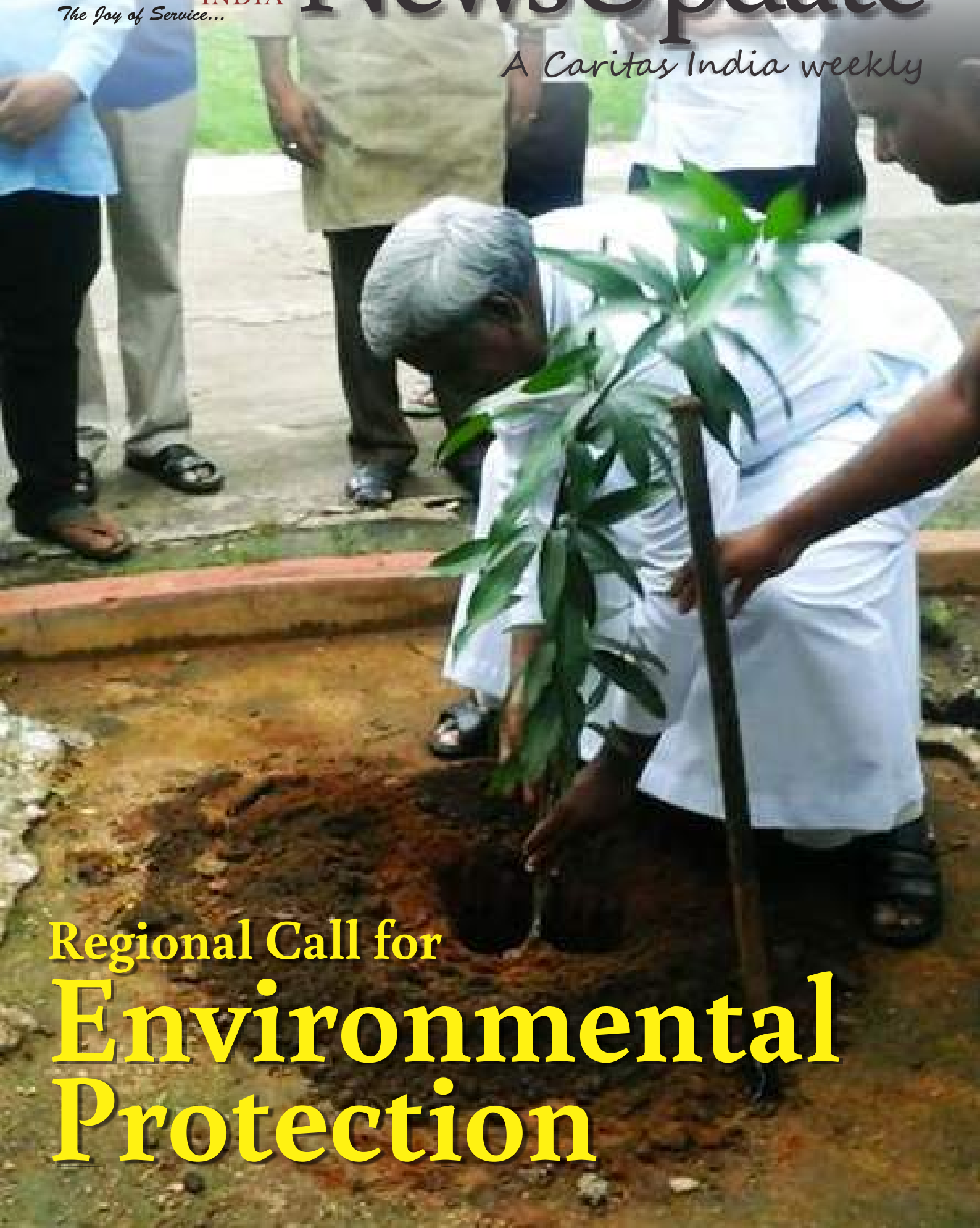


NewsUpdate

A Caritas India weekly



Regional Call for
**Environmental
Protection**

Regional Call for ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Report by Fr. Bitchapogu Antaiah, Forum Director - AP,
Edited by Patrick Hansda, Caritas India

Church leaders from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana Region urging communities to dialogue and take action to reverse the impact of climate change.

Inspired by the Pope Francis Encyclical “Laudato Si” focusing on the environment or more formally – On Care for Our Common Home. It is a worldwide wake up call to help humanity understand the destruction that man is rendering to the environment and his fellow man.

Making a mark by planting a sapling, Msgr. Thumma Bala and Bishop M.D. Prakasam inaugurated the regional seminar on a call for integrated ecology “Laudato Si”.

Supported by Caritas India, the seminar aimed to enhance the awareness among clergies, teachers and community leader on “Laudato Si”, sharing community best practices for replication and dissemination and promoting linkages and collaboration with various development agencies working in the field of environment management.

The growing consumerism of the society is damaging the mother earth by misusing, abusing, polluting the environment said Bishop Thumma Bala and emphasised the need for action by the Catholic Church.

He emphasised that humanity has ability to work together to build our common home. He appealed to the church that time has come to blend the environment spirituality and work like crusaders of environment protection.

There is a need for political will and conversion of attitudes and habits of the society to solve the problems of the climate change said Bishop M.D Prakasam in his



address. He stressed the need of a sincere and honest dialogue with all stakeholders as mentioned by Pope Francis to realize the objectives and goals.

Explaining some key chapters of “Laudato Si” Fr. Rayappa Kasi from Vellore diocese said coordination between the economy, social ecology and human ecology could help us to find a solution for the protection of our environment

He shared that Pope Francis is urging all of us to build a new structure to protect the environment and restore human dignity.

Sharing the ‘Go Green’ model of Bombay Archdiocese, Fr. Allwyn D’Silva explained the actions taken up by the Archdiocese in carrying forward the measures for protecting the environment.

The Archdiocese through its parishes are promoting use of public transport, rain water harvesting, electricity saving, installation of solar panels, safe disposal of garbage, and growing vegetables in individual houses.

The seminar ended with a regional and local action plan and way forward for the region. The participants pledged to take localized methods of integrated ecology through their respective commissions and dioceses.



Modern Day Slavery Explained To Partners

Report by Leeza, Programme Officer – All India Network to end Human Trafficking
Edited by Patrick Hansda, Caritas India



“ Documents are the sword to fight against perpetrators to protect oneself, according to the human rights activist, Co-founder and Director of Prerana, Priti Patkar.

She was taking session on Child protection and documentation during the four days capacity building workshop of Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Baharaich and Caritas Nepal partners at Lucknow from November 25-28, 2016.

She insisted not to fight if one do not have documented the case. She focused on the importance of keeping a record and building cases with authentic database. Concepts like zero FIR, missing children, trafficked child, protection, aggravated offence, non-negotiable, bonded labour and child labour were made clear by her during the session.

The workshop focused on the concept of Human Trafficking, its root causes, repatriation, rehabilitation, restoration, case management, child protection, reporting and documentation.

“Human trafficking is one of the fast growing crime in the world” said Mr. Sanjay Rai, Director and Managing Trustee of Aim trust working at the borders of Uttar Pradesh and Nepal to prevent trafficking.

Mr. Abhishekh Joseph and Ms. Blessy from International

Justice Mission also explained Advanced/ Social obligation of bonded labours, their below minimum wages, restricted freedom of movement, employment and even on selling their own goods.

Adv. Varun from Justice Venture International explained the steps involved in rehabilitation of trafficked people.

Mr. Javed Ansari, State Coordinator, U.P. Police, Mahila Samman Prakosth, shared the initiatives taken for Strengthening of Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) in the districts of Uttar Pradesh. He recommended that partners should work in close collaboration with police and concerned government departments.

Mr. Ansari informed that Human Trafficking is punishable in U.P. under U.P. Control of Goondas Act, 1970 and Uttar Pradesh Gangsters and Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Act, 1986. The session was very informative as it explained the central and state government’s existing schemes for rehabilitation and prevention.

Santa is far but kids are already having fun

Report by Amrit Sangma, PRCOM



Class VI students of NP girls' school in Delhi wait for more fun in school as they look forward to newer activities from their trainer.

15 slow learning students showed renewed interest in Science subject after they have been put through to what may be called "Mix and Mesh" activities under Muskan project of Caritas India supported by Roll Royce.

Mix and Mesh activity tests the students based on separation techniques taught to them wherein students distinctly separate one material from another using magnet and sieve – from a given lot of pebbles, salt, sugar, rangoli powder, iron fillings.

Trainer Priyanka was pleased to find that her students were responding to the lessons she taught. "The students knew about the separation techniques," she wrote in her report.

"We are in December and it will be a while before Santa Clause arrives, but these children are already having a good share of their joy and fun of Christmas", said Kindam Singh, heading the project for Caritas India.

Chetanalaya Delhi , a partner with Caritas India is hugely resourceful in making the project a success.

