

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

## ***ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19***

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 2018-19 along with the Audited Accounts, Auditor's Report and General Profile before the Plenary session of the National Council of India being held at NESTT, Muvattupuzha Kerala.

### **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 7355 conferences as on 31-03-2019 as per the details submitted by the CCs

<b>Types of Conferences</b>	<b>No. of Conferences</b>
Junior	134
Youth	220
Women	1076
Gents	2567
Mixed	3358
<b>Total</b>	<b>7355</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 31.03.2019 there are 681 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 31.03.2019.

## Active Members

There are 70203 active members in 7355 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	354	4019	36271
Tamil Nadu	20	145	1438	14673
A.P. & Telangana	08	68	661	5796
West	11	73	747	9603
North	06	17	221	1688
North East	07	24	269	2172
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>681</b>	<b>7355</b>	<b>70203</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 2018-19

#### 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 46639 adopted families and our brothers and sisters have made 2757796 visits to these families. In addition to the visits to adopted families, 3358617 other visits of charity are also made. These visits include visit to families, hospitals, old age homes, prisons etc. In the report year 336356 individuals and 186854 families were given casual assistance; besides 43513 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 Twinings

Sl. No	Country	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
1	England & Wales	1523	1496	1498
2	Australia	1415	1414	1428
3	Scotland	261	285	287
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>3244</b>	<b>3240</b>	<b>3258</b>

As on 31st March 2019, total no. of conferences in India is 7362 out of which 3168 conferences have been twinned. This indicates that only 43% 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 Internal twinning Paid During 2018-19

Sl No	Name of the Donor Central Council	A		B		C		Total During the Year	
		With other CCs		Within CC		Within AC		No	Total Amt.
		No of Conf	Total Amt	No of Conf	Total Amt	No	Total Amt		
1	Pune			9	108000			9	108000
2	Kothamangalam	26	104000	14	56000	3	12000	43	172000
3	Tiruvalla			7	36000			7	36000

4	Udupi			1	10000	1	12000	2	22000
5	Idukki			2	6000	1	3000	3	9000
6	Tellicherry	4	28000			5	13800	9	41800
7	Verapoly	10	40000	12	54000			22	94000
8	Kanjirappally	1	5000	13	62000			14	67000
9	Thiruchirappally			28	112000			28	112000
10	Mangalore	1	10000	29	285000			30	295000
11	Pathanamthitta	5	16000					5	16000
12	Ernakulam	22	114000	76	1491100	9	112800	107	1717900
13	Mananthavady	2	16000					2	16000
14	Vasai			12	72000			12	72000
15	Kottayam	13	52000			7	36000	20	88000
16	Goa	8	96000	11	132000	3	36000	22	264000
17	Palayamkottai			4	16000	1	4000	5	20000
18	Trivandrum (L)			17	44000			17	44000
19	Cochin			1	20000	6	40600	7	60600
	<b>Total</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>481000</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>2504100</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>270200</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>3255300</b>

National Council is encouraging the Councils at various levels to increase the number 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 2018-19.

Sl. No	Scholarships	Renewals	New Scholarships	Total Amounts Released(Rs.)
1	HES & TVTS	2364000	3099000	5463000
4	Assist A Student Scholarships	-	1414000	1414000
5	Vidya Jyothi Scholarships	-	3121000	3121000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2364000</b>	<b>7634000</b>	<b>9998000</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 2018-19, 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	75	75	5191421
2	Tamil Nadu	9	9	735970
3	AP, West, North & North East	66	46	3496564
<b>Total</b>		<b>150</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>9423955</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 8 to 48 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 63rd 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 is functioning well.

**c. Home for the Aged, Kuzhuthurai, 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. Extension and development activities

In 2018-19, 108 new Conferences and 6 new Area Councils were established.

## 9. 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 2018-19 the National Council of India forwarded 126 applications for Aggregation and Institution and 146 Aggregations and 10 Institutions were received from the International Council, including the pending ones. As on 31-3-2019 there are 5681 Aggregated Conferences.

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

Region	Conferences	Area Councils	Central Councils
Andhra Pradesh	16	3	1
Kerala	52	0	0
Tamil Nadu	13	2	0
West	38	3	1
North	9	0	0
North East	18	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>

It is a matter of great satisfaction that the present National Council of India could get 500 new aggregations and institutions so far.



## **11. Spirituality**

The National Council of India gives 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 31.03.2019 there are 7296 Youth & 1868 Junior Members in the Society. The involvement of young Vincentians in the SSVP has improved considerably over the years. The International Council organized the Second International Youth Meet at Salamanca, Spain from 15th June to 21st June 2018, exactly 10 years after the first meet. Bro. Leo Levin was the only participant from India. The President General appointed Bro. Leo Levin as the International Territorial Youth Coordinator – Asia 1. From 22nd to 27th January 2019 Bro. Leo Levin was sponsored by the International Council to participate in the JMJ World Youth Day 2019 organized at Panama, Latin America. The National Council of India organized 1st Young Vincentian Leadership Workshop for the Youth on 8<sup>th</sup> & 9th December 2018 at Chennai. 45 youth members participated in the

programme. Many other programmes were also arranged with the support of the Regional Coordination Committees in different parts of the country.

1. Pune Central Council - "SSVP Cricket Charity Tournament"
2. International Youth Day – KRCC – July 2018
3. Blind Walk 2019- KRCC December 2019
4. Food on Wheel – TRCC 2018
5. Youth Camp – TRCC – November 2018 Trichy

## **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 31.03.2019 there are 17819 Lady Members and 1076 Ladies' Conferences.

## **16. Special Activities**

In August 2018, the state of Kerala witnessed a 'once-in-a-century Floods' that displaced a million people leaving 483 people dead. The total damages were estimated at Rs. 31000/- crores. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul swung into action and the members took up the relief activities despite a large no. of them were being affected. During the year we could distribute Rs. 25237340/- to the affected CCs. We thank the Overseas councils of England & Wales, Netherlands, Australia etc. for their timely support. We also thank the Central Councils who contributed materials and money to the victims.

## **17. Special Medical Aid**

The National Council of India released Rs. 587000 to 35 Central Councils based on the requests received from them. The scheme will continue in 2019-20 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 policies 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 under the leadership of Bro. Sebastian Thomas is continuing the good work to support all the Vincentians in the proper

maintenance of all accounts bringing about total transparency in all financial matters.

## **19. 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. Bro. Francis Victor is nominated as the official representative of SSVP National Council of India, in VINFAM. Bro. Tomy Varghese of SSVP continues to the Secretary of VINFAM.

## **20. Meetings**

64th Annual General Body Meeting was held during 21, 22, & 23rd September 2018 at Velankanni. Managing Board and Managing Committee Meetings were also held at Velankanni

## **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. M A Kuriappan, Central Council of Trichur, Former National Jubiloan Officer and Bro. P S Joseph, Central Council of Ernakulum, Former National Joint Treasurer were called to the eternal bliss during the year. Let us remember with profound gratitude the services rendered by Bro. M A Kuriappan, Bro. P S Joseph 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.

["Let us do without hesitation whatever good lies at our hands." Frederic Ozanam](#)

Sd/

**Bro. K.J. Francis**  
National Secretary  
**Date: 16-08-2019**