



# India Newsletter

By Dolores Stykel—October 2008



THESE ARE THE ONLY TWO NEWS ITEMS I HAVE RECEIVED THIS OCTOBER. I WILL GLADLY RECEIVE ANY NEWS FOR A MARCH NEWSLETTER SETTING A DEADLINE FOR MARCH 15, 2008.

**JOAN NOLTING** 104-2600 Highland Blvd Nanaimo BC V9S 5G1 Canada – Tel. 250 729 3677 e-mail jnolting@shaw.ca Sept 30 - I have moved to Nanaimo, British Columbia to be closer to my sister Kathy whose husband died very suddenly of a massive heart attack about a year and a half ago. Some of you would have met Kathy when she visited me in India in 1971. It was a hard decision to make the move, as I was involved in so many things in Winnipeg. I now have to work on finding my niche here in Nanaimo. It is good to be close to my sister. Most of my time so far as been spent settling into my apartment and getting to know where to find things in the city.

**DR. UTA GREGOR (PLOCK)** Daxerstr.21 82140 Olching Germany – Oct 14

I am the daughter of Elli Plock. You have been sending my mother your “India Newsletter”, which she always read with great interest. This is to inform you, that my mother has died.

My parents had served in India, in Andhra Pradesh, from 1953 on, and in Tanzania from 1966 to 1980. My father worked as a medical doctor (surgeon) in Rajahmundry, Koyyalagudem, Rentichintala and Chirala.. In Tanzania he was in leprosy work. My mother did her share by giving anesthesia and doing other helping work in the hospital. My brother and I were 5 (my brother) and 8 years old when we came to India, and we both graduated from Kodaikanal School. My brother and I both also became physicians in Germany – my brother is a hand surgeon, I am a psychoanalyst.

When my father retired, my parents came home to Germany. – Did you know that my parents’ home in Germany – the town of Helmstedt – was the town, from which Father Heyer, the founder of the Andhra Mission, had come?

Unfortunately, my father died only two years after coming to Germany. My mother – at that time 61 – stayed alone. She was always in touch with church work in her parish. For many years, until she was well over 80, she was one of a group of women visiting people who had to be treated in the hospital.

In 2004 my mother came to live with me in my house in Olching. In 2006 she had a stroke and could only sit in a wheelchair. She then stayed in an old people’s home just a few steps away from my house, so I could always visit and help her.

She passed away peacefully on June 11. She was buried in Wolfsburg beside my father.

## A FEW EXCERPTS FROM CLIPPINGS SENT BY BERTHA LANGE

----As the economy surges, India is whetting a large appetite for industrialization. The Indian government has approved the creation of 250 Special Economic Zones (SEZ) – a Chinese-style tax-free industrial enclave. But it faces a major hurdle: land procurement in a huge country where agriculture is still the mainstay.

Betel leaf farmers have held up a \$12 billion project of the S. Korean steel giant Posco in

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Orissa, occasionally kidnapping their officials.

Barely a month before it was due to roll out the world's cheapest car from a new factory on former potato and rice fields, a peasant uprising has forced Tata, to suspend work in Singur, West Bengal and now plans to build in rural Sanand in Gujarat. The protestors want the government to return roughly 1/3 of the 997 acres; some of the land was taken by force.

---India banned smoking in public places to fight tobacco use blamed for 1/5th of all deaths in the world's third-largest consumer market. The ban will hit an estimated 240M tobacco users. Offenders will be fined 200 rupees (\$4). On average a packet of cigarettes costs around \$1.

---India has more malnourished people than any other country in the world, despite its emergence as a major economic power. 200 M went hungry. Food shortages in Madhya Pradesh were so serious that they compared with conditions in Ethiopia and Chad.

----Suicide rates among farmers have skyrocketed nearly 10 fold in recent years. Many have eaten pesticides, while others have been known to drink hair dye, while in March; one man simply poured kerosene all over himself upon returning to his house—then lit the match. Drought, absence of proper irrigation facilities, increased cultivation costs, etc. are partly to blame. Also moneylenders who charge outlandish interest fees that are virtually impossible to pay. India announced a \$15 B debt-relief package for 40M farmers in March but nearly a quarter of the farmers are ineligible.

----Girls at state-run schools in Mumbai are ending the school year a little richer than they began it. Authorities pay them one rupee (about 2c) a day for each day they show up in class. Boys continue to take nothing home besides their homework.

----Vish Mamamurti is home again. 16 years after leaving India to pursue a better life in the US, the 37 year old electrical engineer has returned to Bangalore. Aging parents, homesickness, and a desire to teach his children his native language drew him back. But the real driver was job opportunity. Last July he joined Wipro Ltd as general manager while his wife accepted a transfer with her semiconductor firm. Their combined pay is close to the salaries they made in Austin TX

----The Indian company TutorVisa is the leader in offshore tutoring teaching students in 27 countries. The company's US based president said all teachers speak fluent English and 75% have masters or doctorates in the subjects they tutor. They earn about \$300 to \$600 a month, about double the salary of a public-school teacher in India.

----There are 20M widows in India—that's the entire population of Canada.

**NEXT NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2009 – DEADLINE FOR NEWS MARCH 15 - [dstykel@yahoo.com](mailto:dstykel@yahoo.com)**

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