prof. Glib John, Kenneth misquitta, Dr. Jeewendra J..., and Dr. Jeewendra Jadhav. A "Stop Share" button is visible at the bottom right of the screen.

## Online Attendance


The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface. At the top, a list of participants includes Sr. Amala, sr.francis mary, Sr.Vinitha Joseph, and Dr. Fr. Jeewendra Jadhav. The main video area shows a man with a beard and glasses speaking. On the right, a list of participants includes St.Vincent Colle... (Host, me), Rabbi Joshua Ezra K..., Anthoniraj Thumma, Asha Jose, Bhairahawa, Bromadine, Daisy, Dean D'silva, Dr. Fr. Jeewendra Jadhav, Evelyn Monteiro, Fr. Bhausahab SJ, Fr. Dr. Victor Borde, Holy Cross Convent,Munnar, and Lincy D... A "Sign in" button is visible in the top right corner.

## Online Attendance

### LIFE AFTER DEATH

This image depicts the understanding of Adivasis about life after death. According to their philosophy the world is governed by the spirits. There are benevolent and malevolent spirits. Both these spirits have to be worshipped and appeased to avoid their wrath. Benevolent spirits abide with 'Dev-devio' – the world where all deities are found. Malevolent spirits do not have a fixed residence and they keep wandering and mostly remain in trees and the rivers. The ruler of them is called "Kallo Bhul (black devil)".

A person after his death joins one of these worlds. The good join the benevolent spirits. Those who have not lived good lives join the world of the malevolent spirits. The person who has lived a good life but dies before his/her desires are fulfilled, wanders till his/her relatives have performed the required rituals to free her/him from all human desires and then only the person joins the world of benevolent spirits.






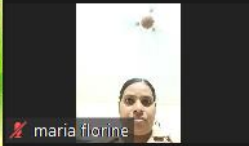








The belief is that both the spirits are equally strong and therefore need to be feared and appeased through worship and sacrifices. It is the desire of every Adivasi to be in the world of benevolent spirits after his/her death and therefore their philosophy serves as a moral guide to the community.

Participants (42)

- St.Vincent Colle... (Host, me)
- SP Stany Pinto sj
- AV Arokkiya Vinnarasi
- C Caroline
- DV Dias Valerian
- FF Fatima Fernandes
- Fr. Felix A. Pinto
- J Jacqueline
- JM Joe Mathew
- L Lancy
- MD Maggie dhm
- M Malcolm
- M Margaret D'Britto
- ME maria florine

## Online Attendance

Original Sound for Musicians: Off
Recording...
Sign in

 Stany Pinto sj	 St.Vincent College svcp	 vincent braganza	 maria florine
 Rose Mary Tirkey	 Maxim Dias	 Malcolm	 Margaret D'Britto
 Vanitha	 Maggie dhm	 Jacqueline	vivo V2029
RSSS WEST	 Rosemary Fernandes	Shaly	Joe Mathew
Fr. Felix A. Pinto		vivo V2111	

## Certificate for Speaker



*AB Adsule*  
Dr. Anil Adsule  
Principal

