



FR. AGNEL  
ASHRAM

# NEWS

January 2021

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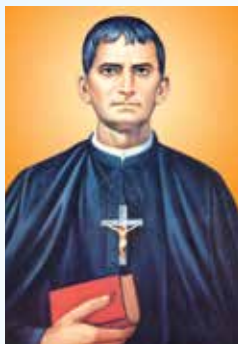
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## VEN. FR. AGNEL'S 152nd BIRTH ANNIVERSARY ON Thursday 21st JANUARY 2021

### PROGRAMME

#### **SPECIAL NOVENA SERVICES 12TH to 20th January 2021**

##### Everyday

Morning : Mass at 9.30 a.m. in English followed by Novena Prayer.

Evening : 6.00 p.m. : Holy Mass followed by Novena Prayer in English

N.B. : On Sunday 17th & 21st Thursday Novena will be in Gujarati at 3.00 p.m.

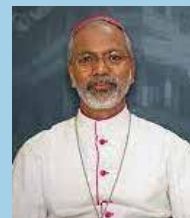
#### **21st January (Thursday) : 152nd Birth Anniversary of Venerable Fr. Agnelo**

Morning : Masses at 7:00 a.m. & 9.30 a.m. in English followed by Novena Prayer.

Evening : Solemn Concelebrated Mass will be held at 6.00 p.m. in the Ashram Chapel followed by prayers for favours.

### **Main Celebrant**

Most Rev. Bishop Dominic Savio Fernandes, Auxiliary Bishop of Bombay Diocese will be the Main Celebrant.



"Ask and you shall receive," Many devotees fervently pray in faith and have received the favours, some of them truly miraculous such as cure of cancer, T.B., Paralysis etc. have been received through the powerful intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnelo. Favours obtained and petitions to be placed at the Shrine of Ven. Fr. Agnelo may be sent to the following address :

#### **Rev. Fr. Superior.**

Fr. Agnel Ashram  
Bandstand, Bandra (West),  
Mumbai - 400 050. India.  
Tel. : 67114000.

*Bus No. : 211 : Special Bus Service to Ply From Bandra Railway Station to Fr. Agnel Ashram Gate.*

# #Being Indian

- Marcus Lobo

As we celebrate the 71st anniversary of the coming into effect of our nation's constitution - our nation's Republic day, we laud the visionary thoughts of the great minds that helped frame the constitution that forms the foundation of our nation's legal system. The Indian constitution, the longest written constitution of any country on earth, not only lays down the framework for the political code, structures, powers and duties of government but also enshrines the fundamental rights, principles and duties of its citizens. Inspired by the constitution of the United States of America, it has presented the guiding principles, values and beliefs which drive the constitution within a preamble. It is a codification of sorts of the hopes and aspirations of the people as they set about on the path of democratic self-governance. Inspired by, the constitutions of various other nations throughout the world, it borrows the focus on the ideals of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity from the French Constitution and the Idea of Social, Economic, and Political Justice in Preamble from the Russian constitution. The preamble of the Indian constitution, in a way lays down the sets of values and beliefs that should constitute the character of every Indian citizen. The core that makes us #Indian.

Given the current political and social climate; where social, economic and religious differences amongst the various strata of Indian society are being exploited for political gain, it would be pertinent for us to dwell on one of the greatest unifying factors of our nation namely its constitution, the source of legitimacy and authority of the government itself.

The Preamble to the Indian constitution begins with the words, "WE THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a SOVEREIGN, SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC ..." at the outset it highlights the truth that establishing India as a sovereign, socialist secular democratic republic is a goal that the people will strive to establish,

it is not a present reality but an ideal future that the citizens of the nation swear to endeavor to achieve. It highlights the mindset of the people of the country, one that in keeping with its rich and varied cultural heritage focuses on seeking the benefit of all while respecting the faiths and beliefs of all neighbors.

The Preamble continues to state that the nation will strive to secure to its citizens, JUSTICE, social, economic and political. It takes a wholistic approach to Justice; it seeks to ensure equal standing for all its citizens before the law irrespective of any basis for segregation, bias or favouritism. In today's world of 'might is right' and 'money buys loyalty', it falls upon citizens loyal to the nation to stand up for the weak and oppressed sections of society. It calls on the true citizens of the nation to oppose all laws, policies, customs and traditions that seek to discriminate against any section of society even if they are practices that have been ingrained into the culture over generations.

The preamble also states that the nation will also strive to secure LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship. As the land that was the birthplace of several of the world's major religions, viz. Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism and Buddhism and was instrumental in the spread of Buddhism to Southeast Asia, our nation has been well known for its rich history of respect for differing opinions and beliefs and a culture of inclusivity of cultural ideals and traditions. As the land visited by St. Thomas, the nation with the largest minority Muslim population and the nation that gave refuge to persecuted Zoroastrians and Tibetans, it follows that the constitution of India would enshrine freedom of thought, expression and religion. Throughout our history with our colonial oppressors, our diversity has always been targeted in their policy of divide and rule, the freedom fighters and founders of our nation understood this fact keenly and eagerly sought to oppose the divisive policies of the British, be it the focus on social mobilization through Civil disobedience or promotion of self-

reliance through khadi, etc. to the point, that even the Father of our nation was martyred for the cause. Given the current climate of unease, with political parties exploiting communal and sectarian differences, through vote bank politics it falls upon true Indians to actively oppose such nefarious designs and choose to support those elements that stand up for the true spirit on which our nation was founded; one that promotes religious freedom and tolerance.

India has been home to visionaries like Rabindranath Tagore, Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, Dayananda Sarasvati, as well as great scientists like Aryabhatta, C.V. Raman, Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam Azad, Dr. Homi Baba, Vikram Sarabai and many others. All this has only been possible because of a culture that venerates knowledge and the pursuit of knowledge and respects the journey of others seeking that knowledge. In today's world that pursuit of knowledge takes on many forms, with people along that path holding varying and at times even contradictory thoughts and opinions, but it requires a respect for each other and their journey without judgement and discrimination so that we can all reach truth and enlightenment. In today's world, with the vastness of the internet and social media, it has become so easy for likeminded individuals, to gather together to share ideas and beliefs, however given the polarizing nature of social media, it has only led to formation of caustic groups that band together and hate on all those who do not subscribe to similar thoughts and beliefs. This nature of humanity has been exploited by those in power with the connections to the media who use those connections to strengthen the loyalty among their followers to fervent levels while mobilising them to oppose all those with minority but differing thoughts and opinions to the point of calling them unnational. At such times it falls upon true Indians to counter such divisive policies and strive to create a platform where all opinions can be shared openly with each other without discrimination and hate; where policies and decisions can be questioned and critiqued without drawing heated arguments and violent repercussions or targeted persecution. True Indians are meant to be a force for social media promoting unity and harmony among diverse

thoughts and ideals opposing trolls and hate mongers.

Finally, in keeping with the constitution's focus on wholistic justice and liberty of thought, expression and religion, the preamble states that the nation will ensure **EQUALITY** of status and of opportunity; equality, a word that like a pie in the sky or a carrot at the end of a stick always seems to remain elusively out of reach. Even though we break down one barrier, newer ones come up, it has been a rough time, breaking down barriers of caste when new ones of economic background, or lifestyle choices or state of origin threaten to again create barriers different and yet all the same as those our forefathers faced. At such times it is up to true Indians to rally together and fight to break down the barriers and those fortifying them whilst focusing on promoting the many things that unite us.

The preamble also aims to promote among the citizens **FRATERNITY**, assuring dignity of the individual, and the unity and integrity of the nation. Fraternity, a feeling of brotherhood among a group of people sharing a common profession or interests, a bond of friendship and mutual support among members of a community. The writers of the constitution were aware that moulding the diverse peoples of our rich nation into a cohesive whole would not happen overnight. It would need constant efforts and so they ensured that any democratic government, voted into power by the people would be duty bound to help reach such a noble goal. A key factor to achieving such an ideal is assuring the dignity of the individual, as only if individuals are given the dignity due to a human being can they stand together as members of community bound by fraternity. And in so doing, hope to preserve the unity and integrity of our nation. As citizens of this country, we are bound to support those policies and actions of our government that promote this ideal and sternly oppose those that do not promote this ideal.

So, as we celebrate our 71st Republic Day, let us like the founders of our constitution strive to do all in our power and ability to build our nation into one firmly established on the values and ideals they envisioned and our forefathers swore to uphold. Let us do everything in our power that we can do and be #trulyIndian.



# The story of Equality in India

- Aurene Fernandes

From the grandest parades held at Rajpath in New Delhi to flag hoisting ceremonies held in schools, the Republic Day festivities in India aim to pay tribute to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the country, confer bravery awards to military personnel and children braving the toughest odds. While the country celebrates in full pomp and glory it is also important to remember what the constitution upholds and what the true essence of Republic Day is.

“Constitution is not a mere lawyers document, it is a vehicle of Life, and its spirit is always the spirit of Age.” - B.R. Ambedkar

As rightly quoted by the renowned B.R. Ambedkar the Indian constitution is a vehicle

of life as it states important values that determine the social fabric of India. One of them being the right to equality. What does the right to equality mean in the Indian constitution?

The right to equality is one of the six fundamental rights in the Indian constitution. It includes equality before the law, the prohibition of discrimination on grounds of race, religion, gender, and caste or birthplace. It also includes equality of opportunity in matters of employment, the abolition of untouchability and titles.

In a country like India, which boasts one of the largest democracies in the world, it is vital to reflect the right to equality in our day to day lives to maintain a peaceful and harmonious society.

With the recent political climate in our country, it is easy to get swayed by different opinions. In a vast country like India, we meet fellow brethren from different religions, states, cultures, gender, and colour. We may share different stances and opinions on various subjects but it is still possible to live in social harmony and equality. One such example is below...

27-year-old Ilayaz Shaikh was taking his pregnant wife to the hospital in a taxi in Mumbai. But Noor Jahan went into labour midway and, to much shock and disbelief, the cab driver asked them to leave as he did not want her to give birth to the baby in his car. Spotting a temple of Lord Ganesha at a distance, the couple walked towards it and were helped by a group of women who created a makeshift delivery room in the temple. They helped in the successful delivery of a baby boy. To commemorate this gesture and the fateful day, Noor Jahan named her son Ganesh.

**In a country like India, which boasts one of the largest democracies in the world, it is vital to reflect the right to equality in our day to day lives to maintain a peaceful and harmonious society.**

Can you recall similar stories of harmony within your society?

Why do you think people choose to behave this way? Is it because they

are dictated by some rule of law or even better... is it out of the humanity in their heart?

While the coveted constitution of India highlights the right to equality, it also boils down to the kindness and compassion in our heart to allow our fellow countrymen to truly express themselves and feel safe & free in their skin.

India is one of the largest democracies in the world with many religions coexisting such as Hinduism, Sikhism, Jainism, Buddhism, Islam, Christianity, and so many more. Such a diversity is rarely seen and it is one that we as a nation should be proud of. So this republic day, let us uphold our constitution with utmost compassion and devotion as we continue to persevere with love and empathy for our countrymen.

Let us grow as a country together complimenting each other's weaknesses and strengths. With education and understanding, let us blur the gap between rich and poor, dark and fair-skinned, male and female, and uphold our title as one of the most diverse and largest democracies in the world.

# New Year... New Republic...New India Calls For A New Human Face Of Governance

-Sekhar Das sfx

**W**E, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, and to promote among them all FATHERLY love, assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation- The Constitution of India (Preamble)

We all know that what matters more in life and relationships is attitude. This applies also in the realm of governance. In the year 2020, we had witnessed several decisions of governments which smack of utter insensitivity to the plight of the common man. Covid-19 made everything fell transformative, but one thing remained firmly rooted or unchanged was INJUSTICE done to common man, more specifically the poor migrants. Tragic events that involve loss of many lives evoke tepid government statements or action. Amidst the shadow of precautionary restrictions and limited access to an already slow Indian judicial system, political prisoners continued to fill jails on terror charges, Kashmir saw a severe crackdown and heightened violence, caste violence and discrimination in various forms continued as before, and environmental projects were implemented despite resistance. Thus one can easily see that in such situations governance in benefit of the soul of pathos- feelings for the sufferings of people involved. Mostly, it is the poor, the powerless who are victims.

As this year India celebrates its 72nd Republic Day, we are called to recall, the Preamble of the Constitution of India that enshrines the vision of the country of equality, justice and free for all her citizens. This is the guiding principle for government to work for the growth and amelioration of the condition of millions of our citizens who for centuries have been suffering contempt and sub-human treatment bereft of human dignity thanks to the curse of the caste system. While our preamble calls for proactive humane governance, recent events reflect just

the contrary. Some of the major events reflect the trend.

1. NIA arrested Fr. Stan Swamy SJ: Nation should have been proud for the contribution of the son of the soil, Fr. Stan, the 83 year old Jesuit priest, a social worker, activist and educator who spend 60 years living and working with the most marginalized tribal and communities in the Bihar and Jharkhand belt. His unlawful arrest had made the Human rights groups, Catholic and Jesuit associations, the United Nations' human rights wing, students' intellectuals and the Adivasi communities he worked with, to protest against the arrest on several flat-forms. Is this the due reward for a priest who is uplifting the poor?

2. Closing of NGO Amnesty International: In the month of October 2020, the government froze the assets of the human rights organization Amnesty International, claiming that the organization was in violation of Indian law and also accused Amnesty of violating the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) and seized some of its bank account. Such type of unjust harassment and intimidation of critical nonprofit have critical implication for India's democracy. It threatens the exercise of civil liberties and personal rights. How many NGO's will be stopped likewise in future?

3. Punishment on Freedom of Expression and Privacy: A journalist in Lalitpur, Uttar Pradesh, was assaulted allegedly by the family of a village pradhan after he raised questions about the illegal use of machines for MNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) work instead of employing laborers. For how long will the freedom of expression be violated?

4. Farmer Bills Protest: Recent the Farmer protest in India's national capital has created quite a flutter globally. Since 26th November 2020, the

*Contd. on pg 14*

# Pongal: A Celebration of Harmony

*-Fr. R. Antony Jerald MMI*

India is a land of festivals. Every festival is celebrated with joy and enthusiasm. Each festival represents particular culture and Pongal is one of them. Pongal is basically a harvest festival, a festival of thanksgiving for nature, animals and labourers but the occupation of farming is becoming increasingly less lucrative today and facing lots of challenges. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious plan to double farmers' income by 2022 is a dream yet but agitation against new farm laws are increasing and the farmers of the nation are fighting for their demands in biting cold at the capital city of the Nation, then how do we approach Pongal celebration this year? The agitation is because the farmers fear that the new law will hand over control of agriculture markets, farmers' land and food chain to corporates and these laws will leave the farmers at the 'mercy of corporates'. Hence at this sensitive situation in India today-what this Pongal celebration reminds us? Here I do not amplify the historical background of the celebration but I emphasize the harmonious need of the hour.

## **Significance of Pongal**

Pongal, in its spirit and style reflects the ancient heritage of Tamil people. It is a farmers' festival which reflects the ideals, aspirations and practices of the farming community. It brings together people, families, artistic traditions, cultures and religions presenting a harmonious blend of celebrations which symbolize joy, abundance and prosperity.

Pongal is four days long celebration, which includes Bhogi, Thai Pongal, Mattu Pongal and Kannum Pongal. Bhogi is a day of preparation where house is cleansed, newly painted, threw unwanted old things into fire and adorn the house with beautiful designs of kolam(Rangoli). The second day is Surya Pongal in which people worship Sun/Nature. It is a day of thanking God for prosperity. Next day is a day of Mattu Pongal and this day is dedicated for farm animals. The final day is called 'Kannum Pongal' where family members, relatives, friends and laborers

come together. Hence, each day is marked with colourful festivities but these four days of Pongal celebration teaches a life of happiness and harmony to humanity.

## **Celebration of Harmony**

Pongal reminds us of the need to live our lives with gratitude and stay conscious of the need to co-exist in harmony with nature and with one another. It is also expressed by the significance of each day. Bhogi day speaks of the need of keeping our living atmosphere clean and healthy and Surya Pongal and Mattu Pongal signify the interdependence of humanity with nature and other animals. Finally 'Kannum Pongal', highlights the harmonious living and relationship with one another. Hence, Pongal is the celebration of harmony where the inter-connection of nature, animals and human beings are celebrated. Today we are in a world where this harmony is forgotten and human beings became selfish to the core and we disturbed this harmony with our selfish activities, in the name of development and technical growth. Humanity has forgotten the need of integral growth and stability of nature, animals and others. Therefore Pongal celebration is a call for each of us to build harmony in the nature and making our mother earth accessible for all animals and people not for the greedy of few.

Every year we celebrate Pongal and enjoy the festivities even though we don't share in farm work. More than farmers we celebrate the farm animals and our purchase satisfies the business people. What about the farmers? Actually we are supposed to celebrate the farmers. We remember Sun god, nature, animals but forget the farmers in our celebration. Today it is an opt time to turn our eyes to farmers. It is time to be thankful to the farmers and fulfil their demands because they nourish the humanity. Pongal is a celebration of harmony but we turn our blind eyes to farmers. Ultimately in this harmony festival let us remember the farmers and their happiness. Let this Pongal celebration put an end to the death of farmers and support their dignified life.

# Venerable Fr. Agnelo

## A Saint For All Religions

-E.F. Joseph

The title may sound quite strange and the readers may get surprised on what heading has been labeled to a Catholic Priest that a **“Saint for all religions”** whose canonization process is in progress at Vatican, Rome. A rare title which no other saints, perhaps, can claim to their credit. But, that is the reality and that is what one can see and experience at the Shrine of Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandra, Mumbai where his sacred relic is preserved and venerated by thousands of devotees.

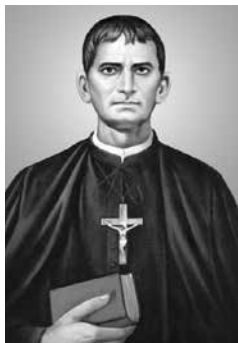
There are hundreds of Saints who are venerated in the Catholic Church, of them a few are popular and their intercession, by and large, is sought by the Catholic devotees only. But, Ven. Fr. Agnelo is an exception to such a general concept and practice that intercession of Saints be sought by Christian only. Although, he has not yet been proclaimed as a Saint, his heavenly intercession is widely sought by people who belonged all the prominent religions., and that is what makes a “Saint” with a difference and a saint the most endeared and sought-after by people irrespective of their faiths.

Non Christian devotees call him, rather affectionately with great devotion and reverence **“Agnel Baba”** a word which gives them much solace and confidence that this saintly priest can wipe out their tears and bring cheers in their life. Sunday, is a special day of devotion to Fr. Agnel in the Ashram. A day of shower of blessings up on his devotees who visit the Ashram. It is really exciting to see that people who flock at the Samadhi, all in one accord say, in a high pitch of voice **Agnel Baba ki Jai, Agnel Baba ki Jai**, a spontaneous response from the hearts of the little ones to the eldest, after Novena prayer at 3.00 in the afternoon.

I write this article out of my dire experience with devotees of Ven. Fr. Agnel which I have been

enjoying for the last 38 years in the Ashram, a rare and unique experience, rather a blessing which none can claim to their credit. Facts mentioned in this article are not exaggerated nor fabricated for any credit or publicity. It is truly based on a Spiritual Fondness with the devotees who belonged to the prominent religions, irrespective of their culture and status.

Thousands of favours are passing through my hands for drafting and registering in the record book at the Ashram. Till date 1,47,827 favours, received through the heavenly intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel such as cure of chronic and dreadful diseases, help in critical cases, blessed with suitable life partner, good job, gift of child after many years of marriage, safe & normal delivery, successful major operations and so on, have been recorded in the Ashram register, apart from what have been registered at Pilar.



To those who doubt the genuineness of the facts mentioned in this article, I have only one answer **Come & See**. Once a person enjoys a spiritual bond with Ven. Fr. Agnel he shall get deliverance from tears to cheers, from pain to gain, from sorrow to solace, from plight to delight, from defeat to upbeat, from trail to triumph..... and thereby to a blissful bond with this Saintly Priest.

Although Fr. Agnelo had a short life span, the fragrance of his saintly life embedded with virtues and charities, is spreading all the over the world, cutting across the barriers of language, caste, creed, regions and religions.

It is my earnest desire that Ven. Fr. Agnelo be exalted to the rank of Sainthood before I retire from my service in the Ashram. And, of course, it would be a great retirement gift for me something that I can cherish forever in my life with great joy and satisfaction.



## **Conceicao Rodrigues Memorial Debate 2020**

Success depends upon rigorous preparation, irrespective of all the odds against it. Overcoming all the challenges posed by the Covid-19, Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues College of Engineering has successfully hosted its Flagship event, Conceicao Rodrigues Memorial Debate (CRMD), from 6th to 8th of November, 2020. For the first time, this event was held online but that did not take away the enthusiasm professed by the debaters or the judges who partook in this prestigious event. Encompassing everything from the socio-economic situation of the world due to COVID-19 to political expediency, the theme for CRMD 2020 was – “Immanent Critique of Social Adiphora”

CRMD is an intermediate Oxford-style debate competition and has always been praised by people who have witnessed it. Teams from all over India eagerly anticipate bagging the esteemed trophy with their debating intrepidity. The event was hosted on two popular video conferencing platforms, Google Meet and Zoom. The Quarterfinals, Semi-finals and Final debates were live on YouTube as well to ensure an immersive experience for all our viewers.

The much-anticipated debate had 32 laudable teams (Including IITs, IIMs and LawUniversities) from all over the nation, grappling with their words for the first prize of Rs. 40,000, second prize for 25,000 and Rs. 7,500 for the best speaker and the best adjudicator. Teams from 12 states competed hard through the league rounds to acquire their positions in the quarter-finals. Not only centring on the strengths and weaknesses of an argument but also providing frank but constructive feedback to each team to help them better, our Judges, who included experts

from the field of Communication, Education, and Corporate world, judged every debate with immense grace and eloquence.

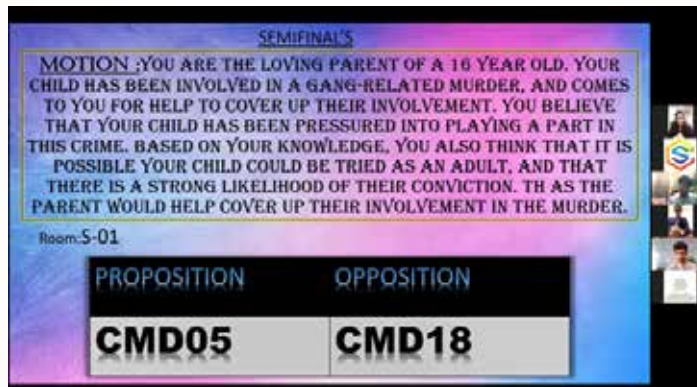
Weighing every argument with equanimity, and deciding rankings in the house, an Adjudicator plays a vital role. Our Adjudicators consciously noted down all considerable points put forth by the debaters and provided them with productive feedback for the same. With astute arguments, the top 8 teams battled their way in quarters, putting forth excellent points. 4 teams emerged victoriously from the war of words and were qualified for the semi-finals.

The panel of Judges includes professors, educators and language trainers such as Dr. Abha Jha, Dr. Khushbu Trehan, Prof. Anusha Jayasimhan, Prof. Deepa

Prof. Deepa Panakkal, gave tips on the excellent communication skills and empathetic approach. Following were the Judges for the Finals: Miss Kasheesh Chhabria, is a counseling psychologist and a Life Information

coach. Miss Meera Bharwani, is a senior faculty of Communication Skills at VJTI. Miss Roli Srivastava, an award-winning journalist with the Thomson Reuters Foundation and reports on gender, health, migration, and slavery in supply chains, focusing mainly on India's marginalized communities. She has worked with major Indian newspapers including The Hindu where she was Deputy Editor and The Times of India where she was Editor, Special Projects.

Rtd. Major General CP Singh was the chief guest for the final round of CRMD' 20. After 36 years of meritorious service in Indian Army, General C P Singh was awarded Mention-in-Dispatches by the President for gallantry in OP PAWAN (Sri Lanka). He has also been



## Agnel Happenings

awarded Commendation Card by four Army Commanders for distinguished service in various appointments. The young veteran is a three times cancer survivor too.

Miss Nidhi Salgame was the Guest of Honour for the final round of CRMD'20. The first woman to drive from Delhi to London and the first Indian to drive the Pole of Cold and on the Road of Bones in Siberia, she is an extreme terrain driver, outdoor educator, off-road jeepers and overland adventurer who specializes and trains in extreme over-landing. She recently created history by leading the first team of women drivers to Lo Manthang in Nepal, one of the most treacherous roads in the world. She is a source of inspiration and empowerment to all, women and men alike.

The power of real debate is in the language and intellectual honesty of the debaters, alongside the engagement of spectators. The debates were lively, proposing and countering a plethora of ideologies. Providing a forum for today's youth to engage in various affairs experienced in

daily life, CRMD was an indulgent treat for the debaters and the audience alike. A virtual debate experience was one of its kind and proved to be a boon as for the first time ever, our viewership was spread across the length and breadth of the country. This online affair in no way diminished the pleasure of the enticing war of words.

Every prosperous event is a result of the commitment to excellence, intelligent planning, and focused effort of everyone planning the event. Saloni Khanna, Editorial Secretary extended warm gratitude towards Local Superior Fr. Peter D'Souza, Director Fr. Valerian D'Souza, Principal Dr. Srija Unnikrishnan, our Dean Dr. Deepak Bhoir for all the love and support we received pre and post the event. She express her sincere thanks to the in-charges Mrs. Garima Tripathi and Mrs. Sundary Prabavathy extended sincere gratitude to the organizing committee, the diligent Students' Council who strived to not only organize the first ever online event but also make it a transcendent experience.

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## Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues Memorial Hackathon UNSCRIPT 2 K 20 Reports

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On 21st-22nd November 2020, Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues Memorial Hackathon, A national Level Hackathon "UNSCRIPT 2K20" was held. Hackathon gives Student developers a great opportunity to come together, work collaboratively, tackle problems, and compete for fame and glory. The primary goal of this event was to raise awareness of technical talent and foster a competitive, yet cooperative, and congenial culture for talented individuals.

It also allowed participants to connect with Industry personnel's, faculty mentors, and most importantly, with each other. The opportunity was created to young budding engineers through Rookie's Hackathon, this was an additional

opportunity created in this online version of the Hackathon.

On receiving 50 plus registration, the short listing process was initiated which included scrutinizing teams profile followed by a technical telephonic interview. Later the teams were reduced to top 50 teams, the results along with the four problem statements were announced on 20th November 2020.

On receiving 200 plus registration for the first ever Rookie's version, the short listing process was initiated which included scrutinizing teams profile followed by a Google meet with all the registered teams. Later the teams were reduced to top 20 teams for the web development domain and top 10 teams for





android development domain. The results of the interview session along with the problem statements were announced by 19th November 2020.

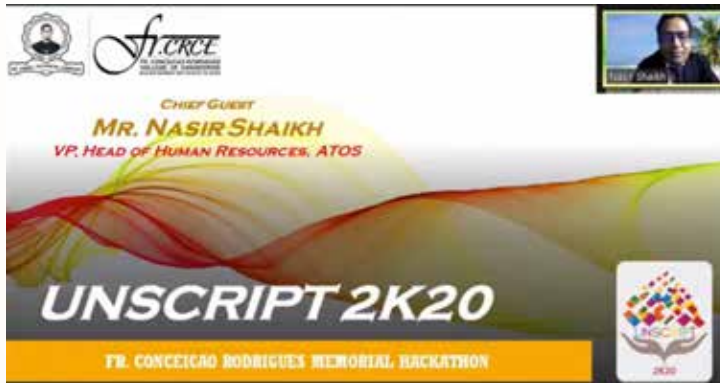
Check in for participants started at 10am on Saturday, 21st November 2020. Our Program, conducted on Zoom which was live streamed on Youtube, began with our Principal, Dr. Srija Unnikrishnan addressing the participants at 10:00am and followed by a speech by the Chief Guest, Mr. Nasir Shaikh, VP, Head of Human Resources, ATOS. Speeches Given by our dignitaries was very enlightening and encouraged all the students to put their best in everything that they do and wish to do. Mr. Mahendra Mehra, Event Coordinator addressed the gathering about the event schedule and various contests to be held in between. Mentoring sessions were arranged at the start of coding which included Mentors from corporate houses like Quantiphi, CarWale, UBS and Oracle. Students programmed non-stop from 10:30 am Saturday through 10am on Sunday, In between we had two rounds of evaluations one at 7:00pm on Saturday and other at 7:30am on Sunday.

The most important feature of the Unscript Hackathon is that we got the industry judges to evaluate and give important insight each participant about handling real life challenges.

The list of the judges on panel includes Mr. Pranav Gangani (Manager SS&C technologies), Mr. Abhishek Kumar (Senior Principle developer Calsoft pvt Ltd.), Mr. Harshal Borse (frontend developer Infosys), Mr. Sourav Singla (TCS), Ms. Rupali Pol (Technical Architect, TCS), Mr. Rohit Naidu (Co founder and chief experience officer @ Bakbuck), Mr. Suraj Jha (Engineering lead -Monetisation, Indus OS), Mr. Sachin Shelke (Member of technical staff Vmware), Ms. Richa Kalra(Agile Coach / Product Manager, TCS), Mr. Rohan Sawant (Smart Cow), Mr. Sumit Tyagi (LEAD School), Mr. Kushan Sen

(Cimpress India), Mr. Jigar Mehta (Flexiloans), Mr. Vaishal Mehta (National Bank of Oman), Ms. Prajakta Thakur and Ms. Sarika Nagvekar (TCS). and Mr. Rishi Chaurasia (Ios Developer, TCS) Problem statements ranged from a web/ android app (chatbot for college, healthcare for road accident victims, scholarship funding for students) to aid Machine learning to solve real life problems like wound detection. Judges scored solution on basis of creativity, technical depth, challenge of doing the task in a short amount of time, and usefulness in the real world.

Top 4 teams per problem statement were selected on the basis of their performance. Presentations and judging rounds were wrapped up by 1:30pm on Sunday, November 22nd. Every Problem statement had a winner and a runner-up and was rewarded with prize money of 10,000/- and 5,000/- each respectively. Principal, Dr. Srija Unnikrishnan announced the winners for problem statements which was followed by Dr. Deepak Bhoir, Dean Student Affairs declaring the winners of the UNSCRIPT Instagram contest.



As the Hackathon was conducted online, a discord server was created and further various channels for each team was created in order to carry out the communication process with the teams smoothly.

All the doubts of the teams were cleared out by the organizers in their respective team channel and also there was common announcement channel where all the announcements were put up. A channel for the mentors, judges, and evaluators was also created in order to ease the communication process. It was indeed a great team efforts lead by the event coordinator Mr. Mahendra Mehra and the mentors Dr Nilesh Patil, Mrs. Kalpana Deorukhkar along with the entire students team of Mozilla Campus Club CRCE, Codelabs-CRCE, ACM CRCE and CSI CRCE.

# Research and Innovation at Padre Conceicao College of Engineering, Verna

Research Development and Consultancy Centre (RDCC) of Padre Conceicao College of Engineering, Goa was committed to conduct online webinars based on research topics for

the faculty and students of PCCE and other engineering colleges in Goa. Following are the webinars and Innovation project presentation conducted in the month of December 2020:

## “DESIGN THINKING – A Webinar on Product Design Validation”



Research Development and Consultancy Centre (RDCC) and Institutions' Innovation Council (IIC) of Padre Conceicao College of Engineering, Verna organised a webinar titled “DESIGN THINKING – TOOLS FOR PRODUCT DESIGN VALIDATION” on 11th December 2020.

The Invited Resource Person was Mr. Durgadas Kamat, Architect – Persistent Systems Limited (PSL). Mr. Durgadas Kamat is an alumnus of P.C.C.E. with over 12 years of experience in software development and management at PSL.

Verification and validation of engineering designs are of primary importance as they directly influence production performance and ultimately define product functionality and customer satisfaction. The webinar effectively highlighted the latest and most used tools for interdisciplinary digital design and the methods deployed for prototype verification and validation.

The webinar was attended by 60 students from PCCE and other institutions across the state. The session was coordinated by Dr. Niyan Marchon, Head of RDCC and IIC and Ms. Razia de Loyola Furtado e Sardinha, Training and Placement Officer and Coordinator for RDCC and IIC events (I.T. Department).

## Webinar on “High Quality materials and Solar Power Solutions for Energy Conservation”



The Research, Development and Consultancy Centre (RDCC) at Padre Conceição College of Engineering organized a webinar on “High Quality materials and Solar Power Solutions for Energy Conservation” on 14th December, 2020. The guest speakers for the webinar were Mr. E. Suresh (GM Engineering, TATA BlueScope Steel) and

Mr. Bhaskar S Kamath (Head – Rooftop Engineering, TATA Power Solar Systems). The webinar was spear-headed by Dr. Niyan Marchon (Head, RDCC & IIC). The webinar was aimed at educating final year students of the Mechanical and Electronics & Telecommunications department and was coordinated by Prof. Mohnish Borker and

Mr. Yash Chodankar. The webinar began with an introduction of the speakers by Mr. Mohnish Borker followed by the expert talk. The speaker, Mr. E. Suresh discussed about customized roofing solutions and the various module mounting solutions. The students were given an insight on various applications of LYSAGHT ILIOS metal rooftop solar solutions and explained its advantages.

The second speaker explained the concept of solar PV and the solar mountings for thermal applications. The speaker also highlighted the TATA powers achievement in installing unmanned offshore platform installations for DC power. The webinar ended with students' feedback on the webinar and a vote of thanks by Dr. Niyan Marchon.

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## **AICTE Chhatra Vishwakarma Awards - PCCE Internal Round**

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AICTE Vishwakarma Awards 2020 is being organized by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) on India's Economic Recovery Post Covid; Reverse Migration and Rehabilitation Plan to support "Atmanirbhar Bharat".

PCCE is organized an internal round to shortlist teams to participate in this competition.

The coordinators for this event were:

1. Dr. Niyan Marchon ( Head- RDCC and IIC)
2. Ms. Sulana Rebelo (Member-IIC)

This competition was open to students of all years and branches. Maximum team size was 4.

Inter-disciplinary representation in the team was permitted.

Students needed to form teams and develop

solutions based on the following sub-themes:

A total of 10 teams registered for the event using the Registration Google form. One team was a spot entry. The shortlisting round was held on 26th November 2020, 2:30 pm, Microsoft Teams.

A total of 9 teams competed in this event.

The judges for the event were

1. Dr. Terence Johnson ( Associate Professor- Dept. Computer Engineering)
2. Ms. Razia Sardinha ( Assistant Professor- Dept. Information Technology)
3. Ms. Santushti Betgeri ( Assistant Professor- Dept. of Electronics and Telecommunication)

The top five teams will compete at the National level in February 2021

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## **"Spirit of Christmas" at Padre Conceicao College of Engineering**

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2020 has been a difficult year. Despite the challenges, the spirit of Christmas was palpable at P.C.C.E. The college was decorated, stars were lit and a beautiful crib adorned the front-office. The traditional Christmas gathering of all P.C.C.E. staff could not be organised, but smaller groups got together and celebrated the joy of the season in their respective staff areas.

All agreed to individually do something special for the underprivileged.

The Christmas of 2020 was special. It reminded us to stay grounded, to appreciate one another, to support each other, and to remember that life is a gift and that we should be thankful for what we have. May 2021 be joyous and peaceful for all.

**"Great spirits have always encountered violent opposition from mediocre minds."**

- Albert Einstein



## **New Year... New Republic...New India Calls For A New Human Face Of Governance** **- Contd. from pg. 8**

borders of Delhi have been witnessing a huge agitation being carried out by farmers, most of them from Punjab and Haryana. As expression of solidarity for the Farmers on 8th December 2020 'Bharat Bandh' was observed. What a saddest moment for India even our poor farmers are on streets to voice out for justice?

5. Prohibition on Christmas Day: A Newspaper writes "Visit Church on Christmas, pay a price": Bajrang Dal warns Assam Hindus. A unit of the right-wing Bajrang Dal in southern Assam's Barak Valley had threatened Hindus with dire consequences if they visit any Church to celebrate Christmas. Surprisingly in Mumbai Archdiocese, Cardinal Oswald Gracias had to issue a video message to priests urging them to rework Christmas mass timing on 23rd December 2020 at once after Maharashtra Government imposed night curfew due to the pandemic. But festivals like Dussehra and Deepawali and political gatherings were celebrated and organized without curfew. Is Corona religion and politics sensitive?

The answer to all the above queries indicates how the year 2020 suffered as a victim of INJUSTICE apart from the remorse effects of COVID-19.

When will the bell of Justice ring? When will the poor and the oppressed cease their sufferings and pains? When will the government work for JUSTICE, EQUALITY and FATHERLY? If not NOW, then WHEN?

Pope Francis very rightly, on his recent encyclical letter *Fratelli Tutti* (2020) speaks directly on humanity's path forward to a deeply desired and sought-after peace. The Holy Father addresses his renewed call to universal fraternity "to all people of good will, regardless of religious convictions". One can see that many of the policies of the government are biased against the minority and the marginalized sections of our society who are made to bear the agony accruing from these policies. Many more Republic Days' will pass by, many more ministers, MLAs, Government will come and go, but the cry of the poor and marginalized will remain suppressed unless, we become more patriotic and the people of good will voice out and work together irrespective of caste, creed and religion. The day when injustice, social discrimination will cease, India will truly celebrate its NEW REPUBLIC once again. Thus the need of the hour calls for a NEW HUMAN FACE OF GOVERNANCE. Let this be our hope and prayer for, NEW INDIA of 2021.





## SAVE MOLLEM (A village in Goa)

## Creation is a God's gift to humanity

## Taking care is human's responsibility

It offers solace to our soul

This is how it plays a vital role.

Mollem, a place engulfed with greenery

It is calm when there is harmony

## Nature is ruined by few people

Little do they know are feeble.

In the scorching heat trees give us shelter

## Amidst pollution trees are our filter

While birds chirp with their melodious voices

Flowing water renders relentless praises.

People with kind heart our awake

## Crying to save the nature at stake

Joining hands is the symbol of love

Saving for the future is their vow.



To the north I gaze the beautiful Himalayas,  
To the south I admire the thick-exotic floras.

To the east I adore the beauty of the '7'

Sister's,

To the west I respect the Marathas heritage

Ever onward my Mother India is,

Her brave sons, strong as a shield.

None can, with my Brave India compete,

Cultures and customs, no one can even beat.

## Varieties of caste and Religions,

All live together no wars no divisions.

From deep blue oceans, seas and Holy rivers,

Crowned with, great temples and sculptures.

Scented with the pleasant weather and

nature she holds,

Admiring our Tricolor so bright and bold.

Gleaming with joy my beautiful mother India,

Lets hold on together her pride forever.

-Sherol\_Quadros



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

### **A.P.Varghese, Kerala**

I am enclosing Sum of ₹.3,000 towards the orphan boys in your Balbhuvan. Kindly pray for us.

### **Veronica Fernandes, Goa**

Enclosed is a Cheque for ₹.3,000. Please utilize this amount for the orphan boys. Please remember us in your prayers.

### **Mary Varghese, kerala**

Enclosed is a cheque for ₹.2,000. Kindly use this amount for the maintenance and education of the orphans under your care. Please remember us in your prayers.

### **Flossy Saldanha, Kerala**

I am enclosing Sum of ₹.2,000 towards the orphan boys in your Balbhuvan. Do continue to pray for our family.

### **Lucy D'Souza, Mumbai**

I enclose a cheque of ₹.1,000 as my contribution towards the charitable works that you do, especially taking care of orphan and destitute children. Please pray for me and my family.

### **Sairus Rangoonwala, Mumbai**

I am sending an amount of ₹.1,000 towards the sponsorship scheme. Please request the children to pray for me and my family. Thank you.

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## Pope's Intention for this month - Human Fraternity

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May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all

*"Remember that the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more."*

*-H. Jackson Brown Jr.*



# FR. AGNEL'S BLESSINGS

## **Blessed with permanent job**

**Vasai:** I am a teacher by profession and was working with a reputed school for some years. but, I was not put on permanent basis despite several appeals on my part. in this predicament, i sought the heavenly intercession of venerable Fr. Agnel and started his powerful novena I am now extremely happy to inform you that through the blessing of ven. Fr. Agnel soon i got appointment order on a permanent basis in the same school. as a token of my profound gratitude and homage an offering of `32,000 to the ashram from my first salary.

*-Renita Richard Tuscano*

## **Speedy recovery after major accident**

**Virar:** My father had met with a bike accident and was in a critical condition for many days without any hope of his survival. in this critical condition, i entrusted my father to the protection of ven. Fr. Agnel and fervently prayed for his healing touch over him. i am now very happy to inform you that by the blessing of Fr. Agnel my father has over come critical condition and soon he regained normal health. with a grateful heart an offering of `5000 to the Ashram.

*-Renita Richard Tuscano*

## **Help in critical time**

**Bangalore:** Although I belong to some other

religion, I am an ardent devotee of ven. Fr. Agnel since last many years and he has showered several blessings upon me many times. recently I was facing a serious problem in my professional life where my honesty and integrity was at stake. at this critical time, I had a recourse to Fr. Agnel and fervently prayed to him. I am now very happy to inform you that through the blessing of ven. fr. agnel what could have been, otherwise, a scar on my professional life has become a boon for me. with a grateful heart an offering of `10,000.

*-Ved Bans*

## **Received A particular favour**

Powai. A thanks offering of `5000 to the ashram for having received a particular favour in a critical time, through the blessing of Fr. Agnelo

*-Vamsha Shetty*

## **Success In Starting Business**

**Ankleshwar:** For a number of years I have been wanting to start my own business but was not successful and all my efforts were in vain. In despair and with great faith in Ven.Fr.Agnel I sought his powerful intercession. I am now happy to say that I have been able to start my own business and I am doing quite well. As promised I am sending my offering of `.2500 to the Ashram.

*-Vaibhavi S. Solanki*

**To All Our Readers,**

**If you would like to receive an e-copy of the magazine "FR.AGNEL ASHRAM NEWS," then please write to us on [agnelashramnews@gmail.com](mailto:agnelashramnews@gmail.com)**

**Thank You!**

## Out of Their Bounty

P. Srivastava	Mumbai	35000	S. Sanghvi	Australia	2907	R. D'Souza	Mumbai	1000
R. Gala	Mumbai	25000	V. Maisuria	U.S.A.	2582	Y. Gandhi	Thane	1000
R. Renwick	Mumbai	20000	G. Mampara	U.S.A.	2569	L. Parkhey	Pune	1000
S. Saji	Al-Ain	16000	H. Tham	Canada	2515	M. Manak	Mumbai	1000
M.J. Tibrewala	Nashik	12000	S. Lee	Canada	2515	A. Gomes	Mumbai	1000
S.c. Vaidya	U.S.A.	10603	Subramaniam R.	Mumbai	2500	T. Mendonca	Mumbai	1000
K.N. Patel	U.K.	10070	V.A. DeCouto	Mumbai	2300	V.S. Bilolikar	Mumbai	1000
A. Meyn	Canada	10001	S.A. Joe Lobo	Mumbai	2200	J. Gomes	Mumbai	1000
C. Wade	Australia	10000	M.D'Monte	Australia	2144	L. Lyman	Mumbai	1000
A. Augustine	Kerala	10000	T.E. Lazar	Saudi Arabia	2000	M. Belani	Mumbai	1000
S. D'Souza	Dubai	10000	M. Philip	U.A.E.	2000	M. Gomes	Nallasopara	1000
Kaks Intl.	Mumbai	10000	J. Marques	Miramar	2000	A. Desai	Mumbai	1000
P.H. Mistry	U.K.	10000	S. Chaudhury	Kolkata	2000	R. Macwan	Mumbai	1000
S. Castelino	Dubai	10000	A. Coutinho	Vasai	2000	D. Shah	Mumbai	1000
S. Gandhi	U.K.	8417	P. Yamba	Mumbai	2000	M.N. D'Cruz	Malaysia	1000
J. Fernandes	Bahrain	7000	R. Kolge	Mumbai	2000	Kim Pereira	Mumbai	1000
R. Patil	Vasai	7000	A. Lopes	Vasai	2000	I. Bhagat	U.S.A.	800
K. Patel	U.K.	6730	B. Tavacha	Mumbai	2000	M. MacAskill	Glasgow	718
P. Fernandes	Mumbai	6000	G. Gomes	Mumbai	2000	Y. Bates	U.K.	713
S. D'Souza	Mumbai	6000	Joseph D.	Mumbai	2000	M. MacAskill	Glasgow	696
C. Cachart	Australia	5560	H.G. Norton	U.K.	1984	U. Koshy	U.S.A.	649
Shanti T.	Mumbai	5520	E. Gajaraj	Abu Dhabi	1900	ADF Foods	Mumbai	601
P. Kakar	U.S.A.	5427	E. Sealy	Canada	1590	P. Pai	Mumbai	601
D. Mathew	U.S.A.	5420	Alishan Parlour	Mumbai	1550	M. Kakkad	Jalgaon	600
D. Jackson	Australia	5349	K. Machado	Qatar	1500	E. Modiwala	Mumbai	600
D. Mathew	U.S.A.	5346	A. Jayasimhan	Mumbai	1500	D. Patel	Canada	530
J.A. Patel	U.S.A.	5274	G. Bhosale	Pune	1500	E. Dhanalakshmi	Vasai	501
C. Pathiyil	U.S.A.	5172	Namita Gohil	Australia	1311	V. Damodaran	Mumbai	500
K.R. Shah	Mumbai	5001	M.A. Elamana	U.S.A.	1171	A.N. Kanakamani	Kerala	500
K.R. Shah	Mumbai	5000	R. Makwana	U.K.	1145	X. Fernandes	Chennai	500
V.U. Daniel	Surat	5000	T.N. Dhingra	Delhi	1100	A. Rebeiro	Chennai	500
B. Das	Mumbai	5000	I. De Souza	Canada	1100	G.V. Paul	Muscat	500
M.X. Ferrao	Kuwait	5000	M. Johnson	Kerala	1050	G. Veramani	Chennai	500
B. George	Qatar	5000	J. George	Dombivli	1001	A.R. Arjun	Kerala	500
S. D'Souza	Dubai	5000	M. Narottam	U.K.	1001	F. D'Souza	Mumbai	500
A. Pito	Mumbai	5000	S. Jacob	Kerala	1000	M.B. Chauhan	Surat	500
V. Pijwala	Bakrol	5000	V. Sherigar	Mira Road	1000	L. George	Kerala	500
V. Mathew	Kerala	5000	S. John	Kerala	1000	S.S. Fernandes	Nallasopara	500
A.M. Anthony	Dubai	5000	G. Joseph	Kerala	1000	J. Tomy	Kerala	500
H. Wilson	Australia	5000	N.J. Tatna	Mumbai	1000	P. Josy	Kerala	500
C. George	Muscat	5000	J. Thomas	Kerala	1000	Jose T.K.	Kerala	500
M. Nunes	Mumbai	5000	K.V. Anilkumar	Kerala	1000	H.I. D'Souza	Mumbai	500
A. Uday	Mumbai	5000	H. Singh	Delhi	1000	J. Jaipaul	Chennai	500
B.A. Watson	U.K.	4155	T.J. Sajan	Kerala	1000	s. Gonsalves	Vasai	500
E. Remedios	Dubai	4128	M. James	Dubai	1000	T.R. Derosé	Mumbai	500
J.J. D'Souza	Dubai	4000	J.P. Panchal	New Zealand	1000	W. Tuscano	Virar	500
W. D'Mello	Thane	4000	F. Fernandes	Mumbai	1000	A. Fernandes	Mumbai	500
D. Young	Canada	3142	R. Tribhuvan	Nashik	1000	M. Rodrigues	Vasai	500
B.B. John	Saudi Arabia	3000	X. Fernandes	Mumbai	1000	L. D'Souza	Kalyan	500
M. Jacob	Qatar	3000	C. Wendt	Germany	1000	J. Bander	Vasai	500
V. Mannancheril	Switzerland	3000	F. Rodrigues	Vasai	1000	F. D'Souza	Vasai	500
P.P. Chitalia	Mumbai	3000	N. Gonsalves	Vasai	1000	J. Gonsalves	Vasai	500
A. Narayanan	Mumbai	3000	S. Machado	Dahisar	1000	V. Lopes	Vasai	500
J. D'Souza	Canada	3000	J. Pereira	Goa	1000	T.D. Naik	Goa	500
M. Pimenta	Vasai	3000	L. D'Souza	Goa	1000	M. Engineer	Mumbai	500
Naresh Gohil	Australia	2907	O. D'Souza	Mumbai	1000	B. Wroughton	Mumbai	500



## Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues Memorial Hackathon UNSCRIPT 2 K 20 Reports at Bandra



## “Spirit of Christmas” at Padre Conceicao College of Engineering, Verna Goa





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PB NO. 6656, Bandstand,  
Bandra (W),  
Mumbai-400050. India  
Ph: 022 67114000  
email: agnelashramnews@gmail.com