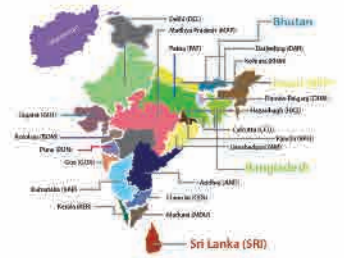




SAJN



SOUTH ASIAN JESUIT NEWS

News of Common Works of the Conference



| DECEMBER 2023 | |
|---------------|---|
| Date | Program |
| 04 | DLP (RAN) |
| 06-10 | Visitation (PS) |
| 11-15 | Visit (PUN) |
| 18 | AGM (VJ) |
| 19 | JCI (AGM &GB) |
| JANUARY 2024 | |
| 06 | Presidents' Meet (Rome) |
| 07 | CIP (Rome) |
| 08-12 | Extended Consult (Rome) |
| 16 | POSA Consult (Online) |
| 20 | JFFSA (CEN) |
| 22-25 | Visitation (JD) |
| 26-27 | JHEASA (CCU) |
| 28 | Visitation (Kandy) |
| 29-31 | Visit (Sri Lanka) |
| FEBRUARY | |
| 03 | POSA Consult (Online) |
| 12 | Meeting DoWs (Online) |
| 13 | Meeting LS (Online) |
| 14 | Meeting Forums & Networks (Online) |
| 18-24 | JCSA (KER) |
| 25 | POSA Consult (KER) |
| MARCH | |
| 01-02 | Visitation (JR JB) |
| 03-04 | JCI Budget meeting |
| 12-15 | Visit (BOM) |
| 17-20 | Visit (GUJ) |
| 22 | GBM (ISID) |
| 30 | GBM (ISIB) |
| APRIL | |
| 22-23 | Meeting LS & DoWs (PUN) Meeting Sec & Coordinators |
| 24 | POSA Consult (PUN) |

JCSA MEETING HELD AT DE NOBILI COLLEGE PUNE FROM 22 TO 27 OCTOBER



CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT FOR SCHOOL EDUCATION (CSSE)

Fr John Ravi

Secretary's Visit to Provinces

Fr John Ravi, SJ visited all schools of Ranchi province from August 2- 13, 2024 and most of the schools in Hazaribagh Province from August 22- 30, 2023.



Teachers Effectiveness Enhancement Program (TEEP)

The fourth TEEP for the rural school teachers of North Zone Provinces/Regions was held at Loyola Pastoral Centre, Matigara from August 17-19, 2023, the fifth was held at St Xavier's School, Hazaribagh from August 24-26, 2023 and the final TEEP for the teachers of West Zone was held at PG Block, JD, Pune from September 19-21, 2023.



Annual PCEs/RCEs Meeting

The annual PCEs Meeting was held at St Xavier's School Loyola Hall, Ahmedabad from October 23-25, 2023. All the PCEs /RCEs were present for the meeting. Fr Jose Mesa, SJ, the International Secretary for primary & secondary education, Rome visited India from October 22-27, 2023. He attended the annual meeting of PCEs in Ahmedabad. He also visited some of the schools of Gujarat Province.



CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT FOR ECOLOGY AND JUSTICE

Fr Xavier Soreng

The Annual Convention

The Secretariat organized the annual convention at Manresa House Ranchi, Jharkhand from 14 to 16 April 2023. More than 135 Jesuits and collaborators from India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka participated in the convention. The theme of the annual convention was 'celebrating faith that does justice' in the present socio-political scenario with a purpose of coming together to celebrate our struggle for justice in the context of diversity and hostile socio-political situation of South Asia,

1. To listen to each other, the cries of the poor and the marginalized whose rights and dignity are violated;
2. To listen to the cry of the Mother Earth;
3. To renew our commitment as an apostolic Body in the 'service of faith that does justice';
4. To strive together towards saving the constitutional rights of the marginalized and the excluded;
5. To share our stories and to grow in companionship with each other and to better understand our shared mission of Peace, Justice and Reconciliation;
6. To be able to evolve strategy at the conference, zonal and province levels in order to face the challenges today.

At the end of the convention, the delegates came out with a statement 'embarking with a renewed commitment to the mission of reconciliation and justice' resolutely and emphatically committing themselves to

1. Protect and promote constitutional democracy,
2. Develop issue-based platforms at the zonal and conference level,
3. Be faithful to UAP, CAP and PAP,
4. Engage in communal discernment seeking what God wants of us,
5. Accompany priority communities for creating a just world,
6. Move beyond narrow minded nationalism and ethnic discrimination and strengthen solidarity and advocacy networks,
7. And care for the Mother Earth.

Focused Group Discussion (FGD) and Entitlement Access Audit:

The community leaders (Capacity Builder and Campaign Facilitator) were trained to conduct Entitlement Access Audit in the own areas. After the training, the FGD and Entitlement Access Audits were conducted in all the thirteen States over a period of six months covering the areas of right to food, right to education, right to health, right to adequate housing, right to water and sanitation, social security benefits, and other security benefits and the gaps were identified between the policies that exist and their implementation.

Workshop on “Understanding Climate Change And Capacity Building For Climate Action” for the SLTs (State Level Trainers)

Initially it was held in Odisha from 1 to 3 August 2023 with Mr. Proshin from IGSSS (Indo Global Social Service Society), Delhi as the Resource Person, where all the SLTs participated. The training included meaning of environment and climate change, greenhouse effect, climate change matrix tools, carbon footprints, hazard vulnerability and capacity assessment tools. Following which, the SLTs gave trainings in their own respective States to the Community Leaders (Capacity Builder and Campaign Facilitator). States which requested the need for a follow up of the Training, the National Team extended assistance, e.g. Gujrat (28-29 August 2023) and Jharkhand (October 3-5 2023).

Meetings of the Province Coordinators for Social Action

The first online meeting of the Province Social Action Coordinator was held on 4 September 2023. The following decisions were taken:

1. To take part in the National Consultation on ‘Building Coalition’ to be held on 7 and 8 October 2023 at Indian Social Institute, Bangalore.
2. To submit UAP Report for the year 2023 to the CSEJ.
3. To send a list of new initiatives (cultural, religious, economic, political and environmental) taken by the province since 2014.
4. To submit a write up about the history of social action in the province.

In the second meeting which was held in Bangalore on 8 October 2023 along with other Jesuits present for the National Convention at Bangalore, it was mentioned that the works in different forms have started in different States as the Jesuits and others understand the criticality of the 2024 Elections. Each State has its specificities. Therefore, the work must start at the State levels. In case needed, Eddelu Karnataka, Bharat Jodo Abhiyan, ISI Bangalore and Conference Social Secretariat can be approached.

The National Workshop of ESP/LOK MANCH was held from 22 to 23 September 2023, which was focused on the theme of ‘Social Protection Floor’ (government schemes of health care for all, income security for children, working population and older people). We had interesting and enriching input-interaction sessions from the experts from different perspectives. Ms Mariko Ouchi, Senior Social Protection Specialist, ILO Country Office, New Delhi, was the Keynote Speaker. Mr A.K. Tiwari, Executive Member, Saalam Baalak Trust,

spoke on Income Security (access to nutrition, education, care and other necessary goods and services) for children and the challenges in implementation. Dr Rajesh Roushan, Asst Professor, Indian Institute of Dalit Studies, shared his knowledge about 'Affordable and Accessible healthcare security for marginalized communities in India: Challenges and future perspective'. Dr Anthony Chhettri, Lead, OD and Program Sustainability (IGSSS) shared his views on 'Promoting gender equality in Social Protection as it contributes to inclusive growth and development'. Mr Ashok Bharti, Chairman, NACDOR, enlightened the participants on the budget for social protection. He highlighted about the difference between actual budget, estimated budget, and revised budget.

Ms Teresa Diez, International Coordinator, Xavier Network, ALBOAN, Spain, Fr Martin Iriberry, General Director, Alboan and Intercultural, Spain, and Fr Thomas Perumallil, SJ, Superior, Indian Social Institute were the Guests of Honour for the National Workshop. Mr Vijay Parmar, National Consultant, Lok Manch, animated and guided the assembly throughout the workshop.

ACTION PLAN: Each State committed itself to take minimum one and maximum two schemes under each of the category given under SPF (Social Protection Floor) framework, identify the gaps between the policy/schemes and implementation using the secondary data available and prepare a draft policy recommendation for an advocacy with the MLAs and MPs to be raised by them on the floor of the Assembly or Lok Sabha or to be included in the election manifestoes of the political parties. National Team similarly undertook to do the same at the Central Government level.

STATE LEVEL WORKSHOP ON SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOOR (TAMILNADU)

With a view to prepare State Level Draft Policy Recommendations on Social Protection Floor (SPF), a State Level Workshop was conducted on 11 October 2023 in AHAL Centre, Kilpennathus. Mr Jayanta, the National Coordinator ESP (Ensuring Social Protection)/Lok Manch, Fr Marianathan, State Advisor, Fr Kennedy, State Coordinator, and the SLT (State Level Trainer) gave necessary inputs to the Participants. The participants were divided into two groups and presented their findings and recommendations. On the basis of the presentations, a draft report will be prepared and sent to the National Office.

MONTHLY EVALUATION MEETING WITH THE SLTS (State Level Trainers) is conducted every month for reviewing and assessing the progress. On the basis of the reports presented from the States, the National Team of Lok Manch gives the essential feedbacks for better results. Similarly monitoring visits are taken up on a regular basis as per the need.

CORE GROUP MEETINGS OF ESP: The Core Group of ESP Lok Manch met twice during the year (on 20/06/2023 and 21/09/2023) and took stock of the developments in terms of implementation of ESP and issues connected with the same.

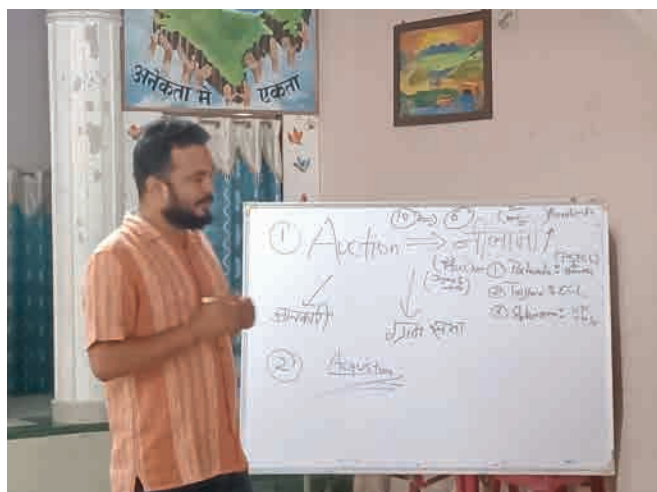
JUSTICE IN MINING NETWORK

PM Tony

Mining and displacement of indigenous/Adivasi people in predominantly Adivasi regions (Fifth Schedule Areas) of Jharkhand, Odisha and Chhattisgarh has been a very serious issue. The present regime, at the centre, has diluted many environmental and social restrictions on mining companies. For example, it has, by notification, made the previously mandatory environmental and social impact assessment that have to be done by local administration and the mining companies, with the would be affected people (the Gram-Sabha), to be no more mandatory.

Moreover, the local administration and the mining companies still continue to treat Adivasi villagers as expendable. Hence, they right away deny affected people's right to have free, prior and informed consent prior to mining operations are initiated on people's lands. They clearly keep violating the special protective legislations of the CNT (Chota Nagpur Tenancy) and the SPT (Santhal Parganas Tenancy) Acts specifically to protect Adivasis' land in Jharkhand, the provisions of the land acquisition, right to rehabilitation and fair compensation Act 2013 and the provisions of the fifth schedule of the constitution that are there to protect land in Fifth Schedule Areas.

Several coal-blocks have been auctioned to private companies in these three states recently. These companies and local administration advance mining in predominantly Adivasi areas. Elected representatives and mining mafias have been working as a dangerous nexus to advance mining to keep the pace of economic growth which has largely been jobless and contributing to carbon footage.



A Two-days' Workshop for community leaders was held at Johar HRD, Dumka on 20 and 21 July 2023. The workshop was attended by about 50 participants including about 17 women from Pakur, Dumka and Godda districts. The workshop has increased people's confidence and they have revived the resistance movement in and around a village called Taljhari in Godda district of Jharkhand. The administration has filed false cases on about 40 villagers who were leading the protest rallies in 12 blocks, 4 subdivisions and 3 districts of Jharkhand. Some are in hiding to avoid impending arrests, a few are still in jails, a few got bail and a few got their bail applications rejected at the lower court. We are assisting them to get bail applications, filed in the High Court (for whose bail applications were rejected at the lower court).



JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE (JRS-SA)

Fr Stephen Raj

World Refugee Day: The Regional Office of JRS in New Delhi organized World Refugee Day on 20th June at Indian Social Institute with colorful cultural programs presented by Afghan and Myanmar Refugee children and youth. Representatives from both communities expressed their voices of gratitude for the services received, challenges faced and hope and dreams. The POSA, Fr Stanislaus D'Souza, graced the occasion as the chief guest and Mr Ephraim Tan from UNHCR was the guest honor. JRS units in North East as well as in Tamil Nadu also commemorated the day with cultural programs.



Finance Workshop on Navision: JRS-IO finance consultant, Walid Sirag from Rome conducted one week finance workshop on Navision (NAV) from June 19 to 24 June in the JRS Regional Office, Delhi. The Finance staff from the Regional Office and JRS-Tamil Nadu participated in the week-long workshop to use NAV account software in the current financial year.

Regional Level MEAL workshop: JRS-Regional Office conducted a three days training/workshop on Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEAL) at ISI from July 19-21. 25 participants from 4 units including JRS-Bangladesh attended the training. The resource person was Ms Prae from Rome also visited Tamil Nadu and Delhi urban project for field study and helped the participants how to conduct Focused Group Discussion (FGD) with the thrust of accountability to the people we serve.

Annual Evaluation of JRS-Northeast project: JRS-Regional Office conducted 3-day annual evaluation of the North East JRS project. It was held in Jagiriti, Guwahati from 12-14 September. Sixteen project staff mainly the coordinators took part in the evaluation where the participants were enabled to present their accomplishments and challenges. Fr Walter Fernandes addressed the group with his inputs from his survey



and findings about the unregistered Burmese refugees. It was also an occasion to take stock of things about the conflict situation of Manipur and how to continue our work in future.

Retreat for JRS Regional Office Staff: The JRS Regional staff, 9 in total, made a three-day retreat in Goa from 14 to 17 September. Fr Stephenraj helped the staff to recount the blessings and be grateful for the vocation to serve the most vulnerable and neediest people being part of the global Jesuit mission. The staff also had inputs on Spiritual conversation and Examen. They had a rejuvenation and relaxing time with sharing in the groups about their personal and professional life journey.



International Peace Day: International Peace Day was celebrated on 20th and 21st September in the Urban Project area in Delhi. On 20th September it was observed in Chin Center (Chanakya place), Delhi with cultural program and sharing of voices of the refugees on the theme of Peace. Fr Martin, Director of Alboan from Spain was the Chief guest and Ms Teresa from Spain was the guest of honor who were honored during the event. Many Chin community representatives and

parents of our learning center children took part in the event. The guests too addressed and encouraged the refugees to aspire to have hope and spread the message of peace at this time of crisis in the world.

On the 21st the Peace Day was celebrated at the Bhogal Afghan center where a good number of women and young girls took part in the event. Girl club trained in Radio program presented their video show on Radio program expressing their voices on peace. There was also a three-member panel discussion on the relevance of Peace today. The Radio club girls were given out certification and they expressed their positive experiences and gratitude to JRS services.

Fr Mukti Prakash joined the JRS-Afghanistan on 12th July as he was accompanied to Kabul by Fr Stephenraj who spent about 4 weeks in Afghanistan visiting the learning centres and conducting meetings for the staff.



WORLD REFUGEE DAY AND INTERNAL PEACE DAY AT JRS

Sch. Swethan Tirumalasetti

To commemorate the World Refugee Day, the Regional Office of JRS in New Delhi had organized a cultural program on 20th June 2023, bringing people together from different communities. The Provincial of South Asia, Fr Stanislaus D'Souza, was invited as the Chief Guest. Special performances were prepared by the students of the learning centers from both Afghan and Chin communities, showcasing their rich cultures through dance performances. Few JRS Project Staff also sang a beautiful Afghan song. Among the special guests were Community Leaders and representatives of the Chin and Afghan communities who shared their experiences with everyone. Video speeches of Pope Francis and Fr Tom Smolich, the International Director of JRS were played to spread the message of hope and compassion. In the end, the Regional Team also performed a dance, ending the program in a cheerful mood.



On 21st September 2023, JRS Chin Learning Centre students, teachers, and caregivers organized a Peace Day commemoration at Zotung Christian Fellowship in Delhi. The event, attended by 76 people, was graced by Fr Martin Iriberry and Teresa Diez, representatives from ALBOAN, a funding agency for JRS South Asia. On 22nd September 2023, two Afghan Girl's Clubs hosted a live talk show and screened their pre-recorded podcast to mark the International Day of Peace. The event, attended by 70 people,

focused on "Actions for Peace: Our commitment to Global Goals". The event was attended by JRS staff from the Chin and Afghan community, JRS Chin and Afghan students, JRS Urban-Refugee project staff, and South Asia Regional Office staff. The primary speakers were Stephenraj SJ, the Regional Director of JRS, Gulnigar Ahmadi, a social sector professional who is currently pursuing a PhD in management at Punjab University (India), and Sabria Anwari, a former Deputy Community representative for Association of Hazara Voice of Justice. Both events emphasized the importance of maintaining peace and promoting culturally sensitive peace programs.



INDIAN SOCIAL INSTITUTE, BANGALURU

Fr Selvaraj Arulnathan

A Diamond Jubilee Volken-Stan Memorial Lecture: July 29, 2023

Indian Social Institute, Bangalore is at the annals of its diamond jubilee. To mark this great historical year of the institute, we have taken up various activities to meaningfully celebrate 60 diamond years of it's accompanying the marginalized in India. One of the important events is its annual memorial lecture. To combine the Diamond Jubilee and also the forthcoming General Elections 2024 which is a crucial phase of Indian political history, the **Volken-Stan Memorial Lecture was arranged on July 29, 2023 on the theme, "The Role of Civil Society for a Vibrant Political Democracy".**

On this occasion, Dr Selvaraj Arulnathan, the Director of the institute, recounted the valiant history of the institute by recalling the important milestones whose journey started in 1963, with a mission motto of "accompanying the marginalized". Honourable Justice Krishnaswami Chandru (Rtd), a stalwart in Human Rights and Social Justice and who is also a close associate of Fr Stan Swamy gave the memorial lecture. Justice Chandru who championed for the cause of Human Rights and a man with record of hearing over 96,000 cases as Judge, delivered the keynote address. He reminisced his personal experience with Stan Swamy and how he spent his life fight a legal battle to access Adivasi rights and entitlements. In this context he also insisted the importance of our right to vote which is our constitutional privilege and duty.



Fr Stan Swamy Memorial Service: August 05, 2023

The second death anniversary of Fr Stan Swamy was very meaningfully and devotionally commemorated at Indian Social Institute, Bangalore on August 05, 2023 at 3 p.m. Fr Selvaraj Arulnathan, the Director recalled his own interactions with him when he interviewed him during the Golden Jubilee of ISI B in 2013 and subsequently during his tenure as the Director. People were moved by the video clipping that was displayed in which he clearly spoke that it was not



only for him, but lawyers, poets, intellectuals, students, writers, etc. whoever raised their voice of dissent against what is happening in the country especially for Dalits and Adivasis. He didn't want to keep himself anyway as someone important, but in the midst of so many other people who struggle to establish a just and humane society.

Inauguration of Peace and Reconciliation Unit: October 02, 2023



Indian Social Institute, Bengaluru with its guiding vision 'to build an egalitarian and inclusive society by promoting socially conscious and empowered communities' has ventured yet another significant milestone by way of opening a Unit for Peace and Reconciliation Promotion. The broader aim of the unit is to foster 'Peace and Reconciliation Social Educational Endeavour in accordance with the guidelines of Universal Apostolic Preferences of the society of Jesus and the South Asian Jesuit Network for Peace and Reconciliation Initiatives. A formal inauguration of the Peace and Reconciliation Unit was

held on 2nd of October 2023. Dr Selvaraj Arulnathan, SJ, the Director, and Fr Anthony Dass, SJ, Superior accompanied by the academic and administrative initiated the deliberations of the inaugural function. Prof. Dr Shiv Viswanathan, O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonipat, Haryana delivered the inaugural address. In his scholarly address, he traced the need for Peace and Reconciliation as social initiative instrumentalised

through social educational research actions and establishing a unit for peace and reconciliation is significant in the context of the need for conceptual clarity in understanding the nature of conflict and the avenues of reconciliation. Tracing the theoretical grounds, he pointed out that the realm of peace and reconciliation is ambiguous and arbitrary and hence necessitates a deconstructive and hermeneutical interventional process.

He also insisted the need for 'cognitive justice' as the foreground for social justice and peace and reconciliation initiatives which bring home the imperative of evolving or developing research based social-educational avenues to be actualised by the new unit.



A Two-Day National Level Consultation on Promoting Democratic Process

“We are not alone; we are together”

was the booming reverberation in the campus on October 7 & 8 when Indian Social Institute, Bengaluru took the initiative to organize a two-day National level Consultation on 'Promoting Democratic Process' in collaboration with Jesuits of South Asia, SJES, AICUF, Youth Ministry, Diocesan Priests, Religious of women and men, Leaders of Ecumenical Churches and Lay Collaborators (CSOs/NGOs) and like-minded human rights defenders. In all about 120 organizations joined from 8 states of India which in itself was a great momentum of their preparedness for the elections.



The two-day workshop focused on serious deliberations about the forthcoming elections 2024 and the need for a change in the governance system in view of the larger interest of the poor and the marginalized. The role of Bharat Jodo Abhiyan and Eddelu Karnataka who have rich experience in mobilizing individuals and organizations in election campaign were of great help as they were with us for both the days and gave proper orientation to our collaborators. The main speakers were from Bharat Jodo Abhiyan, and Eddelu Karnataka apart from our Jesuits from ISI B and Ashirvad, Bangalore. They shared the philosophy, methods and strategies that we need to employ in the coming elections. The success stories of Eddelu Karnataka were very well showcased for the entire group which reflected as action programs in the state level group sharing and the plenary that followed.



The state-wise group discussions provided a platform for all participants to make an excellent assessment of the situation in their respective states. The plenary session which collated all the state reports built a very good synergy. They said, “we have now woken up and are willing to fight”. It strengthened them to focus on their role as citizens and concrete actions for 2024 elections. One important learning from the

workshop is education of voters. It became very clear that it is everyone’s duty to help enroll new voters and re-enroll missing voters and see that everybody come out to vote on the day of voting. Hence, political illiteracy is harmful to democracy was the carry home message. It became very clear that the organized minority have been imposing their vested interests upon the unorganized majority. From this General Elections, we will see that we, the majority will get organized and rule for us and by us. This was the feeling most of the participants carried home.

A course on Finance management: Basic and Advanced

Indian Social Institute, Bengaluru organized a course on financial management both basic and advanced models. It was organized as a special program from the Finance Department of ISI B from September 12 till 16 for basic module and from 18 till 22 September for advanced model. This course was devised and conducted by Fr G. Alex of Jamshedpur province who has a very rich experience working in houses of SA Conference. It was organized mainly for priests and religious who deal with finances and properties of their respective organizations. It was much appreciated for the importance, clarity and its various components for which all the participants expressed their gratitude to ISI B, particularly Fr G. Alex, the resource person. The very fact that there were nearly double the number for the advanced course is a testimony to the importance and value of the course. In fact, some of them who registered only for the basic course remained for the advanced course also since they felt it was so important for them and also the way the



course was conducted. Fr G. Alex stole the hearts of all the participants for his simplicity, lucidity and affability throughout the two courses. Very special thanks to Fr Shiju Mathew, the administrator cum Treasurer of ISI B, who took great interests in this and planned everything so meticulously so that it generated more interest and brings more people for the following years.



Legal Literacy Workshop for NGOs and CSOs Working with Migrants

The Indian Social Institute Bangalore (ISI) organised a “Workshop on Legal Literacy” for the NGOs and CSOs working with migrants in collaboration with CITRA (Center for Information, Training, and Research Activities) and Loyola Academy, Secunderabad from September 13th till 15th at Loyola Academy, Secunderabad.

The workshop aimed at providing a comprehensive guide for NGOs and CSOs who are actively engaged in working with migrants. It gave inputs on legal knowledge, practical guidelines, and promoting legal literacy for those who were involved in the mission of emancipating migrants and anti-human trafficking efforts. The course highlighted on the importance of working with and for migrants as part of our



commitment to the marginal communities in India, as migrants. The various themes covered were, the history and the current status of migrant communities by Dr Selvaraj Arulnathan, Director, ISI B, financial challenges confronted by the migrants by Priyansha Singh which highlighted the various aspects of equitable financial system, etc.

The highlight of the program was that nearly 400 students from Loyola Academy were volunteers and members of different associations like AICUF, NSS, YRC, etc. They benefited greatly and were sensitized to the grave issues of migrants in India.

We were also very consoled and heartened to see nearly 40 NGOs who are working in various states among migrants were so enthusiastic to learn more things to plunge their activities among the distressed migrants of India.

Social Inclusion and Democracy

'Women and Mother Earth' module training for 45 young trainers in PARA, Ravulapalem, Andhra Pradesh had a tremendous impact from September 30 till October 02, a three-day workshop cum training for the rural women. The trainees were given proper orientation to Gender Equality, input on Domestic Violence Act of 2005 along with Environmental Awareness

of Sustainable Development Goal 13. This three-day training has brought to light a lot of awareness, action-oriented decision for the future and their express commitment to protect, preserve and promote environmental sensitivity.



Venkanna Babu, Cluster Coordinator from PARA, highlighted Ambedkar's ground-breaking Hindu Code Bill, which challenged the entrenched patriarchy and championed equal property rights for women. He emphasized Ambedkar's belief that economic empowerment was crucial for achieving gender equality, as the Bill aimed at establishing financial independence and unequal inheritance, reshaping societal norms for more balanced resource distribution. Adv Karuna Rao, the state facilitator of the program said that the impact of youth capacity building reaffirmed that everyone's voice mattered, rights are honoured, and our precious Mother Earth is treasured.

A three-day capacity building training on People's Entitlements & Understanding and Reducing Vulnerabilities was conducted by Social Inclusion and Democracy Unit of Indian Social Institute in collaboration with Indian Catholic Youth Movement of Gulbarga Diocese, Yuvachethana, and Carmel Seva Trust to about 20 youth in Gulbarga zone on September 23 till 25, 2023. The



training provided opportunities to youth to express themselves and update their knowledge on Social Protection Policy, Gender Equality and Environment. In the training, Fr Anthony Dass, SJ, superior ISI B spoke about the various factors responsible for the exclusion of vulnerable communities. He said, the main reason for neglect of the poor is politics by the powerful corporates and the inept government response to address the issues of the people. He asserted again, “Youth need to raise their voice to address this issue.”

Mr Shridhar speaking on Social Justice of vulnerable communities explained about Social Protection Policy like RTF, RTE, MNREGA, Health, Education and other welfare measures for the people as safety protection. The youth learnt to write complaint letter to DC/Tahshildar listing out three main issues of Social Protection in their communities. They also shared about their dreams of addressing issues such as housing, toilet, transportation, library, primary health care centre, abolition of child marriage, education and graveyard for the communities.

Empowering the Youth for a Better Tomorrow

The Kannur Zone, Kerala state started its fifth module from September 22 to 24, 2023, on ***“Empowering the Youth for a Better Tomorrow”***, enlightened them on the importance of nurturing a generation of environmentally conscious and socially aware individuals. By addressing critical issues like gender inequality and environmental conservation, the program has



contributed to building a brighter, more equitable future. It is hoped that the lessons learned during this program will inspire positive actions and transformative change in the community and beyond.

The Kannur Zone youth training program marked a significant milestone with the participation of 23 enthusiastic Dalit youth. The capacity building training module focused on women and mother earth not only empowered these young individuals but also underlined the importance of their role in fostering a more inclusive and sustainable future.

INDIAN SOCIAL INSTITUTE, DELHI

Fr Tom Perumalil, S.J.

The second death anniversary of Fr Stan Swamy was commemorated on 5 July with a beautiful Mass offered by Fr Martin Puthussery in the morning. In the afternoon, the Staff Forum organized a memorial meeting. Fr Stanislaus D'Souza (POSA), Mrs Pamela Pilipose, Mr John Dayal were the dignitaries who spoke on Fr Stan Swamy, besides Frs Thomas Perumalil, Sebastien Raj and Xavier Soreng. The staff from Vidyajyoti was also present for the programme. In the evening, a



panel discussion was organized by the Federation of Catholic Associations of Archdiocese of Delhi (FCAAD) in collaboration with the Indian Social Institute on "Civic Literacy and Political Participation" in honour of Fr Stan Swamy. Fr Stan Swamy fought for the protection of the rights of tribals, especially in Jharkhand. Prof. Nivedita Menon, Jawaharlal Nehru University, highlighted the need to practice Constitutional morality

as part of civic literacy. Prof. Apoorvanand, Professor at the University of Delhi, pointed out that just as Fr Stan Swamy refused to be a silent spectator at the injustice faced by the tribals, so also speaking the truth to power should be an integral part of civic literacy and political participation. Dr Denzil Fernandes was the master of ceremonies. Dr Lancy Lobo, the panel



moderator, emphasized citizens' greater political involvement and the need to understand India's social, economic, religious and political dilemmas as part of civic literacy. The programme concluded with a few words of thanksgiving by Mr A.C. Michael, the President of FCAAD.



Indian Social Institute, in collaboration with the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) and "The Future Work – Labour after Laudato Si" project, organized a webinar titled "Care of Migrant Workers: Present Scenario and Future Prospects" on 7 July 2023. The webinar began with a video clip of a testimony of a migrant worker prepared by the Migrant Assistance and Information Network (MAIN). Dr Denzil Fernandes, the webinar moderator, introduced the topic and the speakers. Dr Neha Wadhawan, a National Project Coordinator at the International Labour Organisation (ILO), stressed the need to follow ILO Conventions on migrant workers. Mr Johnson Topno, the Regional Head of Partnering Hope in Action (PHIA), shared his experiences heading the State Migrant Control Room on behalf of the Department of Labour, Employment, Training and Skill Development, Government of Jharkhand. Sr Rani

Punnaserril, Secretary of the Commission for Migrants for the Archdiocese of Delhi and Northern Region, shared the efforts of Church organizations to support domestic and international migrants in India. At the end of the webinar, Ms. Christine Nathan, the President of ICMC, gave her concluding remarks and proposed a vote of thanks.

Jesuit Research and Development Society, with the resource team of the Centre for Human Rights and Law, conducted a legal training programme on "Empowerment of Children and Legal Provisions from 7-10 July. Eight participants came to attend this English legal training programme organized by Fr Ravi Sagar and the team. From 18-20 July, Fr Ravi Sagar and the team conducted another training session on legal issues. This time, there were six participants, mostly religious people. From 4-7 August, the same team organized a third legal training programme with thirteen participants on Children's Empowerment and legal provisions.



Eighteen students and a lecturer from Mata Sundari College came to visit our Institute and to learn about research on 6 July. Fr Thomas Perumalil gave them an orientation about the Institute and explained about research. Then, they were guided around the different departments of the Institute. Similarly, on 15 September, some 40 students from Ambedkar University, Delhi, visited ISI. Fr Thomas Perumalil gave them an orientation to the Institute by sharing the history of ISI and research. It was an interactive session. After which, they were shown around the different departments of the Institute.



Fr Ronnie Saldanha attended the advanced course on finance in Bengaluru from 18-22 September. On 28 July, we had a candlelight programme at 2.30 p.m. to show solidarity with the people of Manipur. Fr Xavier, Fr Vincent, and Ms Shem talked about the situation in Manipur.



We started the Triduum on 28 July in honour of The Feast of St Ignatius of Loyola. Fr Alwyn gave an inspiring talk at 7.15 p.m. on the Audacity of Hope and St Ignatius. On 29th and 30 July, Triduum talks were given by Fr Ravi Sagar and Xavier Soreng, respectively. On 30 July, we had a special Mass on the occasion of the feast of St Ignatius for the parishioners. Fr Xavier was the main celebrant, assisted by Fr. Tom and Fr. Sunil. After the Mass, the AJVS group felicitated the Jesuits and the two St Anne's Sisters with flowers and traditional washing of hands. On 31 July, the feast of St Ignatius of Loyola, we were all invited to the Jor Bagh community for Morning Mass and breakfast. They spread an excellent table for all of us. At 10.30 a.m., we celebrated the feast day for the staff, and the Staff Forum arranged the programme. We had lunch with all the staff in the hostel. We had the feast day dinner for the invited local religious communities at 7.00 p.m. Some hundred people turned up for the celebrations. Fr. Vincent did the opening prayer service, and then Fr. Tom welcomed all the guests to the celebrations. He also introduced the Jesuits of ISI.



Fr Vincent organized a three-day workshop for the members of the Arramat Research Project on 29 July. Some 15 people turned up, and Fr Lancy discussed the ethnographic approach to studying bio-diversity.

The MHA denied the ISI FCRA account renewal. We must make a review petition, which may take a long time.

The POSA's visitation of ISI was from 8-11 July 2023. As part of the visitation, he met the staff of different departments. He completed the Institute staff in two groups: group one was all the office staff of Admin, CHRL, Research, Publication, Library and Integrated. Group two consisted of the Institute and the Integrated support staff.

ISI had the GB and General Body meetings of ISI D and JRDS on 18 August 2023. Three external members were present for the ISI General Body and Governing Board meetings: Fr Selva from ISI B, Dr Sabiha Hussain and Dr S Sukumar. The ISI GB meeting was during the first half, while the JRDS meeting was in the evening. The members from outside the community were Frs. John Chathanatt, Xavier Ignatius, and Victor Edwin.

In the afternoon of 27 September 2023, the Staff Forum organized a Staff Development Program. The topic was Preventive Health Care, and Dr Manish from the Andhra Association gave the input. All the staff members from ISI, CDO, JRS, CSEJ, and MAIN participated in this Staff Development Programme.



JNANA DEEPA, PUNE

Fr Dinesh Braganza SJ

JD Conference on Ethical Issues in Life and Ministry



Jnana Deepa Pontifical Athenaeum, JD Centre for Women's studies, in collaboration with De Nobili Centre for Safeguarding and Human Formation organized a two-day international Conference on "Ethical Issues in Life and Ministry," from 21 September evening till 23 September evening. The conference was flagged off by five parallel pre-conference workshops on various ethical challenges. There was enthusiastic participation

by the JD students in these workshops. The main conference proceedings began with the keynote address by Archbishop Emeritus Thomas Menampampil, SDB who spoke on the ethical challenges in today's context. He stressed the importance of finding a common ground and collaborating across cultures and religious traditions. The first day included insightful and engaging presentations on Conscience and Moral Responsibility by Dr M Sahana BS, Vulnerability of minors in the context of migration and trafficking by Dr René Micallef, SJ, and a panel discussion on cyber-ethical concerns in formation, education and society by Dr Anu George CJ, Dr Melwyn Pinto, SJ (Kar), and Ms Marcia D'Cunha.



The second day of the conference began with an online live presentation by Dr James



Keenan, SJ on the topic, "The Moral Agency of the Minister in Ethical Issues. His emphasis on the building of social trust, and vulnerability on the part of the minister were very relevant. Other presentations included ethical concerns related to gender by Dr L Vasanthi Medona ICM, and on ecology by Dr Mudita Sodder, RSCJ. Each paper presentation was followed by a response and time for questions and answers. After a summing up session, the final valedictory address was given by the JD

Vice-Chancellor, Dr (Fr) Jerome Stanislaus D'Souza.

The conference drew to a close with the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all the presenters, moderators, Student Council and JD Media Association volunteers who put in many long hours ensuring that the entire program, which was live-streamed from beginning to end, went off well.



PAPAL SEMINARY, PUNE

Fr Lindsay, SJ

Papal Seminary – The Home of Love, was thriving with spiritual contemplation and dynamic engagement throughout the months of September and October 2023. The wide variety of events, discussions, and celebrations during these months emphasized the community's commitment to faith, learning, and fellowship.

The month of September began with reverence as Papal Seminary observed the Feast of St Mother Teresa. The Adivasi Academy led a meaningful Holy Eucharistic celebration at 6:30 am in the Main Chapel, setting a tone of deep spirituality and communal unity. On the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Tamil Academy took charge of leading the Holy Eucharistic celebration at the same morning hour. This intercultural exchange within religious observances highlighted the unity within diversity at Papal Seminary. The monthly recollection for the month of September was guided by Fr Lindsay, SJ, with emphasis on the simplicity of Jesus and the call to adopt a simplistic attitude in Ministry, thus encouraging the community to reflect and imbibe the virtues of our Lord.

The month progressed with various activities, including a farewell gathering for the Deacons, an engaging Karam celebration hosted by the Adivasi Academy, and moments of guidance and unity when the Rector addressed the community. Moreover, a thought-provoking Spiritual Conference was conducted with Fr G. Arokia Sebastian, HGN, imparting wisdom on the theme "Called to Suffer." This discourse offered spiritual guidance and strength to all, filling them with renewed zeal and vigour.



The month of October continued the pattern of intellectual engagement and spiritual growth at Papal Seminary. Events like the Feast of St Theresa of Child Jesus, study group meetings, and community dialogues further enriched the atmosphere, fostering discussions and intellectual growth within the community. The monthly recollection was guided by Fr Lawrence, SJ, who delivered a compelling talk, stimulating minds and souls. The month also witnessed a solemn rosary with a procession, allowing the community to come together in prayer and contemplation. Simultaneously, the academic rigor intensified as the first semester exams commenced, reflecting the balance between spiritual devotion and academic pursuit in the lives of the seminarians. One of the most significant events in October was the Community Day Celebrations, a testament to the spirit of unity and friendly competition. The CDC included numerous group and individual events, promoting camaraderie and healthy competition amongst the seminarians. The month also saw diverse activities, including the start of the Goa pilgrimage for the Third-Year Theologians, a visit to Ajanta Ellora for the Third – Year Philosophers and exciting picnics for the other seminarians, highlighting a blend of leisure and academic enrichment.

The month of October culminated in a momentous occasion with the blessing of the renovated Papal Hall, a symbol of progress and continued dedication to the spiritual, formative and educational mission of the Papal Seminary. The Papal Hall was blessed by POSA, while the presence of esteemed Jesuit provincials and other dignitaries added grandeur to the occasion, emphasizing the importance of the Papal Seminary as a significant place of formation.

The months of September and October at Papal Seminary were brimming with activities that encapsulated the ethos of spirituality, education, and community life. The diverse events, religious celebrations, academic endeavors, and communal gatherings served as a testament to the vibrant spirit and holistic growth fostered within the seminary. Papal Seminary continues to stand as a beacon of spiritual growth, academic excellence, and community spirit, offering a nurturing environment for individuals on their journey of faith, knowledge, and self-discovery.



POPE'S WORLDWIDE PRAYER NETWORK

Fr Jagdish Parmar

On 12 August, 2023, Fr Jagdish and Mr Antony Glenn went to St Francis Xavier Seminary in Agra and addressed 55 Philosophers, 30 Orientation Seminararians, 9 Franciscan Sisters of St Joseph and 6 Staff members (altogether 100) about the PWPN and EYM through PPT. All of them promised to recite the Morning Offering and pray for the Holy Father's Intentions daily.

The next day both of them went to St Francis School, Nevada, Mathura and addressed 100 Sisters, Brothers and Fathers who had come together for their CRI Meeting. They too took the similar promise.

Meeting of the National Executive Council was hosted by St Xavier's College Kolkata from 18 to 19 August at Fr Bruylants Hall. Six members were present as Fr Xavier of Kerala failed to come due to heavy rains causing landslides. It was an intense meeting packed with a lot of agenda but at the end all felt satisfied with the outcome.

Outreach program to five seminaries in Andhra-Telangana Region: Fr Vijay Joseph took me to St John's Major Seminary where I addressed 92 Theologians and 10 staff members on 21st evening. Next day we travelled to Nuzvid, 300 KMs away, where we addressed 24 students of Orientation Seminary, 6 Minor Seminararians and two staff members. On 23rd August we travelled to Eluru, 40 KMs away at PINE Minor Seminary, addressing 32 Seminararians and their Vice Rector and I celebrated Mass for them afterwards. Same afternoon we travelled another 350 kilometers to St John's Seminary Kondadaba, where we addressed 19 Philosophers next day and returned same night to Hyderabad. It was a hectic tour but very satisfied that we addressed students who will come out as young priests who will share the spirituality of the PWPN/EYM to others.



SACRED HEART COLLEGE, SATYA NILAYAM

Fr Lawrence Fernandes, SJ

Final Vows of Fr Vinod Sushil Soreng SJ



Fr Vinod Soreng, SJ in the presence of the Provincial of South Asia, entire community of Satya Nilayam and friends and well-wishers, made his final commitment in the Society of Jesus on 15 August, on the solemnity of the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He had his friends and family from Ranchi and Kolkatta present on this occasion. His beloved aunt Mrs Elizabeth Kullu was the special invitee on this occasion. It was a solemn ceremony

where the importance of this day and the commitment to Jesus in the Society of Jesus was highlighted. Rev. Dr Stanislaus D'Souza, the President of JCSA received the vows.



Independence Day celebration

The celebration of Independence Day commenced with flag hoisting. Mrs Elizabeth Kullu the beloved aunt of Fr Vinod Soreng, hoisted the flag and sch Jonathan delivered the message for Independence Day. Fr Ajit Kumar Xess, SJ Provincial of Ranchi and Fr Stany Dsouza, President of the Jesuit Conference of South Asia, graced the occasion by their presence.



Philosophizing session by Rev Dr Lawrence Fernandes, SJ



In order to reflect deeply on issues of philosophy, very specially on the methods in Philosophy Satya Nilayam constantly organizes Philosophizing sessions. On 28th August a philosophizing session was organized in Satya Nilayam on ETHNOMETHODOLOGY as a method of philosophizing by Rev Dr Lawrence Fernandes, SJ. The

Staff and students actively participated in this insightful and interactive philosophizing session.

Final Commitment of Fr Arockiaraj Patrick, SJ



It was an occasion for the community to come together along with family, friends of Fr Patrick Arockiaraj, SJ to celebrate as Fr Patrick, SJ made his final commitment in the Society of Jesus on 2 September, 2023. He had taken the theme “A call to Love” for this celebration. It was a simple yet very meaningful celebration for which his dad Mr

Patrick Joseph and family members were present to grace this occasion. Rev. Dr Stanislaus D'souza, the President of JCSA received the vows.



Basketball Champions at Loyola College inter-departmental competition



In the interdepartmental basketball match held at Loyola College, Philosophy department (Satya Nilayam) bagged the gold medal. Congratulations guys!

Eco Drive at Satya Nilayam



The first years continued the greening of the campus of Satya Nilayam and planted 45 saplings in the campus on 26th August, 2023.

Teachers Day at Satya Nilayam



The SN community took time off to celebrate and honor its teachers. On 5 September Teachers Day was celebrated with music, songs, meal and gifts. It was a meaningful and kind gesture from the student community to appreciate the good work of our staff at Satya Nilayam.



Besant Nagar Annai Vailankanni parish ministry

The feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin brings thousands of people to Annai Vailankanni shrine, Besant Nagar. In the novena days, our staff members helped in reconciliation service while our scholastics involved in blessing ministry, blessing the hundreds and thousands who flocked to the shrine on the novena days.



ISLAMIC STUDIES ASSOCIATION

Fr Victor Edwin

A VISIT TO RAMPUR RAZA LIBRARY



Professor Michael Calabria OFM, director of the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies, St Bonaventure University, NY, USA and Joseph Victor Edwin, SJ, Secretary, Islamic Studies Association visited the Rampur Raza Library for examining some manuscripts. The library, founded by Nawab Faizullah Khan (d. 1794) in 1774, has a collection of 17,000 manuscripts, about 83000 printed books, 5000 miniature paintings, and 3000 specimens of Islamic calligraphy.

The richness and variety that one beholds at the Rampur Raza library inspire the visitors to recognize how a culture embodies its soul, the religion as it is lived in a particular context. The library invites in a subtle way towards building up profound intercultural relationships between the visitors of diverse religious and cultural backgrounds across time. These manuscripts and illustrations and paintings are cultural expressions that represent the high level of integration of diverse cultures and religions. Such religious cultural treasures ultimately open one to God and to fellow human beings. It is an important dimension of civic literacy for our times where cultural, historical and symbolic elements and cultural differences are increasingly used to stir up many conflicts among peoples. Students of history, philosophy and religions would profit immensely by a visit and a silent reflection.

JAMIA Conference (Jakarta)

Jesuit Scholars and friends in Islamic Studies met to discuss the different dimensions of dialogue with Muslims in South Asia and Asia Pacific. The meeting was attended by Fr James Hanvey, SJ, the Secretary, Faith Secretariat, Rome.



SEMINARS ON ISLAMIC MYSTICISM

Islamic Studies Association (ISA), Delhi organized two webinars on the following themes: "Mysticism of Ibn al Arabi" by Professor Jaime Flaquer, SJ (Professor of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations at the Faculty of Theology, Granada, Spain) and "Mughals and Sufism: A Survey in Arts and Architecture" by Professor Michael Calabria

OFM (Professor of Arab and Islamic Studies, St Bonaventure University, NY, USA) to celebrate the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (August 9).

Mysticism of Ibn Arabi

Ibn Arabi (d. 1240) was a great Muslim mystic who systematized Sufi doctrines in his two major works: 'Fusus al Hikam' (Bezels of Divine Wisdom) and 'Al Futuhat al Makkiya' (Meccan Revelation). The concept of 'Wahdat al Wujud' is central to his religious-mystical thinking. Ibn Arabi recognizes in creation the attributes of God: "We are attributes of God by which we describe God. Our existence is merely an objectification of God's existence. God is necessary for us that we may exist. We are necessary for God that he maybe manifested to Himself". In the mystical thought of Ibn Arabi, God and creation are like water and ice; being in different modes of existence".

Mughals and Sufism

The second webinar was first and foremost a visual treat as we journeyed with Professor Calabria looking at the many mystical texts popular with the Mughals and the paintings that reflect their interest in Sufism. Professor Calabria pointed out that Muslim mystics belonging to Naqshbandi, Chishti and Qadiri orders were active during the Mughal period in South Asia. As described by Khwaja Mu'inuddin Chishti, the two pillars of Sufism teachings were (and continue to be) Love and Selfless Service. The Chishti and other Sufis taught: (1) that no human person be discriminated in the name of religion, caste, creed, place or station (spiritual state); (2) that one must follow a religion that satisfies one's soul and esteem the religious convictions of others; (3) that in the spirit of Tawhid, all humanity is one, and (4) a friend of God is one who has love for all and malice towards none. Through the paintings and photographs of original manuscripts, Professor Calabria presented the mystical bend of the mind of Mughal Emperors Akbar, Jahangir and Shahjahan, and other key figures of the royal household like Dara Shikoh and Jahan Ara.

ZIYĀRA TO ŠŪFĪ SHRINES

A group of six post graduate students of Spirituality (Jnana Deepa, Pune) while doing the course on Islamic Mysticism made a ziyāra to Šūfī shrines of Shaykh Hizamuddin Zanzani and Shayak Salahuddin Chisti in Pune.



The aim of the course on Islamic Mysticism is to familiarize Catholic students of theology and spirituality with the origin and growth of Islamic mysticism or Taṣawwuf, (Arabic term for mysticism) and acquaint them with prominent mystics of Islam, their place in Islamic mysticism and contribution of Šūfī doctrines and practices.

At the shrine Mr Saleem Ahmed, a friend of ours gave a brief history of the saints buried there. One recognized in his explanation a certain amount of legendary material. As students of theology and Christian-Muslim relations we are aware that such

hagiography is to edify and give spiritual boost rather than to present strictly historical material. A careful student will look for contemporary material to work on the life and teachings of Ṣūfī shaykhs.

All of us entered the enclosures of both shrines and went near the tombs where pious Muslims were seen praying and reading the holy Qur'an. A few moments of silence filled our hearts with peace.

DIALOGUE IN ACTION: SEMINAR FOR STUDENTS OF LAW

Mission Law Education (MLE) and Islamic Studies Association (ISA) Jointly organized a Students' Seminar for Students who are supported in Law Education by MLE on 20th August 2023. The students are all from diverse faiths and come from marginalized groups. Course books were distributed to the students by Fr Varkey Perekatt, S.J., the treasurer of ISA and Prof. Khurshid Khan. ISA provided the books.

There was counselling and career guidance to Mission Law Education students by our eminent speakers. Prof. Khurshid Khan spoke of the resolve of her mother to educate her despite all opposition by family, and she spoke of the importance of saheb-e-waqt (a sufi concept of understanding the value of time and making the best use of opportunities) and the need to master the language of study in order for optimal oral and written communication, which is very important. Dr. Aqib Javed, Jt. Director in the Ministry of labour emphasized upon the power of now, the need to monitor one's use of time every hour of the day, to set one's unique goals and pursue them.

WEBINAR ON HUMAN FRATERNITY

Emiliano Stornelli, Chairman of Religion and Security Council, Rome presented a webinar on Human Fraternity Document (HFD): In the Light of Interreligious Relations in West Asia on 29 September 2023 organized by Islamic Studies Association, Delhi. The Religion and Security Council promotes 'Conflict Resolution' and cooperative approach to security through active engagement in the religious dimensions of international crises. The Council raises awareness on the means and guiding principles that religions can provide to support peace-making efforts and defuse confrontational situations.



Stornelli invited the participants, who were online from Europe to Asia-Pacific, to discover the great potential of HFD which constitutes an invitation to reconciliation and fraternity among all people of goodwill. HFD recognizes that Extremism is 'the result of political manipulation of religions' and 'incorrect interpretations of religious texts'. HFD exposes the root causes of extremism as - poverty, hunger, injustice and oppression. HFD advocates education: that promotes culture of tolerance and acceptance and that teaches students to adhere to moral values. HFD endorses the culture of dialogue as path, reciprocal understanding as Method and mutual co-operation as code of conduct between diverse groups of peoples to live in harmony. The presentation was followed by a lovely conversation based on establishing Human Fraternity Forums in Coimbatore and Tripoli, Lebanon.

South Asia Mag+s at Ranchi: 18 - 22 October 2023

Fr. Arbind Beck, SJ

With the arrival of 695 youth, including 23 Jesuits, 2 scholastics and 4 religious' sisters, representing 14 Jesuit provinces, 2 regions, 12 states across India and Nepal began South Asia Conference Level Magis-23 from 18th to 22nd October 2023. Over all theme for the Magis-23 was "Creating a Hope-Filled Future"



The opening ceremony on October 18th was graced by Fr. POSA, Fr. Jerome Stanislaus D'Souza, Fr. Ajit Kumar Xess, the provincial of Ranchi, Fr. K.C. Stephen, the provincial of Dumka, Fr. Jerome Cutinha, the provincial of Jamshedpur and Fr. Arbind Beck, JYMSA Coordinator (Jesuit Youth Ministry of South Asia).

Ranchi Archbishop Felix Toppo, SJ presided over the inaugural Mass on 19th October. In his sermon he emphasized the love of God to each one of us and the gift of freewill to decide and discern. Fr. Jerome Stanislaus D'Souza delivered a keynote address, urging the youth to embody spiritual, intellectual and civic virtues. Fr. Jerry Rosario addressed the theme of "Creating a Hope-Filled Future" encouraging the youth to dream big, do big.

October 20th was dedicated to reach out to people. The youth were divided into 16 groups for outreach programme called Ignatian immersion. This Ignatian immersion was based on 8 categories namely- Parish (culture and tradition of Jharkhand), Pilgrimage, Service and Solidarity, Faith and Spirituality, Press and Publication, Social and Justice, Ecology and Education. The purpose of it was to give them an opportunity to be in touch with the reality of the world by interacting with local people, knowing the culture and tradition of Jharkhand, to familiarize the work of Jesuits and being with neglected ones.

The gathering concluded with a solemn procession, guided by Fr. Bipin Tirkey, the youth coordinator of Ranchi, youth holding candles in their hands, walked in a prayerful mood, singing Mother Mary Song, formed the letter Mag+s. Fr. James Balmuchu led a prayer and Fr. Arbind Beck declared South Asia Conference Level Magis-2023 Ranchi, Jharkhand closed. The event culminated with the release of six Chinese lamps into the night sky.

MAG+S offered a unique opportunity to embrace Ignatian spirituality in a transformative way. It empowered participants to make better choices, walk with marginalized and contribute to a Hope-Filled Future with ecological mindfulness.



Charting the Road Forward in JCSA Communications Ministry

Mr. Jovin George

Pope Francis has chosen “Artificial intelligence and wisdom of the heart: for a fully human communication” as the theme for World Communication Day 2024. Aligning with the theme, the JESCOM coordinators from our various Provinces came together at Dhyan Ashram, Chennai, from October 23 to 25, 2023, for training and deliberations on the effective use of Social media, Technologies and Artificial Intelligence in communications.



At the inaugural Eucharist, Fr. Anthony Robinson SJ, Rector - Loyola College, stressed the need to carry forward the legacy of St Ignatius and the pioneer Jesuit missionaries as effective communicators. Fr. Anthony Pancras, editor of New Leader Magazine, conducted a session on ‘Social media – a possibility to Evangelize’ and shared about the document published by Vatican Dicastery of Communications: ‘Towards Full Presence - a Pastoral Reflection on Engagement with Social Media’. Fr. Ernest SDB conducted a session on ‘Social media, AI and its hurdles’ and introduced various AI platforms and applications, saying, “In the present era, to communicate is to be present, speak their language and walk with them – be the sacrament of presence”. In the third session, Fr. Joe Arun SJ, JCSA Secretary for Higher Education and Director of LIBA, invited us as Jesuit Communicators to shift from Pipeline thinking to Platform thinking.

The second phase of the meeting included presentations on Province communications initiatives and sharing of the good practices, followed by a visit to Madha TV, a Catholic satellite television.



The final day started with the presentation ‘The Road Forward in JCSA Communications Ministry’ by Fr. Sebasti Raj SJ, Secretary - Inclusive Development. He highlighted various initiatives, which could be taken up by Provinces and collectively at the Conference level. In conclusion, Fr. Vernard Antonyraj SJ, Conference Communications Coordinator, guided the planning exercise. In essence, new media technologies and communication are vital for the Society to fulfill its mission in today’s interconnected world.

