



PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR INDIA MUMBAI PROVINCE (INM)



SVD PROVINCIAL HOUSE, 510/ 32ND ROAD, BANDRA WEST, MUMBAI - 400 050

Mobile: 9673638477/8451031910

Email: inmsvd@gmail.com, Web: www.sydinm.com

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October 2022

BAPU'S BUSINESS

The month of October presents an array of festivities, celebrations and commemorations all across the globe. In India, on a secular front, we begin the month with the celebration of Bapu's birth anniversary - Gandhi Jayanti. Bapu's strategy of non-violence to attain independence stands as an inspiration for the world to drop the weapons and take up the peaceful means of even-handed justice and fair treatment to all. Bapu believed in the power of love and non-violence.

We conclude the month with the celebration of National Unity Day which pays tribute to the veteran freedom fighter Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. We need to be grateful to him for his decisive efforts in bringing about integration of India. The celebration of National Unity Day provides us with an opportunity to reaffirm the inherent strength and resilience of our nation to withstand the threats to the unity and integrity of our nation. These two major events of the past are fused together by the current major event of Bharath Jodo Yatra organized by Congress with the objective to unite India; to come together and strengthen the nation.

All these three major events, even though proclaim the importance of unity of the nation, we are aware that India continues to struggle for true freedom, real peace and tangible unity envisaged by Bapu because citizens remain divided by walls of communal, religious or linguistic prejudices and these barriers weaken and distract the national will for freedom, peace and unity. But, we can go recourse to the wise counsels of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, who was deeply imbued by the teachings of Jesus specially the Sermon on the Mount. He has something valuable to tell us at this time in history. Thomas Merton concludes his Foreword to 'Gandhi on Non Violence' as follows, "Gandhi's principles are extremely pertinent today ... especially for those interested in implementing the principles expressed by Pope John XXIII, in Pacem in Terris. Indeed this Encyclical has the breadth and depth, the universality and tolerance of Gandhi's peace-minded outlook. Peace cannot be built on exclusivism, absolutism and intolerance; neither can it be built on vague liberal slogans and pious programs gestated in the smoke of confabulation. There can be no peace on earth without the inner change that brings man to his "right mind"."

Mahatma Gandhi made it his vision to reconcile differences and bring about harmony in place of conflict and he relentlessly worked for heart-unity, for without such unity he felt that self-governance, even if it is achieved, could not be genuine. Bapu used to say, his mission was not merely freedom of India but through realization of freedom of India, he hoped to realize the mission of brotherhood of humans. He believed that patriotism was not an exclusive thing, it was all-embracing and one should reject that patriotism which sought to mount distress or exploitation upon others. His concept of patriotism and religion were consistent with the vision of good of all humanity and embrace of all forms of life. He

wanted to realize brotherhood or identity not merely with the human beings but wanted to realize identity with all life because all beings claim common descent from the same God, and that being so, all life in all forms must be essentially one.

The importance of India as a nation lies in its unity. Unity is India's strength and unity in diversity is the most important feature of India. Therefore, national integration alone can be the foundation of a resilient and flourishing India. As we march ahead with Bapu's business of actualizing his vision of united and integrated India, it is important for us to acknowledge that there is a need for commitment to the nation as a whole. We have to form strong and long-lasting associations with every being and every form of life to create unity and brotherhood through non-violent means to avoid catastrophic consequences.

Bapu's business of establishing a tolerant, inclusive, united and progressive nation stems from his vision of the reign of God and brotherhood of all, and therefore, as we journey through the month dedicated to Mother Mary, let us earnestly entreat her, through the recitation of the rosary, to intercede for us so that we may understand our duty towards one another and our nation. We also pray that the reign of God becomes a reality in our nation and in the world believing that God is persevering in his business of ushering in his reign through the transformation of our social, political, cultural, economic and spiritual order. Our prayer for the realization of the reign of God is also a means for us to submit ourselves afresh to God and allow him to use us in his divine business. As we celebrate this month as the missionary month, let us make it our mission to commit ourselves to live for the business of God entrusted to each one of us at this time in history and make our wholehearted contribution for the good of our nation and the world as we humbly admit, "We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty." (Luke 17:10).

- INM Provincial Leadership Team

STOP CHILD BEGGARY, STOP CHILD LABOUR SSS, PUNE

'Do not give money to begging children; do not buy materials sold by children. Give to needy children what they need, not money. By giving money to a begging child you make the child a beggar for life'. Sarva Seva Sangh, Pune, which had begun its campaign against child beggary and child labour from the year 2020 conducted awareness programme on child beggary in two schools in September 2022 to sensitize the students to this issue.



The awareness programme was conducted at Holy Spirit School, Lonikand on 14th September and in St. Clare's School, Nana Peth on 15th September. The students in Kindergarten and Primary section were made to understand the ill effects of child beggary and child labour through short interactive sessions while the students in higher section were sensitized with the help of banners and posters. The students were also given handbills containing

awareness messages on child beggary and child labour to be given to their parents to sensitize the family as well. The young students were made to understand that when a child is hungry the mother gives food to the child, not money. Children who are made to beg or sell materials on the streets lose their right to education and many children misuse money to purchase harmful materials and get addicted at their tender age. Sarva Seva Sangh also conducted a survey of begging children in Pune city during July and August 2022 and the report was submitted to the District Women and Child Development Officer, Child Welfare Committee and to the Special Juvenile Police Squad. Public awareness is being created in the city through 50 auto rickshaws by displaying posters.

NEWS FROM INM MISSION OFFICE



INM Mission Secretary, Fr. Jolly visited Mysore and Mangalore SVD communities from 3rd September to 10th September 2022. During the visits he did mission animation for the seminarians in Vidya Niketan, Mysore and SVD House, Kirem. He met the communities and shared SVD mission experiences with them. During the visit he also encouraged the confreres and motivated the communities to form SVD Lay Mission Partner groups in their localities. He is hopeful that one each Lay Mission Partner group will be formed in Mysore and Mangalore soon.

Earlier, Fr. Jolly along with Fr. Ronald D'Silva had visited the Pune in order to undertake the project of video interviewing our confreres. The project is titled as 'Living the Word in the World'. We interviewed all the confreres in Pune recording their vocation stories and their mission stories as they are living the Word in the world. Fr. Jolly also addressed the seminarians in DWS and celebrated Mass with the community.

FINANCE MANAGEMENT & LEGAL COMPLIANCE WORKSHOP



Five confreres from our province – Frs. George Crasta, P. David, Lucas Parkhe, Jose George and Melroy Mascarenhas attended a 3 day workshop on 'Finance Management & Legal Compliance for NGOs' at Karl Kübel Institute for Development Education (KKID), Coimbatore from 13th to 15th September 2022. The resource person Vittal Rao Lokare, an Associate Member of the "Institute of Chartered Accountants of India", practising in Bangalore has been extending his services as an auditor to many corporate as well as NGOs covered under Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act 2010 for more than 25 years. He introduced to the participants in a span of three days the legal framework of NGOs, principles of accounting, financial management, basics of book-keeping, journal management, systems for internal control and accountability, project budgeting and

budgeting control, financial documentation and reporting, methods of financial reporting to donors, legal compliance with FCRA and home ministry, taxation on GST and NGOs; and Dos and don'ts in NGO finance management in a systematic manner with simple examples. This training provided our confreres with an understanding of common practices in finance management, basic systems and practices that is necessary for a healthy organisation.

NATIONAL DAY OF INTERCESSION ST. FRANCIS XAVIER'S CHURCH, BAILHONGAL



"Whatever you ask in prayer believe that you have received it and it will be yours" (Mark 11:24). It is indeed true that we have experienced the love of Christ through the intercessory prayers made during the Most Holy Adoration. Izaak Walton said, "God has two dwellings; one in heaven and the other in a meek and thankful heart." Adoration and Intercessory Prayers are most natural things that we do as humans to humble ourselves and approach God with our prayers and petitions. We believe, when we

take a moment to adore God, transformation happens. We are no longer held captive by the concerns of this life. Our hearts are lifted to that timeless place where God is. Here we can stay gazing at the beauty of His majesty, our spirits renewed by the power of His Divine presence.

Yes, this was our experience on the day of Intercessory Prayer. On 18 September 2022, Sunday at 8.30 a.m. together with the Parish Priest and Episcopal Vicar for the Religious, Rev. Fr. Richard D’Almeida SVD, Vicar General Rev. Fr. Philip Kutty, Apostolic Carmel Sisters, faithful of St. Francis Xavier’s parish and the parishioners of Sacred Heart Church, Madanabavi gathered to celebrate the Holy Eucharist. Rev. Fr. Philip Kutty was the main celebrant and Fr. Richard broke the Word of God very meaningfully explaining how to make the provision to enter Heaven. The Holy Hour was conducted by Fr. Philip Kutty which commenced with the adoration hymn and a short introduction. There were also prayers for various intentions of the world. It was an enriching opportunity for all gathered to spend quality time with the Lord and be in union with Him in prayer; and be one with the suffering humanity. It was a wonderful spiritual experience whereby at the conclusion we could exclaim, “Lord, it is good for us to be here.” (Mt. 17:4).



CELEBRATING LIFE WITH TEACHERS SACRED HEART CHURCH, ANDHERI



The Celebrating Life Organizing Committee (CLOC) together with the Parish Clergy Team, invited all school and college teachers, Sunday school and Confirmation teachers, past and present, including the Nuns and Priests who are teachers in the institutions of the parish, to a Special Eucharist followed by a get-together on 18 September 2022. The Holy Mass was celebrated by our Parish Priest, Fr.

Innocent Fernandes and concelebrated by five other priests. The Sunday school children conducted the liturgy and the Mass was made livelier by the melodious singing of the Children’s Choir. After the Mass about hundred Teachers were welcomed at the Community Centre by the CLOC members by giving coloured badges which served as the basis of forming them into teams. The badges had captions stating, ‘Wonderful Teacher’, ‘Kind Teacher’, ‘Great Teacher’ and ‘Happy Teacher’. The words “I touch the future and I affect eternity” were also printed on the badge with a line for the name of the teacher to be written on it.

Fr. Callisto Gomes, Spiritual Director of the CLOC, welcomed everyone and introduced the CLOC members. The Convener of CLOC then presented the Anchors; Dr. Charles Carvalho and Dr. Fallon



Menezes. The Anchors then took over and conducted group games tailor-made for the Teachers. ‘Dumb Charades’ elicited some Oscar winning performances and clever guesses. This was followed by Quiz, with questions ranging from the significance of Teacher’s Day to Biblical reference on education from the book of Exodus. The Anchors then got everyone on the floor for a game ‘Greeting Signs’ and through the process of elimination found the

winners. Spot prizes were given to the Teacher with the oldest phone and the one who guessed the most common phrases used by teachers.

The Teachers were then asked to share their experiences. They regaled us with a whole gamut of stories, from heart wrenching to humorous. All this re-affirmed the fact that the teacher plays such an important

role in the life of a student. As it is said, “people will forget what you said and what you did, but will never forget how you made them feel.” Fr. Innocent summed up the celebration and explained that the parish wanted to honour the Teachers with a special event as they lay the foundation for our children and thanked them for their presence. One of the Retired Teachers in the gathering gave a ‘Vote of Thanks’. Fr. Brian from Dominic Savio school said the Grace before Meals, and the celebrations ended with a scrumptious meal and some foot tapping music for our listening and dancing pleasure. All the action was captured on camera by a youth volunteer. The unexpected finale was a hymn, ‘May God bless you’, sung by one of the oldest members of the Teaching Staff, an 84 year old, Canossian Nun, Sr. Olive.

CHOTANAGPUR FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT ST. ARNOLD SPORTS CLUB



Mumbai Archdiocese celebrated the World Day of Migrants and Refugees on 25 September 2022. In honour of the World Migrants St. Arnold Sport’s Club under the banner of UCDC organized an anticipated one day football match on 11th September 2022. The main objective of organizing the event was to bring unity among the youth. It was an effort to get in touch with the migrant youth living in and around Mumbai. There were 18 teams from Khopoli, Vashi, Chembur, Borovali, Andheri and Bandra of

which two teams were of girls’ from St. Theresa’s parish, Bandra. Fr. Cosmos welcomed all and explained to them the objectives of conducting the football tournament. Fr. Henry D’Souza SVD, the Parish priest of St. Theresa’s Church began the tournament with a prayer and wished the team members all the very best. The committees from St. Arnold Sport’s Club played a great role in planning and executing the entire event. The tournament began at 08:00 a.m. lasted till 07:00 p.m. The winner team was Assam Team from Sanpada and the runner up was MG’s Team from Chembur. The prizes were distributed to the respective teams by Fr. Jerome D’Souza SVD, Fr Ivan D’Silva SVD and Mr. Joseph Kujur. Fr. Cosmos appreciated the efforts taken by the organizing committee of St. Arnold Sport’s Club and thanked the all the teams for their active participation.

SPLASH FIESTA 2022 SACRED HEART CHURCH, ANDHERI

Monsoon is the season of fun for most of us, and at Sacred Heart Church, Andheri East, it marks the commencement of the 3 day 'Splash Fiesta Games'. The tele games were organised by the Parish Youth



Council and were held from 16-18 September 2022 on the church grounds. The event witnessed the participation of 18 vibrant communities, all geared up for the battle of wits. The 3 day event began with an inauguration ceremony, wherein the captain of every team was invited for a march followed by an oath. Splash Fiesta was the brainchild of a core team that put in a lot of efforts to conduct the event. They came up with exciting names that were

puns on some phrases popular among the Gen Z. Games like 'May the Fork be with you', 'Pearl Fishing' and 'Don't Spill' were played with much vigour. The teams gave each other a tough competition which

led the audience to bet on who was leading the scoreboard. The core team had divided the communities in three pools of 6 teams each. On Day 1, teams from Pool A and B competed with each other to get to the quarterfinals that were held on Day 2. The communities in Pool C had their chance to make it to the quarterfinals on Day 2. The enthusiasm showcased by the teams had the audience applauding and cheering for their communities. The cafeteria kept the energy of the place alive by satiating the audience with some mouth-watering snacks.



The finale of Splash Fiesta on Day 3 had everyone at the edge of their seats. The Semi Finals culminated with a tie between two teams. The game 'Head to Head Connection' was played by both teams to break the tie. The 15-minute break between the Semi Finals and the Finals provided the comperes to keep the audience on their toes. Many members from the audience tried their luck at a game of Bingo, while others displayed their skills at some tongue

twisters. A relay game devised by the core team was played in the Finals. The element of surprise and suspense was added to the game in order to test the team building and strategy making skills of the players. Each player had to complete a task depending on the category they belonged to. The promptness and vitality of the players were the factors that decided which team would come out victorious. After 20 minutes of heightened excitement, community 7 was declared the winner of Splash Fiesta whereas community 35 was proclaimed runners up. The event ended with the distribution of trophies, medals and cash prizes to the winners and runners up. Splash Fiesta was a huge success because of the hard work of the PYC and PYAT as well as the active participation of the teams.

ST. THERESA'S PARISH SWEEPS THE BANDRA ZONALS



September 4th was a day of pride and jubilation for St. Theresa's parish as it once again proved that we have immense talents. St. Andrew's All Bandra Talent Contest fondly called 'The Zonals', comprising of eight parishes in Bandra, being in its 65th year of presentation was back after a gap of two years due to the pandemic. The theme for this year's Zonals was: 'Talent, Community, Togetherness'. St. Theresa's parishioners made their presence felt in a big way with 59 contestants; some taking part in three to four categories - vocal, instrumental, elocution and dance. The choir was made up of 22 talented parishioners. Our parish won the dramatics, and in addition, bagged first, second or third position in whichever category they participated.

SHG TRAINING PROGRAMME SARVA VIDYA DEEPA, BAILHONGAL



Sarva Vidya Deepa, Bailhongal organized a day's programme for the self-help group representatives. There were 107 participants present for the training. It was organized at Christa Nivas, Nesargi a social work centre run by the Goa Jesuits. The programme began at 11.00 a.m. with lighting of the lamp and prayer song. The Superior of Christa Nivas, Fr. Menino Gonsalves SJ, Provincial Visitor Fr. Melwyn SJ, our social work coordinators - Mr.

Fakeerappa Halemani and Mr. Joseph Talawar were present to inaugurate the event. Mr. Fakeerapp Halemani welcomed the gathering. All the representatives were given opportunities to talk about their

SHG development and its functioning. Sarva Vidya Deepa has reached over 60 SHGs within a short span of time. The groups and their activities are well maintained by the coordinators. Jana Jagarana coordinator, Mrs. Shobha Doddamani briefed about the benefits and schemes in government sector, 100 days' work for the unemployed, labour card, sanitization, govt. Sanjeevini Yojana loan etc. Fr. Richard D'Almeida brought about various aspects of reaching out to others, achieving growth with positive thinking, self-stability and standing on one's own legs and how one can march forward when unity is attained etc. SHG should become vehicle of self-sustaining activity among the women. Maintaining of the records, monthly attendance and savings should become part of the SHG life. Later, through awareness songs he animated the gathering to know the present situation.

TEEN SUICIDE-FREE MUMBAI A SNEHAANGAN-ATMADARSHAN COLLABORATION



In the past few months, Atma Darshan has been collaborating with Snehaangan, a volunteer movement of like-minded people from all walks of life. The vision of the movement is '*Teen suicide-free Mumbai*'. The mission is to empower teachers, mentors, parents and coaches through psychosocial awareness and to be a go-to support group for prevention of death by suicide. So far, a number of online seminars and workshops have been conducted for teachers and school personnel. In mid-September a street-play on suicide awareness was done at (NMIMS) Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies, Vile Parle. The group expects to reach out to a number of schools and colleges in Mumbai to create awareness on suicide prevention; counselling; helpline; rehabilitation; support-groups, etc.

LEADERSHIP AND JUBILARIANS COURSES ISHVANI KENDRA, PUNE



The months of August and September were a busy time for Ishvani Kendra with two back to back courses. The first was Leadership for Mission meant for the Superiors. Two religious brothers and 18 religious sisters belonging to eight congregations participated in the three-week course. Most of them were appointed to leadership roles for the first time. Hence the aim of the course was to enable the leaders to mould themselves to be prophetic, credible and compassionate persons to lead their communities on the path of the mission entrusted by Jesus. Therefore, it included modules that dealt with psychological, biblical and theological aspects of leadership, community building, the leadership of women, financial management, lessons from Indian religious traditions and corporate world. Each one also prepared a personal action plan to lead their communities and ministries in the light of the mission of Jesus. The participants expressed their satisfaction and happiness for the grace and empowerment they experienced throughout the three weeks from July 31 – 20 August.

This was immediately followed by the four-week Silver Jubilarians' Special: Renewal in Religious Missionary Life from August 28 – 24 September 2022. This renewal course was aimed at enabling the participants to refresh and rejuvenate and update themselves to continue their missionary journey with greater enthusiasm and zeal. Hence, they reflected on topics like the midlife transition, spirituality for deeper commitment, Mary as the model, challenges and opportunities for religious today, biblical missionary discipleship, significance of jubilee for mission etc. The course climaxed with a retreat

titled Deep Calls to Deep. There were exactly 25 participants belonging to six congregations. They felt very much at home, as is always the case at Ishvani Kendra and immensely benefitted from the course modules. It was indeed a time of grace. Their joyful and smiling faces said it all as they expressed their gratefulness on the last day before going back to their communities with their spirits high.

SUB-ZONAL MEETINGS

The India Sub-zone Formation Board meeting took place at Shanti Bhavan, Jharsuguda, on 16-17 September 2022. The meeting started with the Morning Prayer at 6.30 am on 16th September followed by the inaugural Eucharist presided over by the Chairperson of Formation Board, Fr. Richard Mathias. The Provincial Superiors of INC, INE and INH and the Regional Superior of ING along with the Formation



Secretary joined in as concelebrants. The formal beginning of the meeting was marked by a prayer at 8.45 am which started with the enthronement of the Word of God. The welcome address of the chairperson followed it.

The morning session of the opening day was dedicated to an on-going formation input session. Sr. Flora F.C. was the resource person who enlightened the participants on the topic “Assessment of Candidates for Religious Life and Priesthood”. The afternoon sessions got underway at 3 pm with the presentation of the report by the Formation Secretary. Thereafter, the floor decided to take up for discussion the suggestions received from various formation communities and other sources. The rest of the time of the meeting was devoted to the discussion of the agenda items. After discussions spread over several sessions, the meeting concluded with the sharing of the observers such as the Superior Delegate, Fr. Scaria Pannackal, and the SSpS representative Sr. Wilma Noronha, (Provincial Leader of India East and Chairperson of the SSpS Formation Board). Later the Chairperson of the Formation Board announced that the next meeting will take place on the 16th and 17th of September 2023 in INH Province. The meeting concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by the Secretary of the Formation Board.

The Inter Provincial Forum (IPF) meeting commenced with inaugural Holy Eucharist presided over by Fr. Maxim Rodrigues SVD, Chairman of the Inter Provincial Forum, and concelebrated by all the PRM Superiors and Mission Secretary of India Sub-Zone. The official inauguration of the IPF meeting was done by ceremonial lighting up of the lamp by all the PRM Superiors and Sr. Vilma Noronha SSpS, Provincial Leader of INE Province. Fr. Jerome Sequeira SJ was the resource person for the day and he gave input session on the theme: ‘Missionary Response to the present Socio-Political Scenario in India’. During the second session a four-page text was distributed for personal reflection and four questions for sharing in four groups. The third session was conducted by Fr. Donald D’Souza SVD, INM Provincial Treasurer and Convener of PRM Treasurers of India Sub-Zone on the theme, “Finance: an integral part of our Mission”. He presented the four pillars (Accounting Records, Financial Planning, Financial Monitoring and Internal Controls) of financial management and exhorted the assembly the seriousness of book-keeping, documentation, planning, accountability and transparency. In the fourth session the Area Coordinators and Secretaries of Sub-Zone presented their annual implementation reports highlighting the main activities done and also presented the action plan for the next year.

The second day of the meeting began with morning Eucharistic celebration celebrated by Fr. Ananda Raju Nagothu SVD, Vice-Provincial Superior of INH. In the first session of the second day Fr. Maria Michael SVD presented the findings of the ‘IPF Evaluation’ which was done during the year 2019-2020. In the subsequent sessions, deliberations on the agenda points and the discussions were held. Fr. Jeevan Kennedy, SVD Vice-Regional Superior of ING proposed vote of thanks to all and IPF meeting came to an end with final blessing from the Chairperson.

ELECTION FOR THE INM LEADERSHIP TEAM

SVD India Sub-zone Governing Body in its meeting held on 26 February 2022 at SVD Vidya Bhavan, Bhopal had discussed and decided on having synchronized election process in the Sub-zone, and accordingly, the dates for the Provincial/Regional Leadership Team elections were finalized. The election process is to commence on 10th November 2022 and to conclude by 31st January 2023.

Since the due date is fast approaching, it is time for us to begin our personal and communitarian discernment process towards choosing a new provincial leadership team for the province as directed by our Chapters. So, we recommend that we begin the discernment process, first of all, by earnestly praying for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our personal and community prayers. Secondly, we request every confrere to reflect on the kind of leadership team we need for our province for the next triennium. Further, all the LCF leaders are requested to organize appropriate discernment process in the respective forums in the coming weeks so as to facilitate the confreres to make informed choices. Above all, we the members of the present leadership team, commit the entire membership of the province to the Triune God who alone can guide us in the right direction and show us the right way forward. May the love of Christ impel us all to be Rooted in the Word and Committed to God's Mission.

Election Schedule

- First Round: Ballot Papers will be sent to the confreres on 10 November 2022
- Last date for reaching the vote to the Province Office is 10 December 2022
- Counting of the First Round Votes will take place on 12 December 2022
- Second Round: Issuance of Ballot Papers with the list of candidates 15 December 2022
- Votes could be sent directly to the Superior General or through the Province Office
Through the Province Office before 20 January 2023
Directly to the Superior General before 31 January 2023

MY PROGRAMMES

16-17 October	Visit to Vachana Jyothi, Pilathara
17-20 October	Visit to Communities in Mangalore
22-24 October	SSpS Provincial Chapter, Convent of the Holy Spirit, Bangalore
01 November	Beginning of INM General Visitation
02 November	Meeting with General Visitation, Soverdia House, Andheri

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

23, 25-26 November 2022
Soverdia House, Andheri

In the Divine Word



Richard Mathias SVD
INM Provincial Superior

'Rooted in the love of the Father and led by the Holy Spirit into the Mission of Christ'

- INM Vision Statement