

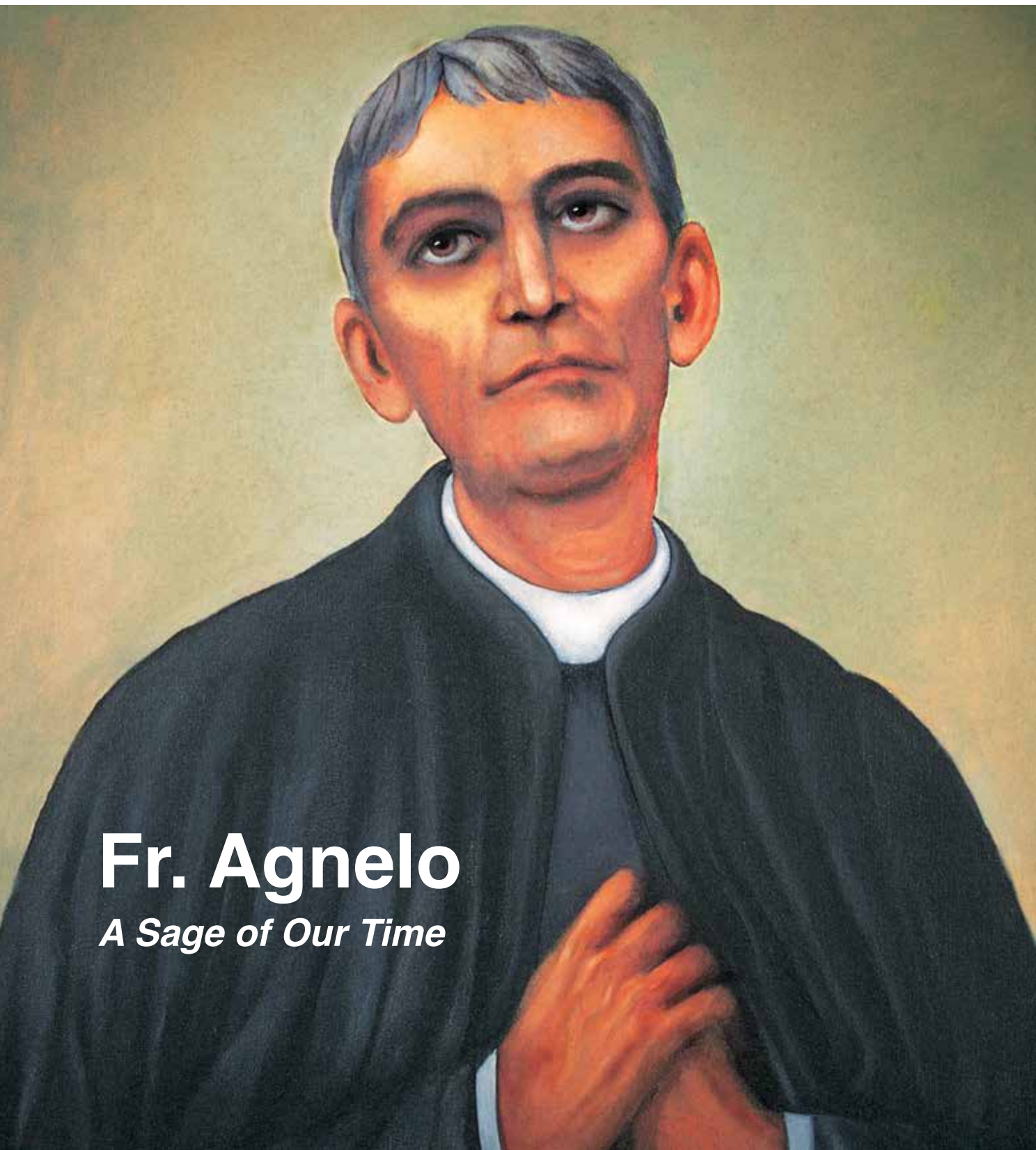


FR

November 2018

# AGNEL

**SHRAM NEWS**



**Fr. Agnelo**

*A Sage of Our Time*

# NEWS

November 2018

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# A Sage of Our Time

-Hansel D'Souza

The Information Age is here! We are besieged by gadgets, machines and the digital media. The Information Age is also called the Computer Age, Digital Age, or New Media Age. History will refer to our age as a turning point in the history of humankind. An age when man entered outer space. An age when the internet ushered in instant communication. An age when technology took giant leaps forward. But one thing that is conspicuous by its absence is sagacity !

It seems so ironical, that though we are witnessing an explosion of information across the globe, sagacity is absent from our public discourse. While intelligence is on the rise, wisdom seems to be on the decline. While IQ is the all important measure, WQ (Wisdom Quotient) or SQ (Spiritual Quotient) has not yet been configured. So what is the difference between Intelligence and Wisdom?

The Oxford Dictionary defines wisdom as the quality of having experience, knowledge, and good judgement. Intelligence on the other hand is defined as the ability to acquire and apply knowledge and skills. A close inspection of these two definitions will indicate the whole point of this piece.

Humans have successfully managed to acquire and build their knowledge base in most sectors. For example, we have perfected the art of food production. We can genetically engineer crops and animals to minimize inputs and maximize output. In other words we have learnt to optimize resources to maximize production at a low cost. Animals are now reared on diets that are designed by computers and based on algorithms that are linked to the wholesale prices of inputs worldwide.

Very soon, within the next decade, we will be producing meat in our kitchens without rearing animals. Meat growing machines will be as common as refrigerators, dishwashers, microwave ovens and washing machines. Using stem cells and designer nutrients to produce a wide variety of meats, lab meat is already under production. It is only a matter of time before it goes commercial!

This is just one example of our superior intelligence. Robotics and artificial intelligence are the next developments that will revolutionize living. We have even managed to create intelligence and name it artificial. The only problem is that we have not yet understood the difference between intelligence and wisdom.

Intelligence is an important part of being wise. However, wisdom is not mere acquisition and application of knowledge. The most important part of wisdom is good judgment. The ability to estimate and predict the impact of the application of our knowledge is a crucial element of wisdom. The ability to discern whether a certain technology will damage or add value to our lives and our planet, is the essence of wisdom.

To explain the point, here is a simple analogy. The invention of the automobile was hailed as a milestone of the previous century. Automobile production fuelled an entire economy in the US, resurrected Japan after the World War and gave South Korea an international status. The oil economy of the Persian Gulf exploded and generated unlimited wealth. Now, hardly a century later, we have realized the irreversible damage we have inflicted on the planet. Global warming is sending us hurtling towards our doom as a species. Wisdom has just kicked in. We are now wrestling to reverse the irreversible !

Wisdom is also known by another word – Spirituality. A few spiritual masters like the Christ, Buddha, Mahavir, Ramakrishna Paramhansa, Swami Vivekanand and others could foresee the impending doom and attempted to nourish human intellect with wisdom. Spirituality was meant to enlighten man, as beautifully expressed in the words of the Brhadaranyaka Upanishad “*Asatoma sadgamaya, tamasoma jyotirgamaya, Mrtyorma amritam gamaya*” (Translated: *Lead me from untruth to truth, from darkness to light, from death to immortality*)

The spirit of this message was epitomized by our very own Fr Agnelo. He never laid claim to high levels of intelligence, but his spiritual expression was ample evidence of his wisdom. Simple living and high thinking made him a role model for many to follow. His sagacity went far beyond his times. He was truly a Sage of Our Time !

# A Truly Religious Mind is Free of Belief

-Shuvendu Patnaik

A truly religious mind is much more than an ordinary scientific mind. It is a deeply scientific mind that is constantly enquiring and discovering... not ensnared by established theories, formulae, dogmas or beliefs, whether they are scientific or theological in nature. It is a mind that is extraordinarily passionate, constantly questioning. It is a mind that can go beyond thought and discover the truth and after discovering, it moves on to discover more. Such a mind is a truly religious mind. It is a free and passionate mind.

Only a free mind can be a scientific mind and such a mind is also a religious mind. It is free and being free it is incapable of accumulating knowledge and beliefs. It refuses to accumulate knowledge

because knowledge belongs to the past and the past is a calcification of the truth and no longer the truth. A calcified truth becomes a belief and therefore false. Truth can only be the living present and this is what many of us fail to see.

How can we develop such a mind? How can we develop a type of mind that is forever young and learning? How can we develop a mind that never cares for beliefs and is able to discover itself new every moment? What are the teachings for developing such a mind?

...Compartments can only contain stagnated air, and J Krishnamurti's teachings are never stagnant. Let us begin with thinking and thought. Thoughts play an important role in our lives. We are governed by what we think and how we think. Our actions are a result of our thought. Knowledge and experience are also a result of our thought and an accumulation of inferences drawn from our thoughts. Beliefs are created by

thought too and they occupy our minds. Living has a lot to do with thinking. To learn the art of living we need to understand the nature of thought and how it influences the mind.

Krishnamurti has dealt extensively with the nature and quality of the human mind and thoughts. There are two things about thought and thinking that we can learn from Krishnamurti. First, the mind is always occupied with thought. Second, thought is constantly wearing away our minds. Do we know this?

First, the mind is always  
occupied with thought.  
Second, thought is constantly  
wearing away our minds.  
Do we know this?

"Thought is the response of the past in conjunction with the present; that is, thought is experience responding to challenges, which is reaction. There is no thought if there is no reaction. Response is the

past background – you respond as a Buddhist, a Christian, according to the left or right. That is the background and that is the constant response to challenge – and that response of the past to the present is called thinking. There is never a moment when thought is not. Have you noticed that your mind is incessantly occupied with something? It is constantly occupied; and what happens to your mind, what happens to any machinery that is in constant use? It wears away."

The mind is never idle. It is always preoccupied with some thought and the thought keeps changing... What may perhaps come as a surprise is that thought wears away the mind. Abridged from Part 2 of 'The Trail to Enlightenment, Life & Teachings of Jiddu Krishnamurti' in three volumes – Part 1: The Hidden Side of Life, Part 2: The Great Coming, Part 3: The Key to Super Consciousness (ProLibris Publishing Media)

*Courtesy - The Times of India*

# Fr. Agnelo A Sage for the Modern World

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-Christine D'Sylva

Every believer must be a spark of light and centre of love- Blessed Pope John XXIII.

Judge the Catholic Church not by those who barely live by its spirit, but by the example of those who live closest to it-Archbishop Fulton Sheen.

Agnelo Gustavo Adolfo de Souza (21 January – 20 November 1927) was a Roman Catholic Priest of the Society of the Missionaries of St Francis Xavier.

The cause for his canonization has been accepted for investigation and at this point he has been declared Venerable.

Saints are venerated through the ages for their lives are exemplary and reflect their deep commitment to God. They do not appear as mere mortals but seemingly like angels who come on earth to provide inspiration for the common man.

Yet, oddly enough many Saints were ordinary people who transformed their lives into one of greatness in terms of spirituality and touched the lives of people around them.

Father Agnel was born in the village Anjuna. His parents had nine children-eight sons and a daughter, and Agnelo was their sixth child.

From his childhood, his behaviour was unusual and it impressed people around him. When he attended Mass, he would listen carefully to the Priest's sermon and then proceeded to teach catechism to the other children who, at times, were older than him.

However, tragedy struck and at the age of eleven his parents suddenly died. As his mother lay dying, she entrusted her nine children to the care of Mother Mary.

His older brother was a Priest and with his

encouragement, Agnel decided to follow his call to Priesthood.

He joined the Missionary Society of St Francis Xavier on 17th July 1897. He served as a Priest, preacher, confessor and an administrator.

In today's modern world, we see fewer youth taking up the vocation of Priesthood. It is a shame because God at times gives a call but the lure of the pleasures of life hinder many a fine young man not to pay heed to this call.

Father Agnelo's life reflected his deep commitment to God, his tireless spirit of perseverance and his goodness that made him be revered. To enable a person to be canonized, a number of miracles are one of the conditions necessary.

A new miracle has lately taken place. A 62 year old woman suffered from metal poisoning. The doctors had given up hope but the woman and her relatives prayed to Venerable Agnelo, and she recovered.

Today Father Agnelo remains second in popularity to Saint Francis Xavier for the people of Goa.

What can the youth of today learn from this extraordinary man? We know that he was a diligent student who studied hard and made all efforts to achieve his goals. He displayed great humility while dealing with his parishioners and what is exemplary is that all religions were accepted by him and he would serve non-Christians. His sermons were uplifting.

It is said that once when one of his parishioners was unable to give dowry to his daughter, and approached Father Agnel, without hesitating he gave whatever he had and borrowed the rest to help this worried father. His giving, kind nature is a fitting example of what it really means to serve Christ not just in theory but in practice.

Today, so many youth have broken away from the Catholic Church and have found other Churches and sects which they claim give them more peace and joy. But what they forget is that it is not the Church that is so important. It is how one puts what one learns from the teachings of Christ into practice everyday, more than just attending prayer meetings and scorning the Catholic Church for not being good enough to cater to everyone's needs. This is untrue for the Catholic Church remains as a rock that has withstood many storms yet continues to stand firm through the centuries while many other Churches and sects collapse at the first hint of problems.

Father Agnel is an example that when one puts theory into practice then only one can say that one is truly a follower of Christ. It is not sufficient to pray and worship but we must lead lives that are exemplary and our lives must

touch other people not just Christians but non-Christians too as Father Agnel demonstrated in his life. Then only we can say, our hearts are big enough to accommodate a God who truly is one and loves all humanity making no distinction.

Father Agnel is truly a sage of the Modern Times and through his fine example may the youth especially, be inspired to stand strong in their faith to the Catholic Church and realise the necessity of putting theory into practice while reaching out in love and acceptance to all fellowmen irrespective of caste, creed and religion.

May Father Agnel continue to inspire the youth of today and we pray for him to be canonized and be accepted as a wonderful saint of our times. Let us conclude with the words of Saint John Vianney, "We are each of us like a small mirror in which God searches for his own reflection."

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## When our Spirit is tranquil, we can listen to the Peace in our heart

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*Some day Science may have the existence of mankind in its power, and the human race (may ) commit suicide by blowing up the world.*

*- Henry Adams*

One hundred years ago, Henry Adams foresaw the plight we are in today. Some observers believe that people in positions of power won't be able to refrain from the awful destruction of a nuclear war.

If we believe that the glory of the human spirit is our ability to choose our future, it's important for us to refuse to agree. We must do everything we can to prevent this murderous suicide of our species, and the first thing we must do is to choose to leave war behind us. Our slow progress on this planet, from naked apes to

technicians in clothing, has prepared us to make the noble choice of peace. We owe it to our humanity.

Among those who despair of our capacity to make this choice are people with brilliant intellects. They may not, however, be our wisest counselors. Each of us must listen to the truth within our hearts; there lies the wisdom that we need. Let's not confuse war with patriotism; we are all citizens of the whole world, and war hurts our human family.

**Each one has to find his peace from within.  
And peace to be real must be unaffected by outside circumstances.**

*- Mahatma Gandhi*

# Rekindle The Lamps of Fellow Travellers

-Shri Shri Anandamurti

What do we mean by human value? It means to treat joys and sorrows, hopes and aspirations sympathetically, and see them merged in Cosmic Consciousness and established in divine majesty. And if one is to elevate oneself to that sublime height, he will need an environment suitable to his physical, mental and spiritual existence. Everyone has the right to make headway in their trifarious existence. It is the duty of society to accord recognition to this human right. Only then will sorrow and suffering end.

No one can say for certain that from among the less privileged, the poor and the marginalised, no great person could have emerged. If their agony had been appreciated sympathetically, and if they had been rehabilitated by society, surely, their potential would find expression. But since society does not give highest priority to human value, a good number of potential great personalities are getting snuffed out in their early stages. That is why every course of action of society ought to be judged with an eye to the dictum “Human beings are divine children.”

The wisdom of society lies in moving together. If in the course of the journey anybody lags behind, if in the darkness of night a gust of wind blows out anyone’s lamp, we should not just go ahead and leave them in the lurch. We should extend a hand to help them, and rekindle their lamps with the flames of our lamps.

While marching together with lamps in our hands, Someone’s lamp has gone out, and he is lying beside the road. Brothers and sisters, will you not stop for a moment to lift him up? Stop we must, otherwise the spirit of society is in jeopardy.

A rishi said: Samamantrena jayate iti samajah – “Society is the collective movement of a group of individuals who have decided to move together towards a common goal.” That is, whether people are papi or tapi, sinners or victims, they are so only superficially; internally they are filled with potential for purity. The principal object of the sadvipras, spiritual revolutionaries, is to explore and bring this potentiality into play. They will accord human value to everyone without exception. Those who have done hateful crimes must be punished, but sadvipras will never hate them, or put an end to them by depriving them of food, because sadvipras are humanists. However, when the question of social responsibility arises, it must be considered with great care. Irresponsible people cannot be entrusted with social responsibility, because those who shoulder

**If moralism is the starting-point of the journey of society, then those who are at its helm must be moralists.**

social responsibility will have to lead humanity on the path of development, and correct the ways of sinners ...

It has been said: “The collective body of those who are engaged in the

concerted effort to bridge the gap between the first expression of morality and establishment in universal humanism is called society.” So social responsibility should be entrusted to those who are capable of discharging it creditably.

If moralism is the starting-point of the journey of society, then those who are at its helm must be moralists. And since society aims to establish universalism, those people must be universalists. And if the gap between moralism and universal humanism is to be bridged, spiritual sadhana is a must, so those people must practise rigorous sadhana. Their philosophy of life must be, “Morality is the base, sadhana is the means, and Life Divine is the goal.”

*Courtesy - The Times of India*



# Agnel Baba ki Jai !

-E. F. Joseph

The title may sound quite strange. It is not a slogan raised by the members of any political party for their leader in a morcha or dharna. But it is truly a spontaneous response from the hearts of hundreds of devotees who throng the Samadhi of Ven. Fr. Agnel at the Ashram on Sundays, at the end of Novena prayer in the afternoon, all in one accord at a high pitch, from the little one to the eldest, and also on his Birth & Death anniversary.

What makes Ven. Fr. Agnel different from other saintly people is that his heavenly intercession is sought by all the people irrespective of their faiths and religions, cutting across the barriers of custom, culture, language and status. It is really a thrilling scene to see that people without any caste or creed affiliations pray together at the Ashram. Devotion to Ven. Agnel is not reserved to any particular community, it is open to all the people without any discrimination, and that is what can be seen at Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandra, Mumbai.

91 years have passed since the death of Ven. Fr. Agnel, but still the fragrance of his virtuous life is spreading far and wide. Daily hundreds of devotees visit the Ashram where his sacred relic is preserved and people return with hearts filled with satisfaction and solace. Although Ven.

Fr. Agnel has not yet been proclaimed a Saint, he is a 'Saint' living in the hearts of lakhs of his devotees.

Ven. Fr. Agnel was humble, simple, noble and above all, a saintly Priest. A perfect and rare blend of all the virtues that endeared him to all in his life time. Wherever he had worked he left behind an indelible divine mark in the hearts of people. His eloquence and fiery earnestness inspired many hardened sinners to shun the path of sin and return to God. Even in his life-time, people considered him a Saint. Ven. Fr. Agnel was very kind to the poor and the needy. To the rich, he told that it is not the clothing that honours a man but his virtues.

Hundreds of charitable & educational Institutions are running under his patronage across the country. Thousands of students are coming out of these Institutions every year and are well placed in respective fields in India and abroad. The word AGNELS has become a brand name and a spontaneous spell for students and parents alike in academic circles.

Agnel Ashram at Bandra is a source of solace where the broken-hearted pray tearfully and return cheerfully. Let me conclude with the kirtan enchanted by thousands of his devotees Agnel Babaki Jai, Agnel Babaki Jai.

## **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](mailto:agnelashramnews@gmail.com)

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



# Another Milestone For Agnells, Vashi

6<sup>th</sup> October 2018 was a day of significance for the **Agnel Institutions in Vashi**. It witnessed the inauguration of the Badminton Gurukul, an academy of International Standards. The evening also saw the Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony of the Agnel School of Law. The laying of the Foundation stone and the blessing was conducted by Rt. Rev. Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas, Secretary General CBCI Delhi. He hailed the institution for starting the first Christian Minority Law College in the western region. He hoped that the institution would instill in the students an education that would encourage them to think from the head and the heart. The Agnel School



*Getting ready for the playoff game.*

of Law is approved by the Bar Council of India and the University of Mumbai. It offers the 3 year as well as the 5 year integrated course and is headed by Dr. Daisy Alexander who has a rich experience in the profession for the past 25 years.

The Badminton academy was inaugurated by Padma Bhushan Shri. Pullela Gopichand who is the Chief National Coach of the Indian Badminton Team. Mr. Gopichand reiterated the importance of including sports in the school

curriculum. He said, “We must give importance to physical literacy because today’s challenges are different”. The trainees in the academy will be exposed to a special curriculum designed by Mr. Gopichand himself. The academy is spread on an area of 6300 sq. ft. and consists of 4 courts of international standards. All facilities conform to the standards prescribed by the Badminton World Federation. The special PULASTIC flooring



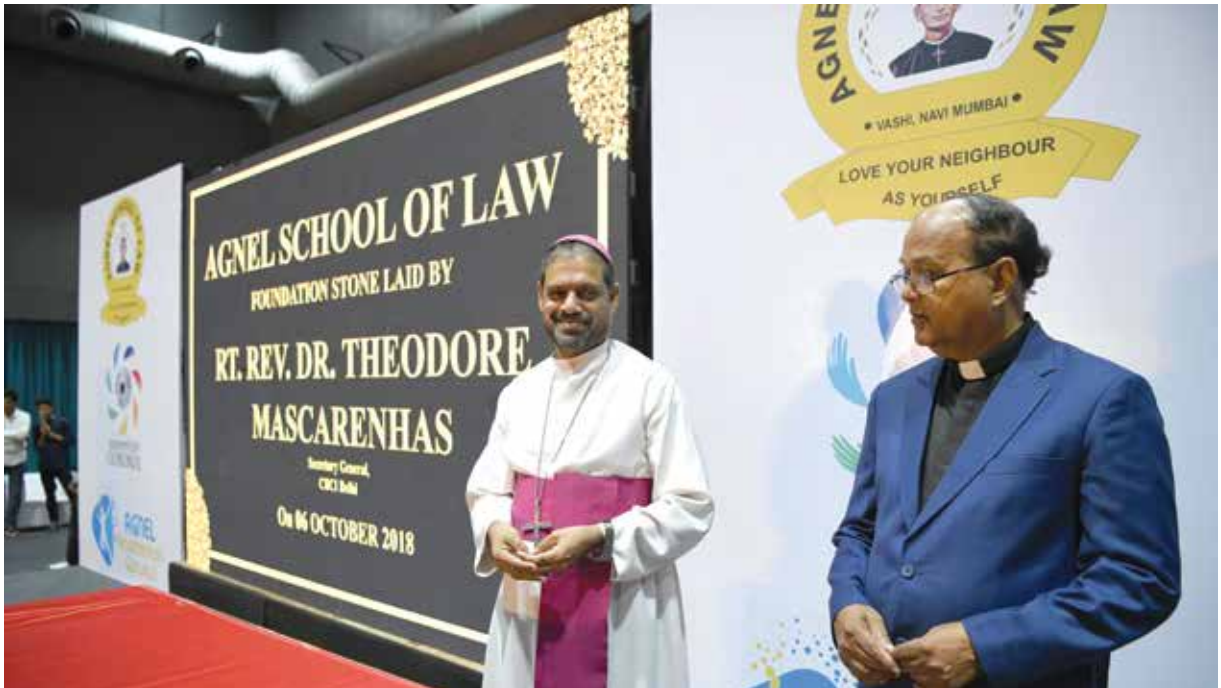
*Rev. Bishop blesses Agnel School of Law.*

has been sourced from the SIKA Company in Netherlands and the special lights have been sourced from ENDO Lights, Japan. The Agnel Management sought advice and inputs from world class professionals like Mr. Gopichand, while constructing the academy. Players of all ages will be coached using curriculum and methodology designed to tap and groom talent. An exhibition playoff game was held between Padma Bhushan Gopichand and the Managing Director of Agnel Institutions Rev. Fr. Almeida. Other dignitaries who attended the function were The Honorable Mayor of Navi Mumbai Shri Jayawant Sutar, The Honorable Deputy Mayor of Navi Mumbai Shri Avinash Lad, Corporators, Directors and Principals of Engineering colleges. Several Fathers, Sisters, Principals of schools, doctors, parents and well-wishers also graced the occasion.

Sports do not build character. They reveal it.

-Heywood Broun

# Inauguration of Badminton



*Every great dream begins with a dreamer.*



*Rev. Bishop invoking blessings from the Almighty.*



*Rev. Bishop addresses the gathering.*



*Inaugural address.*



*Inauguration of Badminton Gurukul.*



# Agnel Gurukul, at Fr. Agnel Vashi



*Smile is the universal Welcome.*



*Speaking about the importance of sports in school curriculum.*



*Fr. Almeida lights the lamp.*



*Future shuttlers.*



*Exhibition playoff game between Fr. Almeida and Shri P. Gopichand.*

# Basketballers Win Glory

Fr. Agnel U-17 boys' basketball team qualified for the DSO Basketball State Championship held at Yavatmal between the 11th– 13th October 2018.

The young team played its first quarter final game against Aurangabad and registered an easy win with a score of 54 – 40. They faced the defending champions Pune in their semi-final game and won it hands down with a score of 62 – 51.

It was a nail biting finals against the Satara team, who were the runners-up last year. It was a close game right from the beginning. However Agnel hoopsters won the championship in the extra time with a score of 80 – 78. The players had a tough task in the extra time as Aqib Zariwalla, Rishit Ravichandran and Argha Ghanta who were

the pillars of the team were knocked out.

The boys did not give up and emerged champions. Three of the champs – Stefan



Dias, Aqib Zariwalla and Hrishikesh Awate were selected for the National championship which will be held later this year in Delhi.

## Rashtriya Ekta Divas'

31st October 2018, the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was celebrated as 'Rashtriya Ekta Divas' (National Unity Day) at Fr.

of 'Rashtriya Sankalp Divas'.

A pledge taking ceremony was organized to mark the occasion of Rashtriya Ekta Divas. In



*Students take pledge*

Agnel Multipurpose School & Jr. College, Vashi. A special school assembly was organized on this occasion. An inspiring speech narrating the life of Vallabhbhai Patel was given by Kalyani Aiyer. Neetya Shah delivered a speech on the life of our late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in celebration

the pledge the students reaffirmed to preserve and strengthen the unity, integrity and security of our nation.

The assembly was concluded with the national anthem.



# Educators from Japan visit Agnels, Vashi.

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The Management, staff and students of Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School, Vashi were happy to welcome a team of educators from various schools of Yokohama city on Wednesday, 10th October 2018. Earlier in 2017, during an educational trip to Japan, children and staff members of this school had visited and interacted with a school in Yokohama.

The visit was arranged by AAAWI, a nonprofit Organisation dedicated to human resource development through sharing of knowledge and enhancement of friendly relation between countries.

Managing Director, Rev. Fr. S. Almeida welcomed the guests from the “Land of Rising Sun” to the ‘Land of the Mahatma’. In his welcome address

he reiterated the need for peace in the world and added that educators and countries coming together will surely bring about the change we are all looking for.

The teachers from Japan were welcomed traditionally by the children of Pre Primary Section and the students of Jr. College. After a glimpse of the morning assembly in school, the visitors observed the teachers of Fr. Agnel School teaching in the classroom. This was followed by an interactive session between teachers of Agnels and those from Japan. The guests were then taken to see all the institutions in the Agnel Technical and Sports Complexes. The visit concluded with a colourful Indian cultural programme presented by the children of the school.

-Photos on pg 19

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## International Chef's Day AIFCCS, Verna

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Culinary forum of Goa which comprises 100 of executive chefs of all five star hotels in Goa namely the Leela Goa, Holiday Inn Resort Goa, Zuri White Sands, Radisson Blu, Cidade De Goa, Planet Hollywood, Taj Exotica, Baywatch, Holiday Inn Resort hosted a lunch on 17th October 2018 with entertainment for 350 orphans and street children from different orphanages from Conceicao Balgram, El Shaddai Margao, Clunny Sisters Verna and Sisters Adorers Convent, Nuvem at **AGNEL**

**INSTITUTE OF FOOD CRAFTS AND CULINARY SCIENCES, VERNA GOA.**

The children interacted with the chefs regarding their future careers in hospitality as well as were entertained with a magician. Orphans from Agnel Ashram performed a dance and a group song. At the end of the event a take away gift was given to every child.

-Photos on Back Cover

*“Be yourself; everyone else is already taken.”*

*-Oscar Wilde*

# Women and Spiritual Empowerment

-Masha Hassan

Recently, Muslim women in South Africa were expressing outrage. They were saying, 'We want to pray in mosques, too,' and were questioning religious patriarchy and inequality practised at the Durban and Johannesburg mosques. Keeping the Sabarimala issue in mind – where temple authorities continue to deny entry to women of menstruating age – we are learning that almost all organised religions have had a hand in marginalising women and imposing gender bias, on the premise that the female gender is inferior and weak.

Jalaluddin Rumi in the Mathnawi says, "Woman is a ray of God. She is not just the earthly beloved; she is creative, not created." And Zaynab is the perfect example of women exploding the stereotypical image.

**Women are a storehouse of power. It is time to use that power to bring about social transformation and transition.**

A Sufi mystic, with her ingenuity and fearlessness, thwarted gender stereotyping in colonial times. Lalla Zaynab, an Algerian Sufi intellectual from the Rahmánya order, was born in 1850. She had an excellent scriptural knowledge and lived with her father Muhammad ibn Abi al-Qasim – who was known as Shaykh – in the zawiya (Islamic monastery/ religious school) of El Halem. She inherited the Baraka, a spiritual force, and the zawiya from him.

For local French authorities, a woman running the Sufi lodge was unacceptable. They saw her as a threat to their authority and were paranoid about any politically active Sufi brotherhood as a threat to the French empire.

The French tried to appoint Sidi Mohamed, the Shaykh's nephew, to lead the zawiya. Well versed in the French language and faithful to French interests, Mohamed was an important pawn for the French authorities. Captain Crochard came up with a letter that he said was given to him by the Shaykh, confirming Mohamed as successor. But, Mohamed, excited to take over the wealth

and power after the death of the Shaykh, had to deal with the iron-willed lady, Zaynab, who rejected Mohamed's spiritual and moral authority. Despite Mohamed's threats to lock her up in the harem, she gained immense support from her followers who rose against him. All doubts were quashed when a voice apparition from her father announced that Zaynab was the rightful heir as all healing and supernatural powers were transferred to her.

In order to counterattack Crochard and being aware that she won't be able to outlive military coercion, she pressed charges against Crochard and used French colonial laws against him. The Sufi mystic drew attention to the military administration's failures and accused them of misogyny and of disrespecting the indigenous peoples.

Zaynab's judicial case was brought before Jules Cambon, governor-general of Algeria. Jules who had a keen inclination towards Sufism later instructed to relinquish all military intervention against the El Hamel Zawiya.

Imbibing the role of a healer, pious ascetic as well as political leader, Zaynab demonstrated how women with their numerous avatars can easily transform themselves from a calm ocean to a thunderous storm. Her vision for tackling the French authorities was progressive and ahead of her time. With her defiance, authority and wisdom, she successfully saved the monastery and chose the pen instead of the sword. The erudite scholar ran the zawiya for many years and became an esteemed figure.

Today when there is much talk of women's empowerment, why do we still have to ban their entry to religious places? Women are a storehouse of power. It is time to use that power to bring about social transformation and transition.

*Courtesy - The Times of India*

# Venerable Fr. Agnelo, Mystic, Pastor, Guide and Preacher

*-Fr. Cosme Jose Costa, sfx*

Ven. Fr. Agnelo's life was outstanding in its intense spirituality and austere simplicity of a Christian, who led a God-centered life of a Sanyasi in the real Indian tradition. With a harmoniously blended personality, he exuded such magnetism, that his presence could not be ignored in spite of his meek and quiet demeanor. His life was marked by an almost otherworldly detachment. It is attested that he never spoke more than what was required, he shunted entertainment, good food and money which was not due to him. However, those who lived with him and those whom he served found in him a loving friend, a father, and a man of God. He went out of his way to help the poor.

His approach to the world was that of a mystic; he saw everything through the all-encompassing love of God. It was an approach of a liberated soul which experienced God and lived in complete communion with him. He used to spend hours on end before the Blessed Sacrament in rapt adoration. Sometimes he went into ecstasy while celebrating Mass. His desire for a contemplative prayer life continued with him throughout his active ministry, and to the end of his life. He was a preacher of renown who wrote down his sermons in advance and prayed on his knees for a long time before delivering them.

Born in Anjuna Goa, on 21st January 1869, Agnelo Gustavo Adolfo de Souza had completed his priestly studies in Rachol Seminary with "accessit" (distinction) in 1893 and upto December 1896, had received only minor orders and sub-diaconate. Meanwhile, Fr. Bento Martins, had invited him to join the Society of Pilar, but he could not oblige as he had a three year teaching commitment in Calangute, at the request of one of his Seminary Professors.

Joins the Society of Pilar: Finally, Agnelo made a discernment retreat for a month and decided

to join the Society of Pilar. He was admitted under Fr. Lucio Vaz, on 17th July 1897, was ordained a deacon on 18-12-1897, made his commitment in the Society on 22nd May 1898 and was ordained priest on 24th September 1898. Ven. Fr. Agnelo spent the first 10 years of his priesthood (1898 to 1908) in the Pilar Monastery completely submissive to his Superiors and in communion with God.

Priest, Pastor and Guide: On his part, Fr. Agnelo with his two assistant confreres carried out his mission work in the vast parish of Kumta, (today a deanery) with great dedication, concern and care for seven years. Once Fr. Agnelo arrived in Gokarn, after walking 25 kilometers from Kumta, late at night to bless nuptials the next morning and found that the Chapel was locked. Not willing to disturb anyone, Fr. Agnelo asked his attendant to bring a candle so that he could recite his Breviary and a mat to sleep on under God's own sky, sheltered by a tree. Such incidents are pointers to the man of God who had great consideration for others and no concern for himself and for his own needs.

As a Pastor and Guide Fr. Agnelo went out of his way to help those entrusted to his care, both spiritually and materially. He went out of his way to help a family in distress at the time of its daughter's wedding, by taking a loan to help provide dowry. One night some drunkards started banging the Church doors demanding to see the parish accounts. Fr. Agnelo calmly received them in and placed the books of accounts on the table] saying, "It is your money, you have a right to know how it is spent". His meek behavior conquered his opponents, who asked pardoned and left the parish house.

From Kumta he was transferred to Sanvordem, Goa on 21-4-1917 as Chaplain-Curate where he worked with the same zeal and charity.

Within a year, in July 1918, Fr.Agnelo was appointed the resident Spiritual Director of the Patriarchal Seminary of Rachol, where he served for about nine years. Here he attained a high degree of perfection and spiritual maturity, for himself and for those who came under his guidance. His spiritual discourses, Catechism classes and spiritual direction carried conviction to instill in them a desire for sanctity. He thus prepared a legion of future priests, who could be great preachers and pastors of souls after him. His preaching ministry continued throughout his life. He preached his last nine day Novena of the Sacred Heart of Jesus at the Rachol Seminary, he fell on the pulpit while preaching the last sermon during Vespers. He died a few hours after his fall at dawn on the 20th November 1927. This year on 20th November 2018 we will be celebrating

his 91st Death Anniversary.

Tomb in Pilar: To his young confrere Fr.Rosaro Gomes, who was assailed by doubts about the future of the Society, Ven.Fr.Agnelo, a year before he died, had predicted that the Society would “not die, the finger of God is here”. The same Fr. Rosario got Fr. Agnelo’s bones transferred, eleven years after death, from Rachol cemetery to the Pilar Monastery on 10th January 1939. Since then, devotees in thousands from all over the world, flock to his Shrine in Pilar to seek his intercession or thank God for favours received. The process of canonization of Fr.Agnelo was started in Rome in 1947. All formalities done, Fr.Agnelo was declared Venerable after the approval of the Apostolic Process of his life and virtues on 10-11-1986. The last Process of Miracles attributed to him, are yet to be finalized.



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

### **Jaipaul Berchmans, Chennai**

I enclose a cheque of ₹.5000/- for the benefit of the destitute children under your care. Kindly pray for us and our families. Thank you.

### **Hazel Rebello, Bhayandar**

Please accept my Gift Garden contribution of ₹.1000/- for the underprivileged boys in your Ashram. Please remember us in your daily prayers. Thank you.

### **Jayalakshmi, Cochin**

Enclosed is a cheque of ₹.1000/- to be utilized for the destitute children under your care.

Please pray for me and my family. May Ven. Fr.Agnel bless us all.

### **Alleyamma George, Delhi**

Please find enclosed a cheque of ₹.10,000/- as donation from my sister Mrs. Thresiamma John, for the maintenance of the destitute children under your care. Please remember my sister and our family in your daily prayers.

### **Alex F. Fernandes, Goa**

I am enclosing a cheque of ₹.3000/- towards your charitable activities, especially taking care of underprivileged boys. This amount is in the memory of my late wife Maria Fernandes. Please pray for her soul. Thanking you.





# Fr. AGNEL'S BLESSINGS

## GOOD JOB SECURED

**Dockyard Road:** I have been trying to get a good job for quite some time. I have great faith in Ven.Fr.Agnel and prayed to him fervently to help me. I am now happy to say that through his powerful intercession I have secured a good job in a multinational company. With a grateful heart I send my offering of ₹.500 to the Ashram.

-Charle Boban

## GOT ADMISSION FOR MBA

**New Zealand:** For a long time I was trying to get admission to MBA in Wellington, New Zealand, but being over-age my application was rejected. With great faith in Ven.Fr.Agnel I started the Novena and prayed fervently for his help. I am now very happy to inform you that by the blessings of Ven.Fr.Agnel I got admission for MBA and successfully completed the course and secured a good job. I will soon be sending my thanks offering to Ven.Fr.Agnel from my first salary.

-Paul Vincent

## SURGERY AVERTED

**Curca-Goa:** Suddenly while speaking I use to get cough and my voice would become feeble. My neck due to a tight vein would also give me pain. I consulted an ENT Specialist who prescribed some medicines but there was no improvement. Then I went for an MRI and C/T scan. The neurologist too did some tests but all the reports showed normal. Since the tumour was showing a biopsy was done. The doctor advised surgery. I was afraid and prayed to Ven.Fr.Agnelo to heal me. I am now happy to say that through the intercession of Ven.Fr.Agnelo I am completely cured and no surgery was needed. My grateful thanks to Ven.Fr.Agnelo and I pray that he may become a saint soon.

-Joseph Fernandes

## PRAYERS ANSWERED

**Pondicherry:** I was facing some difficulties to get my visa to Kuwait to join my husband. I wanted to stay with him and lead a family life. I have great faith in Ven.Fr.Agnel and prayed earnestly to him to help me through his heavenly intercession. I am now happy

to say that all legal channels were overcome and I obtained my visa to join my husband in Kuwait. My thanks offering to Ven.Fr. Agnel follows.

-Janet Vincent

## SUCCESSFUL MAJOR OPERATION

**Dadar:** I had to undergo a major operation and was under great tension. I fervently prayed to Ven.Fr.Agnel for the success of the operation and healing touch. I am now very happy to inform you that by the grace of Ven.Fr.Agnel the operation was successful and I have regained my normal health. As promised an offering of ₹.1000 to the Ashram.

-B.B. Amaria

## CURED OF KIDNEY STONES

**Curtorim-Goa:** I had stones in the kidney and was finding it difficult to urinate. The doctors prescribed medicines but there was no respite. I placed my faith in Ven.Fr.Agnel and prayed fervently to him. I returned from Bahrain and came to Pilar and drank the water mixed with the relic of Ven.Fr.Agnel. Within eighteen days I felt very much relieved as the stones had come out. I thank Ven. Fr.Agnel for this great favour and pray for his early canonization.

-Floriano Albuquerque

## RELIEVED FROM DIFFICULTIES

**Goregaon:** For a long time I was facing some serious problems in my life. I was under tension and anxiety. I prayed fervently to Ven.Fr. Agnel to help me get over these difficulties. Ven.Fr.Agnel has answered my prayers as almost all the difficulties are overcome. With grateful thanks an offering of ₹.1000 to the Ashram.

-Joyce Sagar Jamble

## EYE OPERATION SUCCESSFUL

**Bandra:** I have been visiting the doctors regarding my eye problem for some time. The doctors suggested an operation. Before going for the operation I prayed to Ven. Fr .Agnel so that there should be no problem. I am now happy to say that the operation was successful and I have regained my normal sight. With a grateful heart an offering of ₹.100 to the Ashram.

-Maria Michael Fernandes

## Out of Their Bounty

P. Srivastava	Mumbai	50000	T. Dalmeiy	Bhayandar	1000	R.L. Victoria	Kerla	300
L.B. Chrisiano	Kuwait	25000	Avani D. Sheth	Mumbai	1000	K.A. Joseph	Kerala	300
Bejon Desai Fdn.	Nashik	12000	David Patrao	Mumbai	1000	Alphonsa Nirmala	Kerala	300
S.R. Alphonso	Kuwait	10000	V.S. Bilolikar	Mumbai	1000	R. Victor	T.N.	300
J.J. Alva	Dubai	7000	A. Gala	Dombivli	1000	S. Merlyn	T.N.	300
M.J. D'Souza	Dubai	7000	S.A. Stephen	T.N.	1000	S. Mistry	Pune	300
Bibhu	Mumbai	5000	M.M. Athanil	Karnataka	1000	Ramesh J. Patil	Mumbai	251
M. Carvalho	Goa	5000	Girly Elgin	Kerala	1000	Dipak Macwan	Gujarat	200
S.S. Machado	Virar	5000	E.L. Rodrigues	Goa	1000	H.N. Desai	Valsad	200
V.J. Pijwala	Gujarat	5000	R. Arulanandham	Mira Road	1000	Amalanayagam	T.N.	200
C. Shah	Mumbai	5000	A.K. Augustine	Kerala	1000	Celine Xavier	Pondicherry	200
I. Menacherry	Kerala	5000	Annet P. Giri	Pune	1000	Alphonsa P.K.	Kerala	200
Pratima N.P.	U.S.A.	3500	T. Mistry	Gujarat	1000	F.M. Kobla	Mumbai	200
Jose D.K.	Kerla	3000	Arun Jadhav	Kerala	1000	L. Allwyn	T.N.	200
J. A. Saldanha	U.K.	3000	S.A. Selvaraj	TN.	900	J.A. Clement	Bangalore	200
Samaira & Jordan	Mumbai	2000	R.Pachikara/Neena	T.N.	800	A. Benny	Kerala	200
N. Patel	U.K.	2,000	Iryudayaraj M	T.N.	750	Bertha M. D'Cruz	Kerala	200
K.N. Patel	U.K.	2000	Agee O. King	Mumbai	700	X. Francis	Chennai	200
P.R. Ved	Mumbai	2000	Monica D'Souza	Pune	700	Alice Antony	Kerala	200
N. R. D'Souza	Mumbai	2000	Mathew Pinto	Mumbai	600	D. Mathew	Kerala	200
Ciciliya Pinto	Mumbai	2000	K.M. Karbhari	Mumbai	505	V.F. Jagan	T.N.	200
Dominic Pinto	Mumbai	2000	S.S. Narvekar	Mumbai	501	Anto Paul	Kerala	200
Asnon Pinto	Mumbai	2000	A. Kuriakose	Mumbai	500	Beatrice Joy	Kerala	200
Angeleena Pinto	Mumbai	2000	Sheeba Joseph	Mumbai	500	Prema Indirani	T.N.	200
Mable Pinto	Mumbai	2000	A. D. Nadar	Mumbai	500	B. Susainathan	T.N.	200
Veena Pachikar	Baroda	2000	D. Pathare	Mumbai	500	H.N. Desai	Valsad	200
Leo Fernandes	Mumbai	2000	Dean & Clavia	Vasai	500	J. Miranda	Goa	200
D.M. Oliver	Mumbai	2000	Priya L. Dias	Vasai	500	Deepak Mathew	U.S.A.	200
S. Mithagiri	Mumbai	2000	M.G. Coutinho	Vasai	500	Anna Mathew	Kerala	150
Ayesha Mithagiri	Mumbai	2000	Y. Fernandes	Mumbai	500	Jose Augustine	Kerala	150
Rosy Oliver	Mumbai	2000	Evita A. D'Costa	Mumbai	500	S.S. Kajave	Mumbai	150
P. Ghiradher	Vasai	2000	C. Wilson	Mumbai	500	T. Sebastian	Kerala	150
Joby Thomas	Kerala	2000	C.R. D'Mello	Virar	500	S.B. Remjie	Mumbai	111
S. Chaudhuri	Kolkata	2000	Steffi R. D'Mello	virAR	500	K.B. Bhosale	Ahmednagar	101
C. Simon	Hyderabad	2000	Nirav G. Parmar	Gujarat	500	J.H. Shah	Dombivli	100
Sybel D'Mello	Vasai	2000	P. Idnani	Mumbai	500	A.A. Mujavar	Ratnagiri	100
Abhilesh H. Gala	Dombivli	1500	A.J. Hariawala	Mumbai	500	S.W. Parmar	Gujarat	100
A. Jayasimhan	Mumbai	1500	D.M. Patel	Virar	500	Antony R.	T.N.	100
S. Panchal	New Zealand	1151	M. Kapadia	Mumbai	500	Louis P. Palande	Ahmednagar	100
J.H. Sampat	Mumbai	1100	N. Bhalerao	Mumbai	500	M. Philomina	Kerala	100
S. I. Agarwal	Mumbai	1100	Sunita Vikas X.	Mumbai	500	M. Singh	Bihar	100
A.D. Kharbari	Mumbai	1001	Tyronne Barrow	Mumbai	500	S. Philip	Kerala	100
L. Moraes	Thane	1000	K.S. Rao	Mumbai	500	M. Joseph	Kerala	100
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J.M. Patel	Mumbai	1000	V. sophia	T.N.	500	E.C. D'Souza	Karnataka	100
Mejo John	Bangalore	1000	G. Veeramani	T.N.	500	T. Sebastian	Kerala	100
N.M. Noronha	Mumbai	1000	Kurian Thomas	Kerala	500	P. Attick	Orissa	100
Aadit Sheth	Mombasa	1000	C. Nazareth	Mangalore	500	A. Amaldan	Bangalore	100
V.N. Patel	U.K.	1000	S. Chettiar	Mumbai	500	K.S. Raju	Chennai	100
Sanjay V.S.	Thane	1000	Arokia Nadar	Mumbai	500	Dilip Prabal	Jharkhand	100
N.S. D'Mello	Vasai	1000	M. Antony Raj	Mumbai	454	Daisy Polly	Kerala	100
Michelle D'Mello	Vasai	1000	Mary Antony	Kerala	400	Y.I. Kalpey	Mumbai	100
P.K. Raghuvanshi	U.S.A.	1000	D. Solanki	Vadodara	301	M.K. Padale	Nevasa	100
N.S. Manuel	Mumbai	1000	V. Fernandes	Mumbai	300	Anthony R.	T.N.	100
M.R. Valiaveetil	Mumbai	1000	J. Mathew	Kerala	300	M.J. Harris	Jabalpur	50
			K.A. Nirmala	Kerala	300			

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