



FR

August 2018

AGNEL

SHRAM NEWS

**...we shall give
our all to make
India free.**

-Subhash Chandra Bose



FR. AGNEL
ASHRAM

NEWS

August 2018

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Printed & Published by:

Fr. Peter D'Souza, sfx on
behalf of Agnel Publications

Editor:

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Printed at:

S.B.M Printers

C-130, Ansa Industrial
Estate, Andheri East,
Mumbai - 400072

Place of Publication:

Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandstand,
Bandra, Mumbai - 400 050.

Single Copy Price: Rs. 15

Annual Subscription: Rs. 150



FR. AGNEL GIFT GARDEN

"Giving Hands Are More
Graceful Than Praying Lips"
(Bandra Fair From 9th to 16th
September 2018)

Dear friends and benefactors,

As Bandra Fair is around the corner, we approach you with a humble request for your generous financial help for the upkeep and welfare of over 800 orphan children (girls & boys) irrespective of their caste, creed and religion, sheltered in our various homes at Bandra, Vashi, Goa, Pune, Noida and Greater Noida. The future of these little ones depend on your love and generosity. Every year we are spending huge amount of money towards expenditure on their education, food, lodging, medication and other various activities. We, therefore, humbly knock at your generous heart for financial support. Kindly help us with your donations, and also from your friends and relatives.

On this occasion, we would like to express our profound gratitude for the sincere help and support you have extended to us over the past many years. We have great pleasure to say that it is owing to your whole-hearted support we have been able to carry out various humanitarian works, and to provide a bright future to these hapless children, who, would, otherwise, have been black spots of the society. Your continued support and prayers strengthen our hands to carry on the lamp of love and service unfaded to innumerable children yet on the streets.

We assure you of our sincere prayers along with the orphan children for you and your dear ones. May god shower his choicest blessings upon you all.
With a grateful heart.

(Fr. Peter D'souza)

Superior

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The Price of Freedom! What Kind ?

Freedom is mankind's most precious treasures. There are types of freedoms but the one most spoken about is political freedom. Most of the countries have obtained theirs through difficult struggles, often of a bloody type. India's political freedom was gained through a unique combination of the belief of one man, in the power of non-violence and the combined strength of hundreds of thousands who gave all they had to gain freedom.

Our common understanding is that once political freedom is gained, and peoples acquire the right to govern themselves through the individual franchise of a vote in the election process, the whole idea of freedom is vindicated. Constitutional law and the Judicial systems apparently are out there to uphold it, but the reality is far more complex, and the ability of the constitutional law and the Courts to uphold freedom is, to say the least, dubious.

Achieving political freedom is often considered to be a phenomenon of the modern ages, but much before our civilization came to be shaped as it is, communities and groups decided what they wanted through common participation. Most nomadic communities as well as pastoral communities right from the pre-historic times must have worked that way. Leadership came both from reaching the top of the ladder, and also from the support that he/she got from the people he/she led. So democracy, or the rule of the people, by the people, is not a modern phenomenon, although the process is. The process of the so-called fair and free election is often a misnomer. The exercise of freedom implies two fundamental elements: the clear and complete knowledge of what one wants, and the ability to achieve it, unobstructed. Although this may appear simple, the entire exercise is far more complex, and when duly understood, leads to the fair conclusion that most of our so-called fair and free elections are only a sham, manipulated by others, or compromised by self.

Although this may appear preposterous, and a revolutionary idea, a simple glance of the election process and the analysis that follow, thereafter, state in an unambiguous manner that most candidates have been elected on the basis of caste. Caste, a structure that fundamentally militates against the principle of all men and women being equal, is a false, fabricated, imposed construct, contrary to any genuine understanding of social structures and is largely manipulated. In such a process neither the voter who casts his or her vote, nor the person elected can be considered to be as a result of a free and fair process. The same can be predicated about all other so-called fundamental freedoms, such as the freedom of speech, the freedom to worship as per individual choice, the freedom to associate, etc.

The reason behind this warped practice of the idea of freedom, is because freedom and social structures, once set in place, are mutually opposed. Freedom is an aspirational reality that belongs to the core of the individual, where he or she seeks to pursue goals he or she perceives as belonging to him or her; whereas social structures are at the core, attempts to make individual aspirations comply with the aspirations of the dominant class. Thus hierarchy, government, judicial systems, organizations are all designed to control, rule and ensure compliance by those who are at the lower end.

Although organizations are structures that curtail the pursuit of individual freedoms, regardless of the fact that such a curtailment may not be an intended objective, they are a much lesser danger to the idea of freedom which is the most fundamental characteristic of being a man or woman. The most real and present danger to the idea of freedom and to the existence of mankind as the planet's most developed living organism, is the philosophy practiced by those who have deconstructed the natural realities of majority and minority into "majoritarianism" and "minoritarianism", of politically, financially or

numerically stronger classes, deciding that since they are contributing significantly to the wealth and apparent wellbeing of the rest, their interests have priority over that of others; thus industry and ecology clash, urban and rural clash, etc.

This blatant manipulation of the natural realities of big and small, many and few, powerful and weak, rich and poor, upper and lower, urban and rural, etc. which is but a natural process of any organism, is the most blatant violation of freedom, and the most potent danger to harmony and peaceful existence. Imagine all whales decide that no other fish will live in the oceans, or all elephants decide no other mammals have a right to live, or an eagle decides that no other birds will fly. And because this is a natural reality, each individual organism, although it is part of the web of life, and serves as food for the other, is endowed with its own defense mechanism, and other organisms cannot override the same.

Most well-meaning individuals do not perceive the danger that majority, concentration of too much power, unbridled licence to create wealth, by individuals and groups or even by the state, pose a serious danger to the survival and well-being of

others. Dictatorial and totalitarian regimes rise not because they do not believe in democracy, but because they convince themselves into believing, that only they can save democracy and therefore, only they know how to save it. Intolerance to dissent and to a difference of opinion is not tool of the oppressor, it is the oppressor himself. He oppresses because he believes that the good of all demands it, he is convinced that he is called by the Almighty to do that.

Freedom, the fundamental identity of each human being, rich or poor, educated or otherwise, demands that one should never take it for granted, or hope that someone else will safeguard it for himself or herself. Freedom is more a duty than a right, since without it, man or woman ceases to exist. The price of freedom is eternal vigilance, and that vigilance is not only about not letting others trample against your freedom but is also about your freedom to speak the truth each time it is needed to be heard.

Jose Alarico Carvalho

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The Path To The Right Choice is Always Unexpected

Kryselle Barretto

We all have dreams, challenges and goals, but what we don't consider as a challenge may be someone's greatest challenge; for example, a blind man trying to find his way out of the darkness, or a deaf man trying his best to hear better. We never consider ourselves content in what we have or what our abilities can do; we always complain and ask for more but never are grateful. And this leads to the most common "depression", apart from that, we are always fixed with one goal, and never keep plan B open which is not a good idea, We should be optimistic and be ready to take up something than nothing. In life, we may consider many choices but our God leads us to only one choice which is super best; we may think it's not, but as you push yourself through it you feel the happiness, joy and calm you get through it, so never regret in the things that have not happened or things in which you wanted it to happen earnestly, but be grateful and thankful at all circumstances,

because happiness is the greatest level of success. But when I mean that don't regret or be unhappy, then it should come from within and you should be really happy for what you're doing. Think it in a way like 5 years down the line with this option will I be happy or not; if the answer is yes you will then, that's the best option or choice in your life. Go ahead deal with it, face it with passion and show the best what you can do, and when you reach the top point of your summit, you won't even feel you were climbing your summit, so its that powerful and strong, just make sure whatever your doing is easy for yourself and you will automatically shine. And in case you don't shine, the reason will only be one thing that you gave attention to someone else's negative words or this thought that comes to our head, "what will other people say"? These four words can ruin your life, so keep in mind just do what you're doing and don't pay attention to the stones that are being thrown at you.

My Land and My People... is all that matters!

On July 2, 2018, the Society of the Missionaries of St. Francis Xavier, commonly known as the Society of Pilar, and its members known as Pilar Fathers, and those who belong to the Agnel Region, more commonly known as Ashram Fathers, celebrated the 79th year of establishment of the present Society. The establishment of this group of people who in a matter of 3 decades became a very significant force in the country, has very interesting beginnings.

Goa was reeling under the Portuguese domination and as it was not uncommon, the Church was completely aligned with the dominating power. The head of the Church even presided over the Government in the absence of the Governor. Unlike what we often hear today, being stated about Christians having to leave the shores of India, the Promoters of the Society were patriotic mavericks. Their faith in the teachings of Jesus and their loyalty to the Church, was unassailable, but far more impressive, was their passion for Mother India.

To talk about India as a Motherland, during the Portuguese domination, was unheard of, and was even dangerous, as the military police were miffed even by the word Jai Hind. But Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues and Fr. Francisco Jasso Sequeira who had been inspired to launch a new Movement, had different ideas. They were able to beautifully blend their total loyalty to Jesus as their Lord and Master with an entirely focused view of India as their Motherland, who was waiting for her sons to bring to her the healing message of Love that Jesus brought to the world. This perception that combined the great commission of Jesus to go and preach, with the natural and emotional idea of India as Mother was a unique combination of a great apostolic zeal and a true patriotic spirit.

In the past, this unambiguous stand by some,

of the convergence of the message of Jesus, of liberation from all forms of domination, including poverty, ignorance and oppression from within or from without, with the principal objectives of the Constitution of India, has been wrongly described as political adventurism. However, for a genuine believer as well as an authentic patriot, this combination truly is the driving force of a Christian who accepts Jesus as Lord and Master and understands that his first duty is towards his Motherland.

Fr. C Rodrigues rightly expressed that view, when he, under the pressure of the civil and religious authorities was forced into exile, stated, “MY LAND AND MY PEOPLE IS ALL THAT MATTERS”. This statement is an important pivot in the public discourse in our days, when patriotism is often being defined as a jingoistic nationalism that swears only by the powers to be. Our constitutional structure and its objectives clearly define India or Bharat, as a country that has a diverse culture, based on the principles of modern understanding of equality of life and opportunity to all its diverse citizens. By doing this, the constituent Fathers, who truly represented the diversity of all of India’s hues and colours, social, cultural and religious came to this common understanding and once and for all, departed from the traditionally held stratified world view based on caste and other differences. Any way considered, this is one of the most erudite Constitutions, that incorporate in itself the core of the human spirit and its authentic unfolding, “Satyameva Jayate”, the good of all is our ideal.

Our Founders saw this dream of an India, that is waiting to freely and lovingly embrace a message, whose core was the experience the LOVE of God, that liberates man and woman of all that binds him or her down, and empowers him to be loved and love, regardless of colour,

creed and class. There was no dilution of what the Gospel demanded, and the people of India aspired for. This unique combination, which is different from the fractious perception, that embracing Jesus and his Message implies the rejection of one's own culture and sane customs, was a call much ahead of its time. His (Fr. C. Rodrigues) understanding of the message of Jesus was what Jesus told his disciples "whoever is not against us, is with us" (Mk 9, 38-41), drove them to seek all and everyone who fell into the broad confines of the Sermon of the Mount - "Blessed are the poor in spirit, theirs is the Kingdom of heaven; Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they shall have their..." (Mt. 5, 3-11), and the whole of the Motherland was waiting for such a liberation. It might well be that the perception was too early for others to follow, but this objective continued to haunt his mind for several years, when he helped lay faithful to organize themselves for a Church that truly represented the aspirations of the Indian faithful.

Citizenship, therefore, is not being a nationalistic patriot, but one who truly professes and looks for the realization of our dreams as enshrined in the Constitutions, of equality in social, cultural, economic life and no less in opportunity, unity and diversity (cultural, religious, language and ethnicity), respect and nurturing of the weak,

that truly make an equitable society. The evolutionary idea that drove him to defy the religious and political forces against publishing an article in the newspaper, against the liberation movement of Goa, was the result of a clearer understanding that a follower of Jesus could not condone with the attempts of any power to continue to dominate part of his Mother India, that wanted to be free.

Fr. C. Rodrigues' vision of **"My Land and my People is all that matters"**, is a significant objective that makes sense; That the aspirations of the people of India, especially those of the marginalized and the neglected, are the primary objective of our Constitutions, and are also the Central core of the Gospel message. A disciple of Jesus responds to the call of the Gospel which completely coincides with the objectives of our Constitution. "The blind see, the lame walk, the dead are raised to life and to the poor is good news is preached". (Lk, 7, 22), sound strangely familiar with the address of Jawaharlal Nehru on the eve of Independence: "The service of India means the service of the millions who suffer." It means the ending of poverty and ignorance and disease and inequality of opportunity. The ambition of the greatest man of our generation has been to wipe every tear from every eye.

*-Jose Alarico Carvalho
alarc22@yahoo.co.in*

Fr. Agnel Ashram - Bandra MASSES and NOVENAS ON SUNDAYS

MORNING			
TIME	MASS	TIME	NOVENA
07:00 a.m.	English	07:45 a.m.	English
08:00 a.m.	Konkani	08:45 a.m.	Konkani
09:30 a.m.	English	10:15 a.m.	English
TIME	NOVENA	TIME	MASS
10.30 a.m.	Tamil	11.00 a.m.	Tamil
EVENING			
TIME	NOVENA	TIME	MASS
03.00 p.m.	Gujarati & Marathi	03.30 p.m.	Marathi
06:15 p.m.	English	06:30 p.m.	English
07:15 p.m.	English	07:30 p.m.	English

Weekdays Mass in English at 6.00 p.m.

Novena Prayers and Kissing of Relic are held on every Saturday after 6.00 p.m.

Mass Favours obtained, petitions and offerings may kindly be sent to :

Rev. Fr. Superior

Fr. Agnel Ashram

P.O. Box – 6656, Bandstand,
Bandra (W), Mumbai – 400 050.

Tel : 67114000.

Fax : 67114100.

Email : agnelashramnews@gmail.com

Web : <http://ash.fragnel.edu.in>

Independence Day

-P.A. D'Mello

On 15th August we will be celebrating the 71st anniversary of our Independence. To go back to the start of our Independence as reported by the Times of India, unprecedented scenes of enthusiasm were witnessed both inside and outside the Constituent Assembly chambers, where seething, swaying humanity wildly cheered the momentous event, heralded with the blowing of conches.

Pandit Nehru made a speech in the Assembly which was notable and striking: “Years ago we made a tryst with destiny, he said, and now the time comes when we shall redeem our pledge not wholly or in full measure, but very substantially. At the stroke of midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom”. With becoming humility, Pandit Nehru reminded the House that freedom and power bring responsibility and that the future is not one of ease or resting but of incessant striving, so that we may fulfill the pledges we have so often taken and the one we shall take today.”

Prime Minister Atlee of the United Kingdom in a message to Pandit Nehru said “My colleagues join me in sending on this historic day greetings and good wishes to the Government and the people of India.” It is our earnest wish that India may go forward in tranquility and prosperity and in so doing, contribute to the peace and prosperity of the world.”

Pandit Nehru replied as follows: “On behalf of my colleagues in the Government of India and myself I wish to express our grateful thanks for your message of greetings on this historic day when India emerges into freedom. That freedom means much to us, but it also means much to Asia, and the world for the advancement of our people as well as for the furtherance of the peace and prosperity of the world. In these great tasks we shall look forward to the closest cooperation with your Government.”

India had many freedom fighters who fought for our Independence. Let us not forget that it was primarily the inspiration and achievement of one man – Mahatma Gandhi, who, when colonialism was being fought in various neighbouring countries through armed resistance and violent methods, led India to freedom against the pressures of several political leaders of that time, through non violent methods. As Lokmanya Tilak said “Freedom is my birth-right and I shall have it’.

Every year we look back and reflect on what we have achieved by way of progress and development and what still needs to be done, also the various obstacles that have come in the way of the nation’s march towards a just society. In the field of Science and Technology there has been much achievement. We have achieved a growth rate of nearly 7.5%.

However, our progress has been hindered due to various factors one of which is religious fundamentalism. There has been a number of cases of mob lynching, cow vigilantism, rape and murder, honour killings over the recent months. There have also been many Farmers suicides in many parts of the country especially in the Vidarbha Region of Maharashtra which had a total of 1307 deaths of Farmers during the period January to June 2018. Though the government has offered loans waivers to the Farmers, many a times disbursements to them is very slow. Action needs to be taken to assist the Farmers in this regard.

We have a strong Judiciary and many a time they have had to resolve various problems between the Centre and the States to ensure that the rule of the law should prevail and constitutional methods and fundamental rights should be followed and respected. The media should also have debates on important issues affecting the country and ensure that views expressed by all the members are conducted in a fair and

impartial manner. Many a time controversies are raised unnecessarily and political leaders blame the media and vice versa.

It is also observed that very often Parliamentary debates are unable to function because of constant disturbance by members of the House. This results in little or no business being transacted in the House for the day which involves delay in important Bills being passed and also a colossal loss of public money to the country.

For India to be a great nation we need young leaders who are more creative and inspirational. The nation's strength predominantly reside in its

natural and human resources. Human resources particularly with a large young population, are the unique core strength of the Nation.

On the day of our Independence we should remember that true Independence consists in being capable of giving freely a positive answer to God, who calls us to be honest, upright, understanding and united with each other in love and sincerity. May Mary the Mother of Jesus bless us on this auspicious day of her Assumption to Heaven and may She guide our political leaders to overcome all problems and ensure that there is peace, progress and prosperity in the country.



There is no Joy Greater than the Joy of **GIVING**

John Serrao, Bangalore

Please accept my kind donation of ₹.2000/- for the benefit of the orphan boys under your care. Kindly pray for my family's good health. Thanking you.

M.J. Lam, Nashik

Attached is a cheque of ₹.3058/- for your charitable activities, especially taking care of orphan boys. Please remember us in your daily prayers. Thank you.

Dr. Satyabrata Chaudhuri, Kolkata

Enclosed is a cheque of ₹.2000/- towards the sponsorship of the orphans in your Ashram. Please pray for us. Thank you.

Mariamamma Chacko, Jabalpur

I am sending herewith a cheque of ₹.600/- towards the sponsorship of my ward Vinayak Chettiar. Please pray for me and my family's good health and that we may overcome all our problems.

Shoba Johns, Sharjah

I enclose a cheque ₹.2000/- as my Easter Gift for the orphan boys in your Balbhavan. Please pray for my husband to progress in his business, my sons to do well in their studies and for my mother's early recovery from illness. Thank you for your prayers.

One More Feather in Our Cap

Success is for those who work hard". Fr. Agnel's Vidyankur School is once again proud to announce 100% result in the SSC board exam for the seventh consecutive year. The combined efforts of the management, teachers, parents and students have helped us reach this success. This year out of the 140 students who appeared 69 students secured distinction, 59 students got first class and only 12 students secured second class.

The school toppers are-

1. Prasad K. Kandalkar - 94%
2. Ankit B. Khareshiya - 93%
3. Ashish Gugale - 91.60%
4. Saurav Jooel & Saraswati A. Jangid - 91.40%
5. Sangram Shinde - 91%

Meditation as Medication

Fr. Agnel's Vidyankur School promotes a non – sectarian method of meditation for teachers and students wherein an opportunity to meditate daily in school is provided. To aid the technique of meditation a Workshop was conducted for Teachers on 9th June 2018. The resource person Rev. Dr. Ivon D'Almeida stressed on the importance of a 'Healthy Mind in a Healthy Body'. Fr. Ivon showed the participants on impactful way towards a better and healthy living. Through an interactive session the teachers got more clarity about the correct method to be used in meditation and the reason behind it. Importance of meditation in eliminating various illnesses common in today's stressful life was explained. Thus it was an enriching session which made the teaching and non-teaching staff realize meditation is an easy and simple way to enhance our life.



Group Discussion 'Influence of Meditation on Our Life'.



Motivational Speech on 'Meditation As Medication'

*"If you light a lamp for somebody,
it will also brighten your path."*

-Buddha

KUDOS TO AGNELITES !!

The students of Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School & Jr. College, Ambarnath have succeeded with flying colours and have made their school proud with the SSC and HSC board results of Feb-Mar 2018. The School

and Junior College achieved 100% results. 221 students appeared for the SSC examination. 178 students secured Distinction and 43 secured First class.

SSC TOPPERS



Aditya Pawar
1st Position-96.8 %



Krishna Madathingal
2nd Position-96.4 %



Tanay Yadav
3rd Position-96.2 %

HSC SCIENCE TOPPERS



Angela Ramesh
1st Position-91.69%



Christina Arrackken
2nd Position-84.61%



Dharmaraj Eranjikal
3rd Position-83.53%

HSC COMMERCE TOPPERS



Vishnu Nanu
1st Position-86 %



Saniya V.P.
2nd Position-84.61 %



Kamil Qureshi
3rd Position-82 %

Vidyankur SSC Examination Result 2017-18



Prasad K. Kandalkar
1st Position-94%



Ankit B. Khareshiya
2nd Position - 93%



Ashish Gugale
3rd position - 91.60%



Sawarswati A. Jangid
4th Position - 91.40%



Sourav Joel
4th position - 91.40%



Sangram Shinde
5th position - 91%

Inculcating Leadership

Fr. Agnel's Vidyankur School witnessed the installation of the Senior & Junior Parliament on 15th June & 18th June 2018.

The programme began with lighting of the lamp followed by prayer service seeking Almighty's blessings. The Director, Rev. Fr. Angelo Gomes declared the theme for the year 2018-19 'One World One Family'.

The newly elected ministers and prefects took charge of their offices. The Principal, Mrs. Minal Kasbey, administered the oath to the President Revati Bocharé of Senior ministry, and Shantanu Dwivedi of Junior ministry, Senior Speaker, Shantanu

Dighe & Deputy Speaker Tanmay Valunj and Junior Speaker Rutuja Gadge. They were vested with sashes and badges by the Director. The school Council took an oath to live up to the expectations and work with synchronization with the mission of the school.



Vidyankurians celebrate Environment & Society Day

Fr. Agnel's Vidyankur School celebrated Environment Day & Society Day on 2nd July 2018 with great fervour and gaiety. Students

going to start Waste Management Project in the Campus.



A small step by the Vidyankurians to achieve a better tomorrow.



Installation of Class & Language Monitors.

were made acquainted with the history of St. Francis Xavier, Pilar, Goa. The Vidyankurians also witnessed the grand installation of class & language monitors.

The Director, Rev. Fr. Agnelo Gomes addressed the students & explained about conserving the environment & also declared that the school is

All the students & teachers pledged to safeguard the nature & keep the surroundings clean. A special skit on encouraging people to use cloth bags & 'SAY NO TO PLASTIC' presented by STD IV Jasmine & std. X Periwinkle, caught everyone's attention. The programme concluded with a Vote of thanks.

News from Agnel, Vashi

1. National level achievement:

Our student Ojas Nisalkar from Civil 4th semester received the 3rd prize in the National level debate competition organized by the anti-corruption academy. The Topic of the debate was “Can India be Corruption Free?”. He was awarded with a Trophy and a Certificate.

2. Workshops Organized

- a. Electronics and Telecommunication Engg. Department had organized 3 days’ workshop on “Electronics Workshop & PCB Making” for 3rd semester EXTC students from 13/6/18 to 15/6/18. 47 students had registered for the workshop. Students got hands on experience on testing of electronic components, bread board connection, soldering techniques etc. One day of the workshop was fully dedicated to PCB making software and the sessions were conducted by Prof. Jatin Desai from FCRIT, Vashi. This Workshop was very informative and highly beneficial for our students.
- b. A Workshop on solid modelling and AutoCAD was conducted for first year students of Mechanical Engineering. The CEP was held from 14th May 2018 to 23rd May 2018. Twenty-two students registered for the training and 32 course hours were provided. The resource person from the Industry was Momin Musheer. These skills give the students an edge over the others as their theoretical learning is enhanced with practical skills.

3. Information about vocational trainings organized:

A hands-on training by Hyundai on automobiles was held for our students in the month of May. Agnel Polytechnic has signed an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with Hyundai Motors India to create a jointly supervised Automobile learning centre for our students. We have taken a good step towards strengthening knowledge and innovation between Industry and Institute. Agnel Polytechnic is generating skilled manpower required for the core industries. The

strategy of collaboration of Hyundai and Agnel is in line with the government’s vision of skill development through ‘Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana’. Hyundai has set up advanced laboratories in our premises for practical learning of automobile subjects in detail. We are also using latest training methods and bringing professionals to keep pace with latest technology in global market place. Hyundai has trained our staff members to train our final year students. In the year 2017, we had trained 25 students out of which 24 got absorbed by the industry. This training has helped the students to groom their talents by giving them theoretical and practical knowledge. This year 24 students of Mechanical Engg. were trained for the total duration of 60 hours from 7th May to 14th June. This year 8 of the 24 students opted for jobs and they were all placed in Hyundai Service Centers. Mr. Ganesh Gawande, Mr. Satish Eandole & Mr. Avinash Jage were the resource persons.

4. Blood Donation Drive

Agnel Polytechnic, Vashi in association with Tata Memorial Centre, organized a Blood Donation camp on 21st July from 10 am. to 3.30 pm as a part of its social service commitments. The Camp was hugely successful with blood donors turning up in large numbers. Staff and students from the various Institutes in the Vashi Campus – the Polytechnic, the Engineering College, The ITI and Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School, participated in this camp.

About 90 bottles of blood were collected during the drive. Mr. Venugopal Kurup, HOD, Humanities Department, Agnel Polytechnic was the Convener of the Event. Mr. Abhitab, Medical Social Worker, Tata Memorial Centre, Kharghar was the co-ordinator. Prof. Saly Anthony, Principal, Agnel Polytechnic felicitated Dr. Nisseem and the dedicated medical team of Tata Memorial Centre for supporting the College to conduct this event. All the blood donors were provided Certificates by Tata Memorial Centre to appreciate their noble deed of donating blood. Student Council members of Agnel Polytechnic along with the staff helped in the smooth conduct of the event.

India's Freedom isn't Free

Leon Bent

“Freedom isn't free”, “freedom is not free”, “freedom's not free”, or “freedom ain't free” is an American idiom, used widely in the United States to express gratitude to the military for defending personal freedoms. “Freedom Is Not Free” is engraved into one wall at the Korean War Veterans Memorial, Washington, D.C. Can we, Indians, write such exquisite and succinct songs and slogans? Yes, we can, but with a subtle 360 degree twist to the lyrics! Even Vande Mataram, which is supposed to be a National Patriotic Song of India, is a prayer to a Hindu goddess asking for a Hindu nation, is written in a book that denounces Muslims and calls for a partnership with the British. Unfortunately, it has become very inflammatory, almost a rabble-rouser, with vociferous protests, to match! What looked like a beautiful, mellifluous “Anthem” has begun to hurt the religious sentiments of thousands of our Country-men. The devil lies in the detail: It is being looked upon as a melody in praise of the Sangh Parivar ideology!

Hindutva - Hindu Nationalism

The term Hindutva has nothing to do with the religion Hinduism or ‘Sanatan Dharma’. It is a political ideology created for defining national identity for India: A political ideology created by V D Savarkar, Hinduism teaches us Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (earth is one family) whereas Hindutva leads to Hindu Rashtravad (Hindu nationalism).

Since 2014, Modi's BJP, a right-wing political party rooted in Hindutva, a term often translated as “Hindu nationalism” and which contains Hindu supremacist elements, has held power. Currently, the BJP is the most popular party in the country, ruling in 14 of India's 29 states.

As popular as the BJP is and its religiously inflected brand of nationalism, has raised concerns about government-backed sectarianism and low tolerance for dissent. “What the BJP has been successfully able to do,” says Khalid, “is to make even the people opposing them speak their language” (Al Jazeera).

The RSS and the Sangh Parivar

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS, or the ‘Sangh,’ the BJP, the VHP, the Sewa Vibhag

and the Bajrang Dal), was started in 1925 for ‘propagating Hindu culture.’ As an organization, the RSS is elusive and shadowy—it is only open to Hindu males – primarily upper caste, it maintains no membership records; it has resisted being registered with the Government of India as a public/charitable Trust; it has no bank accounts and pays no income tax.

The RSS advocates a form of Hindu nationalism, which seeks to establish India as a Hindu Rashtra (Hindu Nation), and rejects the notion of a composite Indian identity brought about by a synthesis of different cultures and faiths. This particular ideology is variously called an ideology of Hindu pride, Hindu patriotism, Hindu fundamentalism, Hindu revivalism, Hindu chauvinism, Hindu fascism or simply Hindutva. What is beyond doubt is the exclusionary and discriminatory nature of the ideology.

BJP Suppressing Freedom of Press

A Movement, that began its work in a newly independent India, with the murder of an apostle of peace, Mahatma Gandhi, and respect for all communities, has today surfaced in its open and naked form – as a fundamentally fascist Movement.

Journalists in India are less free than 135 other countries due to threats from “Hindu nationalists”, according to an index of press freedom by a global media watchdog. “With Hindu nationalists trying to purge all manifestations of ‘anti-national’ thought from the national debate, self-censorship is growing in the mainstream (Indian) media,” said the report, which has painted a grim picture for the press globally.

The Editors Guild said, on June 3, 2018, that the spirit of democracy can only be kept alive through a free, fair media. The Editors Guild of India on Sunday condemned threats of physical violence and abusive social media attacks on several journalists. Noting that the spirit of democracy can only be kept alive through a free, fair and independent media, the Guild reiterated that any attempt to physically threaten or verbally abuse and humiliate those who offer commentary, reportage or analysis can “seriously undermine the functioning of our democracy”.

Cow Vigilantism

In India, where cows are venerated by a large segment of the population, cow vigilante violence involving mob attacks in the name of “cow protection,” but targeting mostly Muslims, has swelled since 2014.

There has been a rise in the number of incidents of cow vigilantism since the election of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to the Indian central government in 2014. The frequency and severity of cow vigilante violence has been described as “unprecedented”. Human Rights Watch has reported that, there has been a surge in cow vigilante violence since 2015. The surge is attributed to the recent rise in Hindu nationalism in India. Many vigilante groups say they feel “empowered” by the victory of the Hindu nationalist BJP in the 2014 election. However, in a major setback for cow vigilantism, the Supreme Court of India in September 2017 ruled that each state should appoint a police officer in each district as a nodal official to take strict action against cow vigilantism.

According to “Russia Today” and “Human Rights Watch”, many cow protection vigilante groups are allied with the BJP. According to BBC News, many cow-protection vigilantes attend training camps organized by Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, which is BJP’s parent organization. Mukul Kesavan, in The Telegraph, accused BJP officials of justifying vigilantism. He pointed out that after some vigilante attacks, the BJP officials tried to get the police to charge the victims (or their family) for provoking the assault.

Brahmans Target Dalits

On January 1, 2018, Dalits, the most disadvantaged community at the bottom of the Hindu caste ladder, had gathered in large numbers at Bhima Koregaon, a village in Pune, to mark a historical event. Two hundred years ago, Mahars, a Dalit sub-group, had helped the British defeat the forces of the Brahminical Peshwa dynasty at the site.

The Dalits at the event were attacked by right-wing groups, who claimed to be furious at the celebration of a British victory. What followed the next day was a strong retaliation by Dalit groups, protesting the attacks that brought Mumbai, India’s financial capital, to a halt.

This was the third such occasion in two years when it became clear the Dalits could respond strongly to upper caste atrocities. Two years ago, in January 2016, there had been a spurt of nationwide student agitations against the suicide of Dalit Hyderabad

student, Rohith Vemula. Then, in July 2016, there were violent protests against the public flogging of Dalits in Una, by cow vigilantes.

Modi’s Party Stokes Anti-Muslim Violence

Communal violence under the National Democratic Alliance government led by the Bharatiya Janata Party increased 28 percent over three years to 2017 – 822 “incidents” were recorded that year – but it was short of the decadal high of 943 in 2008, according to an “IndiaSpendI” analysis of Home Ministry data.

“Communal violence over the last five years has taken a huge toll on minorities, including Christians and Sikhs. But Muslims – who form 15 per cent of the country’s population – have borne the brunt of these hate crimes, such as lynching, threats, attacks on places of worship and forced conversion”, it says.

Conclusion

We cannot accept a breezy “anything goes” policy! Our Prime Minister’s, favourite, concert-pitch “Make in India” slogan is slowly, but surely, turning into a “Make in India Religious and Communal Nightmare” 24x7, 365 days a year! Our Honourable Prime Minister and his Government are ‘several light years’ away from this pet dream!

Besides, our Prime Minister has made thousands of promises with the eloquence of a demagogue, but most of them have ended in delusion.

Now, the punch line! The Sangh Parivar is unleashing on the Nation, “Barbarism Unlimited”!

The last word! Just imagine, the Government in power at the Centre, the BJP, and in the States they rule, are ironically eulogising Naturam, a staunch member of an extremist Hindu Nationalist Organisation, the Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha, as a nationalist and patriot, like the “Father of the Nation,” Gandhiji, whom he assassinated on 30 January 1948! A xenophobic and paranoid simile! This, truly, is an ugly and unforgiveable irony and paradox! Today, we are living in the darkest hour in seventy-one years of so-called freedom! Naturam Godse’s dastardly and cold-blooded act of treason is an apt symbol of our wretched contemporary times!

And finally, this flourish! We need to look beyond the narrow confines of race, creed and culture, and concentrate on a global vision of one Universe, one God and one Humanity, if we are to find Freedom, Peace and Harmony, in the ‘here and now’ and eternal bliss, in thereafter.

The Greatness of the Priesthood

E.F. Joseph

Every year on the 4th of August the Catholic Church celebrates the Feast of St. John Marie Vianney, the Patron Saint of the Priests all over the world. On this day people specially pray for the welfare of the Priests and success of their mission.

St. John Marie Vianney was the Curator of the Parish of Ars, a town in France. He was not a scholar nor a high dignitary in the hierarchy of the Church. He was a humble and simple priest, and above all a man of prayer. He was a perfect blend of the Priesthood and the great role model of the sacerdotal life. With the sole weapon of prayer he transformed the entire parish of Ars to a God-fearing, God-loving community, who, otherwise, were leading a sinful life. The Parish of Ars, which was once a nightmare for the the Parish Priests, is now the Shrine where the mortal remains of St. John Marie Vianney is preserved and venerated by hundreds of people daily.

On this auspicious occasion, it will be very appropriate to reflect on the greatness and the relevance of the Priesthood in our life. St. Ligouri once said that “If I saw an Angel and a Priest, I would bend my knee first to the Priest and then to Angel “. It is through the Priests we experience the Divine presence of Jesus in the Sacraments. One who honours a Priest, is honouring Jesus. That is why we greet the Priests with “Praise be to Jesus” whenever we meet them. So great is the dignity of the Priesthood which is beyond the capacity of our human intelligence and criteria.

It is the Priests who make us the heirs of the Kingdom of Heaven by the Sacrament of Baptism, and thereafter they nourish and enrich our souls and spiritual life by the Sacraments of Confirmation, Confession and by daily sacrifice of Holy Mass. It is the Priests who unite a man and woman by the Sacrament of Matrimony and thus they play a vital role in the Christian family life. And finally, it is the Priests who help us prepare for a happy death and embrace it in a graceful state by the Sacrament of Extreme Unction. Their role in our life does not end

with our death, even after death they continue to intercede before God by offering prayers and Masses for the departed souls. All in all, Priests are an indispensable part and parcel of our life on the earth.

Apart from religious and spiritual service they play very important roles like Teachers, Professors, Principals, Managers, Directors, Doctors, Lawyers, Employers and so on. A totally selfless and dedicated service to the society. And yet, there is no allegation that has not been levelled against them. It is their prophetic duty to correct the people when they deviate from the path of truth, and lead them to God on the path of holiness. But, sadly it is often mistaken as their arrogant attitude.

I am working in a place where I can see the people belong to other faiths and religions, irrespective of their class and status bow with folded hands before the Priests, and with great respect and reverence they touch their feet invoking blessing. Whereas, so called Christians, give a shake-hand to them and end up with Good Morning or Good Evening, Father.

Years pass by, aged, exhausted, sick, unable to work they take shelter in the Clergy Home where they are seldom visited by friends & relatives, and more painfully by the people whom they loved, served and held close to heart. Finally, they depart from the world leaving behind nothing except a stock of few old spiritual books. No one to inherit them, no one to cry when they die. Like unsung patriots they go behind the scene with no one to remember them.

A wonderful life, graceful life, totally selfless life, dedicated to a Divine cause. Nothing to earn - only to give, nothing to hate - only to love, nothing to take - only one Chalice with the coffin.

May the good Lord keep all the Priests under His loving care always and protect them from all the dangers and evils in their lives. Let me conclude with Hearty Congratulations and prayerful greetings to all the Priests.



Fr. AGNEL'S BLESSINGS

SHOWER OF BLESSINGS

Maninagar : I am a devotee of Ven. Fr. Agnel for many years and have received numerous favours through his intercession. By the blessings of Ven. Fr. Agnel I got a suitable life match and moreover I am now blessed with twins, a boy and a girl. They are both keeping good health. My heartfelt thanks to Ven. Fr. Agnel with an humble offering of ₹.101.

-Jairambhai

GRACEFULL YEARS

Kurla : I am a staunch devotee of Ven. Fr. Agnel for the past many years. By his heavenly intercession I have received numerous blessings and favours in my life. As a token of my profound gratitude an offering of ₹.2 lakh to the Ashram for its various charitable activities.

-C.M. D'Silva

OPERATION AVERTED

Panjim-Goa: I was in great pain for four years and the doctors were unable to diagnose my problems. At last the M.R.I. showed that a bone was impinging on my nerve and therefore surgery had to be done. At this hour of crisis we had recourse to the powerful intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel. I recovered without an operation. I am indeed grateful to Ven. Fr. Agnel and pray that he may be raised to the Altar soon.

-Fatima Alvares

GOOD JOB SECURED

Bhayander: My son was without a job for quite some time. I prayed to Ven. Fr. Agnel to help him secure a good job. By the grace of Ven. Fr. Agnel, he has succeeded in getting a job as Cabin Crew in a reputed airline. With a grateful heart an offering of ₹.500/- to Ven. Fr. Agnel.

-A.Rathod

BRIGHT ACADEMIC CAREER

Silvassa: I am an ex student of Fr. Agnel's Institute. Through his heavenly intercession had a bright academic career. I passed my MBA with high marks and got a good placement. As a token of my sincere love and homage an offering of ₹. 20,000 to the Ashram.

-Carrol Noronha

OPERATION AVERTED

Carmona-Goa : I had injured my leg grievously in a motor cycle accident and had to remain in hospital for a long time as the wound did not heal. The doctor recommended amputation. At this moment, I prayed fervently to Ven. Fr. Agnel for his healing touch. My leg has now improved a lot and there was no need of any surgery. My grateful thanks to Ven. Fr. Agnel and I pray for his early canonization.

-Sacrafamilia Lazarus

SHOWER OF BLESSINGS

Malad : I am an ardent devotee of Ven. Fr. Agnel for the past 20 years. I always pray to Fr. Agnel before starting any work (Contract) and it all has been successful. Ven. Fr. Agnel has also showered numerous blessings on my family. Almost every Sunday I visit the Ashram and seek his blessings. As a token of my profound gratitude an offering of ₹.10,000 to the Ashram.

-Ashok Patel

GIFT OF A CHILD AFTER 4 YEARS

Kurla: I was issueless even after four years of my marriage. In despair and with great faith I sought the heavenly intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel. By the grace of Ven. Fr. Agnel I am now blessed with a baby girl. Today we have come to the Ashram with our little daughter to make our thanks offering of ₹.1111 to the Ashram.

-Bhavik Khimanuja

Out of Their Bounty

P. Srivastava	Mumbai	50000	P. Rejoy	Dombivli	2000	J.E. Gonsalves	Gujarat	600
Sosamma Saji	Al-Ain	35000	R.V. Kannukadan	Dombivli	2000	E.V. Margaret	Kerala	600
C. Fernandes	Mumbai	25000	R. Birdy	Mumbai	2000	A.R. Elavia	Mumbai	501
Shaju Abraham	Kerala	20000	P.B. Michael	Kerala	2000	v. Ishwar	Vasai	501
L. D'Cruz	Mumbai	20000	J. Dionatious	Kerala	2000	P.R. Bhawsar	Mumbai	501
A.N. Pereira	Mumbai	20000	Sherly Joseph	Kerala	2000	P.A. Francis	Kerala	501
Anita Varkey	Bangalore	15000	George Menezes	Udupi	2000	Valsala Joseph	Kerala	501
Valani & Elsie	Mumbai	13000	S. Thelly	Kerala	2000	V. Savani	Mumbai	500
Mitchelle &			K.J. Mathew	Kerala	2000	Jaten Desai	Valsad	500
Moshev Aloz	Vasai	10000	M. Pinto	U.A.E.	2000	Ania Fernandes	Nasik	500
J.S. Sawant	Mumbai	10000	H. Wilson	Australia	2000	Cavin Soans	Thane	500
L. Menezes	Mumbai	10000	Bharti Enterprises	Mumbai	2000	S. Pallja	Mumbai	500
M. Fernandes	Mumbai	10000	A.P. Varghese	Kerala	2000	Joan Faria	Bhayander	500
J. S. Sawant	Mumbai	10000	Flavia Ameida	Mumbai	2000	Siyan Faria	Bhayander	500
Sujay Joseph	Delhi	9500	A. Jayaprakash	Chennai	2000	S.L. D'Mello	Virar	500
R. Jaiswar	Mumbai	9000	John Serrao	Bangalore	2000	P. Fernandes	Mumbai	500
Grishma & Avanti	Mumbai	9000	Helen almeida	Mumbai	1500	Marcel Lobo	Vasai	500
Zenobia U. Nair	Mumbai	8000	Helen Almeida	Mumbai	1500	T. Tomas	Thane	500
J. M. Machado	Mumbai	8000	Rani Samson	T.N.	1500	H.M. Patel	Navsari	500
Nishna Lavli	Silvassa	7500	R.M. Shelke	Pune	1500	P.G. Sutar	Mumbai	500
Nice Enterprises	Mumbai	7500	A. Jayasimhan	Mumbai	1500	Ruchita & Rudolf	Vasai	500
Ponam Bajaj	U.S.A.	6200	C. Mitchell	T.N.	1200	G.r. Rana	Thane	500
P. Fernandes	Mumbai	6000	T.Solanki	Daman	1111	T. Kotak	Rajkot	500
P. Fernando	Mumbai	6000	V. Varghese	Delhi	1100	S. Saldanha	Chennai	500
M.M. Contractor	Mumbai	5001	V. Karani	Mumbai	1001	Raul Araujo	Verna	500
Nikhil Gavli	Silvassa	5000	A. Gurson	Dahisar	1000	S. Chettiar	Mumbai	500
Snehal Gvli	Silvassa	5000	N.S. Naik	Nalasopara	1000	Maria D'Souza	Mangalore	500
S. D'Cunha	Vasai	5000	Neha Gala	Kalina	1000	S.R. Sanjay	ahmedabad	300
P.H. DeSouza	Mumbai	5000	H.M. Manek	Mumbai	1000	S. Mistry	Pune	300
Subramaniam R.	Mumbai	5000	Gloria & Francis	Pune	1000	Nirmala Joseph	Kerala	300
H. Hyrapiet	Kolkata	5000	Anto Antony	Vasai	1000	Gracy Mathew	Kerala	300
M.K. Hsieh	Kolkata	5000	A. Antony	Vasai	1000	M.Sophia Merlyn	T.N.	300
V. Fernandes	Mumbai	5000	P.M. Jadhav	Gujarat	1000	M.J. Pereira	Pune	300
P. Fernandes	Chennai	5000	flossy Suares	Mira Road	1000	T. Joseph	Kerala	300
A. Antony	Kerala	5000	J.S. Jamble	Mumbai	1000	Joby Joseph	Kerala	250
B. Tirkey	Mumbai	5000	Tina M.	Mumbai	1000	D. Sebastian	Kerala	250
D. Monsurate	Dubai	5000	Sheldon D'Cunha	Mumbai	1000	Molly John	Kerala	250
B.S. Mehta	Muscat	5000	R.M. Manek	Mumbai	1000	Theresa Pinto	Nagpur	210
S. Mathew	U.K.	5000	Dilip B. Kerkar	Mumbai	1000	V.L. Johny	Kerala	201
S. Menon	Mumbai	5000	J.S. Makasare	Nashik	1000	S. Lokhande	Ahmednagar	201
R.M. D'Souza	Vasai	5000	J.M. Parke	Nashik	1000	J. Saji	Kerala	200
Luza Pereira	Mumbai	5000	Joy K.v.	Kerala	1000	B. James	Kerala	200
Anil D'Souza	U.S.A.	4752	Sancy Jose	Kerala	1000	P. Almeida	Valsad	200
Ayesha Pereira	Mumbai	4000	M. Fernandes	Dahisar	1000	Jacob Cherian	Kerala	200
A. Fernando	T.N.	4000	J. Menezes	Mangalore	1000	B. Geeta	Gujarat	200
Dr. Sabrina Pereira	Panjim	3500	A.A. Raj	T.N.	1,000	K.L. Kochala	Kerala	200
M.J. Lam	Nashik	3058	M. D'Cunha	Mangalore	1000	R. Victor	T.N.	200
Mina Kazi	Mumbai	3000	M.C. Pereira	MiraRoad	1000	A. Catherine	T.N.	200
H. Bharucha	Palghar	2500	A. Devassy	Thane	1000	Lidwin Pereira	Mangalore	200
Ram t. Hingaran	Mumbai	2100	V.S. Bilolikar	Mumbai	1000	Aruna Mathew	Kerala	200
S. Carvalho	Mumbai	2000	A.A. Soares	Mumbai	1000	Denis C.A.	Kerala	200
Peter Fernandes	Mumbai	2000	S. Natarajan	Dharavi	1000	K. Varghese	Kerala	200
R.K. Nair	Mmbai	2000	Agnel Pinto	Dombivli	1000	Y. Raju	A.P.	200
B.s. Jenices	Mumbai	2000	Dr. V. Karani	Mumbai	1000	V. Allen	Kolkata	200
J. Fernando	Mumbai	2000	Philipo George	Kerala	1000	J. Mirnda	Goa	200
Savio D'Souza	Mumbai	2000	Solanki P.M.	U.K.	862	Alphonso P.K.	Kerala	200
			G.P. fonseca	Mumbai	750	W. Pereira	Karnataka	150

Tree Plantation at Agnel's, Ambernath

A tree plantation drive was organized at Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School, Ambernath, on 2nd July. The students of Std. VIII, IX, X and XII participated in it along with their teachers. The neem saplings for plantation were provided by a local NGO.

The students were initially shown the teak saplings planted in 2017 during the tree plantation drive held then. They were then given neem saplings to plant. Initially, the students of Std. VIII planted the saplings. The proper technique was explained by the teachers and the gardener. The students of Std. IX, X and XII followed.



Plantation of Neem Sapling

The students lovingly and enthusiastically planted the saplings, agreeing on the need for planting trees to save the earth from the harmful effects of pollution.

The teachers spoke to the students about the importance of tree plantation. They explained that trees are the green lungs of the earth. The teachers also helped the students to identify the other trees planted in the Campus.

The students eagerly planted the new neem saplings. They took back the message of tree plantation to their homes.



Blood Donation Drive at Agnel's, Vashi



Regn. No. of Publication RNI-9473/64.
Date of Publication 10th of every month
Date of posting 14th & 15th of every month.
Single copy Price Rs.15/-
Annual Subscription Rs.150/-
Total pages including cover : 20

PRN - MCN/175/2018-2020
to post at concessional rate on 14th & 15th
License to post without prepayment
No. MR/TECH/WPP-87/NORTH/2018
at Bandra Post Office, (West), Mumbai – 400 050.

National level Debate Competition at Fr. Agnel, Vashi



*Master Ojas Nisalkar with Prof. Saly Antony
Principal, Agnel polytechnic and Mr. Godfrey Fernandes
from Anti-Corruption Academy.*



Electronics Workshop & PCB Making



Workshop on solid modelling and AutoCAD



Information about vocational trainings organized



A hands on training by Hyundai on automobiles

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