

Kerala Serial Blasts Kills Two Who Are Jehovah's Witnesses?

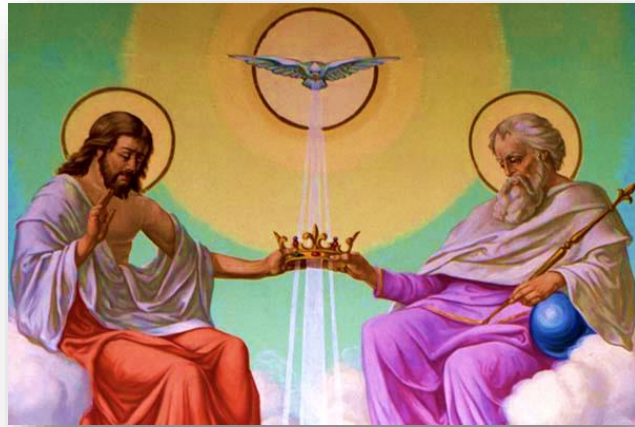
Why In The News?

- 2 People Were Killed, And Many Injured After A Series Of Blasts At A Sunday Prayer Convention Of The **Jehovah's Witnesses Sect** Near Kochi. The Incident Took Place At The **Zamra International Convention** At Kalamassery, Where **Around 2,500** Faithful From Across The State Had Gathered For Prayers.
- **Dominic Martin**, An Estranged Member Of Jehovah's Witnesses, Who Is Now In Police Custody, Posted A Video On Social Media **Taking Responsibility** For The Act.



Who Are Jehovah's Witnesses?

- Jehovah's Witnesses Are A Christian Sect, But **Do Not Believe In The Holy Trinity** (The Doctrine That God Exists In Three Equal Persons Of The Father, The Son (Jesus Christ) And The Holy Spirit).
- They Worship Jehovah As "The One True And Almighty God, The Creator", Who Is "**The God Of Abraham, Moses, And Jesus**". They Believe Jesus Christ To Be The "King Of God's Kingdom In Heaven", But Not As The Almighty God.
- They Base Their Beliefs Only On The **Text Of The Bible**, Which They See As The **Word Of God**. They Don't Celebrate Christmas Or Easter, Because They Believe Such Festivals To Be Inspired By Pagan Traditions.



- Well Known For Their Evangelical Work, They Go Door To Door, To Spread “The Truth”. They Believe The **End Of The World Is Near**, And The “Kingdom Of God” Will “Replace Human Governments And Accomplish God’s Purpose For The Earth.” The Denomination Has Millions Of Followers Worldwide.
- The Origins Of The Sect Lie In A Bible Student Movement Started In The 1870s By American Pastor **Charles Taze Russell**. Today, The Governing Body Of Jehovah’s Witnesses Is Located In **Warwick, New York**.
- Jehovah’s Witnesses Have Been Present **In India Since 1905**. They Established An Office In 1926 In Bombay (Now Mumbai) And Obtained **Legal Registration In 1978**. The Witnesses Benefit From The Guarantees Of India’s Constitution, Which Include The Right To Practice, Profess, And Propagate One’s Faith

Bijoe Emmanuel & Ors vs State Of Kerala & Ors.

- The Supreme Court, In Its **1986 Verdict**, Granted Protection To Three Children Belonging To The Sect, Who Did Not Join In The Singing Of The National Anthem At Their School. The Court Held That Forcing Them To Sing The Anthem Violated Their Fundamental **Right To Religion Under Article 25 Of The Constitution**.



Who Is The Person Behind The Blasts?

- **Dominic Martin**, An Estranged Member Of Jehovah's Witnesses, Who Is Now In Police Custody, **Posted A Video On Social Media** Taking Responsibility For The Act. "I Had Been A Member Of Jehovah's Witnesses For The Last 16 Years. I Realised That Their Stand Is Anti-national And Wanted Them To Rectify It".

