

**SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF INDIA**

ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17

Dear Vincentian Sisters and Brothers,

With profound gratitude to our Heavenly Father and with a sense of satisfaction of having carried out the responsibilities entrusted upon us, the present board is pleased to submit the Annual Report of the Society for the year ended 31.03.2017 before the Plenary session of the National Council of India, held at New Delhi together with the Audited Accounts, Auditor's Report and General Profile.

The Society of St Vincent de Paul

The Society of St Vincent de Paul is an international Christian lay voluntary organization dedicated to tackling poverty and disadvantage by providing practical assistance to those in need – irrespective of ideology, faith, ethnicity, age or gender. The vision of SSVP is to be a global catholic charity organization providing aid, development and hope to the poor and the marginalized.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul was founded in 1833 to help impoverished people living in the slums of Paris, France. Blessed Frederic Ozanam, the founder of the Society was a French lawyer, author, and professor in the Sorbonne. He was 20 years old when he founded the society. Frederic Ozanam was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1997.

The Society took the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Vincent de Paul as its patrons under the influence of Sister Rosalie Rendu who guided Frederic and his companions in their approach towards those in need. Sister Rosalie Rendu was beatified in November 2003 by Pope John Paul II.

The Society is an accredited UN NGO and has presence in New York, Geneva and UNESCO in Paris

National Council of India

The Society was first introduced in India by the French Missionaries at Pondicherry during the Year 1852-53 as a non-aggregated Conference. The Society was officially started in India in 1863 when some conferences in Bombay were aggregated and the Bombay Particular Council was instituted. Then onwards the Society continued to grow in India. On 09.11.1953 the Superior Council of India was established and instituted

with the Council General International. The Superior Council of India was renamed as National Council of India on 06.08.1973. The National Council of India has its Headquarters at Mumbai and the present President's secretariat is at Thodupuzha, Kerala with the election of Bro. Johnson Varghese as the 13th National President of India w.e.f. 28th February 2015.

The National Council of India is registered under the Income Tax Act 1961 with exemption under Sec 80G, FCRA under the ministry of Home Affairs and Societies Registration Act and Bombay Public Trust Act 1950.

Structure of the Society

Conferences

The basic unit of SSVP is the Conference functioning at the Parish level. In India we have conferences exclusively for men and women. There are also mixed conferences, youth conferences as well as junior conferences in India.

In India there are 7203 conferences as on 31-03-2017 as detailed below

Types of Conferences	No. of Conferences
Junior	90
Youth	204
Women	992
Gents	2251
Mixed	3666
Total	7203

Area Councils

An Area Council encompasses the Conferences in the nearby areas that are grouped together for co-ordination, interaction and unity. As on 31.03.2017 there are 666 Area Councils.

Central Councils

Area Councils are generally grouped at Diocesan level into Central Councils. There are 83 Central Councils in India as on 31.03.2017. The Central Councils guide and coordinate the activities of the Area Councils and Conferences under its control

Active Members

There are 68404 active Members in 7202 Conferences. The details are as given below

Name of Region	No. of Central Councils	No. of Area Councils	No. of Conferences	No. of Active Members
Kerala	31	346	3977	36213
Tamil Nadu	20	143	1399	13783
A.P. & Telangana	08	62	641	5330
Western	11	70	716	9268
North	06	17	206	1650
North East	07	28	264	2160
Total	83	666	7203	68404

We are happy to note that there is an increase of 1957 in the membership of the Society.

The Church and SSVP

The SSVP is recognized by the Catholic Church as a Pious Lay Organization and is registered with the Catholic Bishops' Conference as a Catholic Lay Organization. The Spiritual Advisor of the National Council is appointed by the CBCI on the recommendations of the National President. The Spiritual Advisors of the Central Councils are appointed by the Bishops concerned. At the conference level the parish priest is usually the Spiritual Advisor. So the SSVP is closely linked with the Church and the members take active role in all the activities of the Church.

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2016-17

1. Internal Audit

SSVP is appreciated and admired throughout for their honesty, transparency and responsible stewardship. As its members, it is our sacred duty and responsibility to cherish and nurture this good reputation of our Society. The Internal Audit is one of the essential things in this direction. The Internal Audit helps us to introspect ourselves and rectify where ever we have gone contrary to the societies polices and methods. Thus Internal Audit assists us to upkeep up the spirit of the society. I am happy to inform you that the Internal Audit team of the National Council was able

complete the audit of all Central Councils and all Regional Councils. The audit team received a warm welcome from all the councils.

2. Renewal of FCRA Registration

The National Council has received the renewal order from the Government.

3. Canonization

There seems to be many signs of hope regarding cause for Ozanam's Canonization. At the end of 2015 the Canonization Commission has been informed of a new case of cure. A Vincentian member who had suffered from heart problem since her youth had been saying "the prayer to the Bl. Fredric" every night since 2012. One evening she asked for a special grace to avoid heart surgery as suggested by the doctors. On 26th June 2015 her cardiologists confirmed that she no longer needed any operations. The documentation work is on in this connection. Let us pray to the LORD that Bl. Fredric is recognized as a Saint not for any glory but that his message can be rediscovered for everyone.

4. Spirituality

The National Council of India has decided to give highest importance and priority for spiritual formation of Vincentians all over the country. At the last AGM also a spiritual formation programme was organized for all the members of the National Council. Such training and formation programmes were organized throughout the country at various levels of the Society.

5. Aggregation and Institution

Aggregation of a Conference and Institution of a Council by the International Confederation of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a formal recognition of admission to the society of St. Vincent de Paul.

During the year 2016-17 The National Council of India forwarded 110 applications for Aggregation and Institution and 14 Aggregations and 4 Institutions were received from the International Council, including the pending ones. As on 31-3-2017 there are 5547 Aggregated Conferences.

The region wise breakup of Aggregations and Institutions received is given below

Region	Conferences	Area Councils	Central Councils
Andhra Pradesh	3	-	-
Kerala	1	1	-
Tamil Nadu	10	-	-
West	-	2	1
North	-	-	-
North East	-	-	-
Total	14	3	1

6. Twinning Schemes

The twinning scheme was introduced in 1960 in a spirit of sharing both spiritually and financially. Conferences and Councils in developed countries are linked with developing countries through prayers, correspondence and financial assistance. The major twinning partners of India are England & Wales, Australia, Scotland, Netherlands, USA, Canada, Italy and France. The twinning schemes help expansion of the society and also assist the improvement of the economic and social conditions of the beneficiaries.

Summarized statement of Overseas Twinning

Sl. No	Country	2015-16	2016-17
1	England & Wales	1532	1523
	Australia	1415	1415
3	Scotland	266	261
4	Netherlands	17	17
5	USA	13	13
6	Canada	8	8
7	Italy	5	5
8	France	2	2
	Total	3258	3244

As on 31st March 2017, total no. of conferences in India is 7203 out of which 3244 conferences have been twinned . This indicates that only 45% of conferences are twinned in India.

7. Internal Twinning

Internal twinning programme was started in the year 2007 by the National Council of India. This is being continued effectively at all levels. During the past decades twinning grants were received generously from

foreign Vincentians. But now we find a diminishing trend in the inflow of twinning grant from outside India. The time has come for us to look for resources from within. Affluent conferences and councils in our country can help and assist weaker conferences.

At present the internal twinning programme is operated in the following levels.

a. Area Council Level b. Central Council Level c. National Council Level

Summarized statement of Internal Twinning

Sl. No.	Levels	No. of Conference Twinned	Amount (Rs.)
1	Area Council	122	4,91,800
2	Central Council	182	8,53,000
3	National Council	113	5,10,000

Details of National Council Level Internal Twinning

Sl.No	Name of Donor CC	No. of Conferences Twinned	Amount (Rs.)
1	Kottayam	15	60000.00
2	Tellichery	7	46000.00
3	Kothamangalam	38	152000.00
4	Kanjirappally	4	24000.00
5	Trichur	20	62000.00
6	Pala	10	33000.00
7	Verapoly	12	69000.00
8	Changanachery	4	46000.00
9	Mananthavadi	1	10000.00
10	Idukki	1	4000.00
11	Alappuzha	1	4000.00
Total		113	510000.00

National Council is encouraging the Councils at various levels to increase volume of Internal Twinning to the needy conferences.

8. Scholarships

The National Council of India helps the education of students belonging to poor families in our country through various scholarships supported and sponsored by overseas councils. The main overseas sponsors are Australia, England & Wales, USA and Netherlands.

The following are the details of various types of scholarships offered during 2016-17.

Sl. No	Scholarships	Renewals	New Scholarships	Total Amounts Released
1	Technical Training Scholarships	252	107	1215400
2	Higher Education Scholarships	167	102	1586000
3	Vocational Training Scholarships	-	103	154500
4	Assist A Student Scholarships	-	1016	2362200
5	Vidya Jyothi Scholarships	-	1108	1108000
6	Bicentenary Scholarships	-	212	471947
	Total	419	2648	6898047

The National Council is very happy to inform that the Scholarship Schemes have been restructured in the following manner.

1. HES (Rs. 9000 + Rs. 1000 (local contribution) = Rs. 10000.
2. TVTS (Rs. 5000 + Rs. 1000 (local contribution) = Rs. 6000, combining TTS and VTS.
3. AAS (Rs. 2500 + Rs. 500 (local contribution) = Rs. 3000 for all other Courses
4. VJES (Rs. 1000) for School Children

9. Projects

Projects are integral part of the Twinning Scheme. The projects aim at eliminating the root cause of poverty through self-help or group schemes in order to uplift the poor from their financial crisis and to restore the dignity and a sense of self-respect. The financial assistance for the implementation of projects are received from the respective overseas twinned Councils on the recommendations of the National Council of India.

Projects are either one time projects or revolving projects which generate income as well as employment. The Central Councils have successfully implemented many projects during the past years and there are many

running projects such as AIDS Hospice, Old Age Homes, Medical Centers, Home for the differently abled etc.

During the year 2016-17, 216 applications were submitted to overseas councils and 106 were sanctioned.

The details are as given below

Sl. No.	Region	Projects applied	Projects sanctioned
1	Kerala	158	69
2	Tamil Nadu	0	0
3	AP, West, North & North East	58	37
Total		216	106

10. Major projects of National Council of India

a. Jeevan Jyothi-Home for the Differently abled at Baripada, Odisha

Jeevan Jyothi, a Home for the Physically Challenged Women is a prominent project of the National Council of India located at Baripada in Odisha and within the periphery of Balasore CC. At present there are 35 inmates in the house within the age group 7 to 46 years. Most of the inmates are either physically challenged or mentally retarded. The inmates are taken care of by the DC Sisters and it is a great challenge for sisters to take care of them with the kind of impairment they have. At present Sr. Salomi is in charge of the house.

The inmates are also involved in preparation of Christmas cards and candles. The Home has a fruit and vegetable garden surrounding the building. There are a few cattle and poultry as well. The farm produce is utilized for the inmates and the excess produce is sold in the market in order to generate some income. The Christmas Cards made by the children are sent to England & Wales for sale and candles are sold during the festive seasons locally.

b. Paul Memorial Home for Aged - Velankanni

This project is the contribution of a generous person Mr. Franciono Lorena of Italy in memory of his son Mr. Paul who passed away in an early age.

The Central Council of Thanjavur has agreed to take up the responsibilities to manage the Home on behalf of the National Council and has started modification works on the building to provide sufficient facilities to run the Home for the Aged.

c. Home for the Aged, Kuzhuthurai, Tamil Nadu

This is a project of the National Council of India started in 2008 at Sahaya Nagar. There are 14 inmates in this home. The Home is managed by the Central Council of Kuzhuthurai on behalf of the National Council of India.

11. Other Projects

Sl.No.	Central Council	Projects
1	Bangalore	Our Lady of Lourdes Computer & Tailoring Centre
2	Berhampur	Lourdu Mary Health Centre
3	Bhubaneswar	Dr. A. Q. C. Van Ruiten Health Centre
4	Bombay	i. Shanti Bhavan Home for the Aged
		ii. EFANN AIDS Hospice/ Leprosy Home
5	Chandigarh	Ozanam Home for the Aged
6	Coimbatore	Ozanam Home for the Aged
7	Delhi	Ozanam Home for the Aged
8	Eluru	Ozanam Home for the Aged
9	Ernakulum	i. Vincent Nagar Housing project
		ii. Ozanam Bhavan, Home for the Aged(ladies)
		iii. Ozanam Care Centre
		iv. Anjali Home ,Home for the Aged(ladies)
10	Goa	i. 'Arc of Hope' Home for the Aged
		ii. 'Dr. Alfred Antao' Home for the Aged
11	Guwahati	Ozanam Health Centre
12	Idukki	Cancer & Palliative Centre
13	Kanjirappally	Ozanam Bhavan for School Children
14	Kothamangalam	Ozanam Home
15	Kottar	Ozanam Health Care Centre
16	Manathavady	Ozanam Bhavan Home for the Aged
17	Mangalore	Ozanam Home for the Aged
18	Palai	i. St. Mary's Home for the Destitute
		ii. Bl. Kunchachen Missionary Bhavan/Home for the Aged
19	Palayamkottai	i. St. Jude Tailoring Institute
		ii. Ozanam Computer Academy
20	Pune	Prem Niwas Home for the Aged

21	Quilon	Ozanam Eye Centre
22	Thanjavur	Ozanam Home for the Aged
23	Thucklay	Computer & Typewriting Centre
24	Trivandrum (L)	Ozanam Karunya Bhavan , Old Age Home
25	Udupi	Ozanam home for the Aged

12. Jubiloan

The Jubiloan scheme is initiated and sponsored by The National Council of England & Wales in memory of the Great Jubilee 2000. The aim of the scheme is to make the poor and the downtrodden self-sufficient and self-reliant with proper income generating schemes. An amount of Rs. 5000 is given to a beneficiary which he returns in easy installments from the income generated from the project which is then redistributed to the next beneficiary making the project a revolving one. Small scale activities like vending fish, running petty shops, vegetable cultivation etc. are undertaken by the beneficiaries in this scheme.

13. Extension and development activities

In 2016- 2017, 162 new Conferences and 8 new Area Councils were established.

14. Adoption and Visits

The basic work of the society is visit of the poor, sick and the needy and also distribution of relief to the deprived in their own environment. Through visits a 'person to person relationship' is built up in a spirit of love and friendship. No act of charity is alien to the Society. Personal involvement is the hallmark of charity practiced by the SSVP. In India there are 38413 adopted families and our brothers and sisters have made 2823226 visits to these families. In addition to the visits to adopted families, 4620332 other visits of charity are also made. These visits include visit to families, hospitals, old age homes, prisons etc.

15. REACHOUT -SSVP Bulletin

'Reachout' is the mouthpiece of the National Council of India. 'Reachout' is spiritual, informative, educative and formative in its content and messages, reports, progress etc. of SSVP reach the Vincentians through 'Reachout'

16. Youth

The Society of St. Vincent De Paul has always been driven by “youthful spirit”, whose essential features are described in the Rule as: “enthusiasm, adaptability and creative imagination”. Young Vincentians have various types of gatherings to meet each other. Through social networks they continue to work, discuss and pray together after these gatherings. As on 31.03.2017 there are 5353 Youth & 1472 Junior Members in the Society. The involvement of young Vincentians in the SSVP has improved considerably over the years.

17. Women

The women members of SSVP are playing an important role in realizing the objectives of SSVP. At every level in the Society the women are in the forefront in matters where the men find it difficult to handle, such as counseling and caring of widows, orphans, single mothers and victims of various types of abuse etc. Various seminars and meetings are arranged for women members at the CC and regional levels.

As on 31.03.2017 there are 17070 Lady Members and 992 Ladies’ Conferences in the Society.

18. Special Activities

The appeal for support for the flood victims of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh was well received by many central councils. The Central Councils contributed Rs. 17,90,675 for Tamil Nadu and A.P. Disaster Relief. The entire amount received has been distributed to the victims through the Central Councils concerned.

19. Special Medical Aid

The National Council of India released Rs. 8,80,000 to 42 Central Councils based on the requests received from them. The scheme will continue in 2017-18 also.

20. Visit by the President General

Our President General Bro. Renato de Olivera visited India from 04-03-2017 to 09-03-2017 and interacted with our Vincentians at Goa, Chennai, Kochi and Kothamangalam. He was so pleased with the functioning of the Society in India that he has promised to visit us again during his tenure.

21. Visits by other Foreign Delegates

Bro. David Wiles, Officer for Educational Schemes, England and Wales visited President's Secretariat at Thodupuzha on 3rd February 2017 and had discussions on the nature of Scholarships in future.

22. VINFAM

Vincentian family (VINFAM) is the common forum of all associations and congregations of priests, nuns and lay people who have St. Vincent De Paul as their patron Saint. Our role as a member in the Vinfam has been significant in the past years. The Annual General Meeting of the Vinfam conducted at the Retreat Centre at Aluva, Kerala on 12 and 13 of March 2017 was sponsored by the National Council of India. Six delegates participated in the meeting. Bro. Tomy Varghese of Ernakulum CC and Bro. M.C. Mathew of Ranchi CC are continuing as the secretaries of Vinfam.

23. Meetings

62nd Annual General Body Meeting was held on 17, 18, & 19th September 2016 at Bangalore.

During the year 2016-17, Managing Board Meetings were held at Mumbai and Bangalore on 23 April 2016 & 16 September 2016 respectively.

2 Managing Committee Meetings were also held on 23 April 2016 at Mumbai and 16 September 2016 at Bangalore.

24. International Recognitions

It is a matter of great pride for the Vincentians in India that Bro. T. Joseph Pandian is nominated as the Vice President General of our Society. Our National President Bro. Johnson Varghese is nominated as the International Territorial Vice President for Asia I and Bro. (Dr.) A. Francis is given the Vincentian Commitment of Territorial Delegate, Formation and Training, Asia I by the President General.

25. Remembrance

Bro. K. G. Phillip CC President of Punalur was called to the eternal bliss on 28.01.2017. Let us remember with profound gratitude the services rendered by Bro. K. G. Philip and all other Vincentians who were called for eternal life during the year of report.

26. National Council President's Visit to Central Councils

Ever since taking charge, the National President is at an effort to visit all the Central councils of India at least once during his tenure. So far he has visited 42 Central Councils.

27. Acknowledgement

We take this opportunity to thank our National Spiritual Advisor Rev. Dr. Stanislaus Kunnel in a special way for his support and guidance. We also thank all our bishops in various dioceses for encouraging and helping our members. Our gratitude to the spiritual advisors at various levels for their timely advice. We are also indebted to our benefactors, well-wishers and supporters in and around the world for their generous contributions to the Society. We express our thankfulness to our overseas councils of England & Wales, Australia, Netherlands, Scotland, USA, Italy, Canada, and France for their generous assistance through various schemes which help us to carry on our activities in India.

Our Special thanks to Bro. Renato de Olivera our beloved President General for his love and special concern for the Vincentian activities in India.

Our sincere thanks to the members of the Board, Managing Committee, General Body and various committees for their selfless support. We also thank the members of the staff at the headquarters and president's secretariat.

Let our lord Jesus through the intercession of Mother Mary, St. Vincent de Paul and Bl. Frederic Ozanam lead us to be better Vincentians in the days to come.

"I am now completely convinced that when one does a deed of charity one need not worry about where the money will come from: it will always come".— Frédéric Ozanam

Sd/

Bro. K.J. Francis
National Secretary

Date: 01-09-2017