

FOCUS

VOICE OF
SURABI

BI MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER

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OCT TO DEC 2023, VOLUME 1: ISSUE 8



Editorial

Hope – the essence of life

In the future, we'll look back at 2023 and recall a year that went by like a blink—and yet somehow felt like a long, did that really happen?

It was the year the pandemic was officially declared “over” by the World Health Organization.

Wildfires in Australia amplified concerns about global warming

This year saw the Israel-Palestine conflict grow into a full-blown war in Gaza following the Hamas attacks on Israel cities.

This added another ongoing conflict to the geopolitical landscape, which had been watching with concern the war in Ukraine.

Ethnic violence erupted in Manipur and over 180 people have been killed in violent clashes between the Meities and Kuki-Zo communities.

On June 2, as many as 296 people were killed in a train accident in Odisha of Coroman-

del Express derailed after a collision with a stationery goods train.

On November 12, when the nation lit up to celebrate Diwali, 41 construction workers were trapped inside an under-construction tunnel in Uttarakhand. They were safely rescued after 16 days of captivity.

Finally, as we are reading this, we are still recovering from the aftereffects of cyclone Michaung. Tamil Nadu, experienced days of heavy rains ahead of the storm. And Heavy rainfall continues across several districts in Tamil Nadu, causing floods and disruptions. But SURABI was there with a strong team of volunteers and staff, to address the affected people through C S R Partners, D B N partners and INM

Province. The months felt like weeks and the days felt like hours and yet even on the constant brink of turmoil, humanity did what it does best. Looking back can be messy because we have to acknowledge where we fell short. If we skip this step, however, we miss out on valuable insights. As you review your year, create three lists:

Things that are important for you to change going forward, things that are important to keep the same because they worked well things to let go of entirely.

To sum up all that we have been through and to prepare ourselves to forge ahead in the coming year, my catch phrase would be HOPE Harvard’s researchers examined the impact of HOPE on nearly 13,000

people with an average age of 66. They found those with more HOPE throughout their lives had better physical health and a longer life. Hope is the essence of life. Life is unpredictable, hard and quite notorious at times. Things go out of hand and beyond our control many times. Hope helps us keep the fight on and improves the chances of making our as well as others’ lives better.

Hope is a belief. You believe something good will happen. The intensity of this feeling can change your present and future.

Let’s have a Hope-filled year ahead, Thank you 2023 and Welcome to 2024.

I thank everyone of you for your wonderful support in partnering for change in society through your resourceful contributions across the world.

Merry Christmas and a Bright New year



Fr. Joseph Leo
DIRECTOR

Christmas Celebration at BEST Centres

In a recent breakthrough, our BEST project has achieved remarkable success by establishing meaningful connections with 10 Government schools and expanding its outreach to an astounding 750 additional institutions for the Joy of Giving initiative. This collaborative endeavor is poised to instill the spirit of generosity and make a positive impact on the lives of students



across a diverse range of educational settings. Furthermore, our Christmas Day celebration, held under the theme “Let’s Save,” witnessed the enthusiastic participation of 2300 students from Thalavadi,

Kadambur, Kotagiri, Gedilam and SIHARAM. The event not only showcased eco-friendly decorations but also featured enlightening workshops that delved into the core principles of environmental con-

servation. Together, these initiatives reflect our commitment to fostering a culture of giving, sustainability, and community engagement, leaving a lasting impression on the hearts and minds of all participants.





05 January, 2024

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Michaung Cyclone & INM Province Response

The impact of Cyclone Michaung has been severe, with heavy rains and strong surface winds caused a flood situation and significant disruptions to normal life. The incessant downpour, recorded at 468 millimeters in 35 hours, marks the highest rainfall in the last 47 years of Chennai history (in just 2 days - between 4th to 5th December 2023). 25 precious lives were consumed due to the flooding. The vulnera-

Emergency team got actively engaged in Rescue activities for 3 days with Cooked Food, Water, Bread, Biscuits and Medical camps.

ble population, particularly the elderly, youth, children, and those at Risk, were faced with dire conditions. Recognizing the gravity of the situation, the INM Province Emergency team got actively engaged in Rescue activities for 3 days (Cooked Food, Water, Bread and Biscuits, Medical camps) on the ground about 4650. Our Salesian commu-

nities worse affected were ANAT Farm, MKB Nagar, Basin Bridge, Beatitudes and Pope Johns Garden. Boys from ANAT Farm and Beatitudes were placed at Rinalidi, Kilpauk due to flooding. Our presences being in proximity to the slum population Manali, Perumbakkam, Kannagi Nagar, Basin Bridge, Beatitudes, MKB Nagar, TP Cha-

tram, Irular communities in Tiruvallur district too were most affected. They were helped with Relief initiatives with Dry ration kits (12338) and Blankets (700). Our Salesian communities especially MKB Nagar, Beatitudes, ANAT Farm needs the infrastructural modifications to the extent of re-locating as well. This humanitarian relief activities would not have been succeeded without the unrelenting and untiring involvement of the committed Salesian staff and the volunteers.



We thank you for the collaboration

05 January, 2024



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EDUCATING - SKILL BUILDING - EMPOWERING

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IBM SKILLSBUILD Training

IBM SKILLS-BUILD was launched in September in Tamil Nadu. IBM SKILLSBUILD is all about giving free online courses to the students. REACHA & SURABI organized online courses in 12 Don Bosco institutions, we oriented about the IBM SKILLSBUILD courses and guided them into the IBM SKILLSBUILD portal. The list of colleges we have oriented Sacred Heart College Tirupattur, Don Bosco College Yelagiri, Don Bosco College Dharmapuri, Don Bosco



Arts and Science College Chennai, SIGA Polytechnic College Chennai, Don Bosco Polytechnic College Basin Bridge, Don Bosco Polytechnic Col-

lege, Thirukazhukundram, Sagayathottam Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development Sagayathottam, Don Bosco ITI Polur, Don Bosco Vazhikaat-

ti Perambur, Don Bosco Arts and science college Karaikal and Auxilium College (Autonomous), Vellore. So far we are onboarded 2715 Students.

SHG Loan Distribution

On 08th Nov 2023, Loan Program for entrepreneurs at Basin Bridge Joe Tech ITI held at the venue. 30 Self Help Group for women INR 40000 granted for self-employment. The program started at 11.00.am in the morning with a prayer song greeting. In this event Fr. Sebastian-DBSSS Director , Mr. Ravi Kumar-Rotary club president, Mr. Guru-moorthy-Rotary Club member and DBSSS animators they participated.

Date: **08.11.23**

Place: **Basin Bridge**

Beneficiary:
30, SHG Members

Loan amount each:

40000/-



Empowering Women as Entrepreneurs and Leaders

I am Kanagavalli, member of Priya-manaval group. This is the third time I received loan from SURABI. Initially I was selling vegetables from my home, second time I utilized the amount to purchase a hand-ridden vehicle for selling vegetables to go around the streets. This time I planned to purchase a small four wheeler motor vehicle from the loan amount. This will help me to move from one part of the city to the other and sell the vegetables in the streets. Through which the financial status of my family increased and also



helps my children to continue their education without any disruption.

Saved by the Bell 2023



On the 5th of October 2023 was celebrated as International Teacher's Day by UNESCO, More and more children are getting access to education. SURABI, the Project Development Office of Salesians Chennai, together with VIA Don Bosco, Belgian NGO would like to join Studio Globo in supporting UNESCO to raise our voice for quality education and education for all which is one of the SDG's

Therefore, Studio Globo Belgium calls on all schools to participate in the symbolic action

Saved by the Bell, a massive ringing of school bells on the 5th of October 2023. To show its support for all children's right to good education.

Eight of our schools participated in this event, St. Bede's - Santhome, Don Bosco Matriculation Higher Secondary School - Pondicherry, Don Bosco Matriculation High-er Secondary School

- Redhills, Don Bosco Matriculation Higher Secondary School - Katpadi, Don Bosco Matriculation Higher Secondary School - Pannur, Don Bosco Matriculation Higher Secondary School - Thalavadi, Dominic Savio Matriculation School - Broadway and Don Bosco Matriculation Higher Secondary School - Ayanavaram. The Enthusiasm of the students and teachers are very much to be appreciated for their dedication in the activity of Saved by the bell

2023.

Let us take a moment to think about the children across the world who have no access to school. Let us open our mind to think about them and to do our best for them. For we are aware that education reduces poverty, boosts economic growth & increases income, education is one of the most important investments a county can make in its people and its future. And also let us thank our dear teachers for their dedicated work.

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The BRAVE project continues to enhance the resilience of the vulnerable communities with education for children, entrepreneurship for youth, employment opportunity for women and human rights awareness for the community

Mission Aid, Ireland Visit

As part of BRAVE project, From Member Organization of Misan Cara, Mr. Tony Burke, MDO, Mission Aid, Ireland, visited Chennai Province to oversee the BRAVE project from 28th to 29th Sep 2023 & 03rd to 05th Nov 2023. The list of following places he visited during the visits:

1 Kadambathur Zone - Irulengeri and Kannimanagar - Irular Community

2 Thirukazhukundram Zone met the women group from Irular, Thurambar, and Gypsy communities in addition to that he visited Gypsy Colony and interacted with the children and women

6 Thiruvannamalai Zone - women and Youth groups from Tirupattur, Chengam, and Bagalur gathered at SIHARAM and he interacted with all the Beneficiaries and distributed livestock for few women. then visited to Veeralur beneficiaries

3 Pavunjur Zone - Visited Thondamanallur Village and monitored the livestock beneficiaries

4 . Visited Julian Nursing Home to oversee the ANM students

5 Gingee Zone - interacted with the beneficiaries and distributed the livestock and visited few homes of the beneficiaries

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Highlights 2023



CSR Conference



Nature Camp



SURABI Staff - Pongal Celebration



Livelihood Support



S2S Cultural Exchange



Visit of Missioni Don Bosco, Torino



Cyclone Relief



Womens Day Celebration



Training of Trainers

OUR RESPONSE FOR THE MICHAUNG CYCLONE

DRY RATION KITS **15,573**

SHELTER KITS **1000**

COOKED FOOD **4650**

CHILDREN RESCUED **120**





05 January, 2024






SURABI
 INM PROVINCE
 Planning and Development Office

COMING TOGETHER IS
BEGINNING
 KEEPING TOGETHER IS
PROGRESS
 WORKING TOGETHER IS A
SUCCESS

*Merry Christmas
 & Happy New Year 2024*

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