

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

## ***ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18***

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 National Board is pleased to submit the Annual Report of the Society for the year 2017-18 along with the Audited Accounts, Auditor's Report and General Profile before the Plenary session of the National Council of India being held at Velankanni.

### **The Society of St Vincent de Paul**

The Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP) is an international Christian lay voluntary organization dedicated to tackling poverty and backwardness 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 of Saint Vincent de Paul is present on all 5 continents, in 153 countries (each with its own Council). It has 800,000 active members and over one million volunteers forming a vast network of Charity around the world. The Society is an accredited UN NGO and has presence in New York, Geneva and in Paris

### **The Society in 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 13<sup>th</sup> National President of India w.e.f. 28<sup>th</sup> 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

### i. 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 7303 conferences as on 31-03-2018 as detailed below

<b>Types of Conferences</b>	<b>No. of Conferences</b>
Junior	136
Youth	222
Women	1110
Gents	2634
Mixed	3201
<b>Total</b>	<b>7303</b>

### ii. Area Councils

An Area Council encompasses the Conferences in the nearby areas that are grouped together for co-ordination, interaction and unity. As on 31.03.2018 there are 656 Area Councils.

### iii. Central Councils

Area Councils are generally grouped at Diocesan level into Central Councils. The Central Councils guide and coordinate the activities of the Area Councils and Conferences under its control

### iv. National Council

All the Central Councils in the geographic area of India are functioning under the supervision and control of National Council of India. There are 83 Central Councils in India as on 31.03.2018.

## Active Members

There are 67232 active Members in 7303 Conferences. The details are as given below

<b>Name of Region</b>	<b>No. of Central Councils</b>	<b>No. of Area Councils</b>	<b>No. of Conferences</b>	<b>No. of Active Members</b>
Kerala	31	342	4014	33849
Tamil Nadu	20	141	1418	14348
A.P. & Telangana	08	61	656	5797
Western	11	73	735	9375
North	06	17	209	1728
North East	07	22	271	2135
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>7303</b>	<b>67232</b>

## 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 2017-18

#### 1. Adoption, Visits and Assistance

The basic work of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul 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 53797 adopted families and our brothers and sisters have made 2568635 visits to these families. In addition to the visits to adopted families, 3760322 other visits of charity are also made. These visits include visit to families, hospitals, old age homes, prisons etc. In the report year 1418155 individuals and 772700 families were given casual assistance; besides 53267 students were provided educational help by our Vincentian sisters & brothers.

#### 2. 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's

Sl. No	Country	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
1	England & Wales	1532	1523	1496
2	Australia	1415	1415	1414
3	Scotland	266	261	285
4	Netherlands	17	17	17
5	USA	13	13	13
6	Canada	8	8	8
7	Italy	5	5	5
8	France	2	2	2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3258</b>	<b>3244</b>	<b>3240</b>

As on 31st March 2018, total no. of conferences in India is 7303 out of which 3240 conferences have been twinned. This indicates that only 44% of conferences are twinned in India.

### 3. 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

#### Details of National Council Level Internal Twinning

Sl.No	Name of Donor CC	No. of Conferences Twinned	Amount (Rs.)
1	Alappuzha	2	8000
2	Changanachery	10	42000
3	Ernakulam	16	59000
4	Kanjirappally	4	24000
5	Kothamangalam	39	156000
6	Kottayam	14	56000
7	Mananthavadi	2	15000
8	Mangalore	5	40000
9	Pala	5	15000
10	Pathanamthitta	3	12000
11	Tellicherry	7	46000
12	Trichur	16	64000
13	Tiruchirappalli	2	8000
14	Verapoly	10	40000
<b>Total</b>		<b>135</b>	<b>585000</b>

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

### 4. 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 2017-18.

Sl. No	Scholarships	Renewals	New Scholarships	Total Amounts Released(Rs.)
1	HES & TVTS	1480600	2551000	4031600
4	Assist A Student Scholarships	-	4200000	4200000
5	Vidya Jyothi Scholarships	-	1120000	1120000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1480600</b>	<b>7871000</b>	<b>9351600</b>

## 5. 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 2017-18, 157 applications were submitted to overseas councils and 152 were sanctioned.

The details are as given below

Sl. No.	Region	Projects applied	Projects sanctioned	Amount Sanctioned (In Rupees)
1	Kerala	106	105	68,11,981
2	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0
3	AP, West, North & North East	51	47	44,87,825
<b>Total</b>		<b>157</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>1,12,99,806</b>

## 6. 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 38 inmates in the house within the age group 7 to 47 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. In the 63<sup>rd</sup> AGM a scheme named 'Adopt A Child of Jeevan Jyothi' was evolved. Many Central Councils, Vincentians and other benefactors are supporting this scheme with their special contribution.

### 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 taken 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, Kuzhithurai, Tamil Nadu**

This is a project of the National Council of India started in 2008 at Sahaya Nagar. The Home is managed by the Central Council of Kuzhithurai on behalf of the National Council of India.

**7. Other Projects**

Sl. No.	Central Council	Projects
1	Bangalore	1. Our Lady of Lourdes Computer & Tailoring Centre
		2. Jubilee Home – Old Age Home for women
		3. St. Jerome’s Home - Old Age Home for women
		4. KGF – Old Age Home for Women
		5. Our Lady of Fatima- Tailoring & Computer Centre
		6. St. Antony’s- Tailoring Centre
2	Berhampur	Lourdu Mary Health Centre
3	Bhubaneswar	Dr.A.Q.C. Van Ruiten Health Centre
4	Bombay	1.Shanti Bhavan Home for the Aged
		2.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	Ernakulam	1. Vincent Nagar Housing project
		2.Ozanam Bhavan, Home for the Aged(ladies)
		3.Ozanam Care Centre
		4.Anjali Home ,Home for the Aged(ladies)
10	Goa	1. ‘Arc of Hope’ Home for the Aged
		2. ‘Dr.AlfredAntao’ Home for the Aged
		3.School for Special Children, Curtorim
		4.Day Care School for migrant Children
11	Guwahati	Ozanam Health Centre
12	Idukki	Cancer & Palliative Centre
13	Kanjirappally	Ozanam Vidya Bhavan. Home for poor Children.
14	Kothamangalam	Ozanam Home – Shelter for patients & bystanders
15	Kottar	1.Ozanam Health Counseling Centre, Chungakadai
		2.Ozanam Home for the sick, Asaripallam
16	Madras	SSVP Mobile Medical Project
17	Manathavady	Ozanam Bhavan Home for the Aged
18	Mangalore	Ozanam Home for the Aged
19	Neyyattinkara	Ozanam Bhavan – Computer Centre
20	Palai	1.St. Mary’s Home for the Destitute
		2..Bl.KunchachenMissioneryBhavan/Home for the Aged
21	Palayamkottai	1. St. Jude Tailoring Institute
		2.. Ozanam Computer Academy
		3. St. Vincent de Paul Technical Institute
22	Pune	Prem Niwas Home for the Aged
23	Quilon	Ozanam Eye Centre
24	Shillong	St. Vincent De Paul Health Centre, Lyngkhoi
25	Tellicherry	Vincentian Bhavan for Aged Couples
26	Thanjavur	Ozanam Home for the Aged
27	Thucklay	Ozanam College, Computer & Typewriting Centre
28	Trichur	Vincentian Abhaya Kendram- Shelter for patients & bystanders

29	Trivandrum (L)	Ozanam Karunya Bhavan , Old Age Home
30	Udupi	Ozanam home for the Aged
31	Verapoly	1.Vincentian Clinic 2.Vincentian Institute of Commerce

## 8. 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 was 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. The Jubiloan scheme has now completed 17 years of functioning, so the Board is of the opinion that in the future the central councils themselves can manage the funds available with them.

## 9. Extension and development activities

In 2017- 2018, 160 new Conferences and 9 new Area Councils were established.

## 10. 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 2017-18 The National Council of India forwarded 109 applications for Aggregation and Institution and 25 Aggregations and 2 Institutions were received from the International Council, including the pending ones. As on 31-3-2018 there are 5649 Aggregated Conferences.

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

Region	Conferences	Area Councils	Central Councils
Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0
Kerala	14	2	0
Tamil Nadu	8	0	0
West	2	0	0
North	1	0	0
North East	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>

## 11. 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.

## **12. Canonization**

There seems to be many signs of hope regarding cause for Ozanam's Canonization. Today, a second miracle is needed, and two cases are being studied, which will be analyzed by the Commission for Canonization:

1. The case of Profetina Jesus Almeida Queiroz, member of a Conference in Portugal, who had an accident in the year 2012 resulting in vascular brain damage, and whose health is currently very good.

2. Andréia Auxiliadora da Luz Nascimento, from Minas Gerais, Brazil. In 2013 she had a pregnancy with a high risk of anencephaly for the baby; but the mother who is a Vincentian prayed to Blessed Frederic Ozanam and her son Jose Antonio is full of health and life.

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.

## **13. 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'

## **14. 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 31.03.2018 there are 7268 Youth & 1324 Junior Members in the Society. The involvement of young Vincentians in the SSVP has improved considerably over the years.

## **15. 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 were arranged for women members at the CC and regional levels. As on 31.03.2018 there are 18335 Lady Members and 1110 Ladies' Conferences in the Society showing an increase of 1265 Lady Members and 118 Lady Conferences. It is also heartening to notice that in 13 Central Councils Lady Members are in majority.

## **16. Special Activities**

The appeal for support for the Ockhi Disaster Relief was well received by many central councils. 16 Central Councils contributed Rs. 17,77,913 and Rs. 17,22,370.60 was received from abroad, making a total of Rs. 35,00,283.60 for Disaster Relief. The entire amount received has been distributed to the victims through the 8 Central Councils affected by Ockhi.

## **17. Special Medical Aid**

The National Council of India released Rs. 8,85,000 to 46 Central Councils based on the requests received from them. The scheme will continue in 2018-19 also.



## **18. 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. 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 society's polices and methods. Thus Internal Audit assists us to upkeep 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.

## **19. Visits by Foreign Delegates**

Bro. Terry Brown a great friend of India who served the society of St. Vincent de Paul England & Wales as the Twinning Officer for more than 25 years handed over his office to Bro. Sebastian Muier and both the Vincentians visited India during the year.

## **20. 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 Retreat Centre Berhampur, Odisha on 03 April 2018. Bro. Tomy Varghese of Ernakulum CC and Bro. M.C. Mathew of Ranchi CC are continuing as the secretaries of Vinfam.

## **21. Meetings**

63<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Body Meeting was held on 16, 17, & 18th September 2017 at New Delhi. Sis. Visaka Nilmini Velviti, National Council President of SSVP Sri Lanka was the Chief Gust at the Inaugural Function of the AGM.

During the year 2017-18, Managing Board Meetings were held at Mumbai, Chennai, Delhi and Thodupuzha on 11 May 2017, 01 July 2017, 15 September 2017 & 19 February 2018 respectively.

2 Managing Committee Meetings were also held on 01 July 2017 at Chennai and 15 September 2017 at Delhi.

## **22. 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 52 Central Councils.

## **23. International Recognitions**

It is a matter of great pride for the Vincentians in India that Bro. T. Joseph Pandian is continuing as the Vice President General of our Society. Our National President Bro. Johnson Varghese is continuing as the International Territorial Vice President for Asia I and Bro. (Dr.) A. Francis as Territorial Delegate, Formation and Training, Asia I. Bro. Leo Levin Pushparaj is nominated by the President General as the Youth Coordinator for Asia I. He is the first youth member from India to get an International representation.

## **24. Remembrance**

Bro. P. V. Alexander, former National President of India and Bro. Vincent Lazarus CC President of Pune were called to the eternal bliss during the year. Let us remember with profound gratitude the services rendered by Bro. P. V. Alexander, Bro. Vincent Lazarus and all other Vincentians who were called for eternal life during the year of report.

## **25. 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. We also thank Bro. Joseph Pandian Vice President General for his support & encouragement.

We also sincerely thank M/S V.V. Thomas & Company, Thodupuzha, Chartered Accounts for Auditing the President's Secretariat Accounts without accepting any fees.

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.

***“In everything do to others as you would have them do to you: for this is the law and the prophets”. (Mathew7:12)***

Sd/

**Bro. K. J. Francis**  
National Secretary

Date: 21-09-2018