



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN INDIA

The HOUR has come; let us get going...

May 2024

NEWSLETTER

"Summer Course on Understanding Human Sexuality"

The NCCI-NEFGSD's recent summer course on "Understanding Human Sexuality," held from May 20th to 25th, 2024, hosted at the NCCI campus in Nagpur. The intensive program brought together 25 students



from diverse backgrounds. Through a blend of academic disciplines, religious perspectives, and interactive methodologies, participants explored key topics such as gender identity, sexuality, and pastoral care. The course's groundbreaking approach left attendees enriched and eager for more. NCCI's promise to introduce an advanced course later this year underscores their commitment to fostering understanding and inclusivity. This initiative marks a significant step towards promoting empathy and respect for gender and sexual diverse persons/communities. [MORE](#)

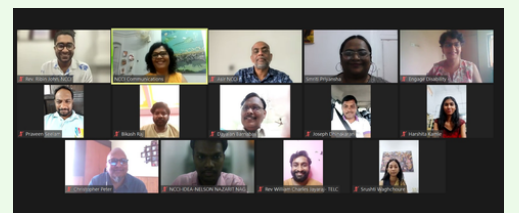
"Nagpur Hosts Ecumenical Youth Gathering on Migrant Rights"

Nagpur witnessed a dynamic Ecumenical Youth Gathering on May 25th, 2024, themed "Towards Just Life and Affirming Identities in Migration." Attended by 20 young individuals from diverse churches, the event addressed pressing issues faced by migrant youth. Rev. Asher Noah Exe. Secretary of NCCI highlighted global challenges and questioned ecclesial responses, while Rev. Ganesh Barve emphasized biblical perspectives on migration. Speakers urged youth to advocate for inclusivity in church structures. Personal testimonies underscored the importance of migrant-friendly spaces. The gathering marks a significant step in promoting understanding and solidarity with migrant communities." [MORE](#)



NCCI Workshop Propels Churches Towards Inclusive Digital Communication

Rekindling the fervor for inclusion, the National Council of Churches in India (NCCI) organized a workshop on Global Accessibility Awareness Day (GAAD) on May 15, 2024. Themed "Digital Welcome Mats: Accessible Church Communications Network," the event aimed to foster accessible church



communication for all. Led by Rev. Ribin John and Mr. Nelson Nag, participants from various church teams delved into strategies for overcoming digital barriers faced by people with disabilities. Ms. Neelam Gaikwad and Ms. Smriti Priyansha shared practical insights and case studies, igniting a commitment to prioritize inclusivity in church communication. This workshop not only raised awareness but also galvanized a collective effort towards creating a barrier-free digital environment for all church attendees. [MORE](#)



News from NCCI

Finding Strength in Fellowship

In the latest edition of our online fellowship hosted by NCCI-IDEA on May 4th, 2024, participants experienced more than just a gathering; it was a beacon of hope and inspiration for those facing life's challenges. Led by dedicated individuals like Nelson Nazarit Nag and featuring a moving testimony from Mrs. Anna Kala Stephen, the session resonated with the message of resilience and faith. Mrs. Stephen's journey from serving in the Indian Army to finding solace in her Christian values amidst adversity served as a testament to the power of faith. Attendees like Ms. Moni found comfort in the fellowship, reaffirming the importance of community support. As we navigate life's ups and downs, let us draw strength from each other and the unwavering power of faith.



Rainbows of Faith: Episode 2 - Promoting Inclusivity: Insights from United Church of Canda

In the recent episode of "Rainbows of Faith from Around the Globe" on May 24, 2024, Canadian church leader showcased their commitment to inclusivity. Rev. Michael Blair of the United Church of Canada addressed the challenges faced by LGBTQIA individuals within religious spaces, advocating for a broader interpretation of scripture. He highlighted the UCC's progressive steps towards inclusivity, including allowing LGBTQIA individuals to join the church through baptism. The session, marked by thoughtful dialogue and reflections, emphasized the importance of embracing diversity within religious communities. With Rev. Dr. Deva Jyothi Kumar extending gratitude and Gilbert Wang offering a closing prayer, the event exemplified the transformative power of fostering acceptance and understanding.



Women's Empowerment Meeting Highlights

Rev. Jyothi Singh of NCCI organized a meeting uniting leaders from Fellowship of the Least Coin and Asian Church Women's Conference in India, Indonesia, Japan, and Taiwan. Rev. Junita from Taiwan hosted, focusing on the biblical story of Prophet Miriam. Eight leaders shared insights on Miriam's resilience and activism. Rev. Junita emphasized Miriam as a role model, urging women's empowerment. Rev. Jyoti Singh highlighted Miriam's bridge-building role. Participants agreed on the importance of recognizing overlooked female figures in scripture. Mrs. Sanjukta from NCCI Women Concern ended the meeting with a prayer. Plans for the next meeting in July were made, led by NCCI Women Concern. The meeting affirmed a commitment to advancing women's empowerment and solidarity across borders.





News from Member Churches

Church of North India

On May 21st, 2024, the Church of North India (CNI) celebrated a historic occasion as Right Reverend Violet Nayak was consecrated as its first woman Bishop for the Diocese of Phulbani. This landmark event marks a significant step towards gender inclusivity within the CNI's clergy. Right Reverend Nayak, ordained in 2001 and holding a Bachelor of Divinity degree, brings 22 years of devoted service to her new role. [MORE](#)



Church of North India

The recent consecration of Rt. Rev. Immanuel Dani as Bishop of the Sambalpur Diocese in Odisha marks a significant milestone in the journey of the Church of North India. With a wealth of theological knowledge and over 16 years of pastoral experience, Bishop Dani brings a compelling vision for holistic development and a fervent commitment to mission and evangelism. The ceremony, held amidst esteemed bishops and officials from across India at the CNI Bhavan Chapel, signifies a renewed dedication to serving the community. Alongside Bishop Dani, the consecration of Right Reverend Roshan Thapa for the Eastern Himalaya Diocese underscores the CNI's commitment to diverse leadership. This event inspires hope and unity, heralding a new era of spiritual guidance and service in the Sambalpur Diocese and beyond.



Church of South India

In a powerful collaboration, the Church of South India, Department of Mission & Evangelism, joined hands with The American College Madurai for a Synod Level Meeting from May 9th to 10th, 2024. Directors of CSI Diocesan Mission departments convened to discuss and strategize mission efforts. Under dynamic leaderships, the event facilitated robust discussions and insightful sessions by renowned resource persons. With collective commitment, this meeting promises to invigorate mission endeavors across the region, embodying the spirit of collaboration and dedication in spreading compassion and service. [MORE](#)



Church of South India

The Church of South India, Department of Christian Education, organized a two-day program on May 15-16, 2024, exclusively for Synod Level-Diocesan Directors. Led by Rt. Rev. Timothy Ravinder, Bishop of CSI Coimbatore, and Rev. Joseph Dason Thokla, CSI Synod Director, the event was dedicated to "Renewing the Transformational Vision of Christian Education Outreach." Christian Education Directors from various CSI dioceses actively participated, collaborating to explore innovative approaches and best practices. Gratitude was extended to the Department for nurturing spiritual growth in our churches and preparing the next generation. The event was a significant step towards shaping a brighter future through Christian education. [MORE](#)





News from All India Christian Organisations

Celebrating Heritage, Forging Future: Highlights from ATTWI's XIII General Assembly

The Association of Theologically Trained Women of India (ATTWI) convened its XIII General Assembly on 21 and 22 May 2024 in Chennai, under the theme "Reimagining Our Potential." Hosted by the CSI Diocese of Madras, the two-day event welcomed theologians from across India. Rev. Jyothi Sunder and Rev. Salome Joshua led the inaugural service, paying homage to ATTWI's legacy. Rev. Dr. Asir Ebenezer from the National Council of Churches in India extended greetings, while Rev. Jyothi Singh delivered a stirring keynote on "Embracing Our Identity as Women of God." The assembly delved into discussions on leadership, empowerment, and charting paths for collective growth. Noteworthy moments included the unveiling of the ATTWI website, symbolizing a new chapter in their journey of empowerment and service. [MORE](#)



News from Autonomous Bodies

India Peace Center

"Embarking on Environmental Action: India Peace Centre's Environment Day Certificate Program"

India Peace Centre enthusiastically hosted a meeting on May 18 and 25 2024, at 5:00 PM (Mumbai, Kolkata, New Delhi time), welcoming participants to the IPC Environment Day Certificate Program. The session was a vibrant platform for engaging discussions, initiatives, and celebrations centered around environmental awareness and action. Participants immersed themselves in thought-provoking conversations, sharing insights and experiences to foster a sustainable future. United by a common commitment to environmental stewardship, attendees exchanged ideas and celebrated collective efforts towards positive change. It was a rich and inspiring occasion, offering participants the opportunity to deepen their understanding of environmental issues and contribute meaningfully to a greener, more sustainable world.

Certificate Program – Webinar Series	
INDIA PEACE CENTRE	
18 May 2024 05.00 PM - 06.30 PM	Theme : Water, Food & Agriculture
25 May 2024 05.00 PM - 06.30 PM	Theme : Land & Forest – Challenges Today
02 June 2024 05.00 PM - 06.30 PM	Theme : Climate Migration – Building Climate resilient Communities
ipc@indiapeacecentre.org 0712 - 2556952	



News from CSA

Lok Kalyan Yojana

The Lok Kalyan Yojana Program commenced on May 11 2024 at Blessings Lawn, with Reverend Asir Ebenezer, Father Abraham, and Mr. Jammu Anand leading the event. Dr. Ebenezer outlined the initiative's aim of empowering urban communities, drawing from successful models like Chennai's network experiment.



Mr. Jammu Anand urged citizens to assert their rights within the Nagpur Municipal Corporation. The event served as a call to action for civic engagement and inclusive development, aiming to address urban challenges and empower communities.

International AIDS Candlelight Memorial Day Event

Across India, various regions came together to observe the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial Day, commemorating those affected by HIV/AIDS.

Chennai, Tamil Nadu, witnessed the event on May 16, 2024, at Auditorium Gurukul Camps Kilpak. Manipur's Imphal joined on May 19, 2024, led by the Union Tangkhul Baptist Churches. Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, observed on May 21, 2024, followed by Ajmer, Rajasthan, on May 29, 2024. Ranchi, Jharkhand, remembered on May 30, 2024, and Dhanbad, Jharkhand, on May 31, 2024. Nagpur, Maharashtra, marked the occasion on May 24, 2024, while Aizawl, Mizoram, held their memorial on May 30, 2024. These events underscored nationwide solidarity in the fight against HIV/AIDS stigma.



Tamil Nadu- Chennai



Manipur- Imphal



MP- Gwalior



Jharkhand - Ranchi



Jharkhand - Dhanbad



Maharashtra - Nagpur



Rajasthan - Ajmer



News from Other Ecumenical Partners

World Council of Churches

WCC-WHO Collaboration

The collaboration between the World Council of Churches (WCC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) encompasses a wide array of initiatives, from strategizing and publications to seminars, webinars, and crisis response efforts, notably addressing HIV, Ebola, and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Manoj Kurian, Director of the WCC Commission of the Churches on Health and Healing, expressed gratitude for the longstanding partnership and highlighted productive discussions regarding the forthcoming 50th-anniversary commemoration. Marianne Ejdersten, WCC Director of Communication, stressed the need for strengthened networks, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic's challenges. She underscored the vital role of faith communities in promoting health and combating misinformation. Both Kurian and Ejdersten emphasized the shared goal of serving communities and fostering dialogue between faith communities and public health experts to address health challenges and better serve vulnerable populations. [MORE](#)



Christian Conference of Asia

Ecumenical Diakonia

A regional training programme for second-line leaders in Asia on 'Ecumenical Diakonia and Sustainable Development' was conducted in Medan, located in the North Sumatra region of Indonesia. Organised by the Christian Conference of Asia in collaboration with the World Council of Churches, the training held from April 29th to May 2nd, 2024. The workshop aimed to provide church leaders with training to develop effective strategies for managing and implementing programmes and projects within church diakonal missions. It also aimed to enable churches to better contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in their respective regions.





News from Other Ecumenical Partners

Christian Conference of Asia

Empowerment Through Education: Asian Ecumenical Institute Training Course

Experience a transformative month-long training course organized by the CCA, July 21st - August 18th, Chiang Mai, designed to foster ecumenical formation and leadership development among prospective Asian ecumenical and church leaders. With a focus on the theme of creation care and eco-justice: our faith and witness, participants will engage in immersive sessions aimed at integrating spirituality with environmental activism. Theological students, church workers, and individuals below 35 years old can apply, ensuring accessibility for all who are passionate about making a difference. Don't miss this opportunity to be part of a community dedicated to nurturing leadership and advocating for a sustainable future. Apply now and ignite your journey towards positive change! [MORE](#)



Upcoming Events of NCCI

National Council of Churches in India- Commission on Youth Concerns

Invites you to join us a webinar on

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
June 15th 2024
11:00 am to 12: 00 pm

Join us on Zoom Link


<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83201027827?pwd=D5nN8kVNNGd1xiJEcDlyz8HLdVsssp.1>

Meeting ID: 832 0102 7827
Passcode: 694123




End Child Labour Today

World Day Against Child Labour
12 June



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