



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN INDIA

The Hour has come; let us get going

June - July 2025

E-Newsletter

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Tragedies struck India in June, with hundreds of lives lost in an air disaster, deadly industrial explosions in Telangana, ethnic rioting in Manipur, and tragic stampedes during Puri's Rath Yatra. The National Council of Churches in India expresses its deepest condolences to the families of the deceased and offers sincere prayers for the recovery of those who have survived. In times of tragedy and loss, we, the Church, will not back down from standing steadfast with the powerless and forgotten, confirming their inherent worth. Still, it is insufficient to just mourn. Caring for others and seeking justice are essential to our Christian mission. Yet amid grief, light breaks through. Communities rallied across faiths: faith-based volunteers offered relief, grassroots peace efforts began healing wounds, and countless efforts worked to rebuild and reconcile. June also saw inspiring milestones - India's retail inflation dipping to a six-year low, a narrowing trade deficit reflecting economic resilience, landmark environmental and cultural initiatives, and high-profile religious gatherings like Eid-ul-Adha, Vat Purnima, and Jagannath Rath Yatras—reminding us of our shared heritage and hope. During this month, may our unity bring about real transformation, creating a society that is fair, tranquil, and safeguards all people, particularly those who are most vulnerable.

Rev Dr Asir Ebenezer

General Secretary

SIGNIFICANT DAYS

- August 03 - NCCI Tribal & Adivasi Sunday
- August 09 - World Indigenous Day
- August 10 - National Protest & Prayer Day (Order 1950)
- August 12 - Internation Youth Day
- August 15 - Independence Day

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 24th July** - Rainbows of Faith From Around the Globe
- 25th July** - Webinar on Mediation ACT 2023
- 29th July - 01 August** - IPC - Peace Leaders Training
- 06th August** - A Discourse on Building Peace in Times of War and Conflict
- 11th August** - National Protest and Prayer Day (Order 1950) on Jantar Mantar organised by NCDC, NCCI, & CBCI
- July - October** - IPC - Interfaith Coalition Initiatives Towards UN COP30

"The unity we seek is not uniformity, but a communion where diversity is embraced in love and truth." - Olav Fykse Tveit

WOMEN CONCERNS

ORIENTATION ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF WOMEN IN WORKPLACE



The National Council of Churches in India (NCCI) organized an orientation session on the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013 (PoSH) for churches and Christian organizations in Nagpur. The session aimed to educate participants on identifying and addressing unwelcome sexual behaviour, differentiating between

compliments and inappropriate remarks in professional settings.

Chaired by Ms. Namita Korkanti, the program featured insights from Ms. Smriti Priyansha and Rev. Jyoti Singh Pillai, who elaborated on legal provisions under the PoSH Act. Rev. Dr. Asir Ebenezer, NCCI General Secretary, delivered the keynote address, urging attendees to promote awareness in their respective workplaces.

Participants engaged actively, analysing a case study under Ms. Smriti Priyansha's guidance, and expressed commitment to organizing similar initiatives in their institutions. The



orientation reinforced the need for safe, respectful, and legally compliant workplaces.

“Creating awareness is the first step toward prevention,” emphasised Rev. Jyoti Singh Pillai, highlighting the church's role in fostering gender-just environment.



THURSDAYS IN BLACK: A GLOBAL STAND AGAINST SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



The NCCI Commission for Women Concerns continues to amplify the Thursdays in Black campaign - a worldwide movement speaking out against sexual and gender-based violence. Every Thursday, the Commission releases a poster featuring powerful statements' and quotes to raise awareness and inspire action that is related to an issue of that week. This initiative not only serves to educate the public but also encourages community engagement and dialogue. By sharing these impactful messages, the Commission aims to galvanise support and foster a sense of responsibility among citizens.

Thursdays in Black encourages individuals to challenge harmful attitudes that perpetuate rape and violence—both in personal interactions and public discourse. By wearing black on Thursdays, people unite in solidarity, transforming despair and anger into meaningful political action.

Join the movement! Stand in resistance, show your support, and help create a world free from violence against women and gender minorities.

[Know more...](#)

TRIBAL AND ADIVASI CONCERNS

REIMAGINING JUSTICE: NCCI REVISES TRIBAL & ADIVASI POLICY FOR A CHANGING TIMES



In a landmark move, NCCI's Commission on Tribal and Adivasi Concerns (COTA) convened a dynamic policy review meeting on June 18-19, 2025 at its Nagpur campus. Chaired by Rt. Rev. S.I. Khimla, Chairperson of CO-TA, the gathering brought together tribal leaders and activists to radically rethink the church's approach to indigenous rights. Participants engaged in critical discussions on issues ranging from land rights and cultural preservation to economic marginalization, proposing substantive revisions to strengthen the church's advocacy and support for indigenous populations. The revised policy guidelines, which emphasise greater inclusion of tribal voices in decision-making processes.

DALIT CONCERNS

NCCI EMPOWERS AND EDUCATES DALIT COMMUNITIES WITH LEGAL FRAMEWORKS



The NCCI's Commission on Dalit Concerns organized a crucial two-day Workshop "Addressing Caste Violence through Legal Framework and Advocacy" in Nagpur on June 24-25, 2025. The workshop specifically addressed the unique challenges faced by Dalit Christians, who remain excluded from Scheduled Caste status and consequently denied constitutional protections available to Dalits of other religions under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. Recognizing this systemic injustice, the workshop equipped church leaders with knowledge about alternative legal provisions that can be invoked when Dalit Christians face caste-based discrimination or violence. The training will be cascaded to all NCCI member churches across India, ensuring wider impact and preparedness.

Legal experts Adv. Samuel David and Wilson Nathan from Alliance Defending Freedom provided comprehensive guidance on constitutional safe-

guards and alternative legal remedies. Rev. Dr. Asir Ebenezer, NCCI General Secretary, emphasized that "legal awareness serves as a powerful tool for liberation," calling upon churches to actively pursue justice for their communities.

The workshop featured Mangesh Dahiwale from the Buddhist Council as keynote speaker, who highlighted the disturbing reality of caste discrimination persisting beyond Hindu communities, affecting Dalit Christians and Muslims alike. A significant outcome was the launch of a dedicated caste-violence reporting mechanism by the NCCI Dalit Concerns.

The NCCI reaffirmed its commitment to advocating for equal constitutional rights for Dalit Christians. As one organizer noted, "While we continue our struggle for full constitutional equality, we must utilize every existing legal provision to protect our communities." This workshop marks an important step in building a legally empowered leadership that can effectively combat caste-based oppression across Indian churches.

"When laws exclude, solidarity must protect," emphasised Rev. Dr. Asir Ebenezer, marking NCCI's renewed push for justice.



Youth Concerns

NCCI SPARKS NATIONAL MOVEMENT FOR ELDER JUSTICE ON WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY



The National Council of Churches in India (NCCI) ignited a nationwide conversation about elder dignity through its powerful observance of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15, 2025. Hosted by the Commission on Youth Concerns at NCCI's National Office, the event brought together pastors, elders, and young people from member churches across India, creating ripples that spread throughout the country's Christian communities.

NCCI General Secretary Rev. Dr. Asir Ebenezer set the spiritual tone by honouring elders as "living libraries of faith and experience," while moderator Ms. Smrithi Priyansha facilitated heartfelt

intergenerational dialogues where elders shared experiences of neglect and youth responded with empathy. The moving gathering culminated in participants writing personal commitments to protect elder dignity on reflection cards - simple acts that symbolized the beginning of a broader national movement.

This program inspired churches across India to examine their treatment of elders, demonstrating NCCI's unique ability to unite diverse Christian communities around issues of justice.

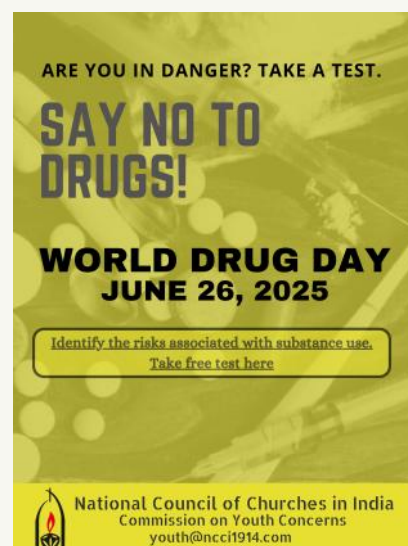
The Commission on Youth Concerns now plans to develop these insights into an ongoing intergenerational justice initiative, ensuring the church leads the way in honouring India's elderly population. This transformative event not only raised awareness about elder abuse but also modelled how Christian communities can bridge generational divides through open dialogue and concrete action, reinforcing NCCI's role as a catalyst for positive social change nationwide

"KNOW YOUR RISK": NCCI YOUTH CONCERN LEADS SUBSTANCE USE AWARENESS INITIATIVE

The Commission on Youth Concerns of the National Council of Churches observed World Drug Day on June 26, 2025, aligning with the World Health Organisation's call for self-assessment. Marking the day as an opportunity for reflection, the commission shared an awareness poster containing self-assessment tools and risk-evaluation links related to substance use.

The campaign encouraged individuals to privately assess their habits and understand potential risks, with many anonymous participants engaging in the process. This initiative reflects the NCCI Youth Commission's commitment to supporting those affected by substance use and promoting healthier lifestyles.

Youth Concern of NCCI continues the mission to reclaim and restore lives.



WELCOME TO NEW INTERN



NCCI welcomes Iza Naomi Suguna as a six-month intern with its Youth Concerns department, beginning from June 2025. A graduate of United Theological College, Bengaluru in Bachelor of Divinity, Iza brings ecumenical training and grassroots experience as an active member of CSI Karnataka Central Diocese. Iza will support NCCI's national youth initiatives and ecumenical formation activities during her tenure.

ECUMENICAL FORA

NATIONAL ECUMENICAL FOURM FOR GENDER AND SEXUAL DIVERSITIES (NEFGSD)

NEFGSD FOSTERS GLOBAL DIALOGUE ON RADICAL BELONGING IN FAITH SPACES



being welcomed - it is being fully seen, fully known, and fully loved," the virtual gathering created sacred

coming" in their pursuit of radical inclusion. This provocative invitation urged churches to deconstruct exclusionary structures and embrace people in their full authenticity without demanding conformity.

The National Ecumenical Forum for Gender and Sexual Diversities (NEFGSD) of hosted a stirring global conversation through its Rainbows of Faiths from Around the Globe series, Season 2. Centring on the powerful theme "Belonging is more than

space for profound theological exchange and personal testimony.

Rev. Eddie A. Rosa Fuentes, the queer Puerto Rican theologian, issued a transformative challenge to faith communities worldwide, calling them to "become unbe-

It was moderated by Rev. Immanuel Karunakaran.

The dialogue challenged participants to move beyond tolerance toward communities that celebrate authentic identities and belonging is unconditional.

SACRED STEPS OF SOLIDARITY: CHURCHES WALK WITH CHENNAI PRIDE 2025



"Pride is not just a parade—it is a pilgrimage toward justice."

The National Ecumenical Forum for Gender and Sexual Diversities (NEFGSD) of the National Council of Churches in India (NCCI) took

part in the Chennai Pride March 2025 on June 29, walking in solidarity with gender and sexually diverse communities—not just as allies, but as bridge-builders between the Church and the margins.

With rainbow flags unfurled and chants rising, Chennai Pride echoed with intersectional solidarity—embracing all identi-



ties, struggles, and hopes. The presence of Christians at Pride sent a clear message: the Church can be a place of belonging, not exclusion.

Through NEFGSD's witness, Pride became sacred ground—a living testament to the inclusive love of Christ.

PRIDE CONVERSATION 2025: FAITHFUL STEPS TOWARD INCLUSION AND HEALING



Marking its fourth consecutive year, the NEFGSD and Tamilnad Christian Council's Pride Conversation 2025 gathered 75+

LGBTQ+ Christians and allies at St. Mary's Orthodox Syrian Church, Chennai on June 27. The annual event, synchronized with nationwide Pride observations, featured testimonies, and dialogues on queer-affirming faith. "This space has nurtured my spiritual journey," shared a returning participant. Longtime partners Sahodaran and Snehidhi facilitat-

ed discussions, maintaining their commitment to this growing ecumenical initiative. The gathering concluded with plans to expand this model, demonstrating how sustained dialogue continues transforming Christian communities into spaces of radical belonging for queer individuals across India.



ECUMENICAL ENTREPRENEUR FORUM (EEF)

EEF REGIONAL CHAPTER DRIVES FAITH-BASED ENTREPRENEURSHIP FORWARD



The **EEF Bengaluru Chapter** celebrated surpassing 100 active members at its June 7, 2025 meeting, held at the Karnataka Hockey Association Club House. Leadership coach Vijay Kuruvila inspired attendees with his talk “Doing Business God’s Way,” emphasizing integrity and purpose-driven entrepreneurship. Members highlighted EEF’s role as a collaborative growth network, as the chapter aims to model transformative, values-based business practices.



The **EEF Trivandrum chapter** held its third gathering on May 30, 2025 at the Bishop’s Office, adding five new members across sectors. Company secretary Rejoy Mohan led an insightful session on “Start Smart: Structuring Your Business Right,” stressing legal foundations, compliance under the Companies Act, and tax strategies. “Your structure shapes your future,” Mohan emphasized. With growing membership and focus on ethical entrepreneurship, the chapter is becoming a vital platform for sustainable business development in Kerala.

The **EEF Delhi Chapter** met on May 24, 2025. On May 24, 2025, finalized plans to enhance member engagement through monthly hybrid meetings (2nd Saturdays, 3-5 PM), community potlucks, biannual leader talks, and shared exhibition stalls across NCR. These initiatives aim to strengthen collaboration among Christian entrepreneurs, creating a dynamic platform for business growth and networking opportunities.



Despite heavy rains on June 14, 2025, **EEF Mangaluru’s** second meeting at Karnataka Theological College successfully shifted to a hybrid format (4 in-person, others online), demonstrating resilience. Welcoming a new member from New Life Fellowship, the chapter adopted a multilingual approach for future gatherings, reinforcing its commitment to inclusive, culturally-sensitive entrepreneurship.



The **Kozhikode Chapter of the EFF** held on June 2, 2025 and welcomed seven new members at CSI Re-



treat Center Chapel. Dr. Thomas Joseph (ex-IIM Udaipur) led an engaging session on biblical principles in business, sparking discussions on ethical entrepreneurship. The chapter plans monthly fellowship dinners to strengthen connections and promote values-based business growth in the region.

INDIAN DISABILITY ECUMENICAL ACCOMPANIMENT (IDEA)

IDEA PROMOTES INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL ACCESS ON WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY



The Indian Disability Ecumenical Accompaniment (IDEA) marked World Environment Day 2025 with

a special session titled “Accessible & Inclusive Earth” during its Monthly Fellowship for Persons with Disabilities. Disability rights activist Ms. Archana Sekhar spotlighted Chennai’s groundbreaking accessibility projects, including a wheelchair-accessible beach platform at Marina Beach and an inclusive mangrove bridge, demonstrating

how environmental spaces can be designed for all. Challenging conventional notions of progress, she emphasized, “True sustainability must include everyone - development that excludes is no development at all.” The discussion reinforced IDEA’s mission to integrate disability perspectives into environmental planning, ensuring ecological initiatives genuinely serve

INDIGO AIR HONOURS CAPT. J.M. THOMAS FOR HUMANITARIAN SERVICE



In a heartwarming gesture of gratitude and recognition, Indigo Airlines honoured Captain J.M. Thomas for his exemplary service and commitment to the people during a time of national crisis. Capt. Thomas, known for his unwavering dedication and deep

sense of public responsibility, played a vital role in coordinating emergency responses and ensuring the safety and well-being of countless individuals during the crisis. This recognition by Indigo Air stands as a testament not only to Capt. Thomas’s individual heroism but also to the power of faith-rooted service. As a member connected to the ecumenical community, his efforts inspire many within the churches and civil society to stand for justice, dignity, and hope in times of trial.



The National Council of Churches in India (NCCI) congratulates Capt. J.M. Thomas and expresses profound gratitude for his service. May his example continue to illuminate paths of public service rooted in faith, love, and justice.

NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN SERVICE AGENCY – CSA

LOK KALYAN YOJANA INTRODUCED IN CHENNAI THROUGH ECUMENICAL COLLABORATION



The Lok Kalyan Yojana (LKY) was introduced on 3rd June 2025 at a program jointly organized by the Christian Service Agency (CSA), MCCSS, and UELCI in Chennai. Rev. Asir Ebenezer opened the session, with greetings shared by Rev. Samuel Jebakumar (MCCSS), Mr. Benjamin Franklin, Fr. Thomas Ninan



(CSA), and Rev. Dr. Deva Jothikumar (NCCI–NEFGSD). Mr. Sanjay Wankhede (CSA–LKY) gave an introduction to the Yojana, highlighting its focus on social justice, grass-roots empowerment, and faith-based community engagement.

ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION AWARENESS STRENGTHENED ACROSS CHURCHES



The Christian Service Agency (CSA) conducted Organ and Tissue Donation awareness sessions in partnership with churches and theological institutions. During a Workshop on Discipleship and Witnessing, held with the Church of North India (CNI), the

CNI Program Office, Nagpur, and the Satyaniketan School of Theology, key insights on organ donation were shared with pastors and leaders. The topic, new to many, drew interest and questions, especially on cornea and body donation, helping participants understand its life-saving significance. In Chennai, CSA and the Tamil Nadu Christian Council organised a program at the NMSI Headquarters on the theme “Gift of Life.” Church pastors and ecumenical



leaders received detailed orientation, which addressed common myths and encouraged community awareness. At both sessions, all participants took a pledge to support and promote organ and tissue donation within their congregations and communities.



HEALTH EQUITY INITIATIVE: CANCER SCREENINGS FOR POSITIVE WOMEN NETWORK



The Christian Service Agency (CSA) organized a Cancer Check-up Camp for members of the Positive Women

Network of Maharashtra on 26 June 2025 at the Indian Cancer Society, Sakkardara Junction, Nagpur. The camp offered a range of vital services including clinical

breast examination, Pap smear test, oral cancer screening, counselling and guidance, and referral services for further medical care. The initiative aimed to promote early detection, awareness, and access to life-saving care for women living with HIV.

The camp was well received by the participants and highlighted CSA's ongoing commitment to health, dignity, and care for marginalized communities.

STRENGTHENING CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEMS THROUGH COMMUNITY DIALOGUE



The Christian Service Agency (CSA), in collaboration with the Lok Kalyan Yojana (LKY), organized a one-day review and planning

session on 14th June 2025 at the NCCI Campus, Civil Lines, Nagpur, focusing on Child Rights Awareness and community welfare, especially in slum areas. The program aimed to educate partici-

pants on international and national child rights laws, highlighting the pillars of protection, education, development, and participation. Mr. Prasenjit Gaikwad (Nagpur Zilla Parishad - Child Education) served as the resource person, providing key insights. Rev. Dr. Asir Ebenezer underscored the importance of empowering women and children for sustainable development. The meeting concluded with a three-month volunteer action plan to strengthen community engagement.

EMPOWERING FEMALE WORKFORCE THROUGH LEGAL EDUCATION



The Jan Vikas Kendra (JVK) of Christian Service Agency (CSA) successfully organized a legal awareness workshop for informal women labourers in Tembhri, Buti-

bori, on 18 June 2025. The event provided a crucial platform for women workers to understand their le-

gal rights, build capacity, and strengthen solidarity networks. Focused on empowering marginalized women, the workshop covered key labour laws, social security schemes, and grievance redressal mechanisms. Participants gained practical knowledge to challenge workplace injustices and advocate for fair treatment.

NEWS FROM AUTONOMOUS BODIES

URBAN RURAL MISSION - NCCI-URM

AWARENESS PROGRAM ON ORGAN DONATION AND ANTI-CHILD LABOUR DAY HELD IN NAGPUR



On June 10, 2025, Nagpur Ecumenical Fellowship and NCCI-Urban Rural Mission organized

an awareness program at CNI-SSI's Trinity Hall addressing organ donation and Anti-Child Labour Day. Dr. Sameer educated attendees about organ donation processes and their life-saving impact, while Dr. Madhukar Gumble (Apeksha Home Society) discussed child labour prevention strategies and children's rights.

The interactive session allowed participants to engage in meaningful dialogue on both issues. This initiative reflects the organizers' commitment to social justice through community education and advocacy, with plans to expand such awareness programs.

INDIA PEACE CENTRE (IPC)

INDIA PEACE CENTRE CONCLUDES IMPACTFUL WEBINAR SERIES ON ECOLOGICAL STEWARDSHIP

The India Peace Centre (IPC), in collaboration with the World Council of Churches, successfully organized a four-part webinar series from May 22 to June 12, 2025, examining critical connections between land, food and water systems. The sessions addressed land restoration (May 22), food security (May 29), plastic pollution (June 5), and water rights (June 12), featuring

insights from international theologians, scientists and activists.

This ecumenical initiative attracted diverse participants from faith communities, academia and environmental organizations across India and globally. By integrating theological reflection with practical ecological concerns, the webinars inspired renewed commitment to environmental stewardship. The

discussions highlighted how faith institutions can contribute meaningfully to sustainability efforts while responding to pressing ecological crises.

IPC plans to develop actionable resources from these dialogues to support churches and communities in their creation care ministries.

EVERY DROP COUNTS – BLOOD DONATION IS SERVICE TO HUMANITY

The India Peace Centre successfully conducted a blood donation camp in partnership with Lifeline Blood Centre on June 14, 2025. The event saw active participation from church, and local community members, all coming together to contribute to this vital cause.

Medical professionals from Lifeline Blood Centre facilitated the donation process, ensuring safe and hygienic collection procedures. The camp highlighted the importance of regular blood donation in saving lives and addressing critical shortages in healthcare facilities.



The collected blood units will be utilized to meet emergency medical requirements in local hospitals.

YOUTH ACROSS INDIA RALLY AGAINST PLASTIC POLLUTION IN NATIONAL ELOCUTION CONTEST



The India Peace Centre mobilized youth from 15+ states for a national elocution competition on “Plastic Pollution: Impact on Land, Water and Food.” Held virtually on May 30-31, the event featured impassioned presenta-

tions linking local waste challenges to global sustainability goals.

Environmental experts Dr. Tijen-dar Singh and Dr. Asma Banu awarded prizes to top speakers while emphasizing youth leadership in ecological conservation. “Every solution to plastic pollution begins with awareness,” noted Dr. Singh during the ceremony.

The competition’s best proposals will be shared with state pollution boards, continuing its evolution as a key platform combining youth advocacy with policy impact. Participants launched a nationwide pledge for plastic-free educational campuses, demonstrating the event's growing influence since its inception.

COMMUNITY UNITES FOR GREEN ACTION ON WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY



India Peace Centre, Jeevan Rekha Parishad, Earth Guardians and Plant Lovers’ Association jointly organized a tree plantation drive at Chudangagada to mark World Environment Day.

School and college students actively participated, planting saplings while discussing solutions to plastic pollution. IPC Board Member Ms. Ompriya Rath coordinated the event, highlighting community-led environmental action.

ROAD TO COP30: INDIA PEACE CENTRE LAUNCHES GROUNDBREAKING CLIMATE DIALOGUE SERIES



The India Peace Centre has embarked on an ambitious initiative titled “Interfaith Coalition Towards COP30,” organizing 7 Academic Seminars and 7 Interfaith Seminars and 3 webinars for building momentum towards United Nations COP30 across India from July to October 2025. The inaugural academic seminar was held on 16th July at Utkal University’s Department of Sociology in Bhubaneswar, marking the beginning of this important dialogue series.

The event brought together 70 postgraduate and PhD scholars for an engaging discussion on climate action. India Peace Centre Director Mr. Angelious Michael delivered a keynote address explaining the UNFCCC framework and emphasizing the critical 1.5°C global warming limit. The seminar featured

valuable contributions from Ms. Ompriya Rath (IPC Trustee), Prof. Rabindra Garada (HoD Sociology), and Dr. Manoranjan Mishra, who shared practical insights on sustainable agriculture. Student moderators facilitated vibrant discussions, setting the stage for upcoming programs.

This series represents a unique convergence of academic research and interfaith perspectives on climate justice, with plans to compile recommendations for COP30. Subsequent events will include six more academic seminars at premier institutions, seven interfaith dialogues at major religious centers, and three global webinars, culminating in a comprehensive report for UNFCCC consideration. The India Peace Centre acknowledges Utkal University for hosting this pioneering event that bridges grassroots wisdom with international climate policy.



NEWS FROM CONSTITUENT MEMBERS

LUTHERAN WORLD SERVICE INDIA TRUST (LWSIT)

LUTHERAN WORLD SERVICE INDIA TRUST HOSTS WORKSHOP ON INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE & SDGS



The Lutheran World Service India Trust (LWSIT) hosted a two-day workshop at NCCI Campus, Nagpur on June 11-12, 2025, exploring indigenous medicine, traditional farming, and their alignment with SDGs. The event saw participation from the National Ecumenical Diakonia Network and diakonia representatives from NCCI member

churches, alongside experts and practitioners.

Rev. Dr. Asir Ebenezer, NCCI General Secretary, inaugurated the session with the “Five P” framework (People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, Partnership). Notable presentations included Rev. Cruz Durai’s case study on Kalvarayan Hills farming and Rev. Godson Samuel’s Palmyrah ecosystem analysis. International perspectives came from Ms. Naida Balgobin (WCC) and Mr. Alwynn Javier (ACT Alliance),



who emphasized indigenous climate solutions.

The workshop fostered meaningful dialogue between traditional ecological knowledge and modern sustainability challenges. Participants, including diakonia leaders from across India’s churches, departed with strengthened commitments to preserve

YOUNG WOMEN CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

YWCA DELHI'S "MANCH FOR CHANGE" STREET THEATRE FESTIVAL DRIVES SOCIAL AWARENESS

The YWCA of Delhi successfully organized its annual "Manch for Change" Nukkad Natak festival on June 28, 2025, harnessing the power of street theatre to address critical social issues. The event brought together participants from working women's hostels, community programs, and theatre groups to perform thought-provoking plays on diversity, inclusion, youth leadership, and sustainability.

New Delhi YMCA Community Development Centre, Savda Ghevra won top honours in the youth category, while Team Pink and Blue Symbiotic Living claimed first prize among adult performers. The

festival attracted distinguished guests including investigative journalist Pooman Aggarwal and judges from the National School of Drama.

Rev. Dr. Asir Ebenezer, NCCI General Secretary, praised the initiative for creatively advancing social transformation. "Art has the unique power to challenge perspectives and inspire action," he remarked. The vibrant performances sparked meaningful community dialogue while showcasing how performing arts can be a potent tool for advocacy and empowerment.

YMCA INDIA CELEBRATES 181 YEARS OF SERVICE AND PARTNERSHIP



The Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) India joyfully celebrated its 181st Founder's Day on June 6, 2025, commemorating its rich legacy of service, youth empowerment, and ecumenical witness.

Representing the National Council of Churches in India (NCCI), Ms. Neelam Gaikwad, Communication Executive, was invited to extend heartfelt greetings on behalf of the NCCI. In her address, Ms. Neelam highlighted the long-standing partnership between YMCA and NCCI, affirming the shared vision of transforming society through faith-rooted action, youth leadership, and social justice initiatives.

Mr. Ashish Thorat, Secretary of Finance and Administration of YMCA India, in his reflections

offered both historical depth and a vision for the future of the movement in India and globally.

Also gracing the occasion were Mr. John Khujur, General Secretary of YMCA Ranchi, and Dr. Koshi Alexander Vaidyan, whose presence added depth and encouragement to the celebration.

The program concluded with a symbolic tree plantation ceremony, embodying YMCA's continued commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable development.

YMCA OF INDIA HOLDS ANNUAL REGIONAL CONFERENCE AND LEADERS ORIENTATION PROGRAMME



The National Council of YMCA of India's Central India Region hosted its Annual Regional Conference from July 11-13, 2025, focusing on "Empowering Youth, Enriching Communities: Living the Vision 2030." Keynote

speaker Ms. Smriti Priyansa from NCCI's Youth Commission addressed the theme and resource mobilization, while Regional Secretary Mr. John P. Beera facilitated action-planning sessions. The event, inaugurated by Bishop Rt. Rev. Dr. Surendra Kumar Sukka with NCYI Vice President Ms. Mahima Turhi Agarwal present, brought together

youth leaders to strategize community development initiatives aligned with YMCA's Vision 2030. Various workshops highlighted the organization's legacy and modern approaches to youth empowerment, concluding with commitments to strengthen regional impact through collaborative leadership and innovative programming.

**ECUMENICAL PARTERS****WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (WCC)****WCC PLENARY REINFORCES GENDER JUSTICE AS CONTINUOUS COMMITMENT**

The World Council of Churches' central committee hosted a dynamic gender justice plenary on 23 June 2025, emphasizing that true equality requires persistent effort rather than symbolic gestures. Veteran activist Dr. Brigalia Bam traced the evolution of gender discourse from the 1960s when "sexism" lacked translation in many languages to today's broader acceptance of feminist theology. The session showcased global perspectives: Margarita Nelyubova detailed Russian Orthodox women's expanding roles in ministry, while Jinqin Gu reported China's progress with women now comprising 42% of ordained pastors despite rural challenges. Bishop Vicentia Kgabe challenged churches to move beyond pity to partnership in addressing trauma, particularly for displaced and abused women. Moderator Rev. Dr. Henriette Hutabarat Lebang highlighted the WCC's ongoing work with vulnerable groups, including people living with HIV/AIDS. The plenary concluded with a unified call to transform ecumenical commitments into concrete actions for gender justice worldwide.

[Read more...](#)

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON DISABILITY DISCOURSE FOR THEOLOGICAL COLLEGES

From May 22-28, 2006, ETE-WCC/CCA, EDAN, and SATHRI jointly organized an International Workshop on Disability Discourse for Theological Colleges at Ashirvad, Bangalore. The event brought together 21 participants from theological institutions affiliated with the Senate of Serampore College (SSC), along with representatives from NCC Korea and other organizations.

The workshop emphasized the need to integrate disability ministry into theological education. Through devotions, presentations, and discussions, participants explored biblical, theological, and ethical perspectives on disability. Key outcomes included drafting two proposed courses for SSC's revised curriculum: Inclusive Community: Disability Perspectives and Introducing Disability Discourse for Theological and Ministerial Formation.

A statement was issued urging theological institutions to include disability discourse in their curricula to promote inclusion and dignity for persons with disabilities (PWD). This pioneering workshop marks a significant step in SSC's history.

Participants expressed gratitude to ETE-WCC/CCA, EDAN, and SATHRI for this timely initiative. [Read more...](#)

CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE OF ASIA (CCA)**CCA HOLDS NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON GOOD GOVERNANCE AND STEWARDSHIP IN KOLKATA**

The Christian Conference of Asia (CCA), in collaboration with BTESSC, held its third national workshop in India from 31 May to 3 June 2025 in Kolkata on the theme "Good Governance, Integrity Leadership, and Stewardship in Parish Ministry." Key speakers included Rev. Dr Rodinmawia Ralte (BTESSC), Rev. Dr Limatula Longkumer (Registrar, Senate of Serampore), Rev. Prof. Dr Sunil Caleb (Principal, Bishop's College), and Rev. Dr Roger Gaikwad. They emphasized ethical leadership, financial accountability, and stewardship as essential components of pastoral ministry.

Final-year theological students from North and Northeast India participated. The workshop encouraged future pastors to embrace Christ-centred, responsible stewardship, including in digital spaces.

Participants committed to serve as ethical leaders in their churches and communities. [Read more...](#)

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CERTIFICATE COURSE 2025

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DATES: SEPTEMBER 22ND- 26TH 2025 (5 DAYS)
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- ★ Deepen Understanding of GSD
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- ★ Cultivate Inclusive Perspectives
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The course is open to individuals above the age of 21 with a bachelor's degree or, for those above 35, with no degree requirement.

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ADVERTISEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



INTER-CHURCH SERVICE ASSOCIATION (ICSA)

107, Pantheon Road, Chennai – 600 008

Wanted: Executive Director

ICSA, a national ecumenical non-profit organisation committed to promoting Social Justice, Spiritual Growth, Community Development, is seeking a dynamic, visionary, servant leadership to serve as the Executive Director.

Responsibilities:

- Provide a strategic leadership and direction in line with the Organisation's Values and Mission.
- Oversee daily operation, programme implementation, training and organizational development.
- Foster Partnership with Churches and Civil Society organizations.
- Lead fund raising and resource mobilisation efforts.
- Ensure accountability, transparency, and effective governance.
- Inspire, manage staff and volunteers with compassion and integrity.
- Report to the Board and AGM and represent before statutory bodies.

Qualifications:

- Minimum a Post graduate degree in Social Science, Theology or Management fields.
- Age: 45-55 years – If an experienced person on deputation applies the Board may consider to appoint for a renewable term of five years.
- Member of one of the NCCI member churches.
- Atleast five years of leadership experience in faith based or civil society organization.
- Strong understanding of social and religious dynamics within the country.

Schedule:

- Should be able to join on the 1st of January, 2026 and to assume full responsibility after a period of understudy, on the 1st of June, 2026.
- Remuneration shall be determined at the time of appointment based on qualification and experience.
- The decision of the Executive Board of ICSA shall be final.

Interested candidates are invited to submit applications in **Hard Copies** with a detailed CV expressing interest and vision for the role to:

The Chairperson
Search Committee,
Inter-Church Service Association
P.O.BOX -771,
107, Pantheon Road,
Chennai - 600008.
Ph: 9444033910

Last date for the receipt of applications is 30th August, 2025.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.
