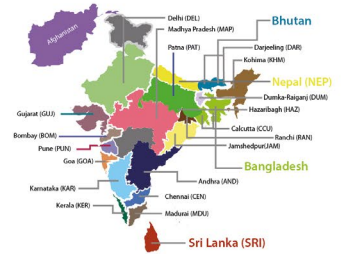




SOUTH ASIAN JESUIT NEWS



News of Common Works of the Conference

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JCSA Delhi Meeting 20-26 Oct 2024

Thomas Perumalil

The Jesuit Conference of South Asia (JCSA) meeting at Navjivan Renewal Centre, Sahayog, Delhi began with the formal inauguration on 20 October 2024 evening. The main agenda of the meeting was to finalize the roadmap for the Re-imagining and Restructuring (RR) of the Society of Jesus in South Asia with a pre-process, actual process and post process. The animators of this topic, Frs. Dion Vaz, John Dardis and Wendel D' Cruz, guided the Major Superiors through five sessions interspersed with inputs, prayer, spiritual conversation, and the plenary. At the end of the process, the Major Superiors discovered the pathway to initiate the process of RR with certain clarity and conviction.

The other topics discussed were the following: the feasibility of Jnana Deepa Institute of

Philosophy and Theology, Pune, becoming a university; the ecological crisis; the life-mission in Chinese Jesuit Province; the response to Fr General's letter on school education in South Asia; the role of women in Jesuit ministries and the JCI audit report. As usual, the inputs by the Regional Assistants, Fr Vernon D'Cunha and Fr MK George, were greatly appreciated for their timely assistance in governance.

The Major Superiors found the meeting relaxing and refreshing. They unanimously expressed that these seven days were stress free as the schedule was flexible, facilities comfortable, and the Delhi delicacies delightful. The novelty of the Delhi JCSA was the presence of Frs. Pedro Rodrigues, Vimal Kishore and Valerian Castelino, who were appointed Major Superiors after the

last JCSA. They, along the Major Superiors who were appointed after December 2022, were introduced to the revised JCSA Statutes, the major decisions taken, and the best practices of governance of a few senior Major superiors, which helped the new Major Superiors to participate actively in the deliberations.

The important takeaway was certainly the growing solidarity and co-responsibility among the Major Superiors of JCSA, who are slowly growing as a community of discernment,

collaboration and networking within and beyond the Conference.

There was much to thank God for the success of this memorable meeting. In addition to the organization, inputs, resource persons and animators, the person who touched our heart the most was Fr Tony Andrade, the director of NRC, who, through his simple and thoughtful ways took care of all our needs with a meticulous mind and a maternal heart.



POSA'S PROGRAM

NOVEMBER 2024

- 11 PWPN (Lucknow)
- 12-13 Visitation (HAZ)
- 15-17 Jesuit Counsellors (PAT)
- 18-23 Visitation (DNC)
- 25 Sec, Coordinators
- 30 LS & DoW

DECEMBER 2024

- 01 POSA Consult (Online – 11 am)
Final Vows Edwin (RAN)

- 04-08 Visitation (PS)
- 09-11 Visitation (JD)
- 13-17 Visitation (VJ)

JANUARY 2025

- 10 POSA Consult (Online – 11 am)
- 13-17 Extended Consult (Rome)
- 18 SIF (Rome)
- 20 JCCU - SIF



Conference Secretariat for Higher Education (CSHE)

Joe Arun,SJ, Secretary

4TH INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JESUIT ENGINEERING SCHOOLS (IAJES) SUMMIT 2024,

JHEASA organised Conference of International Association of Jesuit Engineering Colleges (IAJES) on 10th – 12th July 2024. Fr John Rose and team coordinated the programme and Fr Tony Uvari hosted the event at XIMU.

Reimagining higher education with Sri Lanka Jesuits

On 16th – 17th August 2024, Rev. Fr. Joe Arun, SJ Secretary CSHE/JHEASA, conducted a discernment in common with Sri Lanka Jesuits on *Reimagining Higher Education* at the Province Curia, Negombo/Colombo. It was a moment of grace to realize the importance of enhancing collaboration and networking.

Annual Meeting of Province/Regional Coordinators of Higher Education

The Annual Meeting of Province/Regional Coordinators of Higher Education was held on 31st August – 1st September 2024 at St Joseph's College, Bengaluru. The letter of Fr General and the questions raised by Fr POSA served as a source for discernment. Key outcomes of the spiritual conversation during the meeting were documented to work on before the upcoming Annual JHEASA Assembly in Ranchi.

Felicitation of Rev. Fr. Joe Arun, Secretary- JHEASA

On 31st August 2024, the Forum of Province/Regional Coordinators of Higher Education felicitated Fr Joe Arun SJ, Secretary of JHEASA who has been appointed Chairman of State Minorities Commission by Government of Tamil Nadu.

West Zone Conference

On 21st and 22nd September 2024, a two-day reflective workshop on *IGNATIAN PEDEGOGICAL PARADIGM -LEARNING STYLES* for Managers, Directors, Principals, IQAC Coordinators and Senior Professors was conducted at St. Xaviers College Mumbai. Fr Joe Arun SJ, Secretary JHEASA addressed the participants, leading them to reflect upon how they could make their teaching-learning more engaging and effective.





Conference Secretariat for Integral Formation

Somy M. Mannoor, SJ, Secretary

Novice Masters' Meet at Kandy

Formation Secretariat began its calendar year with the meeting of Novice Masters in the last week of August. Sri Lanka, the host Province opened the entire facility to welcome all the Masters from across the Conference. A couple of Novice Masters could not make it to this historic meeting, where Fr Mariathas the host novice Master played a perfect host.

The blend of experienced Masters and other youthful ones made the meeting enriching. Conference Secretary, Fr Somy interacted with the Masters after listening to them, and he encouraged them to continue to shape the future Jesuits with love and firmness. The meeting also discussed challenges to formation for religious life, All the participants had an opportunity to visit some of the missions of Sri Lanka, learning about the involvement of Jesuits in this island nation rich in culture.

Juniorate Staff Meet at Kolkata

The Annual meeting of Juniorate staff was held at Dhyana Ashram where the four Juniorate

staff took part with Calcutta Province playing host role. The Three-day meeting had input sessions and usual exchange of experience and practices from different juniorates. Fr. K C Philip, Dean at Dhyana Ashram left no stone unturned to ensure a memorable meeting.

Visit to Madurai Province

Somy Mannoor visited the Madurai Province Formation houses to get a first-hand knowledge. He spent time with the Candidates, the novices at Beschi Illam and other scholasticates. Thanks to John Innaci, the PCF of Madurai who made all the arrangements and the Rectors of these houses for their warm welcome and sharing of their joys and concerns.





Conference Secretariat for School Education (CSSE)

Fr. John Ravi, SJ, Secretary – CSSE

1. Secretary visits Chennai & Dumka -Raiganj Province Schools

Fr. John Ravi, SJ visited Chennai Province Schools from July 23-29, 2024 and Dumka – Raiganj Province Schools from September 21 – October 4, 2024. During the visits, he interacted with the Jesuits, staff and senior students.

2. South Zone Triennial in Bengaluru

The secretariat, in collaboration with the South Zone Coordinator and other South Zone PCEs, organized the South Zone Triennial at Don Bosco Youth Center, Bengaluru from September 13-14, 2024. Around 130 school educators from all five Southern Jesuit Provinces – Madurai, Chennai, Andhra, Karnataka and Kerala participated in the triennial. The main theme was – “Reimagining & Restructuring Jesuit Education in Today’s South Asian Context – Review- Reinvent-Renew”.

3. Seminars & Workshops conducted by the Secretary

- a. Seminar on IPP to the teachers of St. Xavier’s School, Bokaro from July 19-20, 2024
- b. Seminar on NCF 2023 to Lucknow Diocesan Principals & other religious Principals on August 2, 2024
- c. Leadership Training for Apostolic Carmel Principals of Southern Province at Mussoorie from October 14-16, 2024

4. JAAI General Council Meeting in Darjeeling

The JAAI GC Meeting was held at St. Joseph’s School, North Point, Darjeeling from August 24-25, 2024 followed by a special meeting of all the Province Coordinators for Alumni (PCAs) in the afternoon hours of August 25, 2024. Around 17 PCAs attended the meeting. The next JAAI GC meeting is scheduled to be held in Goa from February 1-2, 2025.





Conference Secretariat for Ecology and Justice

Xavier Soreng SJ

TRAINING OF COMMUNITY TRAINERS

The Community Leaders are the backbone of the ESP (Ensuring Social Protection Floor) and offer their services voluntarily for the communities they belong to. A thematic training program for Community Trainers was organized on 12-14 August, 2024 in Atma Darshan, Gyan Ashram Campus, Mahakali Caves Road, Andheri East, Mumbai for the partners of Goa and Maharashtra. Mr. Vijay Bhai, the National Consultant together with the National Team of ESP animated and facilitated the training. Forty-five organization heads and staff (Capacity Builders and Campaign Facilitators) of all the partners participated in the workshop.

NATIONAL TEAM VISITS GOA AND PUNE PARTNERS

The National Team of ESP visited Goa and Pune Partners which are supported by IBC (Italian Bishops Conference) from 30/08/2024 to 12/09/2024. This was the first official visit to all the eight partner organizations. It met the Organization Heads and Community Leaders and visited the operational areas. The visit was concluded on 4th of August with a Unit level review meeting.

The National Team, soon after that, visited Pune Partner Organizations, namely ACAR (Ambedkar

Centre for Action and Research, Wadmavli BEED, Jivan Vikas Kendra, Khopoli, SCOPE in Rahu from 07 – 10 September, 2024. The visit was concluded by a review meeting on 11th of August, 2024 held in Sanjeevan. At the end of the review meeting Mr. Abhay Shukla, Convener Jan Swasthya Abhiyan (JSA) shared his expertise and experience on how to initiate campaigns on health rights.

JAN SAMVAD IN UTTAR PRADESH

‘Vidya Dham Samiti’ and ‘Chingari’ (Lok Manch Partner Organization) jointly organized a ‘jan samvad’ in Kolawal, Raipur, UP on 26/11/2024. In this ‘jan samvad’ the issues of education, health, violence against women, migration, and the pathetic situation of farmers were prominently raised. The program was inaugurated by Mr. Gopal Bhai, a Senior Social Activist and founder of Akhil Bharatiya Samaj Seva Sansthan.

Fr. Xavier Soreng, SJ, Director, ESP (Ensuring Social Protection) said that we need to strengthen our efforts at the community levels to usher in justice and brotherhood. He also added that we need courage to work for this. Mr. Babu Prasad Rahi, a Retired District Judge also shared about his experiences on justice related issues and challenges.



Reimagining and Restructuring: A way forward in Social Action Ministry (Ecology and Justice)

Vernard Antony SJ

Reimagining and Restructuring of Social Action Apostolate in South Asia Conference of the Society of Jesus was organized by the Secretariat for Ecology and Justice on 02-03 September 2024 at Indian Social Institute, Bengaluru. South Asia Conference Province/Region Coordinators of Social Action, Coordinators of Global Ignatian Advocacy Networks (GIAN), JEMAI Coordinator Fr. Stanislaus Tirkey SJ, JYMSA Coordinator Fr. Vernard Antony SJ and five Jesuits from Indian Social Institute, Bengaluru, actively participated in this important deliberation. Fr. Xavier Soreng SJ, the Secretary for Ecology and Justice in his introduction welcomed the gathering and highlighted the importance of coming together to deliberate on 'Reimagining and Restructuring Social Action Ministry in South Asia Conference of the Society of Jesus.'

Fr. Louis Prakash SJ, the resource person, led the group to reflect on the dynamics for Reimagining and Restructuring Social Action Ministry in South Asia Conference. His presentation on the status of Social Centres and Social Ministry in the Provinces/Regions led the group to know the strength and weakness of Social Action Ministry in SA Conference.





Conference Secretariat for Service of Faith

Leo Anand, SJ

The Service of Faith Secretariat held its annual meeting of the province coordinators at Vinayalaya, Mumbai, from September 20 to 22. This year, the Bombay Province generously and warmly hosted the event. There were around 22 participants, mostly Service of Faith province coordinators. Fr. Jerome Stanislaus D'Souza, the POSA, was the main celebrant for the inaugural Eucharist, and Fr. Anil Pereira, the provincial of the Bombay Jesuit Province, warmly welcomed everyone.

During the brief inaugural session, Fr. Stany delivered the opening address, which set the tone for the 3-day meeting. The theme of this year's gathering was Reimagining and Restructuring. Fr. Peter Thumma of the Archdiocese of Madras-Mylapore, one

of the four priests who participated in the consultation on synodality in Rome, gave an inspiring session on what it means to be a synodal parish, via an online platform. The core message was that to be a synodal parish priest means to collaborate with everyone.

Fr. Wendell D'Cruz led the second day's session, addressing concerns in the current scenario and underscoring the need for reimagining and restructuring for greater apostolic effectiveness.

A big thanks to Fr. Wesley D'Costa, the province coordinator of Service of Faith, Bombay, Bombay Province and the Vinayalaya community and the pre-novices for ensuring that every detail of the program was meticulously planned and executed.



Communication for a Renewed Jesuit Mission

Vernard Antony, SJ

Road Forward in JCSA Communications Ministry

JESCOM Annual Meeting 2024 was held on 14-16 September 2024 at Dhyan Ashram, Kolkata. The theme for the JESCOM Annual Meeting was 'Re-Imagining and Re-Structuring of Communication Apostolate in South Asia Conference of the Society of Jesus.' At the Inaugural Eucharist, Fr. Sunny George Kunnel SJ, the Socius, Calcutta Province, stressed the need of 'communicating the message of hope' to the people with 'fire.'

The three sessions of the first day were masterfully conducted by Fr. Brian Pereira SJ (KAR) on the theme "Re-Imagining & Re-Structuring Communication Apostolate in South Asian Conference in the Society of Jesus."

On the second day, Fr. Maria Joseph Israel, Professor of Computer Science, St Xavier's University Kolkata, conducted one session on 'Artificial Intelligence' and another on 'AI in Jesuit Communication Ministry.' He focused on the topic 'What is AI and the usage of AI.' Along with the theory, he also gave practical usage of various AI tools like PollEv.com, Midjourney, AI Pin, PixVerse.ai, Otter.ai.

The final day started with the Holy Eucharist celebrated by Fr. Sebasti L. Raj, Secretary, Inclusive Development. In his presentation 'The Way Forward: RR in JCSA Communications Ministry' he highlighted various initiatives, which could be taken up by Provinces/Regions and collectively at the Conference level. In conclusion, Fr. Vernard Antony, JCSA Communications Coordinator, guided the planning exercise.



Communication Course FOR Jesuit Juniors

Pingal Baxla SJ

Under the inspiration and guidance of the Conference JESCOM, a weeklong communication course was organized for the Jesuit Juniors in Kolkata from 18- 24 August 2024. JCSA Communications Coordinator Fr. Vernard Antony SJ (DUM) and film expert Fr Vijay Surthani SJ (AND) conducted the first three days of the training program at Dhyan Ashram..The next four days were spent at Chitrabani, where Fr Vivekananda James SJ and his team of experts led us in our digital journey.

The comprehensive training program included sessions on digital film making, script writing, video making, photo shoots and introduction

to AI. Under the expert guidance Fr Vijay, the Juniors explored the fundamentals of short filmmaking, including camera operations and video editing.





Youth Ministry South Asia

Vernard Antony SJ

Jesuit Youth Ministry of South Asia (JYMSA) - Annual Meeting 2024

Reimagining and Restructuring the Conference Youth Apostolate of Society of Jesus in Central Zone (CZ) and North Zone (NZ) of South Asia was held on 16-17 August 2024 at Atmadarshan, Patna. Ten JYMSA Coordinators from CZ and NZ along with JCSA Youth Coordinator Fr. Vernard Antony SJ actively participated in this important deliberation.

Fr. Vimal Kishore SJ, the Provincial of Patna Province celebrated the Holy Eucharist for the CZ-NZ JYMSA Coordinators. He then presented his keynote address to the CZ-NZ JYMSA Coordinators. In his keynote address he began with Society's Universal Apostolic Preference emphasizing on 'creating a hope-filled future for the youth.'

He further added saying 'Foundation of Re-imagining and Re-structuring is in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius and Ignatian Spirituality: Contemplation on Incarnation and Contemplation to attain Love.' Keeping both spiritual and socio-economic context he brought out our role as youth directors in taking forward the UAP in a more concrete way in bringing a better result of our engagements with the youth.

Fr. Louis Prakash SJ, the resource person, brought out different aspects of reimagining the Jesuit Youth Ministry.

Big Thanks to Fr. Antony Prakash SJ, NZ-JYMSA Coordinator and Patna JYMSA Coordinator, who took all the initiative in arranging and making this meeting a successful.



Arrupe House, Tertianship, Kandy

Kevin

On 31st August, 2024, sixteen tertians from ten provinces and one region arrived at Arrupe House, International Tertianship, Kandy, Sri Lanka. The group consisted of two from Karnataka, one from Kerala, one from Andhra Pradesh, one from Darjeeling, one from Kohima, one from Gujarat, three from Madurai, two from Chennai, one from Ireland, one from Poland, and two from Vietnam.

We are pleased to welcome Fr Donald Miranda SJ as the new tertian instructor and Fr Sacintha SJ as the new Minister of Arrupe House. Special thanks were extended to Fr William Sequeira SJ for his support and guidance as the previous tertian instructor, and we wish him well in his future endeavors.

On the evening of 1st September, we celebrated an inaugural Mass, officiated by Fr Angelo Sujeewa Pathirana SJ, the Provincial of the Sri Lanka Province.

The following day, Fr William Sequeira SJ introduced the tertianship programme, emphasizing the directives outlined by Fr Peter Hans Kolvenbach on the purpose and structure of tertianship.

Three days of sessions were held to explore the socio-political and religious context of Sri Lanka. The guest speakers—Mr Jehan Pereira, Fr Elil, and Mr Anton Meewana—provided valuable insights into these topics.

Fr Sajeew provided an introduction to the Autobiography of St Ignatius, followed by personal reading, reflection, and presentations by the tertians. We also participated in an exercise of sharing our own autobiographies.

We had a deeply enriching interaction with Fr Aloysius Pieris SJ, Director and founding member of the Tulana Research Centre for Encounter and Dialogue, an esteemed Asian Jesuit theologian, Indologist, and Buddhist scholar.

Fr William Sequeira, SJ, conducted a three-day session from the 23rd to the 25th on the Spiritual Diary of St Ignatius, followed by a discussion on discernment.

On the 27th and 28th, we visited Batticaloa to explore the Jesuit mission and their works in the region. Our journey began at Manresa Retreat House, followed by a visit to Kalkudah Estate. The next day, we visited St Ignatius Church in Kallady, observing how these institutions serve both the community and spiritual needs. We also visited Our Lady of Velankanni Church and spent time at the serene Kallady Beach. The historic St Sebastian's Church in Batticaloa, along with St Mary's Cathedral, revealed the deep-rooted Christian heritage of the area. Additionally, we had the opportunity to see Arrupe College, contributing to Jesuit education and formation.



JRS South Asia

Fr. Stephen Raj, SJ

Teachers' Day Celebration (5th September 2024)

On September 5, 2024, the JRS Chin Center in Chanakya Place, Delhi, hosted a vibrant Teachers' Day celebration, bringing together 120 participants, including students and staff, many of whom were experiencing the occasion for the first time. The event began with a video presentation on the significance of Teachers' Day, followed by inspiring speeches that underscored the vital role educators and students play in shaping communities.

Project Coordinator Ms. Lalruatmawii spoke about the similarities between Teachers' Day celebrations in Myanmar and India, reflecting on the shared cultural appreciation for educators in both countries. Schs. Noel and Jacob, volunteers from Vidya Jyoti College, highlighted the noble and transformative qualities of teachers, praising their selflessness and commitment to nurturing young minds.

Educational Kits Distribution - 19th September 2024

On September 19, 2024, JRS South Asia organized a meaningful event at the JRS Chin Centre in Chanakya Place, Delhi, to distribute 56 educational learning supply kits to Complementary Education students as part

of the "Caring Through Sharing" initiative. This initiative was generously supported by the Jesuit Conference of India (JCI) and the Conference Development Office (CDO). The event saw 73 participants come together to celebrate and support the educational journey of refugee children.

The highlight of the event was the distribution of educational kits, which contained essential items such as school bags, notebooks, water bottles, lunch boxes, and educational toys, aimed at equipping the students for their studies.

Inspiring speeches from the Complementary Education teachers, along with special guest Fr. Alex Toppo, S.J., highlighted the importance of community engagement and collaboration in advancing the educational development of refugee children.

International Peace Day - 21st September 2024

On September 21, 2024, the JRS Urban Refugee Project marked International Peace Day with a special celebration for Afghan children and youth at the Church of Our Lady of Graces in Vikaspuri, New Delhi. The event brought together 70 participants for an engaging and fun-filled day, designed to foster hope, unity, and a sense of community.



PWPN India

Fr. Jagdish Parmar SJ

REPORT OF THE UP, MP AND MAHARASHTRA STATES- AUGUST 2024

After attending the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Wilfred Moras at Bishop's House, Jhansi, on the 6th, Fr Jagdish met him the next day about the importance of this apostolate. The same day evening Fr. Jagdish gave talk to 10 CJ Sisters in their convent at Jhansi. The next day he entered the State of Madhya Pradesh where he had 4 Programs; namely, a talk to 19 Jesuit Pre-Novices along with their prefect in Campion School, Bhopal on the 9th; the next day he spoke to 5 Jesuit Priests and Scholastics and 3 A.C. Sisters at the same school chapel and the same day he addressed 100 participants (including the 9 Bishops, 30 Priests and nuns and around 60 lay people) of MP Regional Synod at Pastoral Centre, Bhopal. He also addressed 62 Philosophers of SVD and Diocesan Seminaries with 2 Staff, Bhopal on 11th and 34 Theologians of the Diocesan Seminary at Ashta on the 12th. In the State of Maharashtra, he first went to Nagpur and spoke to 17 Aspirants and 20 Sisters of the SMMI Congregation on 13th in their Provincialate, On the 14th he met the

Archbishop Elias Rodrigues at his residence and addressed to 180 Philosophers and Theologians (Diocesan and Religious) and 5 Staff members at St. Charles' Seminary, Nagpur on the 15th. Moving on to Amravati, he met the new Bishop Malcolm Sequiera at Bishop's House on the 16th and the same day evening addressed 14 Minor Seminarians and their Rector and Vice Rector in the Minor Seminary. In Aurangabad Diocese he met the new Bishop, Bernard Lancy Pinto in Bishop's House on the 17th and spoke to around 100 parishioners at Sunday Mass on the 18th. At Manmad, he addressed the 18 Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul at their convent chapel on the 19th and in Nashik besides meeting the new Bishop, Barthol Baretto at Bishop's House on 20th; he addressed around 20 people at Mass in the Shrine of Infant Jesus the next day. He also addressed the Rector and 10 Minor Seminarians of Syro-Malabar Rite at St. Thomas Minor Seminary at Panvel on the 22nd. In Mumbai, he addressed the 8 CJ Sisters at their Convent in Mulund on the 24th.



De Nobili College, Pune

The community life at De Nobili College (DNC) during the months of June to September was marked by a rich blend of spiritual, academic, and cultural activities. This period witnessed the arrival of Scholastics from various provinces, the commencement of a new academic year, and numerous events that nurtured both individual and communal growth.

31st July: The Feast of St. Ignatius was commemorated with great enthusiasm, featuring a solemn Holy Eucharist celebrated with great fervour and a beautiful choir. The newly renovated Theos Chapel and Altar were blessed by Rev. Bishop John Rodrigues, marking a significant spiritual milestone for the community. Following the religious ceremony, a joyous feast was enjoyed by all, including numerous invited guests like the Sequeira Brothers (Wood works co. who made the new Altar and Lectern.) The event combined spiritual devotion and festive

celebration, creating a memorable experience for all participants.

15th August: Independence Day and the Assumption of Our Lady were commemorated with a solemn Mass in Theos Chapel. Following the religious service, the national flag was hoisted with reverence, accompanied by the singing of the national anthem. To conclude the celebration, sweets were distributed to all attendees, fostering a sense of unity and patriotism.

25th August - Monica Day: The Scholastics from the Central Zone (CCA) organized the Monica Day celebration on August 25, 2024. The Holy Eucharist was held at the Papal Seminary Chapel, presided over by Fr. George Beck, SJ. A large number of faithful attended the event. The choir, led by the Papal Seminary brothers from the Chotanagpur region, added to the solemnity of the occasion. After the Mass, a cultural program was held in honour



of the mothers. The mothers were respectfully escorted to the Papal Seminary Hall in a procession, where they were honoured by the youth. Several cultural performances were presented by brothers, sisters, and youth.

29th August: South Zone Cultural Evening:

The first phase of the Cultural Evening, organized by the Kerala and Karnataka provinces, took place on August 29th. A vibrant and meaningful Eucharistic celebration in the Syro-Malabar rite, led by Fr. Chacko Nadakkevelyil, marked the beginning of the event. The celebration was followed by informative video presentations showcasing the rich cultures and ministries of both provinces. The cultural evening concluded

with a traditional Monti Fest meal. The South Zone Cultural Evening successfully merged the celebrations of Onam and Monti Fest into a single event. Attendees were introduced to the diverse cultural heritage of Kerala and Karnataka, including their missionary work.

12th September: Farewell to Departing Deacons:

A heartfelt farewell was given to the Deacons as they prepared to depart. Dn. Pavan Vinay shared touching reflections at DNC, expressing gratitude for the cherished memories he had made. The choir performed a farewell song, and the Rector addressed the gathering, honouring the Deacons' contributions to the community.





ISI- Bengaluru

Selvaraj Arulnathan SJ

1. Labour Migration Unit 2024

The National Labour Migration workshop was organized by Don Bosco for Migrant Network (DB4M) in Mumbai on 16 to 17 August 2024. Fr. Samir Minj, S. J. Head, Labour Migration Unit participated in the workshop. There were representatives of Salesian provinces from all over India, religious groups, Church Bodies CCBI and CBCI, NGOs, Trade unions and other like-minded groups. Fr. Samir Minj presented a detailed report of activities ISI- B Labour Migration Unit and expressed his readiness for collaboration on migrant issues.

Indigenous day in Jigani, Bengaluru

Migrants workers from all around the Jigani parish came together to celebrate the indigenous day on 18th August 2024. There was a Eucharistic Celebration for the catholic migrants. About 300 migrant workers participated in the celebration. Fr. Samir Minj, the main celebrant in his homily, highlighted the life of the indigenous people who have migrated to different cities, especially in Bengaluru. After mass there was cultural program.

Fr. Samir Minj had a first experience to deal with a dead migrant worker. On the 23rd August 2024 a migrant from Assam Mr. Erik Lakra residing in Electronic City, Bangalore passed away in NIMHANS Hospital, Bangalore. It was a moving experience to get the dead body back from the hospital and make arrangements for the burial in Bangalore city. With a great support from Jigani parish priest and Arch bishop of Bangalore and able guidance of ISI B, the remains of Mr. Erik Lakra was buried at St. Anthony's Church Cemetery in Begur.

i. On 16th of September Mr. Antony Purty a young man who worked for 25 years from Assam in electronic City Bangalore passed away in the Victoria Government Hospital, Bangalore. Since there was police case in this case, Fr. Samir Minj intervened and rescued the people who are interrogated by the police and body was safely air lifted to Assam and buried there

"Handholding support to facilitate Safe Migration", a stakeholders meeting was

conducted jointly by DB4M, Delhi and DB4M Karnataka at BOSCO Yuvodaya Bangalore on September 17, 2024. The group created a forum, elected the core group and decided to gather once in two months to strengthen the group and plan future interventions.

Collaboration with MAIN

In ISI Delhi on 22nd to 23rd of September 2024, there was two days' consultation program organized by MAIN. Fr Samir Minj participated in the program. Representatives from all over India working for the MAIN attended the meeting. They sessions were very interactive. Fr Samir shared about the functions of ISI B on migration mission.

Social Inclusion and Democracy Unit

The Unit trained about 450 youth and collaborated with 50 NGOs in the Youth Capacity Building training of Batch II, 2022-2024. This training programme was conducted on 10 & 11 February, 2024. In this two-day event, 126 youth and 26 NGO partners came together to share their learnings, success stories and future dreams with a spirit of unity. The 6 basic modules on Self and Society, Democracy and Citizenship, People's Entitlements, Understanding and reducing vulnerabilities, Women and Mother earth, and Participation and Accountability provided the youth immense learning and they developed leadership qualities.

The Unit also trained 45 selected youth in the Advanced Youth Capacity Building training of Batch I, 2022-2024. The youth were trained on 5 advance modules, i.e. Leadership, Social Animation and social media Skills; Social Analysis; Legal Training; Liberalisation, Privatization and Globalisation' and Organisational Management Skills. 2024-2026 Batch II advance module trainings are now held in respective states in regional language.

Socio-cultural Analysis, 15-27 April, a 12 day course was organized to develop critical thinking

skills to the participants. 13 Jesuit scholastics from different provinces and 4 ICM religious sisters went through a self-transformation and became active citizens in society. They were taken to a slum to interact with the slum dwellers to learn the social realities. Overall, the participants expressed their commitment to walk with the poor and bring social change.

One-day Consultation with NGOs/CSOs was held on 22 June. About 52 NGO Heads/representatives from 6 southern states participated in it. Fr Selvaraj, Director explained to them about the urgent need for engaging the youth with critical thinking through Capacity Building trainings. He said, the institute aims to build a strong ideology, based on principles of Constitution and Democracy and prepare young men and women leaders. Fr Francis Balaraj explained to the participants about the partnership model of this youth training programme and invited to them collaborate with the institute.

Batch III, 2024-2026 Basic Module training for the youth has started in South India. The trainings are conducted in Andhra Pradesh & Telangana i.e, Amalapuram, Chirala, Adilabad, Warrangal in collaboration with 13 NGOs are partners. In Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry i.e, Villupuram, Uthangarai, Karaikal, Salem in partnership with 16 NGOs. In Kerala i.e, Alleppey, Attapady, Kannur, Trivandrum partnership with 16 NGOs and in Karnataka i.e, Hangal, Bidar, Koppal and Chamarajnagar in collaboration with 12 NGOs.

- 1. Welcome to Fr. Denzil Fernandes SJ, Head, Peace and Reconciliation Unit:** Dr. Denzil Fernandes SJ is a Jesuit priest belonging to the Goa Jesuit Province. He is the Head of the Peace and Reconciliation Unit of Indian Social Institute, Bangalore, from June 2024. Earlier, he served as the Executive Director of Indian Social Institute, New Delhi, for 8 years from 2015-2023.

2. One day Consultation with NGO partners of South India

The Indian Social Institute, Bangalore (ISI B), widely known for its 'Training and Resource' based engagement, organized a 'One-day Consultation with like-minded NGO partners of South India' on 'Basic Capacity Building of Rural Youth' in South India. This consultation was held on June 22, 2024 at ISI premises. This basic module of 6 different training programs will span for two years, 2024-2026.

This programme aims at building rural youth with social knowledge on Indian social scenario in social, economic, political, and cultural realms with analytical and critical perspective, who will, in turn, take up local leadership for mobilizing and conscientizing the marginalized communities for an empowered future. The institute was thrilled to see 47 NGO Heads/representatives from all the 6 southern states.

In addressing the participants, Dr. Selvaraj Arulnathan, Director, Indian Social Institute focused on 'critical thinking' among the youth today in understanding the social problems and addressing them.

The institute started this capacity building of youth programme in 2017-2022 which lasted as Batch I and Batch II started in 2022-2024 and now, we are stoutly entering into Batch III which will go till April 2026. ISI B has trained more than 1000 youth in partnership with more than 150 NGOs in South India since 2017 as our report card speaks. This will continue in the future until we train all rural youth for a sustained and empowered social ethos.

3. Self And Society: Youth Training for Personal Growth and Social Change

The three-day capacity building training program was conducted from July 19th, 20th

& 21st 2024 in Guru Bhavana, Hangal, Haveri District, Karnataka. This training program saw enthusiastic participation from about 42 youth (Male 23 & 19 Female) who engaged in self-awareness, self-esteem, leadership, casteism, and society in the Basic Module 1, 'Self and Society'.

Additionally, discussions on casteism and its impact on society encouraged critical thinking. The program successfully cultivated informed and capable young leaders ready to address societal issues with empathy and commitment.

4. Self and Society: "Learned to Build Self and Live Together"

The three-day training program organized by Indian Social Institute, Bengaluru on Self and Society had a profound impact on 40 young trainees who became aware of their role in family and society. Through the workshop, the young youth engaged individually and in group reflecting on their strengths, weaknesses, and dreams for one self and society. This process of knowing oneself and society helped the participants develop self-awareness, self-confidence, self-esteem and leadership attitudes.

As a facilitator, I feel happy and inspired to see that the youth have developed a sense of responsibility towards their community. 21 Male and 19 female participants actively participated in the training.

5. Screening of "Democracy in Debt" at ISI Bangalore

The South Asia Peace Action Network (SAPAN) has organised global community special screenings of the 25-minute documentary titled "Democracy in Debt: Sri Lanka Beyond

the Headlines” by Beena Sarwar at a number of venues in Sri Lanka, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Australia, Canada, U.K., USA and other countries from 13-21 September ahead of Presidential elections in Sri Lanka scheduled on 21st September, 2024. The documentary presents an opportunity to discuss the socio-economic and political scenario in Sri Lanka, which is relevant to similar situations elsewhere.

6. HENRY VOLKEN – STAN SWAMY MEMORIAL LECTURE 2024

Henry Volken – Stan Swamy Memorial Lecture, an annual feature of Indian Social Institute, Bangalore (ISI B) was held on September 13, 2024, Friday at Romero Auditorium of the premise at 04.00 pm. Hon’ble Justice Kurian Joseph, retired judge of the Supreme Court of India was the chief guest who delivered the memorial lecture. Mr. Salil Shetty responded to the lecture and Ms. Brinda Adige, a member of ISI B Governing Board moderated the session.

Fr. Anthony Dass, the Vice-President of the institute welcomed the gathering. In his welcome address, he cited the legacy of ISI B especially remembering its founders and their contribution to the institute. Dr. Selvaraj Arulnathan, the Director introduced the memorial lecture highlighting the great works of both Fr. Henry Volken as the Founder director and Fr. Stan Swamy as the one expanded the works of institute beyond its South Indian borders and made it known to the global community through training and advocacy, and their impact upon the civil society world.

In his lecture, Justice Kurian Joseph highlighted on the role of civil society in nation building. He also asserted that nation building is a continuous process which we resolved to do

through the Preamble of our Constitution which clearly stipulates this mission.

Mr Salil Shetty, in his response to the lecture said that civil society in a classical sense visualizes three circles being society the bigger circle, then the government and the market, the private sector, the other circles.

Brind Adige in her concluding remarks, affirmed that the lack of freedom of the four pillars of the country are the real concerns of the nation. She also spoke that there are four M’s that govern and control us: money, media, muscle and mind, these four control us. We as civil society respond to the people who need our intervention.

The presence of Harsh Mander, founder of Karwan-e-Mohabbat (peace Yatra) was a value addition to the occasion. His intervention enthused the audience.

Dr. Denzil Fernandes, the head of Peace and Reconciliation Unit proposed a vote of thanks acknowledging the great contribution that the Civil Society friends made in the growth and progress of the institute.

7. International Day of Peace

The Peace and Reconciliation Unit of Indian Social Institute, Bengaluru, in collaboration with the Jesuit Conference of South Asia (JCSA) Peace and Reconciliation Network organized an hour long online celebration of the International Day of Peace on 21st September, at 4.00 pm. The programme began with a video on the “Culture of Peace” and a welcome address by Mr. Amith Pereira.



SATYA NILAYAM, CHENNAI

Fr Lawrence Fernandes SJ

Staff Colloquium: The staff community journeyed to Yercaud on 15th to 18th June for colloquium to plan for the academic year 2024-25. The three days were fruitful to look ahead our life in SN. The cool and serene atmosphere and the hospitality of Montfort brothers there helped us to celebrate our companionship as we planned for the forthcoming academic year.

Students arrived in SN on 20th June. This year we have 38 second years and 43 first years. As we continue our association with Loyola College, we were able to have students this year from Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka too. The academic orientation to community and academic life followed.

Inauguration of the academic year: Most Rev Dr George Anthonysamy, Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore presided over the inaugural Mass on 24th June and Rev Dr Victor Lobo SJ, the vice chancellor of St Joseph's University, Bengaluru delivered the schola brevis. We had kept the theme "Pilgrims of Faith on a Quest for Wisdom" as guiding beacon on this occasion.

Social Analysis Course: To give a social thrust to our academic program we had a two-day social analysis course coordinated by Fr Francis D'Souza our Registrar who invited the resource

persons Mrs Brinda Adige and Immanuel Nehemiah for this purpose.

Trial teaching training: In association with Fr Somy, the formation Secretary, JCSA, we organized a one-day workshop for the trial teaching staff of Satya Nilayam and Jnana Deepa to acquaint with teaching methods and training. We had Dr Jasmine Christy from Loyola School of Education as the main resource person and Dr Fr Valerian Mendonca also spoke on research tools with our trial teaching staff.

Field Visits: We had a series of study and educational visits. On 28th June the second years journeyed to Mahabalipuram to get acquainted with the cultural heritage while the first years had Chennai Darshan to familiarize with the city of Chennai. On 3rd July we went to St Thomas mount on a walking pilgrimage to pay homage to St Thomas and draw inspiration from his life and message. The second years went to Mazhai Malai Madha Shrine, Acharapakkam as part of the course on Philosophy of Popular Religiosity, the second years also had a visit to TT Ranganathan Centre as part of the course on Philosophy of the Human person.

Final Vows of Fr Valerian Mendonca SJ: the SN

community gathered on 31st July to celebrate the Feast of our founder St Ignatius of Loyola. On this day Fr Valerian Mendonca made his final profession in the Society of Jesus amidst the Jesuits from the community, his family members, friends and well-wishers. It was indeed a day to celebrate here in SN.

The philosophy department won the runner up shield for basketball in an inter departmental basketball match held at Loyola College.

Visitation by Fr Stany D'Souza SJ. The annual visitation by Fr Stany D'Souza SJ, President of Jesuit Conference of South Asia along with Fr Somy, the JCSA secretary for formation was a moment of grace and blessing as he cheered the community for all the good that is being done invited to move on with a spirit of MAGIS.

Celebrating feast of Annai Vailakanni at Besant Nagar: The annual feast of Annai Vailankanni feast at Besant Nagar was an occasion for us to march towards this shrine. We on 31st August were invited to celebrate the feast and conduct the liturgy. Fr Stany D'Souza SJ, our POSA who was with us on this day was the main celebrant at the Eucharist as the entire

community joined in celebrating and seeking blessings from our Blessed Mother.

Loyola Centenary Day: The community marched to Loyola College to join the centenary celebration of Loyola College. It was a day of gratitude and rejoicing as we gathered for the Eucharist, Fellowship meal and also the civic function next day.

Teachers Day: September 5th was an occasion for our students who desired to express their gratitude to the staff members through songs, games, gifts and a festive meal. It was truly a joyful celebration of gratitude and rejoicing for all the graceful presence and efforts of staff in SN.

ONAM celebration: on 7th September the community gathered to celebrate ONAM. The community had a festive Eucharist, games and onam sadhya as part of this traditional celebration of ONAM in Satya Nilayam .

Badminton Champions: Fr Francis D'souza SJ and Fr Lindsay Lobo SJ were the champions at Loyola College staff badminton competition held as part of Teachers Day. Congratulations Francis and Lindsay.





PAPAL SEMINARY, PUNE

Annual Retreat

On May 31, 2024, we began our academic year with our annual retreat. Fr. Jamels preached the retreat for the theology students, while Fr. AR John led the retreat for the philosophy students. Both retreats included group discussions and personal reflection time, setting a positive tone for the upcoming year.

New Comers' Day

On June 10, 2024, we gathered for a community Mass to invoke blessings as we started our classes in the JD program. In the evening, we had a lively and welcoming Newcomers' Day celebration. The event included an introduction to the seminary's traditions and a social gathering where current members and newcomers shared their experiences and aspirations, fostering a sense of unity.

Episcopal Commissions' Visit

From July 24-26, 2024, we hosted the episcopal commissions' visit to the Papal Seminary. Bishops John Moolachira and John Rodriguez graced our community with their presence. Their visit included meetings with student representatives and staff to discuss future goals and challenges.

Feast of Saint Ignatius of Loyola

We celebrated the feast of Saint Ignatius of Loyola on July 31, 2024, with a solemn Mass in the morning. In the afternoon, we gathered for a heartfelt felicitation, expressing our gratitude to all the priests, where we enjoyed shared reflections and fellowship, deepening our appreciation for the priests' contributions to our spiritual and academic lives.

Feast of Saint John Mary Vianney

On August 3, 2024, we celebrated our seminary feast with a joyful Mass in the

morning. The morning was marked by a high tea gathering, where members of the seminary community engaged in spirited conversations and exchanges. In the afternoon, we held a fellowship meal. Fathers and sisters from nearby houses and communities joined us for this occasion.

Installation of the New Rector

On September 2, 2024, the installation of the new rector, Fr. Roland Coelho, took place during a solemn Mass celebrated by Most Rev. John Rodriguez. This event marked a significant moment for the community as Fr. Roland was officially entrusted with his

administrative responsibilities. A welcoming ceremony was held after the Mass.

Farewell to our Former Rector

On September 4, 2024, Fr. Bahusaheb Sansare, our former Rector, celebrated a special Mass, marking his final liturgy with the community before his departure. A farewell ceremony was held in the evening, where Fr. Bahusaheb expressed his deep appreciation for the collaborative support of the community and left us with words of encouragement and blessings.





VIDYAJYOTI, DELHI

Sch. Peter Lepcha SJ

The Academic Year of Vidyajyoti began with triple celebrations. We had the inauguration of the newly renovated Stan Swamy Hall, Inaugural Eucharist and Inaugural Lecture. The Theme for this academic year is, **“Hope Filled Pilgrims in Vatican II Praxis”**. It combines the Jubilee year and also the Diamond Jubilee of Vatican II. The Stan Swamy Hall was blessed by Arch Bishop Anil J.T. Couto, Archdiocese of Delhi and it was gracefully Inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Stanislaus Jerome D’Souza, President of JCSA and the Vice-Chancellor of VJ and His Grace Most Rev.

Kuriakose Bharanikulangara, Archbishop of syro-Malabar Diocese of Faridabad blessed it by sprinkling the Holy Water. We are grateful to God for this Stan Swamy Hall, which looks graceful and provides a good ambience for all our academic and ministry activities. A big thanks to Fr. POSA for his generous support. It was followed by the Mass of the Holy Spirit, which was presided over by His Grace Most Rev. Anil J. T. Couto, Metropolitan Archbishop of Delhi.

The Inaugural Lecture was delivered by Prof

Vincent Kundukulam Vice-Rector of Pontifical Institute of Theology and Philosophy, Alwaye (PIA), Kerala. He spoke on the theme “Hope Filled Pilgrims in Vatican II Praxis”. It was very thought provoking and inspiring. The students took up this theme for a group discussion on the following day to integrate it and orient themselves for the new Academic year. W

On July 12 we had the **field work orientation**, which is an integral part of the VJ’s Contextual Theology programme. Sch. Prakash Masih was selected as the fieldwork coordinator and Sch. Reginald K. as the assistant coordinator. Presentations based on last year’s field works were made and the students were asked to fill up their preferred ministry in the given online form to indicate their preferences.

On July 14, a Memorial service on the 3rd death anniversary of Fr. Stan Swamy was held at the Diocesan Community Center, Sacred Heart Cathedral Campus at 4.00 pm. “**Stan Legacy Marching Forward**” was the theme. The speakers were: Prof. Apoorvanand, Mrs. Tehmina Arora, Fr. Xavier Soreng SJ. Students and staff from Vidyajyoti participated in the program. Program was coordinated by the Federation of Catholic Associations of the Archdiocese of Delhi and Jesuits in Delhi.

As part of their course Introduction to Theology and Social Analysis, the first years visited **Ramakishna Math** on 7th August. Swami Sarvolokananda, the head of the Math and Swami Suhitananda, one of the vice-presidents of Ramakrishna Mission gave us talks about their spirituality and how they view the overall spiritual journey in relation to Christian spirituality.

Exhibition & Seminar at St. Stephen’s College on 9th August is yet another memorable day. After decades long gap Vidyajyoti students

participated in the exhibition and seminar held by St. Stephen’s College on **Christian Rare Manuscripts, Medieval Bibles and Dead Sea Scrolls**. Dr. Boaz Johnson, an expert in Biblical Studies gave a talk on contributions of Pandita Ramabai and Katherine Bushnell in missionary work. Mr. Scott Carroll, an expert in historical manuscripts opened up a 300-year-old scroll of Torah with the help of the audience and explained the various aspects of preparing and writing such a huge manuscript. It was an excellent hands-on experience for all of us.

The Protest for Dalit Rights at Jantar Mantar on 10th August was yet another important Social Justice Experience for us all. It was organized by National Council of Dalit Christians, National Council of Churches in India and Catholic Bishop Conference of India. The protest was held to demand equal caste status for Dalit Christians and Dalit Muslims with Dalits of other religions. The staff and the students from Vidyajyoti participated, to express our solidarity for the cause. Fr. Edwin Rodriguez said a prayer and the College choir sang a social awareness songs.

A Mega Debate by VJ Students on 14th August was a great experience in Theologizing. **The Theme: “The Church influences State politics and Indian policy-making by leveraging its Constitutional authority.”** The debate Teams were: For the Motion: Edwin Lakra, Ravi Kanth, Joseph V and Against the Motion: Ivin Tomy, Sandeep Gonsalves, Joshua D’Souza.

The debate attracted a lot of questions from the audience leading to a natural Theologizing. At last, the team against the motion was declared winner by the judges.

Many of our students participated in a **Book Discussion** held at Jawahar Bhavan on 31 August. The Theme of discussion was, “The

Status of Freedom of Religion or Belief in India Since 2014 - A Report". There were eminent speakers like: Ziya Us Salam, Harsh Mander, Neera Chandoke, Irfan Engineer. The discussion and interaction centered around the changes in legislation, physical violence and hate crimes under the present regime.

Cosmic Eucharist was a new initiative held on VJ-Lawns to respond to the call given by Pope Francis to be stewards of the entire cosmos and develop consciousness for Eco-Care. It was held on 2nd September. The main

celebrant was Fr. Francis Minj, SJ of Tarumitra, Ranchi. The college community celebrated cosmic Eucharist on the theme, '**Communion with the Creation and Creator**'. Along with Fr. Francis Minj, Frs. Rajkumar, Jose and Leander concelebrated. The Eucharist started with a procession of the 5 elements as an offering. Eucharist was concluded with distribution of apples for the participants.





ISI, DELHI

Vincent Ekka, SJ

Participated in an International Conference in Amsterdam, Holland

As a member of the Standard Committee of Aluminum Stewardship Initiatives (ASI), Fr Vincent Ekka participated in an international Conference of the same in Amsterdam, Holland from 18th – 20th Sept, and training sessions of the Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Forum (IPAF) from 21st – 24th September, 2024. ASI is a certifying company for Bauxite mining and alumina and aluminum companies all over the world. To set a Standard for certification for the aluminum companies ASI has formed an Advisory Forum of Indigenous Peoples from India, Australia, Guinea, Suriname, Ghana and Norway. In the recent Conference, our role as the members of the Standard Committee on behalf of IPAF was to bring to the notice of the ASI Board, the issues and challenges the indigenous and affected communities face due to the rampant mining operations that take place in different

locations. We also brought to the notice of the Board the environmental hazards and related consequences and impacts among the affected communities. As members of the Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Forum (IPAF), we suggested that Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) be mandatorily made part of the Standards for certification for the companies. For the second part of the Conference, training sessions regarding the functioning of ASI and IPAF were organized for the indigenous participants for four days. During the training sessions, some of the topics dealt with were the Participation of the Indigenous community members for cumulative impact assessment, understanding Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), Risks and Opportunities, improved credibility, National and international laws, etc. It was a great experience to participate in a high-level advocacy at the international forum representing the hopes and aspirations of the Indigenous Peoples from India.