



*Ambedkar also recommends a strong opposition for veto when things go wrong with the government. He emphasized on the existence of a strong opposition. According to him, "Democracy means veto power. Democracy is a contradiction of hereditary authority or autocratic authority, where elections act as a periodic veto in which people vote out a government and opposition in parliament act as an immediate veto that curbs the autocratic tendencies of the government in power".*

### IS COALITION GOVERNMENT THE NATIONAL POLITICAL MANTRA?

Indian politics is at crossroads. The recently held General Elections 2024 reveals that. Events that took place after the election raises a trail of concerns and speculations. It is basically a coalition government which is not something new to Indian political governance. The first coalition government in India after independence was in 1977 after 30 years of Congress rule in free India. It was a fusion of many parties under Janata Party, which included the BJP's precursor, the Bharatiya Jana Sangh. Other parties of the alliance included the Bharatiya Lok Dal (B.L.D) – a fusion of seven regional left-wing parties, the Socialist Party, the Swatantra Party and the breakaway of the Congress party.[1] Shri. Morarji Desai became the first Prime Minister of the Coalition government and it lasted about two year and again there started some dissention on ideological ground and Shri. Charan Singh formed another coalition government in 1979. The big difference between the first coalition government and the present one is that the first one was heavily disposed to the poor and the marginalized and the present one is totally against such orientation. More than that the present coalition is one of unmatched patch up. The right-wing political party BJP is strongly guided by cultural politics while their allies like TDP and JDU are directed by constitutional guidelines. This means, as Chandrababu Naidu propagated, TDP will stand by the welfare and protection of the Minorities, especially Muslims and Nitish Kumar will work for the OBC and so undertook caste-based census in spite BJP's strong resistance. In other words, both Naidu and Nitish are for a welfare government to uplift the poor, minorities and the marginalized, BJP will strongly push for crony capitalism and as the result, there is going to be clash of ideas, ideals and interests. A compromise between these two ideological polarities will be some throwaways from the Union government to both of them, i.e., to accord their demands, to treat both the state with special status and to release each Rs. 1.50 lakh crores as one time grant to build their infrastructure improve the state. While the first demand may not come true, the second may be possible, but at what cost? At any cost, their alliance with such anti-minority and anti-poor political force is not going to have a smooth sail for BJP. What is going to happen in the coming months are political storms and tsunamis. If both tents stick to their ideological grounds, it is sure to end up in a collapse. If they stick together with compromises and conveniences, they will be betraying in people who voted them to power on the basis that they will keep their words. Betraying their words, will reflect in their state electoral polls, immediately in Bihar which is going for assembly election next year. Anyway, there is going to be political skirmishes within NDA. What is the way forward? The opposition is the only way forward.

The only consolation is the opposition. Their political philosophy and ethics of political alliance become a big hope. Mr. Rahul Gandhi as a star leader in Congress, Mr. Mallikarjun Karghe, a seasoned and veteran politician, their allies like DMK leader, TMC Supremo Ms. Mamta, Sharad Pawar a political heavy weight and Uddhav Thakerey all of whom have strong people centered political agenda will be the real solution to Indian political future. What is more important is that people should be the focus in their political drama and political stunt. Ultimately people are the heroes of a nation and all others are their servants. When we lose sight of this, everybody will face political vanavasa.

[1] Sara Shamim, AL Jaseera, June 7, 2024

**Dr. Selvaraj Arulnathan SJ**  
Director

### RECENT EVENT

#### SOCIAL INCLUSION AND DEMOCRACY - Youth demand for the people's entitlements

A three-day youth capacity building training program was organized from 19th to 21st January 2024, by Social Inclusion & Democracy Unit of Indian Social Institute Bengaluru, in collaboration with KCF Catholic Union, Andersonpet, Channarayana KCF. Thirty young and energetic 30 people (21 Boys & 09 Girls) participated very actively in the sessions on the Constitution's 73rd and 74th Amendment Acts. These Acts mandate reservation of one-third of seats for women in Panchayati Raj. It was an eye opener for the participants that the 74th Amendment Act of 1992 provides a basic framework of decentralization of power and authority to the Municipal bodies at different levels.



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#### SOCIAL INCLUSION AND DEMOCRACY - Advance Module IV: Liberalisation, Privatisation and Globalisation

The advanced training aimed at capacity building of about 21 youth from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana with a comprehensive understanding of the key concepts and implications of Liberalisation, Privatisation and Globalisation. Over the course of five days, youth engaged in sharing the positives and challenges of Globalisation; understanding corporatisation; and the impact of Liberalisation, Privatisation and Globalisation. Besides, Mr Deepak Srinivasan, artist from Ranga Bhumi gave a new experience to the youth by taking them on nature walk, exploring senses and mapping tools for learning and experiences in the morning sessions.

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#### LABOUR MIGRATION - An interactive Session on "Safe & Dignified Migration" at the World Social Forum (WSF) in Kathmandu, Nepal.

The World Social Forum (WSF) 2024 was held in Kathmandu, Nepal from 15th to 19th February 2024. About 50,000 participants from almost 92 countries of the world came together proclaiming "Another World is Possible". Indian Social Institute, Bangalore was represented by Fr. Anthony Dass SJ, the Vice-President and Fr. Dr. M.G. Selvin Raj SJ, Head, Labour Migration Unit along with the Forum of Religious for Peace & Justice, India.



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#### LABOUR MIGRATION - Children's a day out from the Migrant location: LB Shastri Nagar, Bangalore

About 28 migrant children and a few youths from L B Shastri Nagar gathered at ISI B for a day's out on February 25, 2023. They were so enthused by at ISI B and involved in a variety of performances in which they exhibited their talents and skills. Jesuits from ISI management were there along with Fr. Selvin Raj, the unit coordinator to encourage and entice the children. They arrived around 9.45 and started off with the program. There were a variety of stage performance like dancing, singing and other programs.

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#### LABOUR MIGRATION - WORKSHOP ON "PSYCHO SOCIAL CARE FOR THE MIGRANTS"

The workshop on Psycho-Social care for the migrants, organized by the Labour Migration Unit of the Indian Social Institute (ISI), commenced with invoking of God's presence by a prayer song sung by Ms. Lakshmi, our support staff of ISI B. Ms. R. Yuktha a participant of the workshop recited the preamble of the Indian Constitution at the inaugural session of the workshop. Dr. Selvaraj Arulnathan SJ, Fr. Anthony Das SJ, and Fr. Francis Balaram SJ graced the occasion.



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#### Celebrating International Women's Day: Inspiring Inclusion and Empowerment

"In essence, the International Women's Day Celebration was more than just an event; it was a reaffirmation of the inherent strength and resilience of women, united in their quest for equality and inclusion". March 11, 2024, marked a significant day for Indian Social Institute Bangalore, where the spirit of inclusivity and empowerment resonated through the halls. Collaborating with SICHREM MANASA & Civic Bangalore, the International Women's Day Celebration unfolded as a testament to the collective strength and resilience of women, under the inspiring theme of "Inspire Inclusion". Sr. Lilly and Mrs. Manjanna greeted 60 enthusiastic women attendees, accompanied by supportive men.

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#### Visit by MSW Students & Faculty of Osmania University

On the 3rd April, 2024, 30 MSW students and faculty from Osmania University, Hyderabad on a study tour visited Indian Social Institute, Bengaluru. The students were orientated about the various works of the institute, especially on the three thematic areas i.e. Social Inclusion and Democracy, Labour Migration and Peace and Reconciliation.



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### WELCOME TO THE NEW JESUIT STAFF

#### Dr. Fr. Denzil Fernandes SJ Head, Peace & Reconciliation Unit



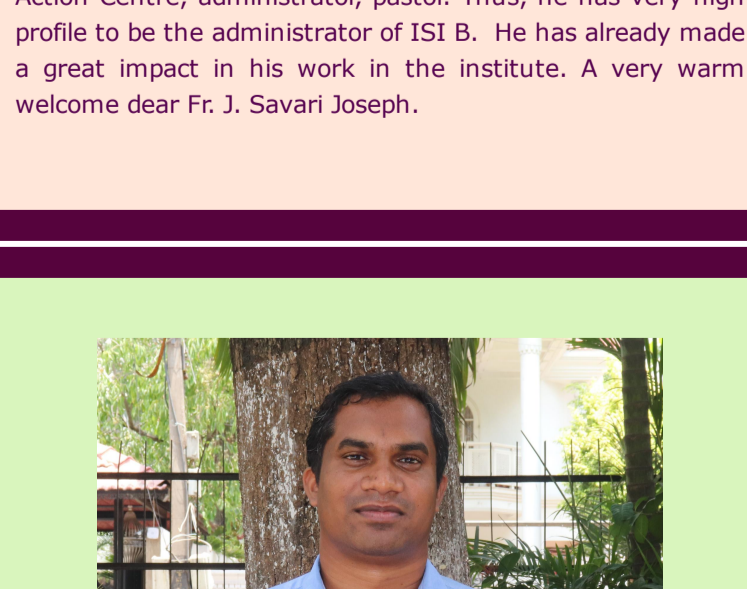
ISI warmly welcomes Dr. Denzil Fernandes SJ a Jesuit priest belonging to the Goa Jesuit Province. He is currently the Head of the Peace and Reconciliation Unit of the Indian Social Institute, Bangalore, from June 2024. Earlier, he served as the Executive Director of the Indian Social Institute, New Delhi, for 8 years from 2015-2023. He was also the Editor of the quarterly journal, Social Action, a University Grants Commission (UGC) approved social science journal from 2015-2023. He holds two post graduate degrees in Economics and Politics from the University of Pune. He was awarded a Ph.D. in Social Sciences from Ista Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai, in 2012 for his book "Social Networks in the Construction Labour Market in Goa". He has co-authored and co-edited six books. He has participated in several national and international seminars and conferences. He has written many articles in reputed journals on labour economics, politics, migration and sustainable development. He has served as a member of academic committees and on the editorial board of journals and magazines. He was conferred the Delhi Minorities Commission Human Rights Award 2019 for his work on human, civil and minority rights in India.

#### Fr. Savari Joseph SJ Administrator

ISI warmly welcomes the new Administrator Fr. J. Savari Joseph SJ. He is from the Jesuit Pune province. He is very young and energetic; maintains a cordial and compassionate relations with the staff. He has a Master's Degree in Theology with special focus on Youth Ministry. As a result, he spent good time with the youth in various capacities as vocation promoter of the province, Asst. Director of a Social Action Centre, administrator, pastor. Thus, he has very high profile to be the administrator of ISI B. He has already made a great impact in his work in the institute. A very warm welcome dear Fr. J. Savari Joseph.



#### Fr. Sameer Minj SJ Head, Labour Migration Unit



ISI cordially welcomes Fr Sameer Minj SJ, the new Head, Labor Migration Unit. He is from Jesuit Madhya Pradesh province. He holds two bachelor's degree in science and law. He has worked among migrants in his province. Since, he knows Hindi, he will do a great job with the distress migrants from northern India. His experience among the distress migrants will be a great incentive to develop the unit to the next stage. ISI wishes him great time and warmly welcomes him.