



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2023 - 2024



**INDIAN SOCIAL INSTITUTE**  
BENGALURU

## IDENTITY

Indian Social Institute, Bengaluru (ISI-B) is a 'Training and Resource Centre', enabled by research, facilitating advocacy engagements.

To Build an Egalitarian and Inclusive Society by Promoting Socially Conscious Communities.

## VISION

## MISSION

The institute engages in 'Training of Trainers' and leaders of marginalized communities with a special focus on South India, through holistic and quality capacity-building training, enabled by research-based knowledge, networking, and advocacy engagements, to claim their entitlements and rights and to improve the quality of life.

- Dalits, Dalit Christians, Adivasis, Minorities, Unorganized Laborers, Fisher folk, and Distress migrants, with a special focus on women and youth
- Community leaders, CSOs People's Movements and Jesuit Social Centers

## PRIMARY STAKEHOLDERS

## THEMATIC AREAS

Social Inclusion and Democracy  
Labour Migration  
Peace and Reconciliation

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# INDIAN SOCIAL INSTITUTE

## BENGALURU

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# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2023 - 2024



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## OUR JOURNEY

**1961**

ISI Bengaluru begins as an extension center to ISI Delhi

**1963**

Fr. Henry Volken SJ, came & extended the training center

**1993**

ISI Bengaluru became an independent organization

**2000**

Human Rights unit was started

**2001**

Outreach unit was established

**2004**

Women's Unit was started

**2013**

Revisit of its vision and mission and major evaluation of outreach programs

**2015**

Labor & Migration Unit was started

**2017**

Perspective Strategic planning & launch of Cadre formation program

**2020**

New thematic areas:  
Social Inclusion & Democracy  
Labor Migration  
Peace & Reconciliation

**2023**

Peace and Reconciliation Unit was started

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

The academic year 2023–24 was marked by very many eventful programs at Indian Social Institute, Bangalore (ISI B). It started off with a team of new Superior and Director who brought in new enthusiasm, vision and animation skills both at the community and the institute to take forward the institute to yet another height to be true to its legacy of *marching with the marginalized for an egalitarian society* with ever renewed and revived spirit. As the institute gradually stepped out of the glitzes of its Diamond Jubilee memoirs culminating in the *Volken-Stan Diamond Jubilee Memorial Lecture* on the “**Role of Civil Society for a Vibrant Political Democracy**” on July 29, 2023 has now entered into newer miles and milestone for the next academic year especially in identifying new training partners and collaborators.



### *Fostering Democratic Processes*

Another important mission that ISI B took up academic year 2023 – 24 was “*Fostering Democratic Processes*” with the civil society groups in view of the forthcoming 18<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha Elections in April–May 2024. ISI B with the “*go ahead-green signal*” of the Governing Board meeting held last August 2023, launched this new collaborative venture to prepare our voters properly for the 18<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha Elections to be held in April – May 2024. It was a great occasion and learning experience to bring together hundreds of democratic agencies from across the nation to reach out to the people mainly to campaign and help to register new voters, re-register missing voters, encourage the voters to go to voting in large numbers leaving no one behind and to vote against anti-democratic forces in their respective constituencies, etc. In the National Consultation meeting held at ISI B in October 2023, hundreds of organizations from all over the country participated, became a strong witness and loud message that we were for a change in the county. This process and the momentum we created were in full swing till the last phase of the election was over. People realized through this campaign that ‘*we the people of India take responsibility to change this nation and make a vibrant country for our future generation*’ was sentiment shared by one of the participants at ISI B. This also spelt the clear message that our votes are our rights. It was a great learning process as we witnessed innumerable individuals and organizations committed to establish constitutional democracy to take centre stage

in the country, not corrupt and corporate sectors to dictate terms on us. The huge turnover of NGOs and people's organizations at ISI B to deliberate and vow to bring true democracy thrive in the country was a signal proof and starting point of political change.

### ***Peace and Reconciliation Unit (P&R): Another Feather in ISI B Cap***

Indian Social Institute, Bangalore, launched yet another socio-educational program– **Peace and Reconciliation**– as part of the Jesuit Conference of South Asian Apostolic Preference towards the promotion of Peace and Solidarity in Justice. The unit was inaugurated on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023, contending to address the socio-political and religious conflicts wedged by unjust social structures, majoritarian ideology and disproportionate political power relations leading to multiple forms of violence and xenophobia. Responding proactively, our deliberate choice is to commit ourselves to the promotion of Peace and Reconciliation through Right Educational Mediation and Social Intervention. This unit envisions to promote Peace and Reconciliation through Communicative Education and Empowerment Action. It is aimed at evolving and engaging Dialogical, Inter-Relational, inter-religious and inter-cultural Educational Praxis towards Cultural Inclusivity enabled by Peace and Justice discourses and engagements. Training the youth as Peace Practitioners and Promoters for Peace Praxis in Civil Society is another face of the unit.

### ***Social Inclusion and Democracy Unit (SID)***

This unit which was formerly known as Outreach unit has been one of the earliest training units of the institute. While units like research Unit, Human Rights Unit, Women's Unit were merged into other units SID remains pretty the same with the change of name of the unit to suit the new thematic division. It has been engaging in training, conscientizing and leading south Indian rural NGOs, CSOs, People's Movements (PMs) and other like-minded organization for more than 4 decades towards effective and efficacious social change project. The program itself has given way for the emergence of dozens of NGOs in South India who proudly claim as the children of ISI B or the alumni of the institute and who have been trained to take us the cause of the people in the margins.

The training program which was started in 2017 under the aegis of “***Cadre Formation and Capacity Building***” under Outreach unit does the same training and capacity building under Social Inclusion and Democracy unit after the reformulation to accommodate the Conference Apostolic Priority model of thematic division. It has



just completed the one batch of NGO partners under Basic Module and is going for new partners who will be trained for the next two years. In the same way the advanced training module will come to a fruit with the current partners and will go for new partners thus catering to as many NGOs as possible in south India.

### ***Labor Migration Unit (LM)***

has been making its stride in four major areas: identifying migrant settlements in Bangalore city and reaching out to them in their day-to-day needs like helpline needs, conducting medical camps in collaboration with St. Philomina's Hospital, St. Martha's Hospital, networking with other organizations which are working in Bangalore migrant slum areas, collaboration with other distress and internal migrants: inter-state and intra-state migration networks, capacitating migrant through conscientization and working towards safe and positive migration policies through networking. In the recent years ISI B has been a networking partner with Migrant Assistance and Information Network (MAIN), a South-Asian Jesuit initiative to work among distress migrants and network with national and international initiatives of labour and migration issues.

### ***Best Practices***

#### **i. Internship**

Internship is another integral component of ISI B program. Many universities and colleges send their PG students from social sciences disciplines for internship who spend about a month at ISI, learn various ideas, orientations and activities of the institute and return to their respective institutions with rich experiences. Many students also help the institute develop some course materials and draw inspiration for their future career. Quite man of our interns promises to enter into working with the marginalized communities. Some of them even help refine our training modules and write articles to some magazines and journals. One of such interns recently worked in the Peace and Reconciliation unit, prepared PowerPoint presentation, wrote an article and got it published in Pax Lumina. I am also happy to inform you that we are going to have interns from abroad, from Europe and USA in the coming year.

Many colleges send their students in groups to visit our institute and get to know of our works. Our academic teams deal with various unit activities and the visitors leave the campus fully satisfied and energized.

#### **ii. Jesuit Staff Meeting (JSM)**

JSM is a practice which was in place but given up over the time was reintroduced in this academic year to discuss various happenings of the institute, take up new suggestions and proposals for the effective governance of the activities and whatever emerges for the better administration and effective conduct of its various activities help develop the institute more and more.

### **iii. Staff Reporting Meeting**

Staff Reporting Meeting is conducted every alternative month to review the activities of different units, both academic and administrative. During this meeting all the academic and administrative staff are present to give the report of their respective units and also follow up the activities of other units so that they are kept in the loop, and also are encouraged to give their opinion and remarks to make the activities better and more effective. This helps us get an update of all the events, activities and other things that the institute takes up.

### **iv. Upgradation of Facilities**

We have also taken up some upgradation of our facilities in order to serve better for the increased demands and requests for more accommodation and other facilities. In view of fulfil this need, we are building 19 rooms with a total of 40 beds with self-contained rooms and other modest, but comfortable facilities. This, we are sure will help more NGOs and will also bring more revenue to the institute to make it fully self-reliant and self-sustainable.

The institute is becoming more and more visible and sought after place as it has housed more than a dozen NGOs whose clients also carry the good feelings and warm reception they enjoy in the campus. It is very heartening to hear from someone that ISI B is a NGO university; many consider this place as NGOs hub under which many things happen for the development and empowerment of various categories of people in the margins and excluded. The new team of Jesuits and a little bit of change in the staff have brought new life and new style to the institute.

Completing 60 years in the engagement of Civil Society activism, the institute moves ahead without making any compromise with its motto, but constantly refocusing and revisiting its objective and renewing in order to meaningfully engage in making its dreams realizable at very turn of event and social scenario.

**Selvaraj Arulnathan SJ**

Director

## A. SOCIAL INCLUSION AND DEMOCRACY UNIT

The special focus of Social Inclusion & Democracy unit is to provide easy access to students, rural youth, teachers, advocates and social workers to broaden their intellectual horizon and sharpen their leadership skills and develop a humane perspective so that they can effectively play the role of organic intellectuals for their communities in their areas. Democratisation of knowledge, deeper appreciation of the Constitutional provisions, strengthening local governance, developing democratic culture and promoting inclusive approach to human development are some of the primary objectives of this unit.

This unit has five hubs – Central hub and four state hubs. The central hub in a special way, focuses on programmes at Bangalore, South India and National level, keeping English as medium of training in most of the programmes, while the state hubs focuses on South Indian states level on training of trainers, especially unorganized rural and semi-urban youth and women belonging to marginalized communities. All the training programs are conducted in the respective regional language.

Some of the major programmes of the Central hub and the key stakeholders include: Socio-cultural analysis, training of teachers and students, current issues and challenges, educational issues and minority rights, human rights education and celebration, addressing human rights violations and promote Dalit, Adivasi and women rights, etc. In the states, a 10-phased training programs are offered in partnership with local NGOs in the field. Advance training is offered for those who have successfully completed basic training at the institute premises.

The tables give the summary of the programs the unit conducted at ISI B and also in the southern states.

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### ANDHRA PRADESH & TELANGANA UNIT

S. No	Topic	Date	Place	No of Participants	Male	Female
1	Basic Module 3: People's Entitlements	17-19 Feb 2023	Ravulapalem	35	20	15
2	Basic Module 3: People's Entitlements	17-19 Mar 2023	Pulivendula	70	45	25
3	State Level NGO Heads Review	26 Apr 2023	Guntur	11	8	3
4	Basic Module 4: Understanding and Reducing Vulnerabilities	18-20 May 2023	Kadapa	32	20	12
5	Basic Module 4: Understanding and Reducing Vulnerabilities	5-7 Jun 2023	Seethampeta	35	21	14
6	Basic Module 4: Understanding and Reducing Vulnerabilities	26-28 Jul 2023	Bhadrachalam	36	22	13
7	Basic Module 4: Understanding and Reducing Vulnerabilities	4-6 Jul 2023	Ravulapalem	27	18	9
8	Advanced Module 3: 'Legal Literacy' -State Level	26-30 July 2023	Peddakakani	13	9	4
9	Basic Module 5: 'Women and Mother Earth'	17-19 August 2023	Veeraghattam	35	15	20
10	Basic Module 5: 'Women and Mother Earth'	9-11 August 2023	Venkatapuram	35	12	23
11	Basic Module 5: 'Women and Mother Earth'	29-31 August 2023	Kadapa	32	20	12

12	Basic Module 5: 'Women and Mother Earth	30 Sep-02 Oct 2023	Ravulapalem	45	23	22
13	Basic Module 6: 'Participation and Accountability'	16 -18 Oct 2023	Bhadrachalam	35	15	20
14	Basic Module 6: Participation and Accountability	27-29 Oct 2023	Kadapa	35	18	17
15	Basic Module 6: Participation and Accountability	16-18 Nov 2023	Seethampeta	35	20	15
16	Basic Module 6: Participation and Accountability	29 Nov-1 Dec 2023	Ravulapalem	36	16	20



## KARNATAKA UNIT

S. No	Topic	Date	Place	No of Participants	Male	Female
1	Basic Module 3: People's Entitlements	-	Gulbarga	20	12	8
2	State Level NGO Heads Review	5 May 2023	Gulbarga	10	6	4
3	Basic Module 5: 'Women and Mother Earth'	17-19 Nov 2023	KGF	31	24	7
4	Basic Module 5&6: Gender, Environment & Panchayat Raj	15-17 Dec 2023	Vijayapura	30	17	13
5	Basic Module 5&6: Gender, Environment & Panchayat Raj	26-28 Jan 2024	Gulbarga	25	18	7
6	Basic Module 6: Participation and Accountability	19-21 Jan 2024	KGF	30	21	9



KERALA UNIT						
S. No	Topic	Date	Place	No of Participants	Male	Female
1	State Level NGO Heads Review	2 May 2023	Kalady	16	10	6
2	Basic Module 4: Understanding & Reducing Vulnerabilities	20 May 2023	Kollam	26	13	13
3	Basic Module 4: Understanding & Reducing Vulnerabilities	29 May 2023	Kannur	19	8	11
4	Basic Module 4: Understanding & Reducing Vulnerabilities	23-25 June 2023	Wayanad	24	13	11
5	Basic Module 4: Understanding & Reducing Vulnerabilities	-	Trivandrum	34	20	14
6	Basic Module 5: Women and Mother Earth'	11-13 August 2023	Trivandrum	31	18	13
7	Basic Module 5: Women and Mother Earth	25-27 August 2023	Wayanad	23	14	9
8	Basic Module 5: Women and Mother Earth	22-24 Sep 2023	Kannur	23	11	12
9	Basic Module 6: Participation and Accountability	10-12 Nov 2023	Trivandrum	34	20	14
10	Basic Module 6: Participation and Accountability	17-19 November 2023	Wayanad	20	11	9

11	Basic Module 6: Participation and Accountability	24-26 November 2023	Kollam	22	13	9
12	Basic Module 6: Participation and Accountability	27-29 Dec 2023	Kannur	25	11	14



### TAMILNADU & PUDUCHERRY UNIT

S. No	Topic	Date	Place	No of Participants	Male	Female
1	Basic Module 2: Democracy and Citizenship	27 & 28 Jan 2023	Salem	35	13	22
2	Basic Module 3: People's Entitlements	04-06 Feb 2023	Trichy	34	20	14
3	Basic Module 3: People's Entitlements	17-19 Feb 2023	Puducherry	37	11	26



4	Basic Module 3: People's Entitlements	10-12 Mar 2023	Vikravandi	36	8	28
5	Basic Module 3: People's Entitlements	17-19 Mar 2023	Salem	7	54	61
6	State Level NGO Heads Review	22 April 2023	Vikrvandi	10	9	1
7	Basic Module 4: Understanding and Reducing the Vulnerabilities	05-07 May 2023	Puducherry	33	6	27
8	Basic Module 4: Understanding and Reducing the Vulnerabilities	19-21 May 2023	Trichy	32	21	11
9	Basic Module 4: Understanding and Reducing the Vulnerabilities	02-04 June 2023	Salem	58	7	51
10	Basic Module 4: Understanding and Reducing the Vulnerabilities	09-11 June 2023	Vikravandi	36	18	18
11	Advanced Module 3: 'Legal Literacy' -State Level	01-05 July 2023	Siruseri-Chengalpet	13	4	9
12	Basic Module 5: Women and Mother Earth	11-13 Aug 2023	Puducherry	43	15	28
13	Basic Module 5: Women and Mother Earth	08-10 Sep 2023	Salem	52	6	46
14	Basic Module 5: Women and Mother Earth	16-18 Sep 2023	Trichy	38	16	22

15	Basic Module 5: Women and Mother Earth	13-15 Oct 2023	Vikravandi	46	4	42
16	Basic Module 6: Participation and Accountability	09-11 Nov 2023	Salem	38	5	33
17	Basic Module 6: Participation and Accountability	17-19 Nov 2023	Puducherry	52	9	43
18	Basic Module 6: Participation and Accountability	01-03 Dec 2023	Trichy	42	10	32
19	Basic Module 6: Participation and Accountability	07-12 Dec 2023	Vikravandi	38	3	35



CENTRAL HUB / INSTITUTE PROGRAM						
S. No	Topic	Date	Place	No of Participants	Male	Female
1	Webinar on Stan, a Man of Faith and Justice	21 July 2023	ISI-B (Online)	40	40	-
2	A Diamond Jubilee Volken-Stan Swamy Memorial Lecture, 2023	29 July 2023	ISI-B	150	-	-
3	State level Workshop on PoA Act: Fighting Caste Violence through Law	30 Sept to 01 October 2023	ISI-B	23	6	17
4	A Two day National Level Consultation on Fostering Democratic Process	7-8 October 2023	ISI-B	130	80	50
5	Advanced Module 4: Liberalisation, Privatisation and Globalisation	4-8 November 2023	ISI-B	21	16	5
6	Social Analysis (Kannada)	15-19 Nov 2023	ISI-B	21	5	16
7	Yuva Hakku: Youth for Diversity, Inclusion and Human Rights	1-10 Dec 2023	Bengaluru (Various locations)	Approx 5,000	-	-

8	Human Rights Education Course for St Aloysius College	4-6 January 2024	ISI-B	35	35	15
9	South India Level Workshop on PoA Act: Fighting Caste Violence and Prejudices & Strengthening the Dignity of the Marginalised	7&8 January 2024	ISI-B	50	49	1
10	Social Analysis for AICUF Students & Animators	12-15 January 2024	ISI-B	35	50	15
11	South India Level Youth Cultrural & Learning & Sharing	10-11 February 2024	ISI-B	150	80	70
12	Advanced Module 5: Organisation & Management Skills	12-15 February 2024	ISI-B	25	10	35
13	Celebrating International Women's Day: Inspiring Inclusion and Empowerment	11 March 2024	ISI-B	60	-	60

14	Critical Thinking & Socio-cultural Analysis	15-27 April 2024	ISIB	17	14	3
15	<b>Exposure Visits:</b> <b>Orientation to NGOs/ Institutions</b> Bembala (St Joseph's University), St Aloysius College, Bangalore City University, Bangalore, Kasturba College for Women, Villanur, Bharathiya Vidyapeeth Social Work College, Solapur, Osmania University, Secunderabad		ISI-B	125		
16	<b>Student Interns:</b> St Joseph's University, St Joseph's Commerce College, Mercy Mission Foundation		ISI-B	6		

17	Awareness on Electoral Democracy		ISI-B	Programmes conducted in ISI-B & different parts of Karnataka in collaboration with Eddelu Karnataka		
18	Consultations- Current Issues		ISI-B	Only 2 or 3 programmes were conducted -People's Manifesto -Mukti Alliance Meeting (civil society)		



## B. LABOUR MIGRATION UNIT

The goal of the unit is to accompany the distress migrant workers, especially Dalits, Adivasis and other marginalized groups in South India to become aware of and access to political, economic, and labour rights and entitlements.

### The interventions include

- \* Visit to the place where migrants gather and are settled in the urban areas;
- \* Organize consultations to generate awareness and spread the importance of the migration issue;
- \* Conduct workshops and training to impart skills and capacities to distress migrants;
- \* Network with individuals and organizations working with migrants in South India;
- \* Network with MAIN and other national centres who work among migrants in South Asia;
- \* Participate in celebrations of migrant workers and handhold support to the pastoral, spiritual and socio-psychological care, and
- \* Provide assistance to select most deserving persons, and build linkages by establishing contacts with sources and destinations place of migration.

The following are the programs conducted in the unit for the academic year 2023 -24.

LABOUR MIGRATION UNIT						
S. No	Topic	Date	Place	No of Participants	Male	Female
1	Workshop on “Capacity Building”	26-28 July 2023	ISI-B	-	-	-
2	Workshop on Legal Literacy	13-15 Sep 2023	Secunderabad	-	-	-

3	Medical Services to the Migrants in Bangalore	26 Nov 2023	L.B Shastri Nagar & Jyothi Nagar, Bangalore	110	-	-
4	An interactive session on “Safe & Dignified Migration” at the World Social Forum (WSF).	15-19 Feb 2024	Kathmandu, Nepal	-	-	-
5	Children’s a day out from the Migrant location: LB Shastry Nagar, Bangalore	25 Feb 2024	ISI-B	28	-	-
6	WORKSHOP ON “PSYCHO SOCIAL CARE FOR THE MIGRANTS”	14-16 March 2024	ISI-B	-	-	-

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## C. PEACE AND RECONCILIATION UNIT

### Context

The Indian Social Institute, Bangalore, launched yet another socio-educational program called *Peace and Reconciliation* as part of the Jesuit Conference of South Asian Apostolic Preference towards the promotion of Peace and Solidarity in Justice. The unit was inaugurated on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023, contending to address the socio-political conflicts wedged by unjust social structures, unequal sharing of economic and natural resources, and disproportionate political power relations– the multiple forms of violence and historical injustice. Responding proactively, our deliberate choice is to commit ourselves to the promotion of Peace and Reconciliation through Right Educational Mediation and Social Intervention.

### Vision

Promotion of Peace and Reconciliation through Communicative Education and Empowerment Action.

### Mission

Evolving and Engaging Dialogical, Inter- Relational, Educational Praxis towards Cultural Inclusivity enabled by Peace & Justice Perspectives. Training the youth as Peace Practitioners and initiate Peace Praxis in Civil Society.

### Strategi Interventional Areas

- \* Restructuring Education as Transformative Pedagogical Intervention to Positive Peace, Conflict Analysis & Reconciliation Strategies.
- \* Nurturing Peace Education Praxis by way of identifying Peace-Enabling Knowledge Perspectives and Reconciliation Practices enriched from Life-Narratives and Experiences.
- \* Researching Conceptual Foundations and undertaking Field Study in view of Peace and Reconciliation.
- \* Evolving contextually relevant educational curriculum on Peace as Justice with special focus on the development of the socially excluded.

- \* Identifying, training and developing Transformational Peace Practitioners in schools and colleges and in rural/urban communities.
- \* Establishing Research Centre with Documentation and Resource Facilitation on Peace and Conflict Studies.
- \* Providing Interactive Peace Experience through campaigns and Lived-Experience.

### **Need for Peace & Reconciliation Praxis**

- \* We understand that enabling Peace within and the social world is an ongoing process entailing community formation and participation.
- \* We understand that existential threats to humanly shared future is due to International-national and local political-conflict configurations.
- \* We understand that the Pan-Indian Academic system mainly focuses on 'Employment- Competency', which serves the profit-interests of the privileged-privatized class and hence deprived of promoting 'Social-Competency', which alternatively urges the need to 're-conceptualize' Education as Transformative Pedagogy for enabling peace loving humane community.

### **We draw our intellectual resources and inspiration from,**

- \* Inter-Cultural Faith Traditions and Ecumenical- Scriptural Hermeneutics.
- \* Asian Philosophical Heritage and Peace Enabling Ethnic Cultural Practices.
- \* Jesuit Conference of South Asia (JSCA)
- \* UN / UNESCO Guidelines.
- \* Peace Activists and People's Experiences.

### **Research baes interventions**

1. We offer *consultative services to Research undertakings* focusing on Peace and Social Development.
2. We support *publication of contextually relevant research papers* on Peace and Reconciliation Studies.
3. We undertake *Field-Study in conflict- prompted regions*.

## Our Collaborative Guidance from

- \* Jesuit Conference South Asia (JCSA)
- \* Indian Social Institute – New Delhi
- \* Jesuit Provinces – Peace & Reconciliation Cells.
- \* Loyola Institute of Peace and International Relations (LIPI)

## Contact us:

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## D. MAJOR EVENTS & CELEBRATIONS

2023 - 2024

### JUNE

- 01 New Superior & Director assume office and start working from day 1.
- 02 Jesuit Staff Meeting (JSM) was conducted at 11 am to have a preliminary sharing of the Institute Jesuits' appraisal of the institute.
- 05 Jesuit Staff Meeting (JSM) was conducted as a continuation of the previous meeting on June 2
- 09 Interview for the position of Receptionist & Residence In-charge was held
- 14 Tasks report meeting was held in the forenoon.
- 20 The archbishop called for a meeting of various institute heads and the director attended the meeting at Paalana Bhavan, Bishop's house regarding the forthcoming General Elections of 2024, the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), and the Christian Research Centre. The archbishop acknowledged and appreciated the contribution of ISI B in the Assembly election campaign.

### JULY

- 05 Fr. Stan Swamy's 2<sup>nd</sup> Memorial service was organized at the institute. More than 40 people from various walks of life attended the memorial service and paid their tribute to the martyr.
- 22 The Jesuit staff had Community orientation program. Fr. Francis P Xavier animated the entire day.
- 29 Henry Volken-Stan Swamy Memorial lecture was organized at the institute in the evening on the "**Role of Civil Society for a Vibrant Political Democracy**". Hon'ble Justice K. Chandru was the main speaker whose lecture was responded by Dr Bernard D'Sami. Ms. Tara Rao moderated the session. Well attended participation.



- 31 Ignatius feast was celebrated at the institute. More than 100 people participated and encouraged our mission.

## AUGUST

- 2 Meeting for the Admin, Maintenance & Kitchen staff was held and were encourage to help the management to run the institute smoothly.
- 3 Conducted the staff Tasks report meeting for which all the academic and admin staff were present.

5. Governing Board (GB) and Annual General Body (AGB) meeting were held at ISI premises. The President Dr. Jerome Stanislaus D'Souza conducted the meeting.



- 22 Fr. Francis Balaraj SJ pronounced his Final vows. Both the provincials of South Asia and Karnataka were present for the celebration. Only limited guests were invited and made the occasion very meaningful and eventful.

## SEPTEMBER

12-16 The institute organized Finance Management Course at ISI B from September 12 till 16 for basic module and 18 till 22 September for advanced module. This course was designed and conducted by Fr. G. Alex of Jesuit 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.

13-16 Indian Social Institute Bangalore (ISI) organised a “Workshop on Legal Literacy” for the NGOs and CSOs working with migrants in collaboration with CITRA (Centre for Information, Training, and Research Activities) and Loyola Academy, Secunderabad from September 13<sup>th</sup> till 15<sup>th</sup> at Loyola Academy, Secunderabad. Besides 40 NGO participants, about 300 students attended the first day sessions.



## OCTOBER 2023

2 ISI inaugurated yet another unit, “Peace and Reconciliation” to as part of the initiative of South Asian Jesuit conference Apostolic Preference (CAP). Prof. Shiv Viswanathan, Professor OP Jindal, Global University, Sonipet, Haryana gave the keynote address. This is in fulfilment with the thematic areas of ISI B as part of its apostolic activities.

7- 8 ISI B organized a two-day national level consultation on Fostering Democratic Process consultation in collaboration with Jesuits of South Asia, Social Justice and Ecological Secretariat (SJES), Delhi, 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.

- 9 ISI held the Tasks report meeting which is part of its bimonthly program. All the units updated their activities and feedback were given for better functioning.

### NOVEMBER 2023

- 4-8 SI & D unit organized an advanced module training program at ISI B. It was on Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization. The director took classes on New Economic Policy which was introduced in 1991 with the above mentioned three economic concepts to reshape Indian economic operations and system. Many from AP, TN and KA outreach participated as part of their fulfilment for this module.
- 14 Frs. Selva and Francis Balaraj met the archbishop along with the Eddelu Karnataka team of former union leaders to show solidarity in in the formers protest against the issues of farmers

### DECEMBER 2023

- 01 The Human Rights week celebrations started at ISI B at 10:30 am. The Director addressed and opened the weeklong HR celebrations which would take place at different places of oru NGO partners in the city and culminate at St. Joseph's University campus, Bangalore.



- 18 We had the Task Report Meeting at ISI B for all the staff
- 21 We had the combined staff meeting mainly to prepare for the Christmas celebrations. Besides, we also business session which we used to have every three months for some instructions and other activities
- 23 ISI celebrated the Christmas with the staff. All the family members were invited for the celebrations and we had a lot of variety program for the staff and especially for the children of our staff.

## JANUARY 2024

- 04-16 ISI conducted a certificate course on Human Rights Education at the institute. Fr. Selva was one of the resource persons.
- 13-14 AICUF had its Centenary year preparation workshop at ISI B. Fr. Director took classes both for the full timers and animators on the 13<sup>th</sup> and the 14<sup>th</sup>. Actual inauguration of the AICUF centenary was begun at ISI B.
- 20 We had the Jesuit Staff Meeting (JSM)
- 26-29 The JHEASA Annual National Conference was held at St. Xavier's Autonomous College, Kolkata. The Director attended the meeting.
- 30-31 ISI B took out a Picnic of the staff. The tour covered Trivandrum, Kanyakumari, St. Devasahayam Mount, Naguneri and other picnic places. The staff enjoyed the trip.



**FEBRUARY 2024**

- 2 Fr. Director held a meeting with Mercy Mission functionalities regarding the data collection project of Social Inclusion and Democracy units of Kerala and AP & Telangana. Fr. Francis Balaraj was also present in the meeting since it was his unit task.
- 3 Dalit Voice Consultation meeting was held at ISI B. The main functionalities of DV project Mr. Salil Shetty, Paul Divakar, Osama Manzor and Fr. Selva were present. Many invitees of the friends and collaborators of VTR were present.
- 5 Mercy Mission - ISI Survey session resumed with more input and online meeting with the data enumerators Ms Vindana and the other researchers. The meeting brought to light many issues and perspective that will emerge in the actual field survey.
- 7 We had the meeting on South Indian Outreach preparatory meeting. It was decided previously that the final evaluation meeting would be held at the state-level. Looking at the cost effectiveness and other logistical reasons, it was decided that all the six states will have commonly at ISI B for two days in order to bring them all together to become familiar with one another also to make it a grander celebration.
- 16-17 ISI B organized a two-day national conference on “Synodality and Empowerment of the Marginalized in India” with a special focus on Dalit Empowerment Policy of the CBCI document published in 2016 by SC/BC commission for the CBCI. Fr. Selva was one of the organizers. Three bishops including Anthony Cardinal Poola were present for the Inaugural function.
- 24 Fr. Selva attended and addressed an NGO network meeting in Pondicherry which works on Environmental issues in Tamilnadan. Nearly 20 NGOs from across



the state attended. At the end, we formed Environmental Network alliance and identified state and zonal coordinators to take forward the concerns of environmental issues.

## **MARCH 2024**

### **01 – Social Cohesion Meeting**

Dr. Selva attended the meeting along with Dr. Lourdanathan Social cohesion which was an initiative of ISI in collaboration with other educationists, NGOs and government civil servants. It is meant to bring amity and harmony among the citizens of the country. It was attended by nearly 20 prominent citizens of Bangalore.

### **3-4 – JCSA Treasures meeting – ISI-B**

ISI B hosted the 2-day JCSA treasurers meeting. Common house treasurers and the finance committee of JCSA were present for the meeting to finalize the budget of various communities in the JCSA conference.

### **9-10 – DC Intellectual meeting – ISI-B**

ISI B organized Dalit Intellectual Collective meeting in collaboration with National Dalit Christian Watch. Nearly 35 participants from all the southern states attended and discussed on the various issues that Dalits in general and Dalit Christians in particular go through in India, especially under the yoke of Hindutva regime.

### **12-13 – Task Reporting and Annual Reflection – ISI-B**

ISI B had the task reporting and Annual Reflection meeting for two days, March 12 & 13, 2024. All the three units participated and apprised of their activities for April 2023 to March 2024. The director conducted the meeting.

### **26 – ISI-B – GB-Meeting**

GB of ISI Bangalore. The budget for the financial year 2024-25 was presented and approved by the board.

## OUR HISTORY

Indian Social Institute, Bengaluru (ISI-B) celebrates the Diamond Jubilee in December 2023, a journey that began in 1963, with the mission of ‘accompanying the marginalized’ as an Extension Centre of Indian Social Institute, New Delhi (ISI-D).

### The Beginnings

In 1961, Fr. Jim Berna SJ and Mr. Ryan started the work of the **Extension Service** of ISI-Delhi, intending to support the Diocesan Developmental activities which had just taken off, in a big way in most of the dioceses. The lack of trained personnel in the development sector persuaded them to initiate a Training Centre as well. It was in 1963, with the arrival of Fr. Henry Volken SJ, the Training Centre took off in its full swing. The Extension Service was shifted to Delhi in 1966. With this change, ISI-B began its journey as a Training Centre responding to the massive changes/challenges in the developmental sector. The initial focus of the Training Centre was on ‘Community building among the poor, skill – courses on agriculture, kitchen gardens, poultry, nutrition and accountancy’. The Community Development approach of the Government of India added fervour to the efforts of ISI-B. Constant study of the changing environment and reflection on the changes made the team alert to creative ways of conceiving programmes and training activists. In the 70s, the Freirean philosophy and methodology dominated the training of ISI-B.

### The Early Focus

Soon after the Emergency, in 1975, and the context of the Asian Seminar on ‘**Structure Analysis**’ organized by Houtart and others, there was a radical shift in the understanding of development work. *The economic crisis and the political developments brought home the fact that the massive poverty of the Indian people had deep roots in the politics of the country and that the solution had to be of a political nature.*

Fr. Stan Lourdusamy SJ took charge of the Institute, as Fr. Volken moved out, and began an intense period of training social activists for political intervention through courses, ranging from three months to shorter periods. The participants were activists with grassroots contact, deeply conscious of the political dimension of poverty and

the need for a structural change. Meanwhile, the Documentation Centre of the Indian Social Institute also started functioning from Bengaluru giving massive intellectual input to activists all over India. In 1993, ISI-B became an independent institute. Since then, it has geared its activities/programmes based on three interrelated objectives:

- i. To align with the marginalized people for facilitating their empowerment
- ii. To network with sectoral, secular, and democratic movements, and
- iii. To collaborate with macro social forces.

### **In the post-liberal era**

The vision of empowering the powerless towards sustainable development in the context of the market-ushered economic order premised on privatization, liberalization and globalization adversely impacts with dire consequences the working classes, the poor and the weaker section, destroying the eco-systems, became the dominant view of ISI-B in the 1990s. The emergence of ultra-right-wing fundamentalist forces with a communal agenda, operating covertly and overtly, co-opting the marginalized sections has been posing a great threat to the secular and inclusive social fabric of the nation.

ISI-B has been trying to develop a critical awareness of these realities among the trainees and staff and thus enabling them to strengthen the Constitutional goals of Socialism, Secularism and Democracy.

### **At the dawn of the millennium**

In 2000, the Institute introduced the **Human Rights Unit** focusing on awareness of rights, campaigns, and advocacy at national and international levels. As the NGOs and activists preferred field-based training, especially in vernacular languages, in 2001, the **Outreach Unit** was initiated to strengthen peoples' organizations and movements of marginalized groups. Training and capacity-building programmes organized in collaboration with field-based organizations and networks became the core activities of the Outreach unit. In 2004, the **Women's Unit** came into being with a desire to integrate gender sensitivity into all the engagements of the institute. In the same year, a **Research Unit** was introduced, focusing on knowledge generation through action research and feeding the outcomes into training programmes to promote advocacy efforts.

In the post-neoliberal era, as South India became the destination point for the distress of labour migrants from the northern states, the institute in 2013, conducted a study on “The Status of Unorganized Labourers in Bangalore City”. The outcomes of the study led to the dawn of the “**Labour and Migration Unit**” in 2015.

In 2015, an ‘external evaluation’ was conducted. Based on the recommendations of the evaluation, the institute revisited its vision and mission and thrust areas. It worked on *Perspective Strategic Planning (PSP)* which gave an orientation towards the future. “Cadre Formation and Capacity Building” introduced in 2017, became a flagship programme for the outreach units. The institute brought together about 75 NGOs and peoples’ organizations under an umbrella of cadre formation, preparing Training of Trainers (ToT) at the grassroots who could be at the service of the village communities.

### **Universal and Conference Apostolic Preferences**

In 2019, as mandated by the General Congregation of the Society of Jesus, a set of Universal and Conference Apostolic Preferences were developed globally and in South Asia with bottom-up discernment processes. Responding to this development, in March 2020, the erstwhile Research, Human Rights and Training, Labour and Migration, Women and Outreach units gave way to new thematic areas:

- a. Social Inclusion and Democracy
- b. Labour Migration and
- c. Peace and Reconciliation

Owing to the Covid-19 impact, Peace and Reconciliation unit could not be initiated. Providentially, this unit will be inaugurated in 2023, the Diamond Jubilee year. ISI-B has been engaging in the search for relevance responding to the signs of the times. This process will go on until the priority communities are part and parcel of the mainstream society with rights, dignity, and improved quality of life.

## GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

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Fr. Anthony Dass SJ – Vice-President	Dr. Sebasti L Raj SJ – Member
Dr. Selvaraj Arulnathan SJ - Secretary	Ms. Brinda Adige - Member
Fr. Shiju Mathew SJ – Treasurer	Mr. Lukose Vallatharai - Member
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## STAFF OF THE INSTITUTE

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Fr. J. Savari Joseph SJ - Administrator

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 Fr. Sameer Minj SJ  
 Dr. Denzil Fernandes SJ  
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 Ms. Yashoda

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