



ALL INDIA ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

56th NATIONAL CONVENTION

07-10 October 2025

Park Regis Convention Centre, North Goa - 403509



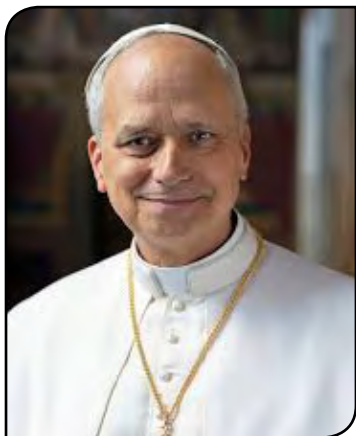
COMPASSION & WISDOM DRIVEN LEADERSHIP

Effective Stakeholder Management in Catholic Schools



CONTENTS

• Education- “New Maps” of Hope	3
<i>Pope Leo XIV</i>	
• Words of Welcome	4
<i>Rev. Dr. Fr. Shinoj Kizhakkemuriyil TOR – National President-AINACS</i>	
• Message	5
<i>Most Rev. Elias Gonsalves, Archbishop of Nagpur Archdiocese, the Chairperson of CBCI Office for Education and Culture</i>	
• Message	6
<i>Rev. Dr. Fr. Shinoj Kizhakkemuriyil TOR- National President-AINACS</i>	
• Report of the 56th National Convention	9
<i>Rev. Fr. Sojan John O. Praem – National General Secretary - AINACS</i>	
• Secretary’s Annual Report 2024-25	19
<i>Rev. Fr. Sojan John O. Praem – National General Secretary - AINACS</i>	
• Minutes of the Annual General Body Meeting	23
<i>Rev. Fr. Sojan John O. Praem – National General Secretary – AINACS</i>	
• Address by the Chief Guest	26
<i>His Eminence Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrao- Archbishop of Goa & Daman</i>	
• Addresses by the Guests of Honour	29
<i>Dr. Joseph Emmanuel, Chief Executive & Secretary CISCE – New Delhi</i> <i>Mr. Roshan Mathew, Indian Actor</i>	
• Panel Discussion on Stakeholder Management	30
<i>Dr. Gaurav Kapoor, Education Consultant & Entrepreneur - New Delhi</i> <i>Dr. Joseph Emmanuel, Chief Executive & Secretary CISCE - New Delhi</i> <i>Rev. Dr. Fr. Viju CMI, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Christ University- Bangalore</i> <i>Rev. Dr. Fr. Sahaya Philominraj SJ, Director of IDEAS - Madurai</i>	
• Legal Matters Pertaining to Education & Minorities	32
<i>Mr. John Michael Cunha, Former Judge, High Court of Karnataka</i>	
• Synodal Styles in the Apostolate of Education	35
<i>Most Rev. Simiao Purificacao Fernandes, Auxiliary Bishop of Goa</i>	
• Igniting Minds, Exploring Frontiers: The Convergence of Space, Education & Industry	35
<i>Mr. Shubhanshu Shukla, Indian Air Force Group Captain & Astronaut</i>	
• Vote of Thanks	38
<i>Rev. Fr. Sojan John O. Praem – National General Secretary - AINACS</i>	



Pope Leo XIV

Education

"NEW MAPS" OF HOPE

Catholic schools and universities should integrate faith and culture, resist reducing learning to workforce training, and form people — mind, heart, body, and spirit — for the common good.

On October 28, 2025 — the 60th anniversary of the Vatican II document *Gravissimum educationis* — Pope Leo XIV released an Apostolic Letter with a luminous title: *Drawing New Maps of Hope*. His message lands with clarity: Education is **not a side project of the Church**; it is the fabric of evangelization, the way the Gospel becomes relationship, culture, and concrete care for the human person.

The Pope reads our moment honestly: **rapid change, digital fragmentation, and social anxiety**. Yet, where schools and universities let Christ's word guide them, they do not retreat. They "build bridges," widen access, and create fresh paths for learning—because the Gospel "makes all things new" (Rev 21:5).

He traces a living history: desert monks teaching wisdom of the heart; Augustine awakening desire for truth; monastic scriptoria preserving learning; the birth of universities; the *Ratio Studiorum* shaping rigorous, interdisciplinary formation. **Education as love in action.**

Pope Leo XIV reaffirms *Gravissimum educationis*: everyone has a right to education; the family is "the first school of humanity." The Catechism puts it simply: "Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children" (CCC 2223). Catholic schools and universities should integrate faith and culture, **resist reducing learning to workforce training**, and form people — mind, heart, body, and spirit — for the common good.

The letter is **future-facing, too**. Technology must serve the person, not replace it. The Pope urges "**digital humanism**": wise use of tools and AI, attention to data protection and equity, and pedagogy that preserves wonder, humor, beauty, and the grace of learning from mistakes. He links social and ecological justice, encouraging schools to teach sustainable lifestyles and a peace that rejects both violent words and hardened gazes.



Rev. Dr. Fr. Shinoj Kizhakkemuriyil TOR
National President - AINACS

Welcome Address

56th National Convention of AINACS

Dr. Fr. Shinoj Kizhakkemuriyil TOR, National President of the All India Association of Catholic Schools (AINACS), warmly welcomed the delegates to the 56th National Convention. In his welcome address, he clearly articulated the purpose of the Convention, situating it within the present socio-educational context in which Catholic schools across various states are facing multiple challenges.

He drew attention to the growing attacks on institutions run by Catholic missionaries and expressed concern over the activities of anti-social elements operating under the banner of right-wing activism. He also highlighted the repeated targeting of nuns, particularly attacks related to their religious attire, which he described as deeply disturbing and contrary to the values of a pluralistic and democratic society.

Emphasizing the need for a thoughtful, united, and proactive response, Dr. Fr. Shinoj called upon Catholic educators to remain firm yet prudent in addressing these challenges. He

shared several practical examples of how schools can effectively engage key stakeholders—parents, teachers, and students, to foster understanding, trust, and solidarity. He urged the delegates to ensure that at least one meaningful and actionable practice discussed during the Convention is implemented in every Catholic school.

Clarifying common misconceptions, he stated that merely changing the dress code or the names of institutions is not a solution. What Catholic institutions truly seek, he stressed, is respect and rightful recognition for their service to society through education.

Reiterating the core values of Catholic education, Dr. Fr. Shinoj underscored the importance of forgiveness, unity, and a spirit of collaboration in responding to present challenges. He concluded his address by once again extending a heartfelt welcome to all the delegates and encouraging them to actively participate in the deliberations of the Convention.



Message

December 4, 2025

MESSAGE

It gives me great joy to offer this message for the Souvenir of the 56th National Convention of All India Association of Catholic Schools (AINACS), held in Goa from 7-10 October 2025. I extend my prayerful wishes to all the organizers, participants, and member institutions gathered to reflect on the theme presented in this year's convention.

At this significant moment, I invite AINACS to review and renew its goals and objectives in the light of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the Global Compact on Education 2022. These guiding documents urge us toward a transformative vision of education rooted in human dignity, inclusiveness, and shared responsibility.

This is a clarion call for AINACS to:

1. Embrace a Synodal Spirit communion, participation, and mission.

a) A synodal Church listens deeply, journeys together, and reaches out to the peripheries.

b) Communion calls us to remain united as Catholic educationists in India, enabling greater coordination, collaboration, and cooperation in our shared mission.

c) Participation of AINACS members from the peripheries will be possible only when we intentionally reach out to the various regions. This will enable personnel from schools on the margins to participate in greater numbers, especially those who are in need of skill development and leadership training.

d) Mission urges us to reach the margins, especially

the poor and weaker sections within and beyond our institutions.

2. Renew Our Way of Working so that AINACS becomes more present and responsive across all regions of our country.

3. Grow into a Regional Resource Centre that forms and empowers leadership at every level—management, administrators, principals, teachers, and school coordinators—to build strong and value-based educational communities.

These recommendations, I believe, will strengthen AINACS as a renewed, vibrant, and forward-looking organization, capable of responding effectively to the challenges of the present and the promise of the future.

I congratulate the AINACS Executive Body for reading the signs of the times with creativity and commitment. May the Lord accompany this journey of renewal. May the Holy Spirit inspire our leaders to transform every challenge into an opportunity of hope. And may Mother Mary, Seat of Wisdom, guide all Catholic educators to be wise, compassionate, and effective instruments of true education.

With prayerful blessings,

+ Elias Gonsalves

✠Elias Gonsalves

Archbishop of Nagpur

Chairman: CBCI Commission for & Culture



56th National Convention of AINACS



Rev. Dr. Fr. Shinoj Kizhakkemuriyil TOR
National President - AINACS

Message

In its landmark report *Learning: The Treasure Within* (1996), commonly known as the Delors Document, UNESCO proposed four foundational pillars of education for the twenty-first century: learning to know, learning to do, learning to be, and learning to live together. Among these, learning to live together has emerged as the most urgent and challenging, especially in a world increasingly marked by conflict, intolerance, and division. Education today cannot remain confined to intellectual achievement alone; it must prepare young people to coexist peacefully, respect differences, and work collaboratively for the common good.

“Learning to live together” calls for the development of empathy, mutual respect, dialogue, and solidarity. It emphasizes understanding others, appreciating diversity, and resolving conflicts through non-violence. This vision finds a profound resonance in Pope Francis’ encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, which strongly advocates fraternity and social friendship as the foundation of a just and peaceful society. Pope Francis reminds us that all people are brothers and sisters, and that authentic faith can never justify hatred, exclusion, or violence. For young people, this message is particularly significant, as their attitudes and values are shaped during their formative years in educational institutions.

Catholic schools, inspired by the Gospel and the social teaching of the Church, have a unique responsibility in translating this vision into lived experience. Their mission goes beyond academic excellence to the holistic formation of the human person. In an age when education is often reduced to competition and career advancement, Catholic education insists that human formation, moral values, and social responsibility are equally essential. Schools must consciously nurture compassion, ethical discernment, and a deep respect for human dignity alongside intellectual development.

In the Indian context, learning to live together acquires special urgency. India’s rich religious, cultural, and linguistic diversity is both a strength and a challenge.

In recent times, right-wing activism and religious extremism have created social tensions, sometimes dangerously justified “in the name of God.” In such a climate, education must act as a powerful counterforce. Catholic schools are called to form young people who can think critically, resist manipulation by divisive ideologies, and uphold constitutional values such as secularism, equality, and freedom of conscience.

Human formation within Catholic education helps students develop the capacity to dialogue with people of different faiths and ideologies without fear or hostility. By fostering openness, respect, and critical thinking, schools empower young people to become bridge-builders rather than instruments of division. When students are taught to see the other not as an enemy but as a fellow human being, education truly becomes a means of peace-building.

Learning to live together also naturally leads to social commitment. Education cannot remain disconnected from the realities of poverty, injustice, discrimination, and marginalization. Catholic schools must sensitize students to social realities and encourage them to engage in service, solidarity, and civic responsibility. Through community outreach, social initiatives, and experiential learning, students come to understand that fraternity is not merely an idea but a lived responsibility toward society and the nation.

Ultimately, the goal of education is the formation of a generation that respects humanity in all its forms. A generation educated in the spirit of the Delors vision and *Fratelli Tutti* will reject hatred, violence, and exclusion, and will instead promote peace, justice, and solidarity. Such young people will be capable of building a society where differences are celebrated, human dignity is upheld, and the common good is placed above narrow interests. In this way, Catholic education can make a vital contribution to shaping a more humane, inclusive, and peaceful future.



Welcome



Inauguration





Rev. Fr. Sojan John O. Praem
National General Secretary - AINACS

Compassion,
Wisdom-Driven
Leadership:
Effective
Stakeholder
Management
in Catholic
Schools.



REPORT OF THE 56th NATIONAL CONVENTION OF AINACS

REPORT

The All-India Association of Catholic Schools (AINACS) marked a significant milestone with its 56th National Convention, held at the **Park Regis Convention Centre, Arpora, Goa, from October 7–10, 2025**. The event brought together 968 school heads and education leaders from across the country for three enriching days of reflection, leadership development, and collaborative dialogue.

Based on the theme “**Compassion, Wisdom-Driven Leadership: Effective Stakeholder Management in Catholic Schools,**” the Convention sought to renew the spirit and mission of Catholic Education in India. Participants reflected on how Catholic Schools can remain deeply rooted in Christ while effectively responding to the challenges of a rapidly evolving Educational landscape.

The program featured a dynamic blend of worship, keynote addresses, panel discussions, reflections and informative talks by the eminent personalities and the cultural performances of different Schools creating a holistic experience that celebrated both the intellectual and spiritual dimensions of Catholic Education. This year's Convention served as a platform for strengthening networks, sharing best practices, and envisioning a future where Catholic

Schools continue to be beacons of excellence, compassion, and faith-based leadership.

07.10.2025

Registration, followed by the distribution of the Convention Kit and Certificate, commenced on the 7th from 2:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

08.10.2025

Inauguration

The official Inauguration of the Convention took place at 10:00 a.m. on the 8th with the lighting of the traditional lamp by the chief guest, His Eminence Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrao, Archbishop of Goa & Daman, along with Dignitaries and Executive Committee Members: Fr. Shinoj, Fr. Sojan, Fr. Robert, Fr. Biju T, Fr. Maria Charles, Sr. Tressilla BS & Sr. Valsamma MSI.

The Convention commenced with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, offered as an expression of gratitude and a solemn invocation of God's blessings. The Inaugural Holy Eucharist was solemnized by His Eminence Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrao and concelebrated by the Executive Committee Members.

At the opening Eucharistic Celebration,

56th National Convention of AINACS

His Eminence Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrão set a profound tone by referring to educators as “Messengers of Hope,” inspired by Pope Francis’ *Spes non confundit*’ for the Jubilee Year. Drawing upon the Gospel account of Jesus healing the leper, Cardinal Ferrão exhorted the participants to approach their students with compassion, mercy, and a commitment to heal hearts through the transformative power of education. The heart of Catholic Schooling lies in loving care, joyful service, and forgiveness. As Educators, we are called to be pilgrims of hope—guiding young minds to become communities of faith, resilience, and understanding.

Building on this foundation, Cardinal Ferrão’s keynote address further elaborated on the principles of synodal leadership, emphasizing the importance of engaging all stakeholders in meaningful dialogue, fostering discernment over haste in decision-making, and recognizing students as precious gifts entrusted by God. He stressed, “Stewardship is not administration alone; it is service rooted in compassion and patience, aimed at the holistic formation of each child.”

After the Holy Eucharistic Celebration, the Inaugural Function began. The Chief Guest for the function was His Eminence Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrao, Archbishop of Goa & Daman, while the Guests of Honour were, Mr. Roshan Mathew, a renowned actor and Dr. Joseph Emmanuel, Chief Executive & Secretary CISCE, New Delhi.

It was marked by a welcome dance by the students of St. Michael’s Convent High School, Anjana.

Dr. Fr. Shinoj Kizhakkemuriyil TOR, the National President of AINACS, welcomed the delegates to the 56th National Convention. In his welcome address, he clearly articulated the purpose of the gathering, noting that many Catholic Schools across different states are currently facing a range of challenges. He emphasized the need for thoughtful and united responses to these issues. He also shared several practical examples on how to effectively engage with key stakeholders—parents, teachers, and students—highlighting the importance of implementing at

least one meaningful practice discussed during the Convention in all our Schools. Stressing the core values of Catholic Education, he underscored the need for forgiveness, unity, and a spirit of collaboration. He concluded by once again extending a warm welcome to all delegates.

Following the welcome address, the Comperes of the Convention, Rev. Sr Ophilia Lobo and Rev. Sr. Prema Carvalho, warmly welcomed the Chief Guest of the day, His Eminence Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrão, Archbishop of Goa & Daman, along with the Guests of Honour, Mr. Roshan Mathew, a renowned actor and Dr. Joseph Emmanuel, Chief Executive and Secretary, CISCE, New Delhi; and the Executive Committee Members onto the stage.

Inaugural Address:

Fr. Robert, warmly welcomed the Chief Guest of the day, His Eminence Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrão, Archbishop of Goa & Daman, in his address, he reflected on the challenges faced by the education sector today, emphasizing the critical role of Educators in shaping the Nation’s future. He drew inspiration from the life and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi, encouraging participants to remain rooted in values even amidst adversity.

He expressed deep gratitude to all the participants for their self-sacrifice and commitment to the mission of Catholic Education across the country. He further acknowledged the efforts of the Executive Committee Members, appreciating their dedication and leadership.

Through a touching story, he highlighted the message that hope has the power to transform even the most wounded hearts, and emphasized the importance of exercising the right kind of leadership within our Institutions.

A key theme of his message was the call to embrace Synodal Leadership—a model rooted in communion, participation, and mission. He outlined three essential dimensions of Synodal Leadership:

1. Attentive Listening: He urged Educators to listen deeply—to parents, teachers, the poor, the marginalized, and especially to the students—guiding



them on the path of Christ. Referring to Jesus' words, *"I am the Good Shepherd,"* he reminded the audience that by listening and walking with others, we share in the shepherding leadership of Christ.

2. Inclusive Leadership: He called for leaders who embrace diversity, ensure everyone has a voice, and create space for shared decision-making.

3. Discerning Leadership: Citing the biblical image of the sower, he described a leader who knows when to sow seeds, who is not discouraged when growth is delayed or uncertain, and who trusts in God's timing. This, he said, reflects a patient and prayerful approach to leadership, always seeking to discern God's will for the Institution.

He concluded by reminding everyone present that Education is a sacred Vocation, vital to the future of the Nation, and he encouraged all to become true Synodal Leaders. With heartfelt thanks, he expressed his hope that the Convention would inspire renewed commitment to this shared mission.

Following the Chief Guest's speech, the Guest of Honour, Mr. Roshan Mathew, was welcomed by Sr. Valsamma MSI. He shared a childhood School experience. He recalled an incident from when he was in the 11th standard. A new principal had joined the School and would go to every class and greet the students with a friendly "Hi." Unlike many teachers who often ignore the backbenchers, this Principal made it a point to engage with them. He didn't focus solely on the marks but paid attention to every student, especially those seated at the back. He was truly different from the others.

His approach was inclusive, compassionate, and different from what Mr. Roshan had previously experienced. This gesture of recognizing every student, regardless of their academic standing, left a lasting message about the value of seeing and affirming each individual.

Dr. Joseph Emmanuel was then invited to address the gathering and was welcomed by Fr. Biju. Dr. Joseph Emmanuel expressed deep appreciation for the dedication and influence of teachers, referring to them as the true "power centres" in society. He emphasized

that real authority lies not in titles or positions, but in the ability to touch the hearts of young students. Acknowledging the rapid changes in society and global demands, he encouraged Educators to lead with wisdom and compassion, drawing inspiration from transformative leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi and Annie Besant.

He spoke candidly about the current challenges facing society today, noting that morality is increasingly being questioned, and he highlighted the role of Educators in navigating these turbulent times without compromising core values. He urged teachers to face challenges with resilience and to focus not merely on academic excellence, but on human excellence, forming individuals of character, empathy, and critical thinking.

Dr. Joseph Emmanuel posed a reflective question: *"Are we truly touching the lives of human beings?"* He stressed the need to transform individuals not just through academic ladders, but through meaningful and value-based education. He also highlighted the importance of clear communication with parents, ensuring they receive the right message about the purpose and vision of Catholic Education.

Further, he underlined the urgency of having a strategic vision in teaching, especially in the light of emerging technologies. He called on educators to upskill themselves, promote effective communication, and equip students to become individuals of courage and conviction.

In conclusion, he encouraged all present to motivate and empower the younger generation, reminding them: *"Let us equip ourselves to bring about changes and to transform the world."*

The Chief Guest and the Guests of Honour were felicitated with stoles and mementos by the Executive Committee Members of AINACS, as a token of appreciation for their presence and contribution. The event sponsors were also felicitated by the Committee Members for their generous support. The morning session concluded thereafter, and the delegates proceeded for lunch at 1:00 p.m.

The afternoon session commenced with a vibrant

cultural programme presented by the students of St. Xavier's College, Mapusa, showcasing their talents and creativity. This was followed by a lively lucky draw competition, adding an element of excitement and engagement to the session.

Following this, at 2:30 p.m. a *Panel Discussion on Stakeholder Management* commenced, during which, Dr. Joseph Emmanuel, Chief Executive and Secretary, CISCE, New Delhi, Rev. Dr. Viju CMI, Pro-Vice Chancellor of Christ University, Bengaluru, Dr. A. Sahaya Philominraj, SJ, Director of Ideas, Madurai, Dr. Gaurav Kapoor, Education Consultant took the stage to address the gathering.

Rev. Dr. Viju CMI, Pro-Vice Chancellor of Christ University, Bengaluru was introduced and welcomed by Sr. Tressilla BS. He emphasized the importance of engaging Generation Alpha through Technology Integration, Relational Professionalism, and Participatory Governance in Schools.

Technology Integration: Leveraging digital tools, platforms, and resources to enhance teaching, learning, and administrative processes in Educational settings.

Relational Professionalism: Fostering strong, empathetic relationships between Educators and Students, built on trust, respect, and understanding, to promote Academic and Personal Growth in a supportive environment.

Participatory Governance: Encouraging student involvement in decision-making processes to promote leadership and a sense of ownership. These approaches can help Schools connect with and support the unique needs of Generation Alpha.

This was followed by a session led by Dr. A. Sahaya Philominraj, SJ, who was welcomed and introduced to the audience by Sr. Valsamma George MSI. He spoke critically about the recent shifts in Government Education Policy, noting that while the intention may be to ensure inclusivity, some of these changes have adversely affected mainstream Education, particularly for the underprivileged. He expressed concern that the New Education Policy is, in some ways, excluding rather than integrating, and warned

that Church-run Educational Institutions are gradually being weakened. He emphasized the urgent need for a pedagogy that uplifts the marginalized, fosters critical thinking, and encourages students to question and engage deeply with their learning.

He posed a crucial question to the audience: *"What kind of education are we truly offering to our children?"* Stressing the need for quality education that is inclusive, empowering, and rooted in justice, Dr. Philominraj called on Educators to remain committed to serving the last and the least in the society.

The Panel discussions were further progressed by the question answer method by Dr. Gaurav Kapoor in the following manner.

Q: What two skills should we equip our children with?

Dr. A. Sahaya Philominraj, SJ answered it in the following way-

- 1. Political Awareness** – Although many believe children are too young to understand politics, it is essential to equip them with political awareness. This helps them recognize the realities of the world, rather than being sidelined or misled by misinformation or bias.
- 2. Education for Peace and Harmony** – Education should not only be about academic success, but also about nurturing values like peace, empathy, and harmony.
- 3. Our Classrooms Must Be Interactive and Active-** To ensure meaningful learning and holistic development, shift from passive to active learning environments. This can be achieved through: Teaching-Learning Engagement, Fostering Creativity, Improved Student Outcomes, Incorporating the Kothari Education System, Shared Principles in Education etc.
- 4. Creative, Innovative, Effective – Society Builders** - It can be building empathy while teaching, encourage self-exploration and discovery, Build trust among students, parents, and teachers.

Q: How to improve thinking skills?

Dr. Viju CMI was prompt in answering that the thinking skills could be Through reading, Asking questions,



Discussions and debates, Problem-solving tasks.

Q: What type of culture are we creating in the Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff?

Dr. Joseph Emmanuel answered it saying we are supposed to treat every religion equally and we need to appreciate the students, Children observe everything. Any discrimination or partiality in the classroom is noticed. They are sensitive and have strong common sense. If we treat them with care and fairness, we can raise beautiful, responsible citizens. Don't be overly strict as they are capable of everything and anything.

09/10/2025

The day began at 8:45 a.m. with a prayer dance by the students of Holy Cross High School Siolim, Bardez Goa. This was followed by a session conducted by Mr. John Michael Cunha, Former Judge, High Court of Karnataka on **"Legal Matters Pertaining to Education and Minorities"**.

A session led by former Karnataka High Court judge Mr. John Michael D'Cunha. He was welcomed and introduced by Fr. Biju. He dealt with Legal Awareness and Policy Directions.

He explored legal protections for Minority Institutions, offering administrator's valuable insights into navigating the statutory and regulatory frameworks that affect Educational Governance.

Points Discussed:

- Mr. John Cunha shared several real-life examples he encountered in Catholic Schools and Colleges.
- He narrated the case of a newly appointed priest who became the college principal and transformed the institution through strong commitment and effective administration. Management skills are essential for running Educational Institutions.
- Today's school management must understand and face new challenges with prudence and wisdom.
- The behaviour of certain students has become threatening to the institution, its management, and its teaching staff. Hence, prudent and strategic management is necessary to handle such sensitive

situations.

- He cited incidents in Mangalore and Goa, where students protested against school management. He posed the reflective question: "How do we tackle such situations?"
- Many are unaware of what is happening around them. People often try to hide the truth or "push it under the carpet."
- He emphasized the importance of knowing our legal and minority rights in the field of education and administration.

Critical Questions Raised:

- Why is there so much anger towards us?
- Why do students who graduate from our institutions revolt against us?
- What type of students are studying in our schools?
- What kind of history are we teaching in Schools, and how are students interpreting it?
- How does the classroom narrative differ from what students learn outside the class rooms?

Key Concepts Highlighted:

1. Schools must be made an active part of society.
2. Article 51 of the Indian Constitution teaches fundamental duties such as compassion and humanity.
3. Teachers must not be demoralized. Their voices and classroom insights must be respected.
4. Schools must keep up with changes in legal rules and regulations of the state.
5. Recent legal changes have made the position of minorities vulnerable.
6. Minorities are at risk of losing their relevance and identity.

Constitutional Provisions for Minorities:

- Article 29: Protects the Language and Culture of Minorities.
- Article 30: Gives separate Rights for Minority Institutions.

Cannot be amended by the State. The State has no power to interfere in the core identity of Minority Institutions.

- Article 15 & Article 21: Ensure free and compulsory Education for all children.
Clause 5: Guarantees this right in all Schools.
- Minority Institutions can deny admission to Non-Minorities to preserve their character.
- The Right to Education (RTE) Act must be implemented and protected in both Aided and Unaided Minority Institutions.

Minority Institution Criteria (Supreme Court's Twin Test):

1. The Institution must be established primarily for the benefit of the Minority Community.
2. The Administration must reflect its Minority Character.
 - The display of Religious Symbols (e.g., churches, crosses) is not necessary to prove Minority Status.
 - Institutions need not prove they are run exclusively for Minorities to claim protection.

Important Example & Clarification:

- If you want to start a School in an area where there is no Christian presence, how do you prove it's a Minority Institution?
Even without displaying religious symbols, the intention and administration matter.

Article 28(3):

- A child cannot be forced to attend religious instruction or ceremonies without parental permission.
- Parents have the right to file a case if the child is forced to participate.

Q: If a Charitable Trust runs two schools, do both need separate Minority Certificates?

A: **Yes.** Each School must have its own Minority Certificate, even if run by the same trust.

Important Points About Charitable Trusts and Education:

- The main objective of the trust must be Education, and it must operate on a non-profit basis.

- Activities like textbooks sales must not become a source of income.
- Institutions must be aware of the charitable objectives they were founded on.

After this session all dispersed for the tea break at 10.30 a.m. After the tea break, the input session on Synodal Styles in the Apostolate of Education was led by Most Rev. Simiao Purificacao Fernandes, the Auxiliary Bishop of Goa. Auxiliary Bishop Simiao Fernandes offered a blueprint for Catholic Schools through the "PATH" framework—Participation, Accompaniment, Team Discernment, and Hope-filled Mission. Drawing on the Emmaus story, he urged teachers to walk alongside students in their journeys of growth. "A Synodal Educator is not just a transmitter of knowledge but a companion who helps students in uncovering meaning and purpose," he said, underscoring the transformative power of shared mission in Education.

At 12:15 p.m., the Holy Mass was officiated by Rev. Fr. Lucio Alexander Dias, after which the Participants dispersed for lunch.

The afternoon session started with a cultural programme presented by the students of St. Xavier's College, Mapusa, followed by the felicitation ceremony and a lucky draw.

Annual General Body Meeting

The Annual General Body Meeting of AINACS was held at 3:00 p.m. on 9th October 2025 in the convention hall with the presence of the delegates. Rev. Dr. Fr. Shinoj Kizhakkemuriyil TOR, the president of AINACS, presided over the meeting and welcomed all the Executive Committee Members to the stage. He requested the National General Secretary, Rev. Fr. Sojan John O. Praem, to present the Report on the activities of the year 2024-25 and the Minutes of the General Body Meeting held at the Novotel Convention Centre, Varun Beach, Visakhapatnam on 24th October 2024. The Secretary presented the Report and the Minutes. He then presented the Audit Report for the year 2024-25.

After presenting the Annual Report, Minutes of the General Body Meeting and the Audit Report, Fr. Sojan invited the members to review the documents and



ask any questions or seek clarifications. After a few clarifications, the report was proposed for approval by Rev. Sr. Irene Marti F.S., Holy Family Convent School, Maharashtra and seconded by Rev. Fr. Raju Francis Koippally, Sanjos Academy. The minutes of the General Body meeting were also unanimously proposed for approval by Rev. Sr. Pramela CSST, St. Joseph Convent School, Faridabad and seconded by Rev. Sr. Philomina Joseph, Fdcc, Canossa School, Vasai. The Audit Report was unanimously approved by the members of the General Body, who also agreed to continue with the same auditor in the future. He insisted everyone to update the school profile with correct school mail ID.

Fr. Shinoj, the President, concluded the meeting by thanking the Secretary for the presentation of the report of the activities, minutes and audit report. He also thanked all the Executive Committee Members and the delegates for their support and cooperation. The General Body Meeting ended at 4:00 p.m.

10/10/2025

The day commenced at 8:45 a.m. with a prayer dance performed by the Little Flower of Jesus High School, Calangute. Thereafter, Sr. Valsamma George extended a warm welcome and introduced Mr. Shubhanshu Shukla, esteemed Group Captain and Astronaut of the Indian Air Force, to the esteemed gathering. The audience accorded him a warm reception, and the occasion was further marked by a special cake-cutting ceremony to commemorate his birthday.

Astronaut and Indian Air Force Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla brought a stirring, real-world perspective to the theme of resilience and curiosity in learning. Speaking on "Ignite Minds, Exploring Frontiers: The Convergence of Space, Education, and Industry," He described the physical and mental challenges of re-entry after spaceflight and paralleled them with the perseverance required in learning. "The true victory is when a child asks, 'How do I become an astronaut?'" Capt. Shubhanshu Shukla said. "Our role as educators is to guide students from where they are to where they dream to be. Discipline, adaptability, and faith in potential are the keys—not only in space exploration, but in life." He challenged Schools to expand horizons: He further interacted with the participants.

Valedictory Function

The Valedictory Function began at 11:00 a.m., followed by the tea break. The National President, Dr. Fr. Shinoj, welcomed all the Executive Committee Members and the Delegates to the function. He then invited the National General Secretary, Rev. Fr. Sojan, to propose the vote of thanks. The Secretary expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the President, the Executive Committee Members, and everyone who worked tirelessly to ensure the successful completion of the 56th Convention. The delegates expressed their appreciation for the excellent arrangements, the well-chosen venue, and the quality of the speakers throughout the event. The Executive Committee Members and the volunteers were also felicitated with stoles and gifts during the function.

The Convention was concluded with the Holy Eucharist, presided over by Most Rev. Elias Gonsalves, Chairperson of CBCI-Education and Culture. In his homily, he emphasized that "a divided school cannot stand," stressing the need for faith-driven unity and mission-focused collaboration. He envisioned classrooms as "altars of transformation" where students grow in knowledge, faith, and character. This unity and collaboration are essential for Catholic Schools to thrive and fulfil their mission.

In the digital era, he cautioned against technology deepening divides, instead urging Educators to harness its potential for inclusion. He emphasized the need for Catholic Schools to be rebuilt with compassion and a Christ-centered vision, prioritizing the most vulnerable and fostering a culture of love, care, and service.

After the Holy Eucharist, the Archbishop was felicitated with a stole and a memento. Thereafter, Dr. Fr. Shinoj, President of AINACS, formally declared the 56th National Convention closed. Thereafter all delegates dispersed for lunch at 1:30 p.m.

Delegates









Rev. Fr. Sojan John O. Praem
National General Secretary - AINACS

SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

Respected President, Members of the Executive Committee, and my dear Delegates, It is my pleasure to present the Report of the activities of the AINACS from the 55th National Convention till the date.

55th NATIONAL CONVENTION

The 55th National Convention of All India Association of Catholic Schools (AINACS) was organized from October, 22 -25, 2024, at the Novotel Convention Centre, Varun Beach, Visakhapatnam. The theme of the Convention was 'Strengthening Stewardship': Education in Times of Crisis, Challenges and Revival." A total of 862 delegates from across the country attended the Convention.

22nd October, 2024

The Registration for the Convention, followed by the distribution of the Convention Kit, began on the 22nd at 2:30 p.m. and continued until 7:30 p.m.

23rd October, 2024

The Convention was officially Inaugurated on the 23rd at 10:00 a.m. with the lighting of the traditional lamp by dignitaries and Committee Members. It began with the Holy Eucharist, solemnized by Most Rev. Francis Kalist, Archbishop of Pondicherry and Cuddalore, and concelebrated by Rev. Fr. Baviri Suresh Babu MSFS, Provincial of Visakhapatnam, along with executive members.

Following the Holy Eucharist, the Inaugural function commenced with a welcome dance by students of MSFS School, Visakhapatnam. The Chief Guest was Major (Dr.) Mohammed Ali Shah, Indian actor and motivational speaker and the Guests of Honour were Most Rev. Francis Kalist, Archbishop of Pondicherry and Cuddalore, and Rev. Fr. Baviri Suresh Babu MSFS, Provincial of Visakhapatnam.

Dr. Fr. Shinoj Kizhakkemuriyil TOR, the National President of AINACS, welcomed the delegates to the 55th National Convention. In his welcome address, he posed a question: 'Why do some people ask that "why do we need an association for the Catholic Schools? Are we reducing ourselves to secular thoughts?" The answer is an emphatic NO. There are two reasons: Association is a strength, and Association is an identity. We need to stand together and united for the common good.

After the welcome address, the Masters of Ceremony of the convention Sr. Meera and Sr. Roseena FSLG, welcomed the Chief Guest of the day Major (Dr) Mohammed Ali Shah, and the Guests of Honour Most Rev. Francis Kalist and Rev. Fr. Baviri Suresh Babu MSFS Provincial, to the stage along with the Executive Members.

The Chief Guest shared his personal experiences, highlighting that convent schools represent quality education. Reflecting on the 1999 Kargil War, he became emotional recalling a captain's sacrifice, stating, 'For your tomorrow, we gave up our today.' He emphasized that true leaders must be inspired even unto death, as they know how to get things done. He concluded by acknowledging the valuable contributions of Catholic Schools.

After the Chief Guest's speech, Most Rev. Francis Kalist highlighted the evolving role of teachers as mentors, guiding students through challenges like cyberbullying. He concluded by urging educators to carry out Jesus Christ's mission through their Institutions.

It was then Rev. Fr. Baviri Suresh Babu MSFS, Provincial Superior, who was invited to address the gathering. He began his speech by quoting George Washington, "Education is the key to unlock the freedom". He also quoted the great philosopher Aristotle, saying, "Education of the mind without heart is a failure."

The afternoon session, led by Mr. Pradeep (Director, Project Children Against Child Abuse), along with Ms. Annie Namratha and Ms. Abhidha HP, focused on child safety in schools. Key topics included the Child Protection Policy, POCSO, POSH, the Juvenile Justice Act (2015), and cyberbullying. The first day ended with tea break at 4:30 p.m.

24th October, 2024

The day began at 8:45 a.m. with a prayer dance by the students of St. Anne's Eng. Med. School, Butchirajupalem. The Comperes invited Most Rev. Thomas Tharayil, the Archbishop of Changanassery, onto the stage with the Executive Members, who introduced and welcomed him. The Archbishop spoke about the contributions of Catholic institutions, emphasizing the need

for healing institutions and care homes, and urged commitment to spreading God's Kingdom despite increasing secularization.

After the tea break, Supreme Court Advocates Romy Chacko and Jose Abraham discussed key legal issues related to school administration and minority institutions. They emphasized that while admission rights have narrowed down the right to appoint qualified staff remains protected under Article 30. The session ended with their felicitation by the Executive Members.

The Holy Eucharist was celebrated at 12.30 p.m. Rev. Dr. Fr. Maria Charles, Secretary of CBCI Education and Culture was the main celebrant, and Most Rev. Thomas Tharayil, the Archbishop of Changanassery preached the homily. He emphasized the importance of mission in Education, urging all to make preaching the Gospel a priority.

The afternoon session began at 2:30 p.m. with Mr. Mahesh Hemnani, who introduced the Artificial Intelligence, its benefits in efficiency and decision-making, and challenges like ethics, job loss, and security risks. Following this, Rev. Fr. Maria Charles SDB, National Secretary of the CBCI Office for Education and Culture, spoke on the relevance of the All India Catholic Education Policy, highlighting its focus on inclusive education and care for the poor and marginalized. Following this, the Annual General Body Meeting of AINACS commenced at 3:30 p.m.

25th October 2024

The day started at 8:45 am. with an art performance by the students of St. Joseph Girl's High School, Waltair, Visakhapatnam, which made everyone to reflect on the cultural heritage of Vizag. The welcome addresses were made by the comperes, followed by the introduction of the speaker, Dr. Joseph Emmanuel, Chief Executive Secretary of CISCE.



Dr. Joseph Emmanuel spoke on 'Heads of Schools as Transformational Leaders,' stressing that leadership is about influence and is key to success in any field. He highlighted the qualities of true leaders—vision, courage, and the ability to inspire others. He emphasized that school heads must be effective instructional leaders who bring out the best in their teams.

The last session of the day was led by CA Vidisha Pandey, Chartered Accountant. She dealt with the topics on societies, and the Purview of income tax in India, accounting, Taxation and FCRA.

Valedictory Function/ Vote of thanks

The Valedictory function began at 11:30 a.m. after the tea break. National President Rev. Dr. Fr. Shinoj welcomed the executive committee members and delegates, and invited National Secretary Rev. Fr. Sojan to deliver the vote of thanks. Gratitude was expressed to the President, Executive Committee, and all who contributed to the 55th National Convention's success. Delegates were thanked for their continued support, and Executive Members and Volunteers were felicitated with stoles and gifts.

The Convention was concluded with the Holy Eucharist, presided over by Most Rev. Elias Gonsalves, the Chairperson of the CBCI – Education and Culture. In his homily he spoke about the prediction of the future, emphasizing that we, the members, are here to witness it. He insisted on three points: Reconciling with the present situation, growing in the knowledge of God, and be transformed. He also spoke about the Synodal Church as the pathway to the mission.

After the Holy Eucharist, the Archbishop was felicitated with a stole and a memento. The 55th National Convention was officially closed. At 1:30 p.m. all delegates dispersed for lunch. In conclusion, the 55th National Convention offered a comprehensive exploration of the challenges

faced by the school leaders at present. The Convention gave a wide opening of knowledge to all the delegates.

Activities carried out during the year 2024-25

We had two executive committee meetings this year in which we had the evaluation of the 55th National Convention, expenses, discussed about the principals' training program, Budget, planning for the 56th Convention etc. At present we have a total number of 3016 members and 222 new members are added till today. Every member school is identified with the AINACS school code.

After the 55th Convention, the E- Magazine and the Calendar for the year 2025 were published and sent to all the members, Bishops & Superiors. Periodical reminders were sent to all the members regarding the subscription. We have updated the AINACS website with latest news and photographs of the training programs. We conducted 2 Up- Skilling program for the School Principals this year.

The first Up-Skilling program was organized (UP-SKILLING PROGRAM-III) for the Principals of Catholic Schools at Don Bosco Technical Institute, Okhla, New Delhi, from 29-31 January 2025. There were 75 School Principals from all over India who attended this three days' training program.

The topics were Legal Aspects dealt by Adv. Romy Chacko, the Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court, Artificial Intelligence by Mr. Mahesh Hemnani, Director S. R. Edu. Tech, Best Practices in Schools by Rupa Chakravarty, Director, Suncity Schools India, Stakeholder Management by Prof. Harish Chaudhry, Accounts & Taxation by Chartered Accountant Vidisha Pandey. The Training Program began on 29th January with the Inauguration. Rev. Dr. Fr. Maria Charles SDB, the Secretary CBCI, Education & Culture, Inaugurated the UP- SKILLING PROGRAM-III.

The second Up- Skilling Program was organized (UP-SKILLING PROGRAM-IV) for the Principals of Catholic Schools at FMA Outreach Shillong, Meghalaya, from 23-25 April 2025. There were 68 School Principals from all over India to attend this training program.

The topics were Accounts and Taxation dealt by C.A Ms. Dipsha Maria D'Souza, Public relations dealt by Rev. Fr. Robinson Rodrigues, the Director of Niscort in Ghaziabad, Stakeholder Management by Prof. Harish Chaudhry, IIT New Delhi. The Training Program began on 24th April with the Inauguration. Most. Rev. Victor Lyngdoh, the Archbishop of Shillong inaugurated the UP-SKILLING PROGRAM-IV.

After each training program, certificates were presented to all participating principals by AINACS.

During the Christmas, we had sent the greetings from the executive committee members to all the members and distributed Cakes to the Parish Priests, Convents, Bishops, CBCI office etc. in Delhi

- Distributed food and study materials in Deepti Ashram in Najafgarh, New Delhi run by the MST fathers where around 120 street children are accommodated and given the free education.
- Distributed study materials to the financially

weak children who are taken care of by the FCC Provincialate House in Delhi, Palam

- Financial help given for the under privileged street children who are given shelter in Ashalayam in Delhi run by the Don Bosco fathers.

Future Plans:

- To have regional Secretaries for a better functioning of the region
- Organize the training Programmes for the teachers at different places wherever its feasible
- Help to implement NEP
- Provide educational support to underprivileged children.

Finally, let me express my sincere gratitude to the President Rev. Dr. Fr. Shinoj and the members of the executive committee for their planning, whole hearted support and co-operation. I also express my gratitude to the Education Directors, Secretaries and the Major Superiors for their support and guidance.

Before I conclude A Big Thank you dear delegates for your support and cooperation.

Thank you and God bless you,



Rev. Fr. Sojan John O. Praem
National General Secretary - AINACS

MINUTES OF THE Annual General Body Meeting

The Annual General Body Meeting of the AINACS was held at 3.30 p.m. on 24th October 2024, at the Novotel Convention Centre, Varun Beach, Visakhapatnam. Rev. Dr. Fr. Shinoj Kizhakkemuriyil TOR, the president of AINACS, presided over the meeting and welcomed the Executive Committee Members and the delegates. He informed everyone that we need to work together. He then requested the Secretary, Rev. Fr. Sojan John. O. Praem, to present the report of the activities of the year 2023-2024 and the Minutes of the previous General Body Meeting held at Rajagiri School of Engineering and Technology, Kakkanad, Kerala, on the 12th of October 2023. The Secretary presented the Reports and the Minutes, followed by the presentation of the Annual Audit Report of the year 2023–2024.

After presenting the Report, Minutes, and the Audit Statement, Fr. Sojan requested the members to go through and offered the opportunity for any questions and clarifications if any. After a few clarifications and doubts, the report was proposed to be passed by Rev. Sr. Rita Dabre, St Antony's Convent School, Koliwada, Vasai and

was seconded by Rev. Sr. Zarina Joseph, CSST, Carmel of St Joseph School, Malad, Mumbai. The minutes of the General Body Meeting was also unanimously proposed to pass by Rev. Sr. Sheeba FCC, Assisi Convent School, Noida, and was seconded by Rev. Sr. Amala RGS, Good Shepherd Convent. The Audit Statement was also unanimously approved by the members of the General Body and agreed to continue with the same Auditor for the coming year too.

Fr. Sojan, the National General Secretary, explained to the delegates how to update the school profile and membership details. For effective communication, he insisted that everyone to update the school profile with correct school mail ID. The school AINACS code, which is also the password, needs to be kept safely for any future correspondence.

Rev. Dr. Fr. Shinoj, the President, concluded the meeting by thanking the Secretary for presenting the Activity Report, Minutes, and Audit Report. He also thanked all the Executive Members and the delegates for their constant support and co-operation. The Annual General Body Meeting concluded at 4.30 p.m.

Annual General Body Meeting





Address by the Chief Guest



**His Eminence Cardinal
Filipe Neri Ferrao**
Archbishop of Goa and Daman

The heart of Catholic Schooling lies in loving care, joyful service, and forgiveness. As Educators, we are called to be pilgrims of hope—guiding young minds to become communities of faith, resilience, and understanding.

His Eminence Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrão set a profound tone by referring to educators as “Messengers of Hope,” inspired by Pope Francis’ *Spes non confundit*’ for the Jubilee Year. Drawing upon the Gospel account of Jesus healing the leper, Cardinal Ferrão exhorted the participants to approach their students with compassion, mercy, and a commitment to heal hearts through the transformative power of education. The heart of Catholic Schooling lies in loving care, joyful service, and forgiveness. As Educators, we are called to be pilgrims of hope—guiding young minds to become communities of faith, resilience, and understanding.

Building on this foundation, Cardinal Ferrão’s keynote address further elaborated on the principles of synodal leadership, emphasizing the importance of engaging all stakeholders in meaningful dialogue, fostering discernment over haste in decision-making, and recognizing students as precious gifts entrusted by God. He stressed, “Stewardship is not administration alone; it is service rooted in compassion and patience, aimed at the holistic formation of each child.

His Eminence Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrão, Archbishop of Goa and Daman, in his address, he reflected on the challenges faced by the education sector today, emphasizing the critical role of Educators in shaping the Nation’s future. He drew inspiration from the life and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi, encouraging participants to remain rooted in values even amidst adversity.

He expressed deep gratitude to all the participants for their self-sacrifice and commitment to the mission of Catholic Education across the country. He further acknowledged the efforts

of the Executive Committee Members, appreciating their dedication and leadership.

Through a touching story, he highlighted the message that hope has the power to transform even the most wounded hearts, and emphasized the importance of exercising the right kind of leadership within our Institutions.

A key theme of his message was the call to embrace Synodal Leadership—a model rooted in communion, participation, and mission. He outlined three essential dimensions of Synodal Leadership:

- 1. Attentive Listening:** He urged Educators to listen deeply—to parents, teachers, the poor, the marginalized, and especially to the students—guiding them on the path of Christ. Referring to Jesus’ words, “*I am the Good Shepherd*,” he reminded the audience that by listening and walking with others, we share in the shepherding leadership of Christ.
- 2. Inclusive Leadership:** He called for leaders who embrace diversity, ensure everyone has a voice, and create space for shared decision-making.
- 3. Discerning Leadership:** Citing the biblical image of the sower, he described a leader who knows when to sow seeds, who is not discouraged when growth is delayed or uncertain, and who trusts in God’s timing. This, he said, reflects a patient and prayerful approach to leadership, always seeking to discern God’s will for the Institution.

He concluded by reminding everyone present that Education is a sacred Vocation, vital to the future of the Nation, and he encouraged all to become true Synodal Leaders. With heartfelt thanks, he expressed his hope that the Convention would inspire renewed commitment to this shared mission.

Encountering the Lord



56th National Convention of AINACS



Addresses by the Guests of Honour



Dr. Joseph Emmanuel
Chief Executive & Secretary
CISCE, New Delhi

Dr. Joseph Emmanuel expressed his deep appreciation for the dedication and influence of teachers, referring to them as the true “power centres” in society. He emphasized that real authority lies not in titles or positions, but in the ability to touch the hearts of young students. Acknowledging the rapid changes in society and global demands, he encouraged Educators to lead with wisdom and compassion, drawing inspiration from transformative leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Annie Besant.

He spoke candidly about the current challenges facing society today, noting that morality is increasingly being questioned, and he highlighted the role of Educators in navigating these turbulent times without compromising core values. He urged teachers to face challenges with resilience and to focus not merely on academic excellence, but on human excellence, forming individuals of character, empathy, and critical thinking.

Dr. Joseph Emmanuel posed a reflective question: *“Are we truly touching the lives of human beings?”* He stressed the need to transform individuals not just through academic ladders, but through meaningful and value-based education. He also highlighted the importance of clear communication with parents, ensuring they receive the right message about the purpose and vision of Catholic Education.

Further, he underlined the urgency of having a strategic vision in teaching, especially in the light of emerging technologies. He called on educators to upskill themselves, promote effective communication, and equip students to become individuals of courage and conviction.

In conclusion, he encouraged all present to motivate and empower the younger generation, reminding them: *“Let us equip ourselves to bring about changes and to transform the world.”*



Mr. Roshan Mathew
Indian Actor

Mr. Roshan Mathew shared a childhood School experience. He recalled an incident from when he was in the 11th standard. A new principal had joined the school and would go to every class and greet the students with a friendly “Hi.” Unlike many teachers who often ignored the backbenchers, this Principal made it a point to engage with them. He didn’t focus solely on the marks but paid attention to every student, especially those seated at the back. He was truly different from the others.

His approach was inclusive, compassionate, and different from what Mr. Roshan had previously experienced. This gesture of recognizing every student, regardless of their academic standing, left a lasting message about the value of seeing and affirming each individual.

Panel Discussion on Stakeholder Management



Dr. Joseph Emmanuel
Chief Executive and Secretary,
CISCE, New Delhi



Dr. Gaurav Kapoor
Education Consultant &
Entrepreneur, New Delhi



Rev. Dr. Viju CMI
Pro-Vice Chancellor of Christ
University, Bengaluru



Dr. A. Sahaya Philominraj, SJ
Director of Ideas, Madurai

A *Panel Discussion on Stakeholder Management* commenced, during which, Dr. Joseph Emmanuel, Chief Executive and Secretary, CISCE, New Delhi, Rev. Dr. Viju CMI, Pro-Vice Chancellor of Christ University, Bengaluru, Dr. A. Sahaya Philominraj, SJ, Director of Ideas, Madurai, Dr. Gaurav Kapoor, Education Consultant took the stage to address the gathering.

Dr. Joseph Emmanuel, Chief Executive and Secretary, CISCE, New Delhi, highlighted that the child is the most important stakeholder in education. He stressed the importance of recognising each child's uniqueness through close interaction with the child and their family, adding, "Counselling is a must." He noted that education should develop analytical skills, resilience, and adaptability in teachers, preparing children for life rather than exams.

Addressing the challenges of stakeholder engagement, he said, "Bringing different stakeholders together — parents, society, and regulatory bodies — is one of the most challenging tasks for school leaders." He urged schools to foster trust, collaboration, and long-term vision, stating, "No reform is possible without taking parents into confidence... most parents today know only the language of marks." Dr. Emmanuel also highlighted

the significance of social-emotional skills, career guidance, and activity-based learning under the New Education Policy (NEP).

Rev. Dr. Viju CMI, Pro-Vice Chancellor of Christ University, Bengaluru, emphasized the importance of engaging Generation Alpha through Technology Integration, Relational Professionalism, and Participatory Governance in Schools.

Technology Integration: Leveraging digital tools, platforms, and resources to enhance teaching, learning, and administrative processes in Educational settings.

Relational Professionalism: Fostering strong, empathetic relationships between Educators and Students, built on trust, respect, and understanding, to promote Academic and Personal Growth in a supportive environment.

Participatory Governance: Encouraging student involvement in decision-making processes to promote leadership and a sense of ownership. These approaches can help Schools connect with and support the unique needs of Generation Alpha.

Dr. A. Sahaya Philominraj, SJ, spoke critically about the recent shifts in Government Education Policy, noting that while the intention may be to ensure inclusivity, some of these changes have adversely affected mainstream Education, particularly for the underprivileged. He expressed concern that the New Education Policy is, in some ways, excluding rather than integrating, and warned that Church-run Educational Institutions are gradually being weakened. He emphasized the urgent need for a pedagogy that uplifts the marginalized, fosters critical thinking, and encourages students to question and engage deeply with their learning.

He posed a crucial question to the audience: *"What kind of education are we truly offering to our children?"* Stressing the need for quality education that is inclusive, empowering, and rooted in justice, Dr. Philominraj called on Educators to remain committed to serving the last and the least in the society.

The Panel discussions were further progressed by the question answer method by **Dr. Gaurav Kapoor** in the following manner.

Q: What two skills should we equip our children with?

Dr. A. Sahaya Philominraj, SJ answered it in the following way-

1. Political Awareness – Although many believe children are too young to understand politics, it is essential to equip them with political awareness. This helps them recognize the realities of the world, rather than being sidelined or misled by misinformation or bias.

2. Education for Peace and Harmony – Education should not only be about academic success, but also about nurturing values like peace, empathy, and harmony.

3. Our Classrooms Must Be Interactive and Active- To ensure meaningful learning and holistic development, shift from passive to active learning environments. This can be achieved through: Teaching–Learning Engagement, Fostering Creativity, Improved Student Outcomes, Incorporating the Kothari Education System, Shared Principles in Education etc.

4. Creative, Innovative, Effective – Society Builders - It can be building empathy while teaching, encourage self-exploration and discovery, Build trust among students, parents, and teachers.

Q: How to improve thinking skills?

Fr Viju CMI was prompt in answering that the thinking skills could be Through reading, Asking questions, Discussions and debates, Problem-solving tasks.

Q: What type of culture are we creating in the Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff?

Dr. Joseph Emmanuel answered it saying we are supposed to treat every religion equally and we need to appreciate the students, Children observe everything. Any discrimination or partiality in the classroom is noticed. They are sensitive and have strong common sense. If we treat them with care and fairness, we can raise beautiful, responsible citizens. Don't be overly strict as they are capable of everything and anything.

Legal Matters Pertaining to Education & Minorities



Mr. John Michael Cunha
Former Judge, High Court of
Karnataka

Mr. John Michael Cunha, Former Judge, High Court of Karnataka conducted session on “**Legal Matters Pertaining to Education and Minorities**”.

He dealt with Legal Awareness and Policy Directions. He explored legal protections for Minority Institutions, offering administrator’s valuable insights into navigating the statutory and regulatory frameworks that affect Educational Governance.

Mr. John Michael Cunha shared several real-life examples he encountered in Catholic Schools and Colleges. He narrated the case of a newly appointed priest who became the college principal and transformed the institution through strong commitment and effective administration. Management skills are essential for running Educational Institutions. Today's school management must understand and face new challenges with prudence and wisdom. The behaviour of certain students has become threatening to the institution, its management, and its teaching staff. Hence, prudent and strategic management is necessary to handle such sensitive situations. He cited incidents in Mangalore and Goa, where students protested against school management. He posed the reflective question: "How do we tackle such situations?" Many are unaware of what is happening around them. People often try to hide the truth or "push it under the carpet." He emphasized the importance of knowing our legal and minority rights in the field of education and administration.

Critical Questions Raised:

- Why is there so much anger towards us?

- Why do students who graduate from our institutions revolt against us?
- What type of students are studying in our schools?
- What kind of history are we teaching in Schools, and how are students interpreting it?
- How does the classroom narrative differ from what students learn outside the classroom?

Key Concepts Highlighted:

1. Schools must be made an active part of society.
2. Article 51 of the Indian Constitution teaches fundamental duties such as compassion and humanity.
3. Teachers must not be demoralized. Their voices and classroom insights must be respected.
4. Schools must keep up with changes in legal rules and regulations of the state.
5. Recent legal changes have made the position of minorities vulnerable.
6. Minorities are at risk of losing their relevance and identity.

Constitutional Provisions for Minorities:

- Article 29: Protects the Language and Culture of Minorities.
- Article 30: Gives separate Rights for Minority Institutions.

Cannot be amended by the State. The State has no power to interfere in the core identity of Minority Institutions.

- Article 15 & Article 21: Ensure free and compulsory Education for all children.

Clause 5: Guarantees this right in all Schools.

- Minority Institutions can deny admission to Non-Minorities to preserve their character.
- The Right to Education (RTE) Act must be implemented and protected in both Aided and Unaided Minority Institutions.

Minority Institution Criteria (Supreme Court's Twin Test):

1. The Institution must be established primarily for the benefit of the Minority Community.
2. The Administration must reflect its Minority Character.
 - The display of Religious Symbols (e.g., churches, crosses) is not necessary to prove Minority Status.
 - Institutions need not prove they are run exclusively for Minorities to claim protection.

Important Example & Clarification:

- If you want to start a School in an area where there is no Christian presence, how do you prove it's a Minority Institution?

Even without displaying religious symbols, the intention and administration matter.

Article 28(3):

- A child cannot be forced to attend religious instruction or ceremonies without parental permission.
- Parents have the right to file a case if the child is forced to participate.

Q: If a Charitable Trust runs two schools, do both need separate Minority Certificates?

A: **Yes.** Each School must have its own Minority Certificate, even if run by the same trust.

Important Points About Charitable Trusts and Education:

- The main objective of the trust must be Education, and it must operate on a non-profit basis.
- Activities like textbooks sales must not become a source of income.
- Institutions must be aware of the charitable objectives they were founded on.

Cultural Program



SYNODAL STYLES IN THE APOSTOLATE OF EDUCATION



Most Rev. Simiao Purificacao Fernandes
Auxiliary Bishop of Goa

Most Rev. Simiao Purificacao Fernandes led the input session on Synodal Styles in the Apostolate of Education. Auxiliary Bishop Simiao Fernandes offered a blueprint for Catholic Schools through the “PATH” framework—Participation, Accompaniment, Team Discernment, and Hope-filled Mission. Drawing on the Emmaus story, he urged teachers to walk alongside students in their journeys of growth. “A Synodal Educator is not just a transmitter of knowledge but a companion who helps students in uncovering meaning and purpose,” he said, underscoring the transformative power of shared mission in Education.

Emphasizing the communal nature of Catholic schooling, he said, “A school is not a factory producing graduates; it is a community journeying together in search of truth.” He explained that synodal pathways foster participation, accompaniment, team discernment, and a mission-oriented approach, preparing students to live meaningfully in a pluralistic world.

IGNITING MINDS, EXPLORING FRONTIERS: The Convergence of Space, Education & Industry



Mr. Shubhanshu Shukla
Indian Air Force Group Captain & Astronaut

Astronaut and Indian Air Force Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla brought a stirring, real-world perspective to the theme of resilience and curiosity in learning. Speaking on “Ignite Minds, Exploring Frontiers: The Convergence of Space, Education, and Industry,” He described the physical and mental challenges of re-entry after spaceflight and paralleled them with the perseverance required in learning. “The true victory is when a child asks, ‘How do I become an astronaut?’ Capt. Shubhanshu Shukla said. “Our role as educators is to guide students from where they are to where they dream to be. Discipline, adaptability, and faith in potential are the keys—not only in space exploration, but in life.” He challenged Schools to expand horizons: He further interacted with the participants. He encouraged participants to face challenges with courage and to remain innovative in shaping the future.







Rev. Fr. Sojan John O. Praem
National General Secretary - AINACS

Vote of Thanks

Most Rev. Elias Gonsalves, the Archbishop of Nagpur, Rev. Dr. Fr. Shinoj Kizhakkemuriyil, the National President, Executive Committee Members, dear delegates and my dear friends,

Standing here today, I'm filled with gratitude and admiration for the incredible people and efforts that brought this event to life. I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who made the 56th National Convention a great success and meaningful.

As I begin, I invite you to thank God almighty, together with me for making this happen according to His plan, for His loving presence, protection and inspiration during these days of the convention. We seek His continued presence in all that we plan and execute, for without Him we can do nothing. I surrender all of you and all that has been accomplished these days into His Mighty Presence. Thank you, Lord for everything.

I wish to place on record my sincere thanks and appreciation to our dear Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrao, Most Rev. Elias Gonsalves, the Archbishop of Nagpur, Rev. Fr. Lucio Alexander, the parish priest of Holy Cross Church, Verna for celebrating the Holy Eucharist for us and for breaking the word of God. Your valuable

insights have significantly contributed to the success of this event and have provided us with much to reflect upon. A heartfelt thanks to the distinguished speakers and all the resource persons for sharing their experiences and knowledge with us. AINACS is deeply indebted to you. Your presentations and discussions have been incredibly informative and engaging, offering us new perspectives and ideas.

Thank you to our dedicated local organizing committee and volunteers from St. Michael's Convent High School, Anjana for your tireless efforts and meticulous planning. Your hard work behind the scenes has ensured the smooth execution of all that had been planned. A word of sincere thanks to, Rev. Sr. Alvita Gurjao of St. Michael's Convent High School, Anjana for the welcome dance. Thanks to Sr. Julie Rodrigues SCC, Holy Cross High School, Siolim, Bardez, Goa for the prayer dance on 9th October, Rev. Sr. Ernestine Fernandes of Little Flower of Jesus High School, Calangute for the prayer dance on 10th October and Rev. Sr. Ursula Barreto, St. Xavier's College, Mapusa, for the Cultural programs on 8th and 9th afternoon.

Thanks to all the teachers and the students from these Schools and College, for all the sacrifices you made to put up vibrant cultural programs

and prayer dances during the Convention. I would like to express a word of sincere thanks to those persons who were in charge of various departments such as reception, registration, transportation, help desk, liturgy, the cultural programmes, food supervision, accommodation, medical committee, stage management etc. A heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the Choir members for their melodious singing led by the Choir mistress, Zemira and Rev. Fr. Seville OFM. Thanks to the comperes of the Convention, Sr. Ophilia Lobo and Sr. Prema Carvalho.

A special word of appreciation and thanks to Mrs. Jancy George who is the office staff and who handled the entire registration of this convention. Thanks to Mr. Jino Mathew, Mr. Anurag Agarwal, Mr. Albin Lukose, Mr. Lijo George and Mr. Alok Upadhyaya for their selfless service during this convention.

I sincerely appreciate the help and support given by the Archbishop's house in Goa and Sr. Ernestine the Handmaids of Christ Congregation Calangute and Sr. Liberate Fernandes of the Holy Family for the Mass arrangements. Thanks to all the sponsors for their great support to organize this Convention. Special thanks to our dear delegates, for your active engagement and enthusiasm. Your

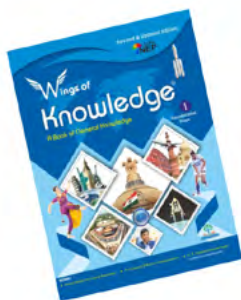
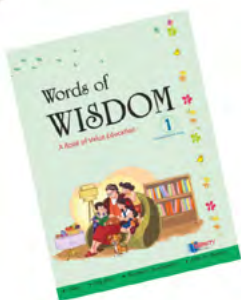
presence and contributions have enriched the discussions and made this event a collaborative success.

We are deeply grateful to the Auditorium staff members who provided us with perfect light and sound under the able guidance of Mr. Arun. Singh. A special thanks to the Park Regis hotel management especially Mr. Shubham and his team. I would like to thank the venue staff for their excellent service and hospitality. Your efforts have made everyone feel comfortable and welcomed.

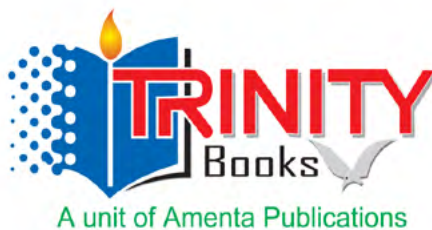
A word of sincere thanks to Rev. Dr. Fr. Shinoj. Kizhakkemuriyil, the National President of AINACS and all the executive committee members namely, Rev Dr. Fr. Robert Varghese, Rev. Fr. Biju Thottankara, Rev. Dr. Sr. Tresilla Pinto, Rev. Sr. Valsamma George, for their constant support, valuable guidance and timely assistance and co-operation which made this Convention a happy one. Thank you dear Fr. Maria Charles for your support and guidance.

May the Lord continue to journey with us and shower His blessings upon us, have a pleasant and safe journey back home.

Thank you once again and God Bless you all.



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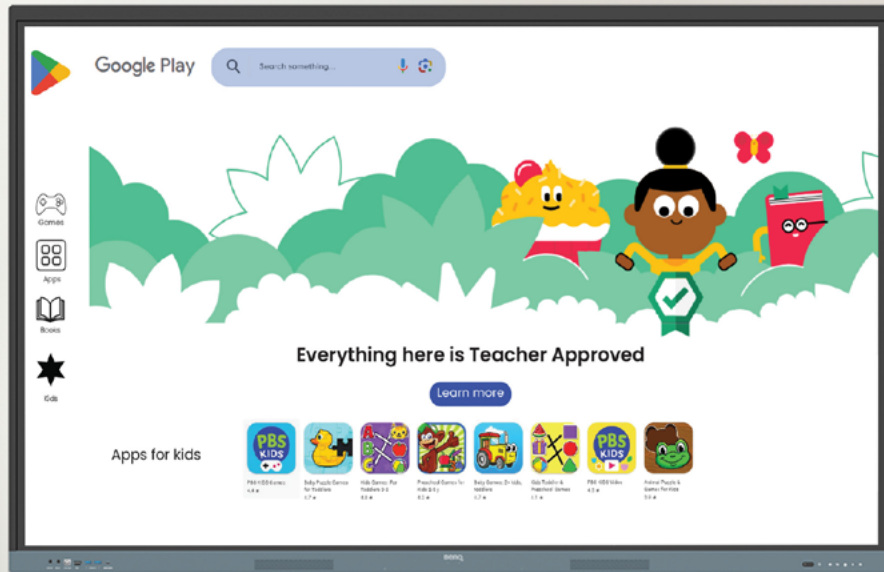
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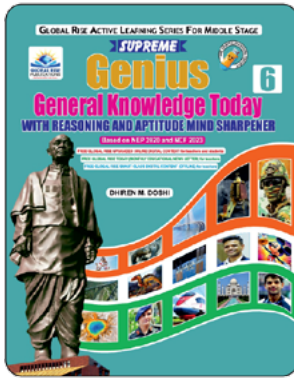
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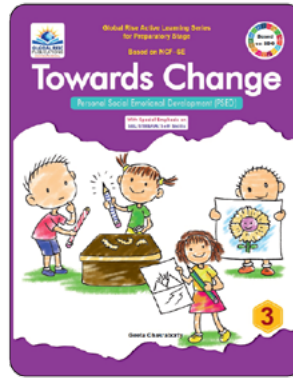
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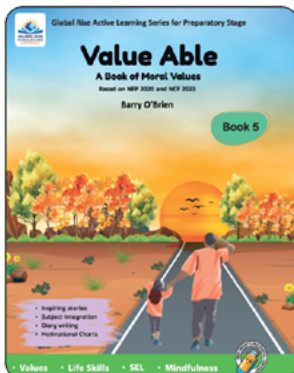
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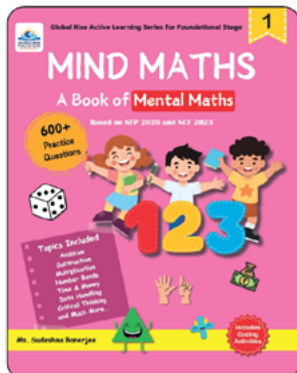
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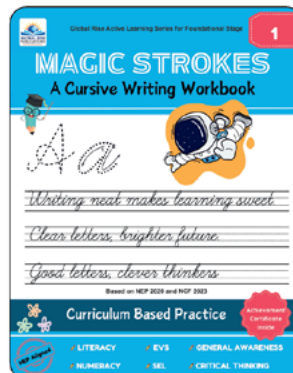
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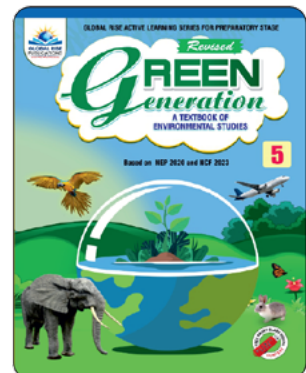
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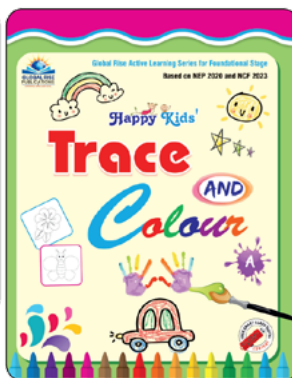
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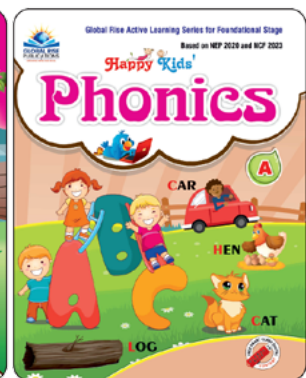
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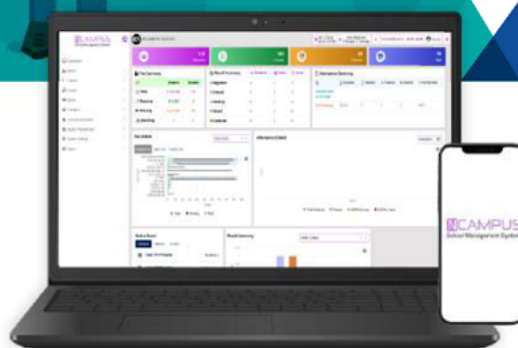


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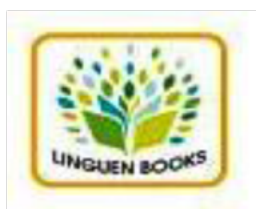
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