

PRIORITIES OF NCCI—YOUTH CONCERNS

- Encouraging young people to be part of the National Ecumenical Movement.
- Networking with the Local and International Ecumenical partners for sponsorship and partnership.
- Connecting member churches and local youth movements with NCCI Youth Concerns ministry through organizing programmes both at regional and national levels.
- Strengthening direct partnerships with youth fellowships of the member churches and NCCI Youth Concerns ministry and encouraging them to create ecumenical platforms for young people to promote grassroots ecumenism.
- Identifying young people to engage them in a process of articulating their faith and understanding about God.

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connect create change

Youth Concerns—National Council of Churches in India

Climate change: Slowing down to God's pace is the only way to save our planet

The floods in Kerala and now in parts of the North East and North India are a reminder to everyone that we have managed to tinker with the eco system so badly that the system is reacting. Adam and Eve were asked by God to be the caretakers of the garden of Eden and not the owners. But they were enticed into a power arrangement seeking to destroy what God carefully and thoughtfully created. Their exit from the garden was to maintain the eco balance set by God.

Today, we are faced with the same problem of being displaced from our homes because we are getting into unholy alliances of power and greed. Rivers are being encroached, filled and brutalized while hills and mountains are being deforested and flattened leading to a fightback by the waters and the lands. We have gone ahead of God and want God and creation to catch up. A re-entry into the garden of Eden is possible when we make a commitment to be caretakers of God's creation. That will bring about a transformation of earth into what it should be rather than being what it is now. Many places which are recovering from disasters are making a commitment to rebuild but that commitment is never placed before God and is again a rearrangement of power structures.

Post disaster, power and politics based discourse is increasing and the land is becoming a breeding ground for land sharks, human trafficking, disaster tourism and mishandling of funds meant for rehabilitation. It is easy to go down that path but our spirituality should make us raise our voices against this. The youth of today have a big role to play in the ecological balance of the world. Globalization and commercialization with media and advertising as their tools have led to the formation of a culture which is fast paced. The God of our scripture and faith has been replaced by the God/s of the market. Technology has accelerated this phenomenon and the youth have bought the argument.

For the world to regain its balance, the youth have to have a more balanced view of life. Is development the construction of roads, bridges, high rises and airports or is development the happiness and security index in our life? How can the turnaround happen? One, we have to search for God and see whether God exists in the high rises or exists in the lakes and mountains? Our theology and belief which has been influenced by prosperity has to be relooked. Kosuke Koyama in his book "The three mile per hour God" talks of the God present in our environs. To know such a God we must walk at God's pace instead of forcing God to run or drive at our pace.

Two, we must reclaim the garden of Eden. The thought that such a garden exists somewhere else and is unreachable is perhaps flawed. Rather, our conversion to God's ways will make our land into the garden of Eden. Such places already exist but are in danger of being invaded and exploited. As long as we make fast paced plans of development we will be like Adam and Eve who claimed ownership instead of being caretakers. It is time now to walk with God and listen to what God wants and to be the caretakers of what belongs only to God.

Fr. Jerry Kurian

(Priest and Theological Educator, Syrian Orthodox Church)

PRAYER POINTS

- We pray for the victims of the catastrophe that has struck Kerala, Karnataka and North-Eastern parts of India. We grieve the irreparable loss.
- We pray for the victims of Kandhamal riots. May justice be meted out to the innocents groaning in prisons.
- We pray for Peace to prevail in Palestine and Israel.
- We pray for the L G B T Q I A + community. May their dignity of life be affirmed.

Ecumenical School on Governance, Economics and Management opens in Mexico



A 10-day program on global economics with participation of church leaders and young activists from diverse backgrounds was opened 19 August in Mexico City. The Ecumenical School on Governance, Economics and Management (GEM) is a joint initiative of the World Council of Churches (WCC), World Communion of Reformed Churches

(WCRC), and the Council for World Mission (CWM). It aims to develop economic literacy within churches by equipping current and future leaders with a better understanding of churches' engagement in mission and witness for economic justice.

Source: <https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/ecumenical-school-on-governance-economics-and-management-opens-in-mexico>.

INVITATION TO WRITE



Constituent members of NCCI, especially Member Churches of NCCI, are requested to share recent reports of youth programmes with the NCCI Youth Concerns department for publication in the E- Newsletter.

Voices of the young... visions for the future
World Week for Peace in Palestine & Israel



World Week for Peace in Palestine & Israel 16-23 September 2018

- Pray
- Study
- Act

Investing in young people

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity

1 Timothy 4:12

time for palestine

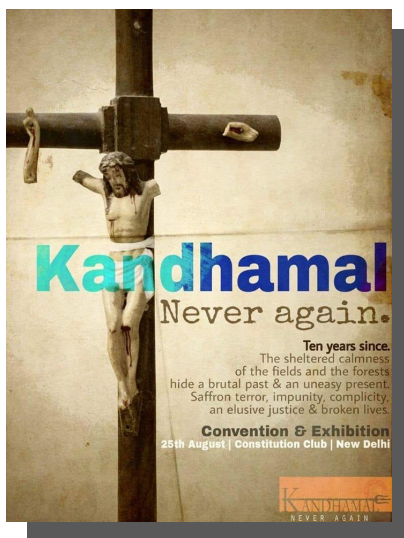


World Week for Peace in Palestine & Israel, 16-23 September, 2018

This year's theme of the World Week of Peace in Palestine and Israel is **"Youth and Children: Raising Hope and Making Change"**. Youth and children are the ones who suffer the most in conflicts and under occupation. During this week, which includes the International Day of Peace on 21

September, church organizations, congregations, and people of faith are encouraged to bear a common witness by participating in worship services, educational events, and acts of support in favour of a just peace for Palestinians and Israelis. Source: <https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/wcc-programmes/public-witness/peace-building-cf/invitation-to-world-week-of-peace-in-palestine-and-israel/>

Kandhamal Never Again: A Decade of Haunting Agony



The NCCI expresses its deep concern and anguish with regard to the continued suffering of Christian survivors of the Kandhamal massacre even after 10 years of its happening. The carnage was one of the worst of its kind against Christians in the past 100 years. Despite the fact, that in the process of inquiry, many officials have testified that the allegations against Christians are false, the local Christian community still continues to struggle. Many people are still languishing in prison. The rightful compensation on relief and rehabilitation from government is so slow that people are losing hope in their own government. Right wing fundamental forces are becoming more and more aggressive over the past five years. The NCCI strongly condemns the rather slow, indeed disinterested, action of the concerned authorities in Odisha, and urges the government to pay the announced compensation to the victims, speed up the rehabilitation process, and release the innocent people languishing in prison. Justice delayed is justice denied.

NCCI names General Secretary Designate



NCCI in its Executive meeting in Chennai on August 28, 2018, announced **Rev. Asir Ebenezer** as the next General Secretary of NCCI. He will be taking charge at the turn of the year to succeed the present General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Roger Gaikwad. Rev. Asir Ebenezer is an ordained minister of the Church of South India (CSI). He has been in ministry since 1992 and has served in various positions in national and global ecumenical forums. He currently serves as Director of Social Empowerment: Vision in Action (SEVA) at the CSI Synod. He had earlier served the NCCI in various positions, including Officiating General Secretary of NCCI in 2010.



Student Christian Movement of India

APPEAL FOR SUPPORT

Due to heavy floods and unexpected rains, the Kerala state in India is going through a devastating situation where hundreds of people and animals lost their lives and millions of people are homeless. They are all staying in shelter camps supported by the Government agencies and civic bodies.

SCMI seeks your prayers and support for immediate relief and a long term rebuilding work. Your small support will be much helpful to restore life in Kerala.

PEOPLE IN KERALA ARE IN NEED OF YOUR HELP AND SOLIDARITY



TO DONATE

For Foreign Donors-

Account name:
Student Christian Movement of India
Account number: 10977252793
Branch name: Bangalore main (813)
IFS Code: SBIN000813
Swift Code: SBININBB169

For Indian Donors-

Account name:
Student Christian Movement of India
Account number: 36133003793
Bank name: State Bank of India
Branch: Mission Road (60133)
IFS Code: SBIN0060133

Please contact for more info.

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Email: scmindi@rediffmail.com

The Catastrophic Floods: Humans and Ecology groan in despair

The National Council of Churches in India expresses its deep pain and distress over the loss of hundreds of lives due to the massive floods, overflowing rivers and dams, and a series of gigantic landslides which have also displaced tens of thousands of people, causing colossal destruction of their belongings, consequently leading to immeasurable misery and hardship. Not only more than four hundred precious lives have been lost, but also cattle and other livestock have perished. The affected people are subject to suffer from various diseases such as cholera, typhoid and other health hazards. Irreplaceable damage has been caused to the eco-balance of the region. The NCCI affirms its solidarity with the suffering people and all creation of Kerala, Karnataka and parts of Northeast. The NCCI appreciates the invaluable disaster relief support rendered by its member Churches and organizations. At the same time it appeals to all the constituent members

to continue to provide help in the arduous process of relief and rehabilitation, which lies ahead.

NAGALAND FLOOD



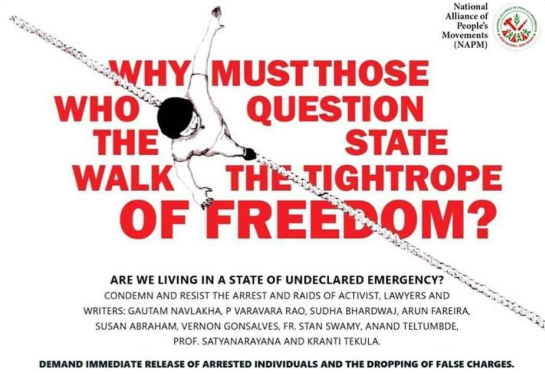
DONATE TO NAGALAND CM RELIEF FUND

A/C NO: 10530527879
IFSC: SBIN0000214
SBI, KOHIMA BRANCH



Nagaland has seen the worst floods in its history. Twelve people have died and 3,000 have been displaced in incessant rain, which has caused landslides and floods in around 400 villages of Nagaland in the past one month. The government, however, claims that the situation is under control and floodwaters have receded but state needed major repairs and rebuilding work. Major roads, including NH-29, connecting Dimapur and Kohima, have been cut off. About 360 locations of roads have been totally cut-off sending the state into an emergency situation. In an interim report to the Centre, the state government demanded Rs 219 crore as immediate help. According to Nagaland government officials, the requirement for assistance is likely to go up to Rs 400 crore even as the damage is pegged at around Rs 800 crore as of now.

Source: <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/12-dead-3-000-displaced-360-locations-cut-off-in-nagaland-flood-1328415-2018-08-31>



Call to Responsible Citizenship

The NCCI urges all Indian Christian citizens to carry out their responsibilities in the country. This concern is urgent because of certain undesirable trends in the country which are on the increase since the past five years. The so called liberalization and development policies and strategies of the government (while apparently benefiting the middle class along with the rich and the millionaires), are constricting, oppressing and exploiting the poor, particularly dalits and tribals/adivasis. The patriarchal and

consumerist culture of our society is seriously, indeed cruelly victimizing women and children. Right wing fundamentalism is allied with globalizing systems, thereby quenching the spirit of democratic secularism which our Indian Constitution affirms. Religious minorities are being hounded. Whether it is our FCRA, governance of educational institutions, operation of our medical and social services, our freedom to worship and give witness to the gospel, or our food and dress culture, they are all subject to the constricting laws of the ruling authorities and the vigilantism and impunity of fundamentalist forces. Not only religious minorities but citizens in general are subject to scrutiny. Dissent and criticism are not tolerated; persons are being arrested, being branded as anti-national.

We are also witnessing the political atmosphere getting charged with assembly elections in some states and the country-wide General Elections in 2019 drawing near. It is the bounden duty of the government to ensure peace and free and fair elections. At the same time the NCCI urges its member Churches and organizations to unite in creating awareness among the people about the importance of making responsible use of our right of political franchise. Voting is our right which would help our country to be back on the rails of true democracy. Christians are therefore urged to be proactive in the participation of the elections.

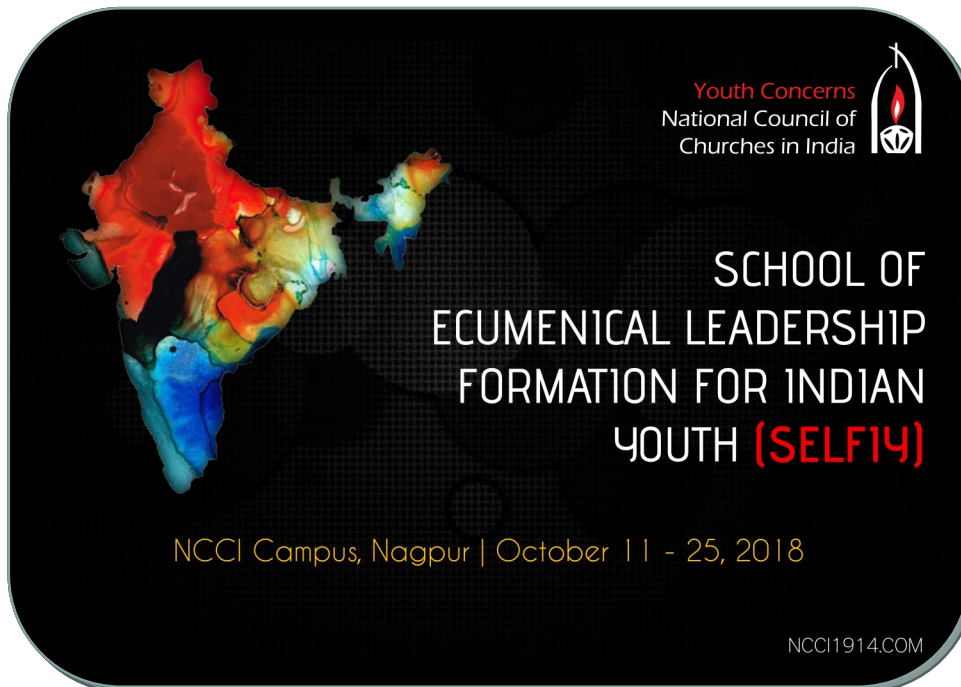
Sports	Gold Medal	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal	Total
Athletics	7	10	2	19
Shooting	2	4	3	9
Wrestling	2	0	1	3
Bridge	1	0	2	3
Rowing	1	0	2	3
Tennis	1	0	2	3
Boxing	1	0	1	2
Archery	0	2	0	2
Equestrian	0	2	0	2
Squash	0	1	4	5
Sailing	0	1	2	3
Badminton	0	1	1	2
Hockey	0	1	1	2
Kabaddi	0	1	1	2
Kurash	0	1	1	2
Wushu	0	0	4	4
Table Tennis	0	0	2	2
Sepak Takraw	0	0	1	1
Total	15	24	30	69

Gold 15, Silver 24, Bronze 30: India's best Asian Game

The 2018 Asian Games turned out to be India's best ever outing at the quadrennial sports extravaganza, matching the country's best gold medal count while registering the biggest haul in terms of total medals. India's gold tally of 15 in Indonesia was their joint best along with the 1951 Delhi Games, but the overall haul of 69 medals was the highest ever, surpassing the 65 they had won in Guangzhou in 2010. India collected more silver medals (24) than at any other previous Games while their bronze tally of 30 was slightly behind the Games in Incheon (36) and Guangzhou (34).

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/asian-games/gold-15-silver-24-bronze-30-equals-indias-best-asian-games/articleshow/65652698.cms>

School of Ecumenical Leadership Formation for Indian Youth (SELF1Y)



As her commitment towards building ecumenism, the National Council of Churches in India (NCCI) through Youth Concerns (earlier known as the Commission on Youth), has produced various young ecumenical leaders in both national and international levels over few decades. In continuing the vision of witnessing in forming young ecumenical leaders, the School of Ecumenical Leadership Formation for Indian Youth (SELF1Y) programme aims to enhance the prophetic

Indian young minds so that the Indian Church and society at large may witness the ecumenical society of just and inclusive communities with equipped young leaders. The programme starts from October 11-25, 2018 at NCCI Campus, Nagpur.

Consensual gay sex is not a crime, rules Supreme Court



A five-judge Constitutional bench of the Supreme Court Thursday (06/09/18), in four separate but concurring judgments, legalised same-sex relations between consenting adults. It termed the 2013 judgment constitutionally impermissible. The apex court was hearing a clutch of petitions challenging criminalisation of homosexuality. The five-judge bench was headed by Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra and comprised Justices R F Nariman, A M Khanwilkar, D Y Chandrachud and Indu Malhotra.