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FROM THE DESK OF NATIONAL DIRECTOR,

My affectionate Kolping Sisters and brothers

Greetings from Kolping India,

First and foremost, I must thank all of you for your unshakable confidence in my leadership which was exhibited through electing me the National Director of Kolping India for the second time on 10th December 2024. Kolping National President and the National Board Members deserve our recognition. I register my indebtedness to all of you for your unstinted support and cooperation in our collective journey towards establishing and consolidating Kolping Family Associations from Village to National level. It is a great experience to witness all of us growing together as one 'Kolping Family', inspired by the ideals and lived faith experience of Blessed Adolph Kolping who imbibed the values and teachings of Jesus in his mission to enhance human dignity of the migrant poor, which was denied to them in the society.

In the year 2025, it is our obligation to gratefully acknowledge the special support and handholding of our primary donor organizations who had shown a remarkable interest in our social, economic and spiritual development. To mention a few, Kolping International, Kolping Augsburg and Kolping Switzerland are close to our hearts. On behalf of Kolping India, I reminisce Kolping International, Kolping Augsburg, Kolping Switzerland, Kolping Oberstdorf, Kolping Freiburg-Hemmer Foundation with thanks for their sustained support to the development efforts of Kolping India.

With Love

Dr. Mari

National Director

KOLPING PRODUCTS BRAND IN THE MARKET

Kolping India supported to establish market outlets in 5 Kolping areas under BMZ funded project at Kottar Kolping, Kumbakonam Kolping, Sultanpet Kolping, Alleppey Kolping and Dindigul Kolping. These outlets were aimed at creating a channel for marketing value-added products produced by small, home-based Kolping entrepreneurs.

The established outlets support the entrepreneurs to reach a wider customer base by providing branding, packaging, competitive pricing, sales services, the resources and skills which the small entrepreneurs often found to be lacking. The outlets play a vital role in positioning the products to customers in a more appealing manner, allowing the entrepreneurs to focus on producing quality products to the demands of the market. Twenty-two Kolping entrepreneurs had displayed their products in the Kolping Outlets. Government approvals and certifications wherever required was obtained to run the Outlets.

GRAND OPENING OF KOLPING PRODUCTS MARKET OUTLET – KOTTAR



The Grand opening of a Kolping Marketing Outlet was held on 10th January 2025 at Nagercoil in Kottar Kolping. The Kolping Market Outlet named as “Adolph Kolping Shop” was inaugurated by Dr. Maria Soosai in the presence of Fr. Antroose, Director of Kottar Kolping, Fr. Penno Raj, the Executive Director of KSSS, Staff of Kottar Kolping and Kottar Kolping Diocese Level Kolping Federation (DLKF) members.



Dr. Maria Soosai said that “Establishing Kolping Product Outlets was initiated on pilot basis in a few selected areas. This initiative was undertaken in collaboration with the respective District Level Kolping Federations (DLKFs) and Collaborating Partner Organisations (CPOs) to create a formal market channel for the products produced primarily by our Kolping Members across India”. The shop at Nagercoil is located at KSSS Complex, Chettikulam and is managed by 4 Kolping members under the guidance of Kottar DLKF and Kottar Kolping. Mary Geetha, a DLKF representative of Kottar Kolping and one among the 4 members who has been managing the Adolph Kolping Shop says, " This outlet will serve to showcase the local delicacy, craftsmanship and creativity of our Kolping entrepreneurs. We have now displayed only the products produced by Kottar Kolping members. We have already started networking with DLKF members from other Kolping regions, sourcing unique products produced by Kolping members in the neighbouring districts”.

INAUGURATION OF RENOVATED KOLPING WOMEN'S HOSTEL, MADURAI



Establishing Kolping Regional Centres was a productive strategy, adopted by Kolping India to support Collaborating Partner Organisations to generate revenue primarily to cover the administrative expenses and the coordinator salary of Kolping India projects.



The Kolping Illam, the Women's Hostel at Madurai was constructed with a substantial financial support from Kolping India in 1996. The women hostel after 25 years, required extensive repair as it was found in a dilapidated condition. After series of discussion with the Partner Organization, the renovation work was undertaken by Kolping India in collaboration with Madurai Social Service Society to restore the functioning of women's hostel at

K.Pudur. The renovated Hostel was inaugurated by Rt. Rev. Dr. Antonysamy, the Apostolic Administrator of Madurai Diocese in the presence of National Director Dr. Maria Soosai, Diocesan Kolping Director Fr. Gabriel and one of the former directors of MSSS on 20 th January 2025. The National Director participated in the event as a special guest. The renovated centre has 14 rooms that could accommodate 40 inmates in room sharing basis. The Kolping Illam is all set to offer a safe and comfortable stay at an affordable rate for women who stay away from home for work or education in Madurai.

GREENING INITIATIVE: WOMEN IN FOREFRONT



Dr. Maria Soosai, the National Director participated in event under ‘green initiative’ organized by Kottar Kolping on 10th January 2025. The National Director distributed tree saplings to Kottar Kolping Federation Members to promote green environment in their respective villages. The saplings were planted by the members of Kolping Family Associations in the common land of their respective villages. The Kolping Families pledged to take care of the plants until they grow into strong, healthy trees, ensuring a sustainable and greener future for their communities.

CYCLONE FENGAL – FLOOD RELIEF



Cyclone Fengal, a severe cyclonic storm, causing heavy rainfall in Tamil Nadu on November 30, 2024. Several districts of Tamil Nadu experienced widespread flooding. The poor people were the most affected by the continuous rain as the life and the livelihood of them was fully paralyzed. At this juncture, Kolping India extended the helping hand to one of the worst-hit villages in Tiruvanamalai district, where very heavy rain measured over 40 cm led to sudden discharge of water from Sathanur dam without prior notice.



This resulted in widespread destruction of houses, agriculture lands and public infrastructure. Kolping India in collaboration with Vellore Social Service Society (VSSS) supported 200 families with relief kit at Udayarkuppam, a remote village on the periphery of Tiruvanamalai district.



The National Director interacted with the affected families at a meeting organised on 22nd January 2025 and distributed 200 relief kit that comprised of essential clothes, blankets, towels required for a family. The families eagerly listened to the life and work of Blessed Adolph Kolping and the activities of Kolping India.

VISIT OF MR. FRANZ MARGINTER - MANAGING DIRECTOR, KOLPINGHAUS FERLACH



Mr. Franz Marginter - Managing Director, Kolpinghaus Ferlach, a part of Kolping Österreich (Austria) along with 11 others visited Kolping India National Office on 27th February 2025. They were impressed by the work of Kolping India on women centred development through generation of self-employment avenues, strengthening the Kolping Family Associations with

knowledge and skills. Kolping India was specially moved by the gesture of Mr. Franz for sharing the work of Kolpinghaus Ferlach and bringing us best wishes from Kolping Österreich. This type of meetings and exchanges reaffirms our belief that Kolping is a “One Global Family”.

KOLPING CARES: DELIVERED RELIEF KITS TO RAIN-AFFECTED TRIBAL COMMUNITIES IN KANCHEEPURAM

In response to the severe hardships caused by heavy rains in Kancheepuram, Kolping India delivered essential groceries and clothing to 100 impoverished tribal families identified as most affected from villages around Kolping India Home: Adolph Kolping Resource Centre, Kancheepuram.





Dr. Maria Soosai distributed the ‘Kolping Cares’ Relief Kits on 29th March 2025 and thanked the community leaders and volunteers who helped in identifying the affected families and organised the distribution in an orderly manner. The timely help provided the necessary support and a message of solidarity to the poor families during the challenging time.

VISIT OF MR. RALF TEPEL TO KOLPING INDIA



Mr. Ralf Tepel, Freelance Consultant from Austria visited Kolping India on 11th April 2025. He had a brief meeting with the Kolping India Team at the National Office where he was briefed about the projects of Kolping India. Following the

meeting, he visited Kolping India Home: Adolph Kolping Resource Centre at Kancheepuram and learnt about its utility as a training centre.

ASIKA MEETING

The First AsiKA Virtual Meeting for the year 2025 was held on 26th March 2025. The representatives from Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and India participated and shared their reports on the work done by their respective National Kolping. On behalf of Kolping India Ms. Sola presented the activity report. Dr. Maria Soosai said, ‘although there were many cultural differences, there were similarities too between Asian countries that brought us together as Asian Kolping Association (AsiKA)’. He further added that the constituents of ASIKA should evolve a common minimum programme, which could be explored during the Kolping International Board of Directors Meeting to be held in October 2025 in India.

KOLPING GERMANY CELEBRATED 175 TH ANNIVERSARY

Kolping Society of Germany celebrated its 175th Anniversary, where over 8000 Kolping brothers and sisters from Germany including representatives from other Kolping National Associations participated. Dr. Maria Soosai, National Director of Kolping India and a member of Kolping International Executive Board participated in the events organized by Kolping International and Kolping Germany. The grand celebration began on 2nd May 2025 filling the Rhine riverbank at Cologne, Germany with people dressed in Orange and Black proudly waving Kolping Flags. The open-air event had a mix of dance, music, and shows.

The next day, nearly 200 roadside kiosks were lined along the pedestrian zone, showcasing the diverse services of Kolping Societies in Germany. The National Director had an opportunity to meet our friends from Kolping Augsburg, Mr. Robert, Mr. Johann Michael, Ms. Johanna, Ms. Vera and some of the youth friends from Kolping Augsburg in the stall and panel discussion.



Products produced by members from Kolping India were also part of the showcase.



Simultaneously, workshops on specific themes, family activities, and youth entertainment were also organized near the statue of Blessed Adolph Kolping, Minorite Church, Cologne.

Dr. Maria Soosai as a guest speaker in a panel discussion spoke about the activities that Kolping community spearheads towards combating climate change. Along with Dr. Maria Soosai the other guest speakers included Ms. Katharina Diedrich and Guido Mensger, Head of Finance and Administration at Kolping Germany. The National Director deliberated lengthily on the success of micro credit activities as a strategy adopted by Kolping members for the economic development of Kolping families. Niklas and Micheala from Kolping International were other panel members in the discussion on micro credit services. The celebration concluded on 4th May with a festive service at the Tanzbrunnen fountain, led by General Praeses Christoph Huber. The anniversary highlighted Kolping's spirit of unity, faith, and vibrant community spirit.

NATIONAL LEVEL PROJECT REVIEW & COORDINATION MEETING

11-12 JUNE 2025 | ICOSA PARIPURNA CENTRE, CHENNAI



The two-day National Level Project Review and Coordination Meeting was held to assess the progress of Kolping India projects against their envisaged results. The meeting brought together Diocesan Kolping Directors and Project Coordinators to evaluate achievements, challenges, and the way forward. Dr. Maria Soosai, National Director, Kolping India emphasized the critical role of organizational culture in shaping behaviour and performance of the organisation. Drawing examples from the Government, Corporate, and NGO/NPO sectors, he highlighted how leadership influences culture. Dr. Maria Soosai clarified the three levels of Results – Output, Outcome and the Impact when reporting the project results.

PROJECT PROGRESS PRESENTATIONS & REVIEW





Representatives from various Diocesan Kolping units presented their project updates, covering their Achievements against set goals, the challenges faced, Lessons learned and best practices. Each presentation was followed by an open forum discussion, where participants provided feedback, sought clarifications, and shared recommendations for improvement. Overall, the two days program was an enriching experience to further enhance the relevance and effectiveness of Kolping India Projects across India.

STATE LEVEL PROJECT REVIEW & COORDINATION MEETING



A state level Project review and Coordination Meeting was organized for the Kolping Project Coordinators of Tamil Nadu and Kerala States on 12th & 13th May 2025 at Malankarai Bhavan -Mar Ivanios Animation Centre, Kanyakumari. Dr. Maria Sooai, National Director reviewed the performance of the Kolping Project Coordinators in the overall management of Kolping India activities and projects implemented in the respective areas. He put forth two questions eliciting individual response from each participant. The written response from each participant was collected for later review.

The National Director run through a Reality Checklist prepared based on general observation, field monitoring visits, reports and documents received from CPOs. Over 17 points listed in a power-point presentation that reflected the overall performance of the CPOs particularly the management of communication, decision making process, understanding of the development projects, reporting and documentation, facilitation of Kolping Groups, were discussed in detail.

Input sessions on Training and Report writing emphasized the need to continuous improvement in our skills. He acknowledged the contributions of the Kolping Project Coordinators and support extended by the Collaborating Partner Organisations to Kolping India to efficiently implement the development projects and strengthening and forming of Kolping Family Associations in their respective areas.

PROJECT MONITORING VISIT - ALLEPPEY AND COCHIN KOLPING



Visit to Market Outlet run by Aashwas Kolping Family.

Dr. Maria Soosai witnessed a highly engaging two-day visit to the Alleppey and Cochin Kolping areas on 31st May and 1st June 2025. The visit was marked by mutually enriching experience between the National Director and the Kolping Members. The visit to the Kolping Family Association managed projects exhibited the spirit of self-help and entrepreneurship.

Dr. Maria Soosai visited Kolping Products Market Outlet in Punnapra at Alleppey. The shop is owned and managed by the Aashwas Kolping Family Association. The members of Aashwas Kolping Family were elated to show Dr. Maria Soosai, the diverse range of products. The shop sells value added fish products, pickles, flours, candles and handicrafts, which are produced by members from 19 different Kolping Family Associations.

The members explained how the outlet provides the local Kolping entrepreneurs a marketing platform, empowering individual producers by giving them an additional channel to expand their customer base. The members shared that this shop is the first of its kind initiative by a Kolping Family Association in Alleppey and is gaining popularity for its quality and local flavour.

Dr. Maria Soosai also visited the Soap production unit of Nest Kolping Family and Candle making unit of Sneha Deepam Kolping Family.



Marine Treat Restaurant managed by Big Kolping Family.

On the next day, he visited the popular Marine Treat Sea Food Restaurant in Arthunkal - a successful enterprise managed by the Big Family Kolping Association. The members managing the restaurant explained the nuances of running the food business successfully. The Restaurant has gained popularity not only for its delicious seafood dishes but also for the customer-friendly approach. Dr. Maria Soosai appreciated the team for their perseverance in maintaining the quality standards.

Dr. Maria Soosai met one of the 4 fishermen family to whom Kolping India extended financial support to purchase thermacol boats in 2023. The Family expressed their gratitude for helping them to improve their livelihood through improvised fishing boats.

Later that day, Dr. Maria Soosai visited Cochin Kolping and discussed the utility of Kolping Regional Centre with Fr. Augustine Kadeparambil, Cochin Diocese Kolping Director.

KOLPING CARES – REACHING OUT TO PEOPLE IN DISTRESS



Kolping India National Office Team reached out to lone pavement dwellers on the streets of Ooty with ‘Kolping Care’ kits to protect them from harsh cold weather. 100 pavement dwellers in Ooty and the surrounding areas, received a kit consisting of a woollen blanket, a shawl and a raincoat.



On 16th June 2025, the National Director, Dr. Maria Soosai and the National Office Team went around meeting the pavement dwellers on the busy roads, bus terminal, near worship places at Ooty and handed over the Kolping Cares kits, despite intermittent rain on the day of distribution. The distribution was coordinated by Ooty Diocesan Kolping. Ooty Diocesan Kolping Director Fr. Stanis and team organized the event more efficiently and successfully.



Distribution of Financial support to the affected families at Ooty



Distribution of Financial support to the affected families at Calicut

In two separate programs, families affected by the Landslide at Ooty in Tamil Nadu and Wayanad in Kerala were financially supported to reconstruct their Livelihood. Dr. Maria Soosai distributed financial support to 10 families at a meeting held on 17th June 2025 at Gudalur in Ooty Diocese. Similarly, 20 families from Wayanad in Calicut Diocese were financially supported at a meeting held at Meppadi on 18th June 2025. These 30 families were gradually coming to terms after the catastrophic Landslide.