

# Newsletter - December 2025

Rev. Fr. John Suresh Social Projects

**"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men." (Luke 2:14)**

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Dear Friends,

Warm and prayerful greetings from Rev. Fr. Backia Regis, Rev. Fr. Charles, Nandhini Krishnan, and the entire staff and students of Dr. R. Arulappa Higher Secondary School, St. John's Campus, along with the WE Group.

As the joyous season of Christmas draws near, we wholeheartedly pray that this sacred time fills your hearts and homes with peace, love, joy, and abundant blessings. May the departed soul of Rev. Fr. John Suresh rest in eternal peace and intercede for us, and may the New Year 2026 unfold with renewed hope, good health, happiness, and success for you and your loved ones.

We hope this message finds you well and in good spirits. Through this newsletter, we are delighted to share with you some of the meaningful events, achievements, and activities that have recently taken place in our campus community.

## Dr R Arulappa Higher Secondary School

### Free Cycle Distribution



The Free Cycle Distribution Program was conducted on 8th December 2025. Every year, the Government of Tamil Nadu provides free bicycles to 11th standard students in rural areas across the state. This initiative mainly benefits students from government and government-aided

schools, and our school is also a proud beneficiary of this scheme.

This year, the bicycles were distributed by Mrs. Geetha Karthikeyan, Chairman of Maduranthagam Taluk. The program was well organized, and all the students who received bicycles expressed great happiness and gratitude, as the scheme greatly supports their daily commute to school and encourages continued education.

## Half-Yearly Examination

This year, the Half-Yearly Examination commenced on 12th December and concluded on 23rd December. After the completion of the examinations, the school was closed for the Half-Yearly and Christmas holidays. The school will reopen on 4th January 2026.

## Christmas Celebration – Dr R Arulappa Higher Secondary School



The Christmas celebration in our school was held on 19th December. The Holy Mass was concelebrated by Rev. Fr. Chinnappan from the Marian Shrine, Achrapakkam; Rev. Fr. David Kumar from Porur Parish; Rev. Fr. Charles, the Correspondent of our school; and Rev. Fr. Arul, the Assistant Parish Priest of Neerpair Parish.

After the Holy Mass, all the priests blessed the Christmas crib.

Following this, various cultural programmes were organized and performed by the school children. The programmes filled the occasion with joy and festive spirit. After the cultural events, cakes and gifts were distributed to all the students as well as the staff members.

The Christmas celebration concluded with a special meal served to all the staff. It was truly a wonderful and memorable celebration, and every student thoroughly enjoyed the programme.

## R C Primary School



I am delighted to share that, with your kind support this year, we were able to beautifully paint and renovate our R.C. Primary School building. The roofing, in particular, has been fully waterproofed and cemented, giving the school a fresh, bright, and renewed look—it truly feels

like a brand-new building. Your generosity has brought immense joy to our children, who are now enjoying their improved and welcoming environment. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for making this transformation possible.

# St John's Home

## Loyola College Village Exposure Camp

Every year, Loyola College, Chennai, organizes a Village Exposure and Outreach Program for its postgraduate students. As part of this initiative, 80 students from the college participated in a five-day village exposure camp this year and stayed at St. John's Home. During the camp, the students spent one day at our school and two days visiting nearby villages. They actively engaged in village life by working in the paddy fields and conducting various educational and social programs for the local community as well as for our students.

This camp was a valuable and enriching experience for both the Loyola College students and the students of St. John's Home. It provided an opportunity to learn new skills, understand rural life, and foster mutual learning, cooperation, and social awareness.

## Loyola College Visit



As a continuation of our outreach program, students from St. John's visited Loyola College. Our students were warmly welcomed by the Principal, Rev. Fr. Louis Arockiaraj SJ and the faculty. During the visit, the students explored various departments of the college and gained valuable insights into academic life at Loyola. A gracious welcome was also hosted by the students of Loyola College along with the

Principal. We extend our sincere thanks to the Jesuit priests for providing our students with such a meaningful and enriching experience.

## Christmas Program at St. John's Home



On the evening of the 23rd December, after the examinations, at 7:00 p.m., our children joyfully celebrated the Christmas program at St. John's Home. The children performed various cultural programs, filling the evening with happiness and festive spirit. Rev. Fr. Charles blessed the Christmas Crib, adding a special meaning to the

celebration. At the end of the program, Christmas gifts were distributed to all the children and staff. A rich meal along with Christmas cake was served to everyone, making the celebration complete and memorable.



## True Story



**Prayers from C. Prasanth**, studying XI standard at Dr R Arulppa Higher Secondary School. I come from Panniyur, a coastal village in Tamil Nadu. During the tsunami that struck the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu, my village was also severely affected. Because of this, our area is often called the “Tsunami Village.”

My father passed away when I was five years old. I have one younger brother. My mother is the breadwinner of our family, working on a daily-wage basis to support us. I completed my studies up to the 10th standard in a nearby government school. Continuing my higher secondary education was very difficult, as there was no higher secondary school nearby, and my mother’s income was not sufficient to meet the expenses. One of the WE Group students, who studied and lived in our village, suggested St. John’s Home to us. With hope, my mother approached the home, and I joined in June 2025. Since coming here, I have been living in a good environment. The teachers, wardens, and Fathers take great care of us and support us in every way.

I strongly believe that I will complete my school education here. My dream is to become an engineer, and with the support of the WE Group, I hope to fulfill and achieve this dream. After achieving my goal, I wish to support my family and also give back to the WE Group. Thank you, dear friends, for all your support. Because of your kindness, many children like me are benefiting and building a better future.

## WE (With Education)



In November, we convened the WE Group Core Committee meeting, chaired by Mr. Tamilmani, President of the WE Group, alongside Mr. Ambrose, Secretary, and other esteemed committee members. During the session, we discussed plans for visiting students’ homes and colleges, as well as the preparations for next year’s Silver Jubilee celebration of the Ordination of the Late Rev. Fr. John Suresh.



Additionally, on 19th December, we held a productive meeting with Rev. Fr. Charles to finalize the details for this upcoming celebration.



We are also delighted to share the remarkable achievement of one of our students, Ms. Berlin Mary, who successfully earned her Doctorate of Philosophy in English this year. Her thesis, "*Narratives of Deconstruction: A Feminist Study of Contemporary Indian Novels*," exemplifies her dedication and scholarly excellence. With your continued support, many of our students have reached new heights in education, and we are proud to celebrate their

accomplishments. We sincerely thank you for your unwavering encouragement and support.

## Success Story



Greetings to all. I am Suba, and I hail from the modest and peaceful village of Pazhavur. I come from a close-knit family, where my father serves as a bus conductor and my mother works as a daily-wage labourer. While my parents did not have the opportunity to pursue higher education, they have always stood by me as pillars of strength. Their values of hard work, determination, and resilience have shaped my character and inspired me to dream beyond limitations. With immense pride, I share my academic and professional journey. I completed my schooling at Dr. R. Arulappa Higher Secondary School in

Neerpair and later pursued a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. A life-changing moment arrived when I reached out to the late Rev. Fr. Dr. John Suresh and Ms. Nandhini for guidance, who introduced me to the WE group. The support and encouragement I received from them enabled me to pursue my aspiration of studying law, and I successfully completed my Bachelor of Law degree. It is with great honour and gratitude that I share that on the 10th of November, I was officially enrolled as an Advocate with the Bar Council at the Chennai High Court.

At this milestone in my life, I express my deepest gratitude to the late Rev. Fr. Dr. John Suresh, whose vision and mentorship continue to inspire many even in his absence. I extend heartfelt thanks to Ms. Nandhini Krishnan, whose unwavering support played a crucial role in my journey. I am equally proud to share that my sister also benefited

from the WE group's support and is now employed as office staff at Dr. Arulappa Higher Secondary School. I remain eternally grateful to the WE group, the benevolence of our friends in Europe, and the dedicated efforts of Pappa Dr. Mispagel and his team. My journey stands as a testament to the transformative power of compassion, opportunity, and collective effort, gratitude that I will carry with me for life.

## Editorial Desk:

Dear Friends,

In this editorial, I wish to highlight recent regulations introduced by the Central Government of India that have significantly impacted the federal balance and raised serious concerns about democratic participation across state governments. These measures appear to undermine electoral fairness and risk eroding the vote bank of several states.

India is a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic and the world's largest democracy, having attained independence on 15 August 1947. It functions as a constitutional democracy with a parliamentary system and is firmly committed to conducting regular, free, and fair elections. These elections determine the composition of the Union Government, the two Houses of Parliament, and the legislatures of States and Union Territories.

Electoral constituencies in India are delineated based on population and geographical factors, including remote and hilly regions. Certain constituencies are reserved for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) to ensure political representation for historically marginalised communities.

At present, the Government of India has initiated a new regulatory exercise through the Election Commission of India known as the **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of electoral rolls. Officially, SIR is presented as a routine process aimed at verifying voter details, removing duplicate entries, and excluding deceased or ineligible voters. While the exercise is constitutionally grounded in Article 324 of the Constitution and the Representation of the People Act, 1950, the manner, speed, and timing of its implementation raise serious democratic concerns.

Across the country, SIR has imposed an undue burden on ordinary citizens particularly the poor, migrant workers, the elderly, and other marginalised groups many of whom struggle to repeatedly produce documentation or undergo verification procedures. Reports of large-scale deletions from voter lists have intensified fears of mass disenfranchisement. Opposition parties have cautioned that such sweeping

re-verification exercises, conducted without transparency or adequate safeguards, weaken the principle of universal adult suffrage. Instead of strengthening democracy, a rushed and opaque SIR process risks severely undermining public trust in the electoral system.

These concerns are especially acute in Tamil Nadu, which is preparing for Assembly elections scheduled for May 2026. In a deeply troubling development, the Central Government has pushed for an accelerated SIR exercise to be completed within just 45 days for a population of approximately 7.21 crore (as per the 2011 Census). Reports indicate that the number of registered voters has fallen sharply—from 6.41 crore to 5.43 crore—resulting in the exclusion of nearly 97 lakh voters. Such a massive deletion, occurring on the eve of a crucial democratic exercise, has sparked widespread protests across the state.

Political parties across the spectrum and civil society organisations in Tamil Nadu have united in opposition to SIR, viewing it not as a genuine electoral reform, but as a dangerous and exclusionary exercise that threatens democratic participation and the fundamental right to vote. If left unchecked, this process risks weakening the very foundations of India's democratic ethos.

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***We Wish you a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year 2026***

*May God's love wrap you in His tender care, His light shine upon you, everywhere.  
May peace, hope, and joy fill every day, And His grace walk with you, come what may.*



**Rev Fr G Backia Regis,  
Rev Fr Charles,  
Ms. Nandhini Krishnan &  
Editorial Team – Shravanti &  
Niveditha**