



# BASTAR DHARMA KSHEMA SAMITI



**NEWS**

**LETTER**

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**Sangam Bhavan, Metguda,  
Jagdalpur , CG**

## Newsletter – January 2026

### Year of Hope

We have taken a new step with enthusiasm and great joy on the first day of this month. The year 2025 gifted us with many joyful moments, yet it also confronted us with numerous challenges. When we look around the world, we witness natural calamities, economic crises, wars, and large-scale migration affecting millions of lives.

When we reflect on the society in which we live, we observe that many young people are searching for happiness without perseverance or hard work. Academic commitment and skill development appear to be declining in many places. At the same time, rapid technological advancement—especially the growing influence of artificial intelligence—is increasingly overtaking the human mind and reshaping human interaction and decision-making.

Moreover, the constant rise in production costs and increasing prices of essential commodities place a heavy burden on daily life. Middle- and lower-income families struggle to move forward and meet their basic needs. Climate change has also severely affected farmers and other productive communities, threatening livelihoods and food security.

In the religious sphere, fundamentalism has become a serious concern worldwide. As a result, violence continues to spread, and innocent people—especially minorities and women—are made to suffer. These realities challenge our conscience and call us to reflect deeply on our responsibility toward one another.

Yet, as we enter this new year, we proclaim it as a **Year of Hope**. Hope invites us to rise above fear and despair and to work together for peace, justice, and human dignity. It encourages us to foster dialogue, strengthen education, promote sustainable development, and nurture compassion in our hearts. With renewed commitment and collective effort, we look forward to a joyful and blessed year marked by cultural growth, holistic empowerment, and progress in every sector of society.

May this year inspire us to walk together with faith, courage, and hope.

**Fr. Tiju Mankottil**  
Director, BDKS

## Visit of the Bishops of Kajirapali

Bishop Joseph Pulikan, together with Bishop Joseph Kollampampil and other priests, visited our social service areas, particularly Gurgoatan Village. They appreciated our services in the village and encouraged our model farming system.



clothes to villagers in different areas. BDKS is deeply thankful to all those who supported this initiative.

## Winter Cloth Distribution

With the support of kind-hearted people, we were able to distribute 200 winter



## Internship Programme

Fr. Nijo and Fr. Jomit from Christ University, Bangalore, came for their MSW internship programme. They stayed for nearly three weeks, working with village communities and assisting in office activities. They motivated and encouraged the villagers toward development and self-reliance.



## Two Deacons for Mission Exposure in the Village



Two deacons, now Fr. Joseph from Triture and Fr. Ashish from the Palakkad Diocese, came to Bodal as part of their mission exposure programme. During their stay, they interacted closely with the villagers, visited families, and learned about their daily life and challenges. This experience gave the deacons valuable pastoral exposure and deeper insight into village life.



## B.Ed. Students' Visit



B.Ed. students from Christ College, Jagdalpur, visited Bodal and nearby villages to conduct surveys for academic purposes. They also visited our tuition centers and agricultural farm.



## Mushroom Cultivation



Under the leadership of Kanti, ten SHG groups are currently engaged in mushroom cultivation. These groups are earning additional income through this activity. BDKS provided mushroom seeds sourced from Korba.



## Education and Marriage Support

BDKS provided approximately ₹75,000 in support of education and marriage expenses for poor families. Partial educational assistance was also extended to poor and suffering Christian families in the Bastar region.

### **Cultural Programme at Gudia Village**



A cultural programme was organized at Gudia Village to celebrate our local traditions and unity. The event included folk dances, songs, and short drama performed by villagers and students. Elders shared stories about the village's history, which helped everyone learn more about their culture. The programme ended with a message of harmony and pride in our heritage by Fr. Tiju and Fr. Thomas Medekal.



### **Support for Persecuted Christians**

We extended support to persecuted Christians in the Kanker District of the Bastar Division. Further educational and skill-training initiatives are being planned for them.



## Kindermission Support

With the support of Kindermission, we are running twenty tuition centers in Odisha and Chhattisgarh. Along with this, several holistic child development activities are being implemented.



## The Choice Foundation

This organization supports the conduct of awareness programmes in villages across two blocks of the Bastar Division, Chhattisgarh. We provide awareness on human trafficking and related issues.



## Remand Home Collaboration

The Remand Home, Jagdalpur, has collaborated with BDKS to provide skill training for inmates. Our staff has begun training sessions, which will continue for three months.

## KNH Project at Kapsi



The KNH Project is in its final stage. Training on federation formation is nearing completion. Project members are also seeking collaboration with government agencies and NGOs. Staff from Christ University and the KNH team visited the project area last month and provided guidance on various activities.



## Functional Vocational Training and Research Foundation Project

This organization has been supporting BDKS for the past thirteen years in skill-training programmes. Currently, they support training in computer skills, solar installation, and e-commerce. Forty-five youths have benefited, and placement support is also being provided after training.



## DBTech Project

With the support of DBTech, we are offering various training programmes such as cloud computing, solar repair, sales and marketing, and junior software development. We have also collaborated with Suriya College, Jagdalpur, and Christ College, Jagdalpur, for software development training.



## Stakeholders Project



The Stakeholders Project is in its final stage. Through this project, we supported ten villages in the Bastar District. The main objective was to

empower women and children through income-generation activities.



## Jim Kolber Support

Jim Kolber from the USA continues to support children at Asha Ashram by providing financial assistance for the daily running of the center.

## Christmas Celebration

Christmas was solemnly celebrated at Bodal Village, with active participation from villagers. Children presented various cultural programmes during the celebration. At Sangma Bhavan, staff and students celebrated Christmas together. Fr. Siby Kunnel delivered the Christmas message, and students presented cultural programmes that made the occasion joyful and memorable.

