

PRESS RELEASE

RELEASING OF THE ACPI ENCYCLOPEDIA OF PHILOSOPHY

By

**His Eminence Cardinal Telesphore P. Toppo, the Archbishop of
Ranchi**

On October 23, Saturday 10 A. M

**At Father Agnel School Auditorium, Gautam Nagar, New Delhi –
110049 (behind AIIMS and near Gulmohar Park)**

By

Giving the First Copy

To

**His Lordship Justice Markandey Katju, Judge of the Supreme
Court of India**

In the Presence of a Number of Dignitaries

**ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN PHILOSOPHERS OF INDIA (ACPI)
Story of Its Birth and Growth, Leading to the *ACPI Encyclopedia of Philosophy***

It is with a feeling of joy and a sense of satisfaction that ACPI looks back to its existence for the last 35 years. Its story has been a story of gradual and steady growth. This can be easily seen as one makes a journey through the several stages of its growth.

The **first stage** refers to the birth and the initial years of ACPI. In 1975 ACPI was conceived under the inspiration and guidance of late Prof. Richard De Smeth. But it was born as an informal group in 1976. For a few years the small group of Christian Philosophers used to have an informal annual gathering. Eventually it was felt that for a more serious and fruitful philosophical discussion, ACPI should have it in a more organized way at a convenient time and place every year. Thus the desire to do more serious **philosophizing that will serve the nation** marks the beginning of its **second stage**. Since most of its members have been Professors of philosophy from various Institutes and Universities, they used to take some recurring philosophical themes from their curriculum for presentation of short papers and discussions. This too continued for a few years. In 1989 ACPI entered the **third stage**, when it was registered as a Society (Reg. Soc. No. 384/89, Eluru, A.P.) with its statutes, laws and by-laws. ACPI got a formal look in its functioning and administration. Annual Meetings were regularly held with better planning, during which research-papers on some relevant themes were presented and discussed. In the **fourth stage** ACPI began to publish its papers in the form of books: already eleven books are published, the titles of which are given below:

1. *The Postmodern...A Siege of the Citadel of Reason*
2. *Faith, reason, Science: Philosophical Reflections with Special Reference to 'Fides et Ratio'*
3. *The Constitution of India: A Philosophical Review*
4. *Truth, Power, Money: A Postmodern Reading*
5. *Philosophical Methods: Through the Prevalent to a Relevant*
6. *Subaltern Perspectives: Philosophizing in Context*
7. *Pluralism of Pluralism: A Pluralistic Probe into Philosophizing*
8. *Romancing the Sacred? Towards an Indian Christian Philosophy of Religion*
9. *Culture as Gift and Task: Philosophical Reflections in the Indian Context*
- 10 *Enigma of Indian Tribal Life and Culture: Philosophical Investigations*
- 11 *Violence and Its Victims*

With the starting of the publication of ACPI books in 2002, the academic rigour and standard of the papers presented at the annual meetings and the number of participants have considerably increased. Members began to consider it a privilege to present a paper at the ACPI meeting. We are now in the **fifth stage**, characterized by its entry into Indian Christian Philosophizing. It started with an ACPI seminar in 2003 on "Philosophical Methods," in view of evolving a *relevant* method for **philosophizing in the context of our country and its people** with the help of an in-depth study of the *prevalent* ones. Since then ACPI has been collectively convinced of the need to philosophize with a *difference* as Indians. A concerted effort towards this end is made in the papers presented at the annual meetings thereafter. This is the motivating force that prompted ACPI to launch the ambitious project of an *Encyclopedia*.

ACPI Encyclopedia of Philosophy

The ACPI Encyclopedia of Philosophy is an undertaking by the 'Association of Christian Philosophers of India' (ACPI), and is a two-volume Encyclopedia of above 1600 pages. Its 422 entries are mostly philosophical themes of relevance authored by about 236 writers. In choosing the themes special care has been taken to give priority to those *philosophical notions* which are 'valuable' to us, those *social themes* that make philosophy meaningful and relevant, and those *select thinkers* who continue to influence us.

The ACPI Encyclopedia of Philosophy is a humble attempt to fill in a need for an authoritative, compact and relevant source book on Philosophy. Even though many of the entries of the Encyclopedia may be found in other Encyclopedias too, they have an Indian ‘touch.’ It is intended to serve as a stepping-stone for further **philosophizing from the Indian soil**, taking inspiration from the various philosophical traditions around the world. Its specificity also consists in the themes chosen and in the approach taken in each of the entries. Above all, it is the first *Encyclopedia* of its kind in the history of this country initiated and authored by about 236 scholars belonging to all major religions, regions and philosophical traditions. **The *Encyclopedia* embodies the spirit of the Constitution of India in its specific thrust on an ALL-INCLUSIVE APPROACH rooted in the philosophical legacy of our nation: UNITY IN DIVERSITY.**

Dr. Johnson Puthenpurackal
Editor-in-Chief

Dr. George Panthanmackel
ACPI President