# CESCI INDIA

NEWSLETTER · ISSUE 3 · JULY – SEPTEMBER 2026

## EDITORIAL

Dear Friends,

The third issue of the **CESCI India Newsletter** brings together some of the important moments and experiences from CESCI and our partner communities during July to September 2026.

These months were full of activity across our village programmes, educational initiatives, fellowships and campus life – from strengthening women's livelihoods through the tailoring unit to supporting children's education and encouraging young people to take part in community life.

This quarter also helped us deepen our networks with organisations and individuals working for social justice, peace and sustainable livelihoods.

CESCI remains a space where people from different backgrounds can meet, learn from one another and explore possibilities for social change. About 15 organisations used our facilities for training programmes in the last three months. We are grateful to every friend, colleague, volunteer, visitor, partner and community member who continues to walk with CESCI.

With thanks,
**Biju Kallidumbil**
Executive Director, CESCI



*Bapu statue at CESCI*



## TAILORING UNIT INAUGURATED

On **8 July 2026**, CESCI marked an important step in strengthening women's livelihoods with the inauguration of the **Tailoring Unit** by Ms. Nithya, Bank Manager, Indian Overseas Bank, Chathirpati.

The unit is a space where rural women can develop skills, create products and explore sustainable income, helping them become economically stronger and more confident.

FEATURE STORY

## GUESTS VISIT THE TAILORING UNIT

On **18 July 2026**, Shri **Ramesh Sharma** and Shri **Aneesh Kumar** visited the tailoring unit to see the progress of the initiative and to speak directly with the women involved.

CESCI values these relationships because social change grows stronger when people and organisations learn from one another.



VILLAGE PROGRAMMES

## SUPPLEMENTARY EDUCATION CONTINUES IN THE VILLAGES

Regular supplementary educational activities have continued in the villages. The programmes give children opportunities to learn, interact and build confidence beyond the formal school environment.

Education at the village level is not only about academic learning. It is also about creating spaces where children can express themselves, work together and understand their responsibilities towards their families and communities.



## CHILDREN'S SAVINGS DISTRIBUTION

An important activity this quarter was the **disbursement of savings to village children**.

**₹1,08,000/-**

SAVED BY VILLAGE CHILDREN IN 2025 – 2026, TO BE USED FOR THEIR EDUCATION

Saving even small amounts helps children understand the value of money, planning and responsibility, and shows them that small collective efforts create meaningful results over time.







## CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT

Training for the **Children's Parliament** was another important part of the village programme. Children's participation lets young people understand democratic processes, discuss issues that affect them and learn to listen to one another.

Ms. Soundarya and Ms. Fathima, the children's programme coordinators, organised a one-day workshop on the Children's Parliament with the help of Shri Baba Sri (Chennai), Nalankumar and Yalini (Dindigul) as resource persons. Such spaces nurture leadership, responsibility and a sense of community.

AYATHAMPATTI · NEAR ALAGARKOIL

## BALWADI INITIATIVE

CESCI is taking forward an initiative to establish a **Balwadi at Ayathampatti village**. Early childhood education plays an important role in the development of children and in supporting families in rural communities.

The initiative seeks to create a supportive space where young children can learn and grow. The women's group of Ayathampatti is taking the lead in running this Balwadi.





NETWORKS

## STRENGTHENING NETWORKS

CESCI's work has always been closely connected with networks and movements working for social transformation. During this quarter, several meetings and visits helped strengthen these relationships.

Networking is not simply about meetings. It is about sharing experiences, understanding different approaches and finding ways to work together for communities.




## NETWORK GATHERING IN CALICUT

A **network gathering** was held in Calicut on **11 July 2026**. Such gatherings are important spaces for strengthening relationships within the wider network and discussing ongoing work and future possibilities.

The gathering gave friends and colleagues an opportunity to come together, share experiences and continue the process of collective learning.






GANDHI FELLOWSHIP

## FELLOWSHIP JOURNEY

Fellowship programmes create opportunities to learn through direct engagement with communities and social movements, encouraging young people and activists to reflect on their own experiences while learning from grassroots realities.

The Gandhi Fellowship continues to give participants the chance to engage with questions of nonviolence, community life and social transformation.

The field experience lets fellows move beyond theory and encounter the challenges and possibilities present in communities – and develop their own understanding of constructive social action.







A MESSAGE FOR PEACE

### *"Be the change you wish to see in the world."*

The work of CESCI continues to draw inspiration from Gandhi's vision of a society based on nonviolence, dignity, cooperation and justice. Peace is not only the absence of conflict; it is also the presence of justice, equality, compassion and opportunities for everyone to live with dignity.

CAMPUS LIFE

## A SPACE FOR MANY VOICES TO LEARN TOGETHER

During the quarter, CESCI continued to welcome groups, organisations and individuals for meetings, training programmes, educational visits and exchanges.

The presence of **PRADAN**, Valley School, CT School, Credit Access, document-writing groups and other visitors adds to the diversity of experiences at CESCI.





15 AUGUST

## INDEPENDENCE DAY AT CESCI

CESCI celebrated **Independence Day on 15 August** with members of the campus community and staff. Such occasions are an opportunity to remember the values of freedom, equality and responsibility, and to reflect on the kind of society we want to build together.

*Freedom, equality and responsibility.*







A REFLECTION

## ADV. K. KUMARESAN

**K. Kumaresan, Advocate**, shared his appreciation after a training programme at CESCI. He thanked the CESCI management, especially Mr. Biju, for the venue, food arrangements and support, and praised the staff for their hospitality, coordination and assistance throughout the programme.

His message reflects an important quality of CESCI: people come not only for programmes, but also to experience a welcoming space where learning and human relationships go together.



OUR TEAM

## WELCOMING NEW TEAM MEMBERS

CESCI is pleased to welcome **Ms. Pothumpon** and **Ms. M. Karthimeena** to the team. Every new colleague brings fresh energy, skills and experiences that strengthen our collective work.

Ms. Pothumpon will coordinate activities with village women, including supporting women's groups and related community initiatives. Ms. M. Karthimeena will take responsibility for office administration and coordination.

We wish both of them a meaningful and fruitful journey with CESCI.



*Ms. Pothumpon and Ms. M. Karthimeena*



20 SEPTEMBER

## FIRST AID TRAINING FOR VOLUNTEERS

On Sunday, **20 September**, Mr. Indrajit conducted a basic First Aid training programme for village work volunteers and senior students, focusing on immediate and appropriate assistance in a sudden health emergency or injury.

Participants learned essential First Aid techniques and practical steps to respond calmly and effectively before professional medical help is available. The training also helped them understand their responsibility for the safety and well-being of people in their communities.

30 SEPTEMBER – 1 OCTOBER 2026

## FUNDRAISING TRAINING PROGRAMME

CESCI continues to explore ways of strengthening the capacities of civil society organisations. A **two-day Fundraising Training Programme for NGOs**, organised jointly with Tamuku, was held at the CESCI campus to help organisations understand different approaches to resource mobilisation and fundraising.

For grassroots organisations, the ability to build sustainable resources is closely connected with their capacity to continue their social work.





### A PARTICIPANT'S WORDS

*"Grateful for a meaningful Fundraising Workshop. An inspiring session filled with learning, collaboration, and the spirit of giving. The workshop reminded us that fundraising is not just about resources – it's about building relationships, creating opportunities, and making a lasting impact in the lives of others. Together, let's continue to live the Lasallian spirit of Faith, Service, and Community."*

**Antony Doss Savariar** · shared on Facebook



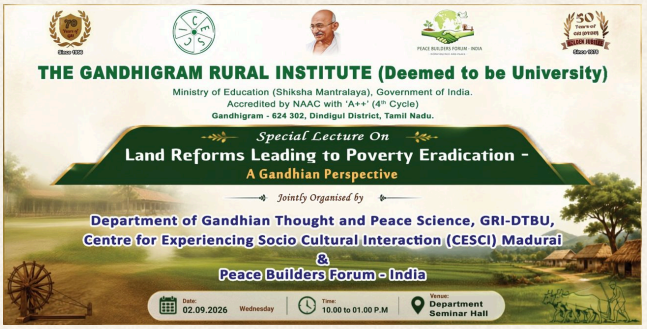
2 SEPTEMBER 2026 · GANDHIGRAM

# SPECIAL LECTURE AT GANDHIGRAM



A special lecture on **"Land Reforms Leading to Poverty Eradication – A Gandhian Perspective"** was held at the Gandhigram Rural Institute (Deemed to be University), jointly organised by its Department of Gandhian Thought and Peace Science, CESCI Madurai and the Peace Builders Forum – India.

Programmes like this keep conversations on nonviolence and constructive social action alive across generations.






3 SEPTEMBER 2026

## CESCI GENERAL BODY MEETING

The General Body Meeting was held at the CESCI Centre, Majagram, bringing members together to review the work of CESCI and discuss matters concerning the organisation and its future direction.

The General Body remains an important space for collective responsibility, accountability and planning.



IN MEMORIAM

## REMEMBERING ANBALAGAN

**Anbalagan**, who was associated with CESCI for a long time, is remembered with affection and gratitude. People who work closely with an organisation become part of its history through their relationships, contributions and memories.

He passed away on **27 August 2026**. We remember him with respect and offer our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends and all who worked with him.

**Together, we continue to learn.**
**Together, we continue to build.**
*Together, we continue the journey towards a more peaceful and just society.*

**EDITORIAL TEAM**

**Biju Kallidumbil**
Editor

**Dharshana Kallidumbil**
Assistant Editor

*(Only for private circulation)*

**SUBSCRIBE**

Published quarterly, free of charge. For a digital copy, email **cescimadurai@gmail.com**.