

JANUARY 2026



The Loyolite

Bridging Times

WINDS OF CHANGE AT LOYOLA

The autonomous status conferred on Loyola College of Social Sciences marked a significant milestone, transforming Loyola from a postgraduate-only institution into one that also offers undergraduate programmes. Autonomy has enabled timely publication of results and ushered in several positive changes. New infrastructure, including the education theatre and the renovated library, has given Loyola a refreshed and modern outlook. Digitalised student administration, automated question paper generation, and the academic freedom to revise instructional pathways clearly signal the winds of change. Loyola's once small world is steadily expanding and reaching new heights. Yet, even as it grows, the college remains firmly rooted in its age-tested traditions such as induction programme, rural camp, PIMER, celebrations and formation, all shaped by the Jesuit ethos. Loyola continues to sustain its spirit and enrich its growth with enduring values.



EDITORIAL

Dear Alumni,

This is the first time I have had the privilege of serving as Secretary of the Loyola College Alumni Association. At its core, every alumni association seeks to support its alma mater in reaching greater heights, and over the years, our association has done so with distinction through the generous sharing of expertise, time, and resources. This year, the association also focused on an equally vital goal: rekindling bonds among alumni across batches and programmes. Spaces were created for meaningful connection, socialization, and celebration of alumni achievements. The transition to a WhatsApp community was a key step, bringing global and state chapters under a single umbrella, expanding membership, and enhancing visibility. Initiatives ranging from the visit to Vizhijam Port, a landmark project led by an alumnus, to the Loyola Authors Programme, Women's Day celebrations, Vishu musical event, and the sharing of memories and achievements, reflected a renewed sense of belonging and pride and saw Alumni across batches coming together. The new education theatre further strengthened this spirit by enabling live streaming of alumni instituted memorial lectures.

As we move forward, may this renewed engagement continue to grow, strengthening our collective identity and deepening our commitment to Loyola. Together, let us carry forward the spirit of service, fellowship, and gratitude that defines our alma mater.



Dr. Jasmine Sarah Alexander
Secretary,
Loyola College Alumni Association

Alumni Association Led Activities



- Executive Committee: New Executive Committee assumed charge on 26.01.2025; five meetings were held during the year for planning and administration of alumni activities.



- Vizhijam Port Visit: First major activity held on March 5, 2025, with around 40 alumni from different batches participating. Alumnus Mr. Anil Balakrishnan, Vice-President, Adani Vizhijam Port, was facilitated. Dr. L. Radhakrishnan was felicitated, and an exclusive interview was conducted.
- Three memorial lectures were conducted on topics of relevance featuring eminent personalities.
- Upgradation & Visibility: Transition to a single WhatsApp Community increased membership from 450 to 620; logo redesigned, contacts digitized, and a YouTube channel launched.



Principal's Message

Dr Fr. Sabu P Thomas SJ

It gives me great joy to address you once again through our Annual Alumni Newsletter. Loyola College of Social Sciences is passing through a historic phase, and we are grateful to share this journey with our vibrant alumni community.

Autonomy has opened new avenues for academic innovation, curricular flexibility, and student-centred learning, strengthening our commitment to excellence in higher education.

The successful conduct of the semester examinations and timely publication of results in the autonomous mode and the launch of new Four-Year Undergraduate Programmes stand as clear signs of Loyola's forward movement. These achievements would not have been possible without the continued encouragement, goodwill, and support of our alumni.

I warmly invite all of you to remain closely connected with your alma mater, to guide our students, and to contribute in whatever way you can to the growth of this institution.

Let our shared memories inspire us to build an even brighter future for Loyola.

With best wishes for a fruitful year ahead and continued fraternity among all Loyolites.

THE 5th PROF. MARIAMMA MEMORIAL LECTURE



THE 5th PROF. T.S.N. PILLAI MEMORIAL LECTURE



THE 6th PROF. JOSE MURICKAN MEMORIAL LECTURE



ECHOES OF THE PAST

A mesmerizing museum trail through

TRIVANDRUM



- Trivandrum Museums Visit: One-day heritage tour titled *Echoes of the Past* was organized, with alumni participation led by the President.
- Women's Day Celebrations: Interviews highlighted inspiring women alumni, showcasing contributions in mental health, social service, and community leadership across generations.

EXCLUSIVE PODCAST FEATURES

WOMEN OF IMPACT



Retired Psychiatric Social Worker at District Mental Health Centre Trivandrum, serving those with mental health challenges.

Ms. Nanda
MSW (1991-93)



Co-founder of Jeevodaya Ashram, rehabilitating women in distress.

Sister Fidelis Nedumpara
MSW (1973-75)

INTERVIEWERS



Deputy Manager-HR at Rishi Laser Ltd, Bangalore, since 2012.

Mrs. Elsamma Titus
MSW (PM & IR)
Batch of 1988



Former Lecturer in Social Work and Student Counsellor, also a Taichi practitioner and passionate baker.

Rugmini Krishna
MSW, MPhil
Batch of 2004-2006



Experienced professional with expertise as Lecturer (LCSS), Medical Social Worker (SCTIMST), Counsellor & Community Mobilizer (FDA), and Project Officer (EDII).

Ann Mary George
MSW 2016-18

- Old is Gold Music Group: Music-loving alumni formed a WhatsApp group that led to the Vishu musical event, coordinated by alumni with active participation from students and alumni musicians.

- Mother's Day Observance: Alumni mothers shared personal reflections and messages, strengthening emotional bonding within the community.
- Authors Programme: Loyola Alumni Authors Programme featured 11 authors, including a young next-generation contributor, celebrating alumni literary achievements.
- Batch Meetings: Four alumni batch reunions were held in Kerala and abroad.

President's Message

Dear Fellow Alumni,

The Loyola College Alumni Association began the year with renewed purpose, as the newly elected committee met on January 26, 2025, reaffirming its commitment to service, engagement, and continuity of Loyola values.

A key highlight of the term was the Institutional Visit Series, with a memorable visit to the Vizhinjam International Seaport. Alumni gained valuable insights into a project of national significance through a lively and engaging interaction with alumnus Anil Balakrishnan, followed by an in-depth interview of L. Radhakrishnan, IAS, conducted by Hari Krishnan.

International Women's Day was observed by celebrating Women of Impact, with felicitation and podcasted interviews of Ms. Nanda (MSW 1991-93), retired Psychiatric Social Worker, District Mental Health Centre, and Sister Fidelis Nedumpara (MSW 1973-75), co-founder of Jeevodaya Ashram, dedicated to rehabilitating women in distress.

Academic and intellectual engagement remained strong through a series of memorial events. The Dr. Fr. Jose Murickan Memorial Talk was delivered by Dr. Lekha Chakraborty, renowned economist, while the Dr. Mariamma Joseph Memorial was held at the Different Art Centre, featuring an inspiring interaction and address by Gopinath Muthukad. The Prof. T. S. N. Pillai Memorial Talk took the form of an AI learning workshop conducted by Jitin Chakalackal.

Cultural and creative initiatives added vibrancy to alumni life, including a guided visit to the Museums of Trivandrum, the launch of a Loyola Alumni Authors Group showcasing alumni-authored books, and the formation of the active "Old is Gold" Loyola Alumni Orchestra, bringing together senior and new voices.

Reflecting the evolving identity of the association, a new Alumni logo was designed and circulated. Efforts are also underway to develop a Global Alumni Directory, with a dedicated directory for social workers, strengthening professional and service networks.

Warm Wishes!

Antony Thomas

- Registrations of Association was updated with the help of alumnus Mr. Ram Mahesh
- Student Engagement: Alumni actively participated in student induction, interactions, and campus events.
- Collaborations: Alumni-alumni and alumni-institution collaborations facilitated social initiatives and career opportunities.
- Alumni Achievements were shared and appreciated. Demises were also noted.



Photos from top left: Women’s Day- honouring Mrs. Nanda and Sr. Fidelis; Dubai Chapter get-together; Vizhijam Port visit- honouring Shri. Anil Balakrishnan; Offering memento at TSN Pillai memorial lecture; 1971-73 Batch get-together; Offering memento at Jose Murickan Memorial Lecture. Batch get-together MSW and MA 2004-06 and 1976-78; Mariamma Memorial Lecture cum visit to Magic Planet. Offering memento to Mr. Gopinath Muthukad.



Major College-level Activities

Inauguration of the Education theatre, renovated library and amphitheatre.



Five-Year UG programmes 2025-29 Batch Inauguration and Loyola Venture Studio Launch.



The college got certified as "Green Institution" for imparting the culture of environment conservation with A+ Grade under GoK's Haritha Keralam Mission.



International Conference on entrepreneurship for sustainable future in collaboration with ASEM Lifelong learning (Nov 2025)



RTI Youth Conclave in collaboration with the Kerala RTI Movement (Dec 2025).



College Union Election witnessed Kerala's first transgender Chairperson, Alex Joseph.

Patron's Message

Fr. Sunny Kunnappalil SJ

The modern world in which we live today is marked by rapid and profound developments that are reshaping human lives. Scientific breakthroughs, technological advancements, globalisation, and social changes have created unprecedented opportunities for progress. At the same time, these very developments pose serious threats to humanity, challenging ethical values, social security, and even environmental sustainability. Understanding this dual nature of progress is essential for the critical analysis of our contemporary world which would enable one to face the future responsibly. The developments shaping the modern world are either purely beneficial nor entirely harmful. Only by aligning progress with human values can humanity transform today's threats into opportunities for collective survival and growth.

In this context, education in the contemporary world faces complex and evolving challenges driven by electronic media, technological advancements, globalization, and socio-cultural changes. While education systems aim to prepare learners for an increasingly interconnected and competitive world, they often struggle to adapt effectively to this new reality.

Loyola College has always been playing a vital role in human development, shaping individuals and societies by transmitting knowledge, skills, and values. We are making constant efforts to adapt to the changes of our modern world, while upholding core human values, and empowering individuals and contributing to sustainable global development.

Alumni are valuable partners in delivering quality education. I take this opportunity to recognize and appreciate the vital role our alumni play in strengthening the quality of education in our college. As former students who have experienced the institution's academic environment and who have later applied their learning in real world setting our alumni serve as a bridge between our institution and the society.

Let us foster alumni relationships and engagements that would help our institution to excel in our academic performance and the holistic formation of our students. May our joint efforts benefit both the institution and the society at large.

Department of Sociology

1. Seven Talks: “Sociology of Space Exploration,” by Dr. Rashmi M, Post-Doctoral Fellow at Jagiellonian University, Poland; Education–Employment–Progress,” by Rev. Dr. Lazar, S.J., Secretary of St. Xavier’s College, Palayamkottai. “Thinking Society: A Journey through Sociological Theories by Dr. Antony Palackal, Rtd. Professor, University of Kerala. “Sociology of the Civil Mind: A pathway to Public Service” by Ms. Oormila J S, Indian Revenue Service, Former student of Delhi School of Economics. “Let’s talk Gender: Myths, Mindset and Me” is organised by Ms. Ligin K, Research Scholar and Dr. Nisha Jolly Nelson, Head, Dept. of Sociology. ‘Introduction to Sociological Research’ by Dr. Lekha N B, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Sociology, SN College. ‘Indian Sociologists” by Dr. Pushpam M., Professor, Dept. of Sociology.

2. Two-day national Seminar with the Indian Sociological Society on ‘Education, Employment and Social Mobility among Minorities: Pathways to Peace and Social Mobility’.

3. Workshop on “Bibliometrics and Systematic Literature Review” by Dr. Akhil M P and Dr. Aparna Merin Mathew.

4. Book discussion on Cultures of Learning: An Enquiry into Critical Pedagogy in India with Prof. (Dr.) Antony Palackal, Dr. Suresh Babu G S, and Prof. (Dr.) Ajay Choudhary.



Book discussion on “Critical Reads: A Series on Scholarly Texts” focused on a critical reading of Peter L. Berger’s Invitation to Sociology, presented by Anjana, 2nd Year MA Sociology.

5. An orientation programme under the New India Literacy Programme (NILP) as part of the Kerala Literacy Mission and Reading Day celebrations.

6. A documentary screening of It’s a Girl to sensitize on gender issues.

7. Anti-ragging awareness session by Dr. Vinumol Devassy, Assistant Professor of Sociology.

8. Students secured 1st & 2nd ranks in the University-level PG Sociology Examination.

9. Students Eisha Haris and Anjali D S won 1st place in the Prof. I Mary Intercollegiate Quiz Competition held at CMS College, Kottayam.



10. In association with the Kerala State Literacy Mission, literacy surveys conducted across nine wards of Thiruvananthapuram District.

11. Conducted a session titled “Nirachiri” for members of the Federation of the Blind.

12. Launched Community Engagement & Social Responsibility Initiative (CESR).

13. Alumni engaged in Bridge Course served as an orientation programme introducing students to the fundamental concepts of the discipline.



Echoes of Experience: An Alumni Connect



14. Published *Analytical Sociological Kaleidoscope (ASK)*, featuring student-created posters on key social issues.

15. The Street Theatre Workshop

16. 2nd year students and faculty presented eight papers at an international conference at Loyola College, Chennai, on the theme “*The Human Algorithm: Reimagining Society in the Age of AI.*”

17. Students attended an international lecture on Jesuit Education delivered by Prof. Maura Mast, Professor and Dean of Mathematics at Fordham University, New York, USA.

18. Students participated in a two-day national seminar on “*Glimpses of Tribal Life: Knowledge and Intangible Expressions*” held on August 7–8, 2025, jointly organized by LCSS and KIRTADS.

Department of Social Work

1. The Dept. secured 10th rank nationally and 2nd rank in Kerala in the India Today Best Social Work Colleges of India 2025 rankings.
2. Batch 2023–25 secured 6 University ranks.
3. Overall Championship at OPSTA 2025.



4. Second-year MSW students won First Prize at the State-Level Reel Competition Aarohan 2025
5. Sallapam Project was launched in July 2025, where the dept. with Social Justice Dept. provided tele-counselling and support to elderly.
6. Students organized an Exhibition and Sale of Jute Bags in Jul 2025 with the National Career Service Centre for Differently Abled.



7. Students performed a community street play on "Screen Addiction" in Oct 2025.



8. Webinar on "Bridging Generations for Sustainable Community" (Oct 2025)
9. The dept organised a series of capacity-building programmes, including workshops on article writing, digital advocacy, street theatre, and PRA.
10. Interactive sessions with students and faculty of Palamuru University, Telangana, and Roda Mistry College of Social Work, Hyderabad
11. MPSW students performed a mime on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.
12. Students undertook 15-30 day internship in several institutions of professional practice.

13. The dept. collaborated with Wheelchair Association by conducting Xmas celebration hosting about 30 persons in wheel chairs.



14. A Walkathon on Sustainable Development Goals was conducted in Nov 2025

15. A Global Session, conducted as part of an International Conference, was in May 2025. Students presenting a total of 16 research papers.



16. The MSW CD students had their summer block placement in Nepal.

17. Fr. Saji SJ, faculty was awarded a PhD by the University of Kerala

in Nov 2025.

18. International lecture: Rev. Fr. Michael Chirayath CST, former Director of a tribal School in Chitwan, Nepal lectured on

Resource Person
Rev. Fr. Michael Chirayath CST
Founder Director, Tribal School, Chitwan, NEPAL



Social Work in Tribal Settings, Education & Rural Development (Jan 2026).

Alumni Engagements:

19. The alumni Punnya MSW 2020-22 and Dona MSW 2017-19 facilitated sessions focusing on research orientation and UGC NET and JRF examinations.



20. Ms. Sharon Fernandez, Clinical Therapist at Nova Scotia Health, Canada, led a session on "Social Work in Health Care: Bridging Canadian and Global Experiences."

21. Alumnus Dr. Joy Lazarus, a mental health professional, Catholic Deacon, counsellor, social worker, and trainer in Ireland had an interaction with students on Mental Health Practice.



Department of Personnel Management

1. Winner of Best Manager competitions at Sahasra 2K25 and Avenir 2K25 (KICM).
2. Overall Champions at Avenir 2025, KIGMA College, Neyyadam.



3. La Tarang 5.0, National Management Fest hosted in Feb 2025 in association with LAMPS.



4. Outbound Training at Vagamon held on 27-28 February 2025.



5. Session on Executive Career & Excellence conducted on 4 March 2025.

6. GEET launch and study kit distribution (Mar 2025), and certificate distribution.

7. Digital Marketing Session conducted on 3 June 2025 at LES Hall with LAMPS.

8. Spark Training programme held in Jun 2025 with Anoop Joseph as resource person.

9. NIPM student chapter inaugurated in Sept 2025.

10. La Tarang 6.0 conducted in Nov 2025.

11. LAMPS Magazine released in Nov 2025.



12. Kurambe Stall at Kanakakkunnu organized from Sept 2025 to support La Tarang 6.0. It was also put up on Loyola Annual Day.



13. 3rd Prize in Business Quiz 2025 at NIPM, Trivandrum Chapter.



14. Creative arts workshop conducted from 16-18 August 2025.

15. Students attended HR Conclave 4.0 at XIME, Kochi, in Nov 2025.



16. Compensation Architecture Workshop conducted in Nov 2025.

17. Excel workshop series started on 9 January, led by Ms. Nofa N. F.

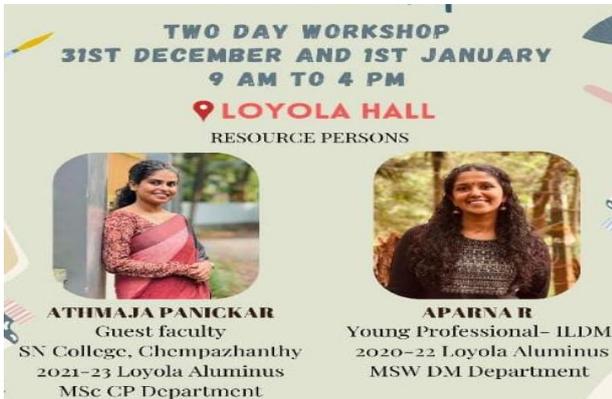
18. Exposure visits with industry partners and alumni.

Alumni Engagements: Mr. Harikrishnan (Asian Paints), Geo Micheal and Sanu Wilson (Welfare Officer at Terumo Penpol Pvt. Ltd.,)



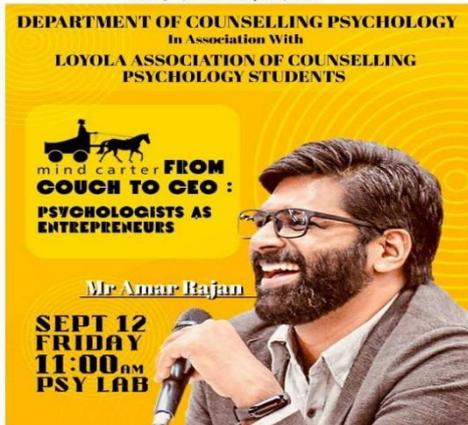
Department of Counselling Psychology

1. **Alumni Engagements:** An Art-Based Psychosocial Care Workshop was conducted in Dec-Jan facilitated by Loyola Alumna, Ms. Athmaja Panicker and Ms. Aparna R.



2. International Symposium on “Emotions, Beliefs and Mental Health: Cognitive and Neurological Perspectives” was held on 3 February 2025 organized collaborating with LES.

3. Invited Lectures: Mr. Amr Rajan and Dr. Ashmeet Nagpal



4. Study tour to Goa in February 2025 included an academic visit to the Cooj Mental Health Foundation located in Mapusa.

5. In July 2025, a session titled “Write It Right: A Guide to APA Formatting” was conducted by Ms. Athmaja Panicker, Guest Faculty.



6. Series of Bridge Courses for Freshers.



7. In August 2025, an institutional visit to Psychopark(Vellanad) was organised, where students interacted with resource persons N. R. Madhujan, Namita V. Suresh, Rekha, and Abhimanyu.

8. In September 2025, students participated in the Community Youth Engagement Programme “Uyare” at Government Arts College.

9. In September 2025, an expert interaction session on Animal- Assisted Therapy was conducted by Ms. Corrine Jane Standish, an animal-assisted therapist.

10. In Oct 2025, a three-day art-based experiential workshop titled “Beyond There Is” was conducted.



11. In Oct 2025, a community engagement programme was conducted at HLL Akkulam under the coordination of Mr. Vinu Vijayan, D.M.



Department of Disaster Management

1. Second-year students conducted a sanitation survey of the Kuriyathi Stream with the Kerala State Pollution Control Board in January 2025, followed by detailed mapping of the Amayizhanjan Stream and the Aakkulam watershed in November 2025.



2. Study Tour was held in Feb 2025 in Madurai visiting institutions- Aravind Eye Hospital, DHAN Foundation, EKTA Resource Centre, SEED Madurai, and VOICE Trust.



3. National Seminar on Tribal Life (7-8 August 2025): The Department of MSW (Disaster Management), in association with KIRTADS, co-hosted a two-day National Seminar titled



"Glimpses of Tribal Life: Knowledge and Intangible Expressions."

4. Certificate Course in Attappady (27 September-3 October 2025): The Department designed and conducted a one-week certificate course on Natural Resources and Tribal Livelihoods in Attappady, Palakkad.



5. International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (13 October 2025): The Department observed the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction at Anchuthengu with a hazards and mitigation exhibition that was visited by nearly 700 higher secondary students.



6. Lecture on the SDG Framework (19 September 2025): LADS organized a lecture titled *"Reflecting on the SDG Framework"* by Dr. Leena James, Global SDG 5 Hub Chair, Christ University, Bengaluru.



7. Interactive Session on Human-Wildlife Conflicts (10 October 2025): The Department coordinated an interactive session with environmentalist Ms. Veena Maruthoor on human-wildlife conflicts as part of World Wildlife Week observance.

Five Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUGP)

Social Work

1. Invited Lecture on “Exploring Career Pathways in Social Work and Psychology” by Dr. Faseela Jaleel, Medical Social Worker, UK in Aug 2025 at Educational Theatre. It was an enriching session for the students to understand the Indian and International Job opportunities in Social Work.
2. Lecture on “Transitioning local social work practices to International settings” By Ms. Yashna Ann Jacobin Nov 2025 with an intention to provide the students with an opportunity to interact with a social worker who has an exposure to both Indian and International Social Work pedagogy and Global practice.
3. Lecture on “Counseling Insights: family Court perspectives” by Mr. Anil Kumar RL and Ms. Kavitha C Gangan (Principal Counselors) in Jan 2026.



Data

Science & Computer Science

1. Orientation on ‘online learning platforms’ by IBM SkillsBuild CSRBOX in Aug 2025
2. Industrial Visit to ICT Academy of Kerala, Technopark in Sept 2025.



3. Commemorated the National Mathematics Day Celebration in Dec 2025 on the theme “Mathematics, Art and Creativity”.



4. Students took part in International Conclave on Skills, Engineering and Technology. Asia’s largest Industry-Academia conclave in Jan 2026.

The School of Commerce



1. Two-Day Joint Seminar on “Artificial Intelligence in Accounting and Finance” in Spet 2025 at Loyola College of Social Sciences, Thiruvananthapuram. Jointly Organised by Board of Studies (Academic), ICAI, the Department of Commerce, University of Kerala, and Loyola College of Social Sciences.
2. “Blending Academia to The Emerging Ecosystem – Thiruvananthapuram @ 2030”: In Nov 2025, organized by Department of Logistics and Supply Chain Management.
3. ACCA Accreditation for B. Com. - Certificate Handover Ceremony, in Nov 2025.



Psychology

1. Mental Health Awareness Day in Oct 2025
2. Visit to Psychopark, Velland in Sept 2025.

Loyola Extention Services (LES)

1. **Transdisciplinary Citizen Journalism & Dialogical Democracy Initiatives (TCJ-DDI)** empowers marginalized youth through month-long residential programmes and sustained livelihood support, which resulted in a fellows' collective (Karuthal Kootam) formed, and ongoing civic engagement in Anjuthengu and Vizhinjam.

2. **Constitutional & Democratic Initiatives for Social Transformation (CODE)**, launched in December 2025 with Azim Premji Foundation, engages 20 constitutional fellows to promote constitutional values, community empowerment, and social accountability in vulnerable coastal regions of Trivandrum and Kollam.

3. **Navajeevanam**, initiated in September 2025 with Trenzer Technologies, is an 18-month programme focusing on the holistic development of students at MRS Kattela Residential School through life skills workshops and sustained English language support.

4. **Loyola Jeevika Migrant Services (LJMS)**: LJMS supports interstate migrant workers in Thiruvananthapuram through welfare access, healthcare, cultural inclusion, crisis response, dignified death management, and policy advocacy via the Migrant Rights Observatory.

5. **Loyola Counselling and Psychological Services (Loyola CAPS)**: Evolving from the Loyola Family Counselling Centre after 40 years of service, Loyola CAPS provides comprehensive mental health support. Between Apr- Nov2025, it conducted 135+ programmes reaching over 10,200 beneficiaries across diverse groups.

6. **Building Youth Leadership for Inclusive Democracy**, supported by the Social Inclusion and Democracy initiative of ISI Bangalore, trained around 150 youth across four Kerala zones through structured capacity-building modules (2024–2026) and is set to expand statewide in the 2026–2028 phase.



7. **Participatory Rural Appraisal and Vulnerability Assessment** in Karumkulam Grama Panchayat under the Tsunami Ready Programme.



8. As part of **Conversations & Kaapi**, an interactive session was organized with Dr. Abhay Shukla of Medico Friend Circle, focusing on critical public health issues in India.



9. **5-Day Expressive Art-Based Psychosocial Support Workshop**: was conducted in collaboration with KSDMA and UNICEF.



10. **The Loyola Jeevika Migrant Services** conducted programmes for Migrant Workers like RTI workshops, cultural festivals, and sports melas.



11. **Observation of International Days** to raise awareness on global and transborder issues.

12. The **40th-year celebrations** saw LES expanded its accommodation facilities by adding 10 rooms and hiking staff strength to over 40.