



MISSION CONNECT



Central East India Nepal Province



KEY MESSAGE



**FROM SR. PUSPHA LOUIS
PROVINCE LEADER**



**CONGREGATION OF OUR LADY OF
CHARITY OF THE GOOD
SHEPHERD**

Province of Central East India Nepal

TOP STORIES

- ECONOMIC JUSTICE PROJECT**
- CHILD PROTECTION PROJECT**
- FROM NEPAL**
- FROM OUR SCHOOLS**
- VOICE OF CHILDREN**
- VOICE OF ADOLESCENT GIRLS' AWARDS**
- STAFF CORNER**
- CAPACITY BUILDING**
- UPCOMING EVENTS**

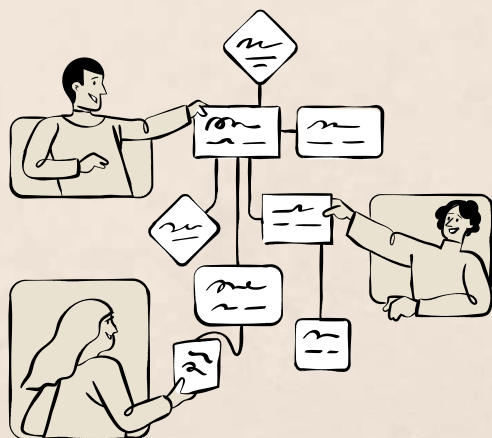
>>> PROVINCE LEADER SR. PUSHPA LOUIS SPEAKS <<<



I am delighted to speak a few words as we launch “MISSION CONNECT” the first Newsletter of CEIN province which has been a long dream. As Good Shepherd sisters working in 8 States of India and in the country of Nepal for the empowerment of women and girl children, we have many events and impact stories which need to be recognised and acknowledged to bring visibility to our mission.

Newsletters are a valuable tool to connect with all. One would agree that a newsletter, particularly in the digital era, is an important means of establishing engagement, communication, and information sharing. It also helps build trust and credibility among the target audience, leading to improved and long-term relationship-building with all the stakeholders. This quarterly publication is disseminated via email to all our communities with information and current news from all the communities regarding our mission. It can be a valuable medium to make and maintain strong relationships with all our communities and to inform the ongoing developments.

I take this opportunity to thank Mr. Peter Lasrado MDO manager of CEI who offered the idea of bringing out this quarterly Newsletter and the Editorial Board Srs. Kala Hermanajilt, Julia Mary Chinnappan and Neticia Pereira and all the communities who took countless trouble to send the articles. Continue to support the team with current information and enliven articles which will enlighten all those who read the Newsletter. I wish you all best of luck as you update the whole province with the current and appropriate news.



MESSAGE FROM EDITORIAL BOARD

We are indeed pleased to be in the editorial board. It is our honor and privilege to serve our province and communicate with you all through this platform. This is our first Newsletter and, in this edition, we will be showcasing the recent accomplishments of our members, events organised by our mission partners in various communities including their outstanding work in community service and voices from the children and adolescent girl's groups. We will see how our mission partners used their voices and ideas to advocate on various events and brought visibility by organising programmes on important social observation days.

As we continue to navigate the challenges of the current times, it is more important than ever to stay connected and informed. The newsletter will serve as a means to share important updates, member achievements, and upcoming events, and to highlight the impact of our programmes and initiatives.

Through this publication, we aim to create a platform that will inspire, educate, and inform our stakeholders. As we want the newsletter to be as inclusive as it could be, we encourage all of you to share your ideas, stories, and feedback with the editorial team. We value your input and look forward to hearing from you.



NEWS FROM ECONOMIC JUSTICE PROGRAMME

»»» Celebration of World Indigenous People's Day-Balaghat

Protection of the rights of Indigenous people is part of our rights based approach in Economic justice project, Balaghat, Madhya Pradesh. World Indigenous People's day was observed on 9th August with "The Tribal Movement" Balaghat District. The theme was "Protecting the Rights of Indigenous People in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact". Around two thousand people from various NGOs, Government & people's representatives, including Balaghat MLA Mrs. Anubha Munjari, Good Shepherd Sisters, staff team and programme participants witnessed the solidarity and unity among the tribal community of Balaghat.



The Eminent speakers and Chief Guest motivated the people with their powerful messages. The MLA distributed the awards for the best Tribal Hostels for the Tribal children and for those incharge of the Institutions. Balaghat EJ staff team was able to mobilize 208 women, men children and adolescent girls from 10 villages.

This event made a great impact on indigenous people to protect and promote their rights and to uphold their culture which is diminishing in this modern era.



➤➤➤ Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) of Deendayal Antyodaya Mahila Bahuuddeshiya Sahakari Samiti Maryadit- Garratola, Madhya Pradesh

The cooperative society held their Annual General Body Meeting on 20th September 2024

Almost 200 members participated in this event. The President of the co-operative society Mrs. Malti Saiyam welcomed all the members for the annual general body meeting and a special welcome to Mr. Peter Lasrado, the Chief Guest of the day.



The discussion between Mr. Peter and the board members brought a lot of clarity for the effective functioning of the cooperative society. He stressed that the ownership of the cooperative society must be of women themselves. This cooperative society began with 150 members and intended to attain 1000 memberships, until now 407 women have taken membership in the cooperative society. He entreated all the members to involve actively in advancing this cooperative society.



The vice-president, Mrs. Shanti Kujur presented the activity report of the previous year. The accountant, too, presented the financial report of year 2023-2024 of their Income & Expenditure, Profit & Loss and the Balance Sheet. There were clarifications and deliberations among the members regarding seed money and savings. Mr. Peter responded to them and cleared all their questions efficiently. The members were contented with the responses and assured to accelerate the expansion of the cooperative society towards self-reliance.

➤➤➤ Mrs. Korsa Bodamma from EJ Project becomes the owner of a tractor - Mulakalapalli

Mrs. Korsa Bodamma from Modugudam village, Badradi Khammam Dist, Telegana became member of Girijana Mahila Rythula MACS Ltd. Having 2 acres of land, she cultivated cotton. She used to rent a tractor for cultivation. But her desire was to own the tractor and rent it out for the purpose of generating income. She and her husband worked hard in the field and saved money and bought a tractor in the month of July 2024.



She is proud to say that the Good Shepherd Sisters have supported her journey from being a slave to the money lenders to earning a good profit to enhance the livelihood.

➤➤➤ Net Working with NGOs, Government Departments and Media to promote Women's Rights-Salem



The project “Socio-economic empowerment of Tribal and Dalit women in India” organized a meeting on Networking with Media, Government departments and NGOs at Salem, Tamil Nadu. 21 Men and 12 Women, who are interested to promote Women's Rights, actively participated in a discussion.

This was the first time that 8 Media representatives joined for the session. As the saying goes “Networking is not about just connecting people. It's about connecting people with people, people with ideas, and people with opportunities.” – **Michele Jenn**

“The true value of networking doesn't come from how many people we can meet but rather how many people we can introduce to others.”

- Simon Sinek.

“People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

- Maya Angelou

During the discussion, most of the participants shared their views on Women's Rights and assured that they will constantly telecast the reports of all programmes. After the programme, the day's event was published in the local news and telecasted in the local TV channel which brought great visibility.

The benefit of networking with media personnel is that the organization's activities and interventions are made known to many. This would enable the organization to network with many likeminded NGOs to accelerate the issues.

➤➤➤ Motivating People leads to success-Chainpur



EJ programme participants from Ratu, jhargaon, Silfari and Datra villages from Chainpur block had no drinking water facility in their houses. Most of them have wells which get dried up in summer and during the rainy season the water gets contaminated. The people were falling sick after drinking the polluted water.

EJ project staff motivated women to attend the local gram sabha meeting in which they could raise the drinking water issue. The men were astounded to know the courage of women to speak during the gram sabha meeting which never occurred before.

A written application was submitted to the local panchayat president to build overhead tank to store water. After much persuasion, an overhead tank was built and the four villages acquired the schemes GharbGharbJalyojna (Drinking water for every house). Total 256 families got individual pipe connections during the past three months. A pat on the shoulders of EJ Staff.



NEWS FROM CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAMME

WORKING TOGETHER - a collaborative effort to stop Human Trafficking



Good Shepherd Convent, Goa in collaboration with the Konkan Railway Police organized an awareness cum signature campaign programme on the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons to create awareness among the people, observing the theme of the year, "Leave no child behind in fight against human trafficking" on 30th July 2024 at Madgoan railway station, Goa.

The programme was attended by Konkan Railway Police personnel, Konkan Railway staff, commuters, children, religious Sisters and taxi drivers. Police Inspector Sunil Gudlar was among the dignitaries along with other Police personnel.



The key objective of this event was to create an impactful awareness on trafficking of children in numerous ways and circumstances keeping in mind the theme of this year.

Sr. Neticia in her address note said, "Human trafficking is a nexus of mafia, which is spread far and wide. We need to be aware of the things happening in and around us and keep ourselves and others safe". She also said that it is the responsibility of the parents, guardians, caregivers and all those who are responsible in the growth of child. As this year theme highlights, "Leave no child behind in fight against human trafficking".

Girls from Good Shepherd Motivational Center performed an awareness dance on the empowerment of girls and women and the Good Shepherd Project Staff sang an awareness song which resonated "To live and fight without fear in this society".



Later, awareness flyers were released in the hands of Konkan railway Police station PI Sunil Gudlar and distributed among the participants and commuters. The commuters appreciated the awareness programme and thanked the organization for a wakening programme.

NEPAL NEWS

»»» Cross-Border Stakeholders Meeting at Nepalgunj



On September 5th, 2024, Opportunity Village Nepal (OVN) organized a cross-border stakeholder meeting in Nepalgunj, Banke District, on the occasion of the 18th National Day Against Human Trafficking co-hosted with Banke UNESCO Club, the meeting brought together local officials, civil society organizations, and security representatives from both Nepal and India to address the growing issue of human trafficking along the Indo-Nepal border.

The discussions highlighted the root causes of trafficking, such as poverty, unemployment, and weak border security, with participants agreeing on the importance of collaborative efforts, cross-border coordination, and stronger border controls to combat trafficking.

Notable speakers, such as Ward Chairperson Mr. Manoj Shrestha and Assistant Chief District Officer Mr. Lal Bahadur Gurung, emphasized the need for employment opportunities for vulnerable groups and mass awareness to tackle trafficking.

The meeting concluded with remarks from Sr. Anthonia Soosai, Director of OVN, who thanked the participants for their valuable input and stressed the importance of unity in combating human trafficking.

She called for collective action to raise awareness, create more job opportunities, and enforce stronger laws.

The meeting ended with a joint commitment from all attendees to work together on these key priorities to prevent human trafficking.



NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS

➤➤➤ The Legacy Gala for the Alumni-Chennai



The “Legacy Gala” for the Alumni of Good Shepherd Mat Hr Sec School, Chennai, was a memorable occasion marking the Centenary year which was held on August 10th 2024. The school auditorium overflowed with former students from the batch of 1953 - 2023. The entire place reverberated voices of sweet reminiscences and evocative conversations.



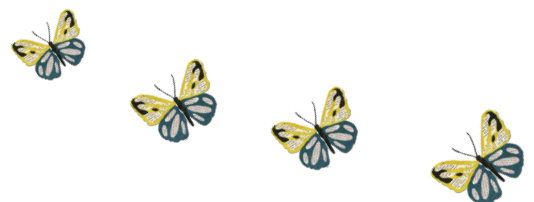
Ms. Kanimozhi Karunanidhi MP, was the chief guest of the Day, our Alumni Luminaries Ms Sudha Ragunathan - Indian Vocalist and Singer, Praveena Rai - COO, NCPI and Swetha Mohan Indian Playback Singer - were the guests of Honour. The venerable teachers were felicitated and revered.

“There is nothing like returning to a place that remains unchanged to find the ways in which you yourself have altered”.

Nelson Mandela



Any kind of celebration is incomplete without some fun and frolic and so was the event with exciting moments of dance and music. The pleasant evening brought back untold memories and was assuredly a day that made every Good Shepherd feel grateful for the person they are today. They felt proud and indebted to their teachers and management for making them Responsible, Empathetic, Honest, Generous and Loyal citizens.





The day was indeed remarkable for it reunited both the young and the old leaving behind beautiful smiles and a sense of pride that they are all Good Shepherds no matter what and how far they part.

➤➤➤ A Tribute to Freedom Fighters-Good Shepherd School, Karjat



The event was graced by the presence of Guest of Honor Fr. Kiran (SDB), Former Cluster Coordinator Mrs. Nalini Salonkhe, Manager Sr. Precilla and Headmistress Sr. Amala.

In the spirit of community engagement and national pride, the school organized various activities that brought together participants of all ages.

The Selfie with Tiranga initiative encouraged families to capture their patriotic spirit, while the Canvas Painting Competition allowed students to express their vision of freedom through art. These activities, designed to foster unity and creativity, highlighted the importance of active participation in the celebration.

On 15 August 2024, Good Shepherd Convent School Karjat proudly celebrated the 78th anniversary of India's Independence with a series of heartfelt and community-focused events. The celebration began with a solemn flag hoisting ceremony where the Chief Guest Mr. Santosh Ramchandra a Ghatak Commando of the Indian Army, unfurled the National Flag.

➤➤➤ On the Wheels of Freedom: Independence Day Rally 2024

The most awaited event of the day was the Independence Day Rally, which saw 250 students and 40 teachers took to the streets of Karjat in a grand procession. The rally, which spanned 3 kilometers, was led by Chief Guest Mr. Santosh Ramchandra, Guest of Honour Fr. Kiran (SDB), Former Cluster Coordinator Mrs. Nalini Salonkhe, Manager Sr. Precilla and Headmistress Sr. Amala, PTA representative Ex- 10th grade passed students became a vibrant display of patriotism.

Students waved flags and chanted slogans, while a breathtaking Izim performance (folk dance originated at

the time of Chhatrapati Shivaji) by students with precision and grace, added a cultural flair to the celebration. This rhythmic performance, along with the spirited cries of "Vande Mataram," attracted parents and local spectators, who joined in the atmosphere of national pride.

The rally also drew the attention of the local public, many of whom cheered from the sidelines, feeling a renewed sense of national pride. The event, with its blend of performance, participation, and public engagement, left a lasting impression on Karjat, strengthening the bond between the school and the community.

➤➤➤ A day to be remembered- Celebration of Migrants day



The Nagpur Archdiocesan Commission for Migrants celebrated the World Day of Migrants and Refugees under the leadership

of Good Shepherd Sisters Sr. Resi Joseph the project coordinator on 22nd September at Martin Nagar, Nagpur. The programme began with lighting the lamp followed by action songs. Pope Francis' message on migrants was read out in Hindi.

Message by Sr. Pushpa Louis:

Sr. Pushpa Louis, Province Leader gave an illuminating message on this significant occasion. She centered her message on 6 points from the Bible.

The Lord your God goes with you; God chose to live in the tent but not in the temple; Fleeing of the Holy Family from Bethlehem to Egypt; Good Samaritan helping the wounded man on the way to Jericho- Emmaus journey. She connected all her messages with today's current situation of war and violence which has killed thousands of people and rendered millions as refugees.



The alarming incidents of sexual abuse on children and women has rocked the

whole country. She insisted upon the parents' responsibility to keep their children safe.



Women from Wadi parish captivated the gathering by their uninterrupted Sadhri dance which fetched the mood of festivity. Two games were organized where all the participants enthusiastically participated and winners were awarded. The celebration concluded with a festive meal. There were more than 150 participants including children, youth, women and men.

➤➤➤ Chalice- Reaching out in Critical situations

Critical fund is an emergency medical support for Chalice and non-Chalice children and their parents. During this quarter two children were supported with critical fund.

Ms. Divya Anand a sponsored child from GST (Salem), studying in 9th grade has received financial support of

INR.52,931 from Chalice Canada for her medical expenses under critical need application. She was diagnosed with Bilateral Paroxysmal epileptic form discharge and Steven Johnson's syndrome.

She was admitted in Jayam Multi Super Specialty Centre in Salem for ten days

and undergone treatment. With the critical fund support from Chalice Canda, she was restored to health.

Mr. Bontha Naveen, a sponsored child from GSA (Amaravathi) studying in 9th grade has received INR. 33,974 from Chalice Canada under critical fund. He underwent a surgery on leg four years back and a rod was implanted.

He underwent a surgery on leg four years back and a rod was implanted. During this quarter he was admitted in the hospital again as for the removal of implantation which caused certain health issues. With the support from Chalice Canada, he underwent a surgery and removed the implantation.

VOICES FROM CHILDREN

Education for transformation

Hello, this is Gayatri from Mangalagiri before you, the speaker of NETHAJI CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT, Mandam, Thullurmandal, Andhra Pradesh. We have monthly meeting where every minister actively executes his/her role. We identified a boy who was not going to school from June this year; he dropped out of the school in 7th grade. This information was brought for discussion during our meeting. We took a resolution to meet the parents of the boy along with the GS staff. After a long interaction and motivation with the boy and his mother, the boy agreed to join the school. After a few days he dropped out again as he is not able to understand the syllabus. We motivated him to take admission in a hostel to continue his education.



I am Durgesh studying in 9th grade, belonged to Ekthara children's parliament, Balaghat. I am the education minister. After attending the leadership training and regular monthly meetings, I am clear about my roles and responsibilities. When any one is absent from the school, I visit their families and motivate them to attend the school regularly. We study together in our free time and help one another in our studies. Children's parliament is a good platform to express our views and opinions.

➤➤➤ Cleanliness is Godliness

Hi! I am Nimesh, studying in 9th grade belong to Gyan Children's parliament, Balaghat. I am the health minister and am regular for the monthly meetings. I attended the leadership programmes for the selected leaders and learnt the roles and the responsibilities of health minister.

I motivate my classmates to keep clean our surroundings. Every Saturday we join together and promote clean and green school campus. I am so delighted to be in the parliament as I get a lot of information on various topics.

VOICES FROM ADOLESCENT GIRLS' GROUPS

➤➤➤ Learning to Create Space for Self

I am Hemalatha Uikey 18 years old belonging to Jaldhara Adolescent girl's group from Gangulpara, Balaghat. This is a platform for us to come together for monthly meeting to discuss our thoughts, raise our voices on the problems we face. We also learn how to safeguard our own bodies from abuse, differentiate between good touch and bad touch. Many resource persons came to our villages who enlightened us on various topics. We gained knowledge on health & hygiene, rights of girls, and legal education. This platform gives us the opportunity to clear our age-related problems and doubts which we otherwise hide and tussle with.



Karjat, doing my 12th grade. I am a member of the Narmada Adolescent girl's group. We are 15 girls in the group. I gained more self-confidence after joining the group. I live in an interior village, away from the hassles of city. There is not much communication facility to reach my village. Due to this many girls drop out after the primary education. Through monthly information meetings we gained a lot of knowledge on various topics, especially right to education and re-enrolled the dropout girls. I learned the skill of tailoring and stitch cloths during my free time to contribute to my family income. Being in the group gives me immense joy as it is a platform where we can share our concerns and get peer support.

—◆—
Hi! I am Sumitra Ravindra Waghmare, 18 years old from Mandavne Village,

➤➤➤ From dependency to sustainability

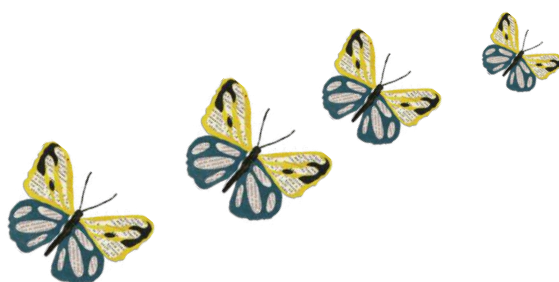
I am Shabeena from Parasa village, Palnadu Dist, Andhra Pradesh. We are a family of four, my parents, brother and I. My parents are daily labourers. I studied up to the 12th grade in Biology, Physics and Chemistry stream. As we are poor, my parents could not afford educating me, but I was keen to continue studying.

My neighbor Nagamani (a member of Euphrasia Cooperative Society) who is studying computer education at Good Shepherd Computer Centre, Amaravathi, run by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, told me to join there, but I did not pay attention to her advice. My parents started looking for a match for me, but I woke up thinking marriage would hamper my dream for further education and so I asked their permission to join the Computer Institute and surprisingly I got their permission.

I was quite a frightened and nervous person when I joined, but later I learnt a lot of things especially to be courageous and move forward in life through the Life Skills training classes.



I wanted to be a help to my parents who work very hard and was thinking how I could get some work after completing the course. At this time the staff of Amazon came to our Institute looking for those who could be data entry operators and I was sent by the Institute for an interview and I passed the interview and worked there and drawing a salary of Rs.9,500/- a month, which was some help to the family. Now I am glad that I have a better job. I work in St. Mary's Women's College in Guntur and draw a salary of Rs.18,500/- a month working as data entry operator.





AWARDS



»»» Proud Moment! For OVN



OVN is honored to receive an award from the Anti-Human Trafficking Bureau (AHTB) Kathamandu on 18th National Day against Human Trafficking for the commitment to combat human trafficking and support survivors on their journey to reclaim their lives. This recognition fuels our continued fight against human trafficking and empowers survivors and strives for a safer, just society for all

»»» Making a difference with professionalism

Sr. Latha Namburi, incharge of CP project in Mangalagiri has been selected as a social worker for Guntur District Legal Services Authority AP Government of Law Department on 30-8-2024, Gazette published by the Government Order 696.

Her responsibility is to create legal awareness among the people, offering free legal aid and advice for eligible persons, providing justice to the affected persons quickly and in low cost by settling the cases, settlement of the disputes through mediation and legal awareness programs to all the citizens in general and to the weaker sections of the society in particular. Good Shepherd family is proud of Sister Latha.



STAFF CORNER

»»» Welcome Back to EJ



Sr. Resi Joseph is back at Karjat as the Project Coordinator of EJ project. She was the one who initiated this project at Good Shepherd Convent, Karjat. She has a vast experience of working with the rural women and girls. Her expertise will bring innovation in the project. We welcome her in our Mission Effectiveness team. Sr. Resi took over from Sr. Precilla, the previous coordinator.



Sr. Precilla from Karjat EJ has been transferred to Nepal to take up higher responsibility and she has sent her resignation from the post of Coordinator EJ Karjat. We all wish her every success in her new responsibility.

»»» EJ Programme welcomes Mr. Ajay at Salem



Mr. Ajay has joined the 'Socio-Economic Empowerment of Dalit and Tribal Women in India' as a livelihood coordinator in Salem site with effect from on 5th September 2024. He has completed his engineering and has the interest and enthusiasm to work for the development of rural women. We welcome him in our staff team and ensure all our support. He joined in place of Mr. Bosco, the former Livelihood Coordinator.



Sr. Nithya, Coordinator EJ Chainpur has been undergoing therapy for her hand in St. Martha's Hospital Bengaluru. We wish her speedy recovery so that she could be back at EJ project Chainpur

TRAININGS AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Training on safeguarding Policy for Hindi speaking staff

A two-day training on safeguarding organised in Nagpur for Hindi region on 16th & 17th September 2024 brought a lot of clarity on Safeguarding Policy and its implementation, as it was delivered in their own language.



The training was facilitated by Mr. Peter, MDO manager and co-facilitated by Sr. Precilla Noronha the Province Focal Person.

The topics Introduction to Safeguarding Policy :

- **Standard-1:** Creating Safe Environment, Risk Assessment & Risk Management,
- **Standard 2:** Responding to safeguarding issues: Reporting: Abuse/Risk/Potential Risk,
- **Standard 3:** Implementation and Monitoring and Roles & Responsibilities were dealt in detail.

The group activity on risk assessment was a practical session and clearly brought knowledge and the significance of doing risk assessment for every activity. The training concluded with the action plan from each community on the safeguarding check list.



The staff team 23 members who attended the training felt greatly enriched by this training and expressed their commitment to implement the policy.



➤➤➤ Training on rural Livelihood Promotion and Cooperative Business Management

A two days training on Livelihood Promotion and Cooperative Business Management was organised for the staff of EJ project from Balaghat, Chainpur and Karjat on 18th & 19th September. There were 11 staff from these three sites.

Mr. Peter, MDO manager was the key resource person for the two days. Sr. Kala Hermanjilt M&E Co-ordinator took a session on types of rural businesses and Government support. Mr. Nelson gave orientation on the business plan. The session covered the topics like Conceptual understanding of Rural Livelihood, Key Principles of Economic Development, Environment and Rural Livelihood-an interdependence, Role of Rural

Entrepreneurship in Economic Development, Types of Rural Entrepreneurships and Government Schemes/support, Entrepreneurial Development Cycle, Problems faced by the rural entrepreneurs, and Risk Management.

The session concluded with the sites preparing and presenting their Business plan: 2025. The sessions were very lively as it involved group activity for every topic. The staff team were keen in learning and practicing it in their field as all these project sites the women are into small business activities for their livelihood.

UPCOMING EVENTS

6th & 7th December 2024

*Annual Review meeting EJ
Balaghat, Chainpur, Karjat
and Salem in Nagpur*

10th & 11th December 2024

*Annual Review CP Virar
and Goa at Virar*

13th & 14th December 2024

*Annual Review CP
Mangalagiri & Amaravathi
at Mangalagiri*



For any queries/clarifications

Kindly contact the Editorial Board; Srs. Kala, Julia & Neticia