



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN INDIA

The Hour has come; let us get going

August - September 2025

E-Newsletter

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SIGNIFICANT DAYS

- Sep 21 – International Day of Peace
- Sep 27 – CSI Formation Day
- Oct 4 – Season of Creation conclude
- Oct 10 – World Mental Health Day
- Oct 11 – International Girl Child Day
- Oct 14 – Dhamm Chakra Parivartan Divas
- Oct 16 – World Food Day

EMBRACING THE SEASON OF CREATION

The Season of Creation—from 1 September (World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation) to 4 October (Feast of St. Francis of Assisi)—is a sacred time when the global Christian community renews its relationship with God, the Creator, and with all of creation. It invites churches and communities to reflect deeply on the urgent call to ecological justice and to live as faithful stewards of God's earth.

In a world threatened by climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and environmental injustice, the Season of Creation is not merely a liturgical observance but a prophetic witness. It calls us to repentance for the ways we have exploited nature and to a renewed commitment to sustainable living. Rooted in Scripture and guided by the Spirit, we are challenged to hear both “the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor,” and to act with compassion and courage.

As the National Council of Churches in India, we stand in solidarity with the global ecumenical movement, encouraging congregations, institutions, and individuals to pray, advocate, and act. Let this Season of Creation inspire us to nurture God's garden with justice, hope, and love—so that all life may flourish and future generations may inherit a planet teeming with God's abundance.

Rev Dr Asir Ebenezer
General Secretary

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sep 21– Oct 4 - Season of Creation

Sept 21-27 - World Week of Prayer for Peace in Palestine and Israel Begins

Sept 22-26 - Certificate Course on Understanding Human Sexuality

October 31–Nov 4 - School of Ecumenism

“The unity of the Church is both the gift of God and the indispensable means for the Church's witness to the world.” - L. Newbigin

NEWS FROM NCCI

CULTIVATING PEACE WITH CREATION: NATIONAL SEASON OF CREATION 2025 UNFOLDS



The NCCI, together with its ecumenical partners, celebrated the national launch of the Season of Creation 2025 on 1 September at Andhra Christian Theological College (ACTC), Hyderabad, and continued the observance with a special gathering in Chennai YMCA on 3 September.

The inaugural event in Hyderabad, attended by nearly 200 participants—including members of the Telangana Council of Churches, faculty and students of ACTC—set the tone for a month-long ecumenical journey. Most Rev. Dr. Ruben Mark, Moderator of the Church of South India (CSI) and Chief Patron of the Telangana Council of Churches, and Rev. Dr. Packiam T. Samuel, Director of HMI and Vice-President of NCCI, sent their greetings. Rev. Dr. T. Bhasker, Secretary of TCC, hosted the national launch, while Rev. Dr. Varaprasad, Principal of ACTC, welcomed the gathering. The program, facilitated by Rev. Asher Noah, Executive Secretary of NCCI Dalit Concerns, along with Ms. Neelam Gaikwad and Mr. Anurag Nile, featured a creative youth presentation under the guidance of Mr. David Norfolk, TCC Youth Secretary.

As a symbolic act of commitment, participants planted 25 saplings on the ACTC campus and pledged to document and share stories of despair

and resilience around the theme “Peace with Creation,” the focus of the Season of Creation 2025.

During the observance in Chennai, Rev. Dr. Asir Ebenezer, General Secretary of NCCI, intensified the call for churches to collaborate with creation and renew the energy of the earth, challenging the Church to take concrete initiatives for ecological renewal. Rev. Dr. A. Joshuva Peter, Executive Secretary of UELCI and Treasurer of NCCI, underlined that the climate crisis is no longer a distant threat but an everyday reality in our homes and towns, demanding urgent collective action. In a session focusing on global climate concerns, Mr. Angelious Michael highlighted the importance of the upcoming UN COP30 and the role of faith communities in influencing international climate discourse. Ms. Neelam Gaikwad, Program Executive for NCCI Communication, Media and Relations, explored how social media can be used to promote peaceful coexistence with creation.

The spirit of Season of Creation carried in NCCI Campus in Nagpur on 4 September where the momentum forward, the NCCI reaffirmed its national witness to ecological justice, calling churches across India to pray, act, and advocate for the flourishing of all creation.

NCCI GENERAL BODY CHARTS FUTURE VISION AT ANNUAL MEETING



The National Council of Churches in India held its General Body Meeting on 10 September at the NCCI Campus, Nagpur, under the leadership of President H.G. Geevarghese Mar Yulios. Rev. Dr. Asir Ebenezer, NCCI General Secretary, presented the annual report highlighting the council’s recent initiatives and laid out a futuristic vision for its mission and engagement in the coming years. Rev. Dr. Pakiam T. Samuel, Vice-President of NCCI, led

the morning devotion. During the meeting, a new NEFGSD course on Human Sexuality from the School of Ecumenism was officially released, marking a significant step in fostering informed dialogue and inclusive theological education. Members expressed deep appreciation for the report and unanimously affirmed the strategic direction outlined, marking a renewed commitment to the ecumenical witness and service of NCCI.

WOMEN CONCERNS

NCCI CONTINUES “THURSDAYS IN BLACK” SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN



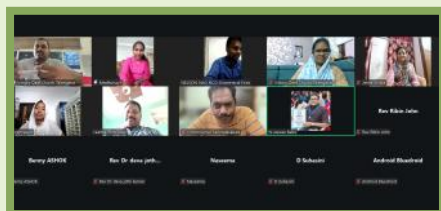
The Commission on Women Concerns, NCCI continues to champion the “Thursdays in Black” movement, a worldwide witness against rape, sexual harassment, and every form of violence directed at women.

This campaign invites people and communities to dress in black each Thursday as a symbol of solidarity and peaceful protest, declaring a shared commitment to build a society where women and girls can live in safety, dignity, and equality.

ECUMENICAL FORA

INDIAN DISABILITY ECUMENICAL ACCOMPANIMENT (IDEA)

GIVING VOICE TO SILENCE: NCCI-IDEA MARKS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SIGN LANGUAGES



The NCCI – IDEA marked the International Day of Sign Languages through its Monthly Online Fellowship for Persons with Disabilities on 6 September 2025.

Pastor G. Shrihari from the Nellore Deaf Church, Andhra Pradesh, delivered the reflection, tracing the genesis of sign language in India. He highlighted

that the use of sign language to express emotions dates back to 1885, when Father Charles De Gaulle, a Roman Catholic missionary, initiated its development. Indian Sign Language gained official recognition in 2011 by the Government of India.

Pastor Shrihari also noted that there are around 300 different sign languages worldwide, used by over 72 million people, and shared insights on dealing with regional variations in India. He explained that such differences can often be understood by observing the visual gestures of trained interpreters.



The fellowship concluded by affirming that sign language breaks barriers for the deaf community, giving them a vital voice to communicate and participate fully in society. The gathering inspired participants to continue advocating for inclusion and accessibility in church and society.

NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN SERVICE AGENCY – CSA

CSA GENERAL BODY MAPS THE ROAD AHEAD FOR TRANSFORMATIVE SERVICE



The General Body of the Christian Service Agency (CSA) convened on 10 September, 2025, at the NCCI Campus, Nagpur, for its annual meeting, bringing together leaders and members committed to strengthening the church’s social witness and service.

Rev. Dr. Asir Ebenezer, Secretary of CSA, presented the annual activities and project reports, highlighting ongoing development initiatives and the agency’s impact among marginalized communities. He also outlined an ambitious roadmap for the future, focusing on sustainable projects, innovative partnerships, and grassroots empowerment.

The meeting concluded with a renewed pledge to deepen CSA’s commitment to justice, peace, and inclusive growth, ensuring that the agency continues to be a prophetic sign of hope and compassion in society.

NAI SUBAH – A NEW MORNING OF HOPE: INSPIRING ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION


The “Nai Subah – New Morning: Gift of Life” Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Programme, held on 2 September 2025 at the Seminar Hall of SFS College, Nagpur, became a powerful platform to inspire young minds towards the life-saving mission of organ and tissue donation. The initiative sought to educate and sensitise students on the profound significance of donating organs and tissues, while addressing common myths and misconceptions that often

discourage people from taking this noble step. Students were introduced to advanced transplant procedures such as hand transplants, skin grafting, and other cutting-edge medical techniques, helping them gain insight into the remarkable progress in transplant medicine.

The event witnessed active participation from National Service Scheme (NSS) students. They raised thoughtful questions about the donation process, gov-

ernment schemes, hospital expenses, and the realities of organ transplantation, reflecting a genuine curiosity to understand and contribute to this life-giving cause. For many of them, this was their first exposure to the concept of tissue donation, sparking new awareness and interest.

By the close of the programme, the impact was tangible. Almost 60 students pledged to become organ donors, committing themselves to carry the message of hope beyond the walls of their college. The gathering not only dispelled long-held misconceptions but also nurtured a sense of community responsibility, marking a true “new morning” of compassion and life-giving commitment.

DISABILITY SENSITIZATION ENGAGES THEOLOGY STUDENTS AT MISSION INDIA SEMINARY


The Engaged Disability Nagpur hub conducted a Disability Sensitization programme on 12 September 2025 at Mission India Theology Seminary, Khadgaon, Nagpur, with nearly 90 theology students from across India in attendance.

Mr. Samuel Thayil introduced the ED Network and explained its mission to share information and resources, equip the Christian community to support people with disabilities and their families, and be a Christian voice on disability in dialogue with government, health sectors, NGOs, and the wider public. He also briefed the students on different types of disabilities.

Ms. Rupa Panchtilak shared her inspiring life story of overcoming challenges in education and employment despite being born with a disability in one hand. Her testimony, highlighting the support of an understanding partner, moved the students and helped them understand the daily struggles faced by people with disabilities.

The programme also featured a Braille Bible reading, a first-time experience for many, followed by a theological reflection on disability led by Pastor Saitsh Taskande.

Mr. Moses Gour, Nagpur ED Hub Coordinator, emphasized the church’s responsibility to connect with persons with disabilities in congregations, provide Braille Bibles and songbooks, encourage volunteering to assist the disabled, build ramps for accessibility, and advocate with government agencies on disability concerns.

The event successfully sensitized theology students to the needs and rights of people with disabilities and fostering an inclusive and accessible ministry.

NEWS FROM AUTONOMOUS BODIES

INDIA PEACE CENTRE

INDIA PEACE CENTRE BOARD CONVENES TO STRATEGIZE FUTURE INITIATIVES



The India Peace Centre Board met in New Delhi on 26 August 2025 to chart the course for its upcoming programs and long-term

vision. With the 40th anniversary of IPC's formation approaching in three years, the Board outlined plans for a series of comprehensive programs leading up to the milestone, followed by a decade of sustained activities focused on peace education, envisioning a sustainable planet, and promoting a conflict-free world. During the meeting, the Board renewed its commitment to advancing interfaith peace and harmony, emphasizing continued engagement with

diverse communities to foster understanding and collaboration.

On the occasion, Rev. Dr. Asir Ebenezer, Chairperson, released the special education edition titled "Towards UN COP30", distributing copies to all Board members. The publication is intended to support IPC's ongoing efforts in climate advocacy and awareness, equipping stakeholders with knowledge to engage effectively in global and local sustainability initiatives. The Board meeting underscored IPC's dedication to strategic planning, educational outreach, and interfaith dialogue, reinforcing its mission to contribute meaningfully to a just, peaceful, and sustainable future.

INTERFAITH CONVERSATION ON "CELEBRATING AND PROTECTING OUR DIVERSITIES"



The India Peace Centre, in partnership with the Indian Christian Women's Movement, hosted a talk on 24 August 2025 titled "Celebrating and Protecting Our Diversities," drawing about 40 participants. Speakers from multiple faith traditions highlighted diversity as a sacred gift—reflected in festivals, food, languages, and cultures—and affirmed that humanity is the common core of all faiths.

Moderated by Mrs. Aradhana Upadhyay (Director, CNI-SSI), the panel featured Mrs. Rafeea Abid, Mrs. Opinder Kaur Bhasin, Ms. Nash Nusrat Ali, Dr. Puran Chandra Meshram, Mr. Angelious Michael, and Mr. Tejender Singh Raval. The gathering concluded with a call to safeguard pluralism and harmony, embracing diversity as a source of strength and peace.

ROAD TO COP30: THIRD ACADEMIC WEBINAR ON UN COP30



The third seminar in the India Peace Centre's "Towards UN COP30" series was held on 3 September 2025 at Gurukul Lutheran Theological College, Chennai, engaging theology students in lively discussion. Rev. Dr. Songram Basumatary, Princi-

pal, welcomed participants, stressing the value of climate education. Prof. Dr. Aravind moderated the session.

Mr. Angelious Michael, Director of the India Peace Centre, delivered a keynote address emphasizing climate advocacy as a crucial pathway to achieving climate justice and a sustainable planet. He provided an overview of the history and processes of the United Nations Conference of Parties (UN COP) and outlined

key expectations for UN COP30. Highlighting the role of youth and students, he encouraged them to be active instruments of climate advocacy, both within their academic pursuits and by voicing their perspectives on global platforms such as the UN COP.

The seminar concluded with a renewed commitment among participants to engage with climate issues, translating knowledge into action for a sustainable and just future.

BENGAL CHRISTIAN COUNCIL

BENGAL CHRISTIAN COUNCIL HOSTS CHURCH LEADERS MEETING

The Bengal Christian Council (BCC) convened an ecumenical dinner meeting on 12 September 2025 at the CNI Bishop’s House, Kolkata, hosted by Rt. Rev. Paritosh Canning, CNI Bishop of Kolkata and President of BCC. The meeting brought together bishops, church leaders, and representatives from member churches and affiliated institutions, including the CNI dioceses of Durgapur, Doars, and Barrackpore, the Methodist Church, Armenian Church, LWSIT, BSI Kolkata Auxiliary and ATTWI.

NEWS FROM ECUMENICAL PARTNERS

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (WCC)

WCC TO HOST WEBINAR ON “AI AND OUR INFORMATION SOCIETY”

The World Council of Churches (WCC) will host the first in a series of webinars titled “AI and Our Information Society: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly” on 15 October 2025. The session will explore the positive and negative impacts of artificial intelligence (AI) in digital communication.

As AI becomes increasingly integrated into platforms such as internet search engines, text generators, translation tools, and other digital services, it offers opportunities to enhance creativity, streamline tasks, and expand outreach. However, these tools

also present risks, including disinformation, deep fakes, targeted abuse, and reinforcement of bias.

The webinar will feature panelists discussing AI’s potential for democratization and accessibility, while addressing challenges such as bias, stereotypes, exploitation, and exclusion. Topics will also include AI in education, chatbots, media and journalism, automation, training, and accessibility for journalists, especially in the Global South. The discussions aim to foster a critical understanding of AI’s role in shaping society and information ecosystems. [Read more...](#)

CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE OF ASIA (CCA)

YOUNG PEACE ACTIVISTS GATHER IN CHIANG MAI FOR CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE OF ASIA TRAINING

The annual Young Ambassadors of Peace in Asia training, organised by the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA), began on 8 September at the CCA headquarters in Chiang Mai, Thailand, under the theme “Sustaining Peace in Asia through Religious Cooperation.” The weeklong programme opened with an interfaith service and brought together 30 young peace activists from across Asia, representing Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, Indigenous religions, and agnostics. [Read more...](#)

WORLD COMMUNION OF REFORMED CHURCHES (WCRC)

REV. PHILIP VINOD PEACOCK ELECTED AS NEXT WCRC GENERAL SECRETARY



The WCRC has unanimously elected Rev. Philip Vinod Peacock of India as its next General Secretary, the first Asian to hold the position. His term begins on 1 February 2026. Currently Executive Secretary for Justice and Witness, he has advanced the Communion’s work on economic and ecological justice. An ordained minister of the Church of North India and former associate professor at Bishop’s College, Kolkata, he brings deep theological insight and a commitment to justice and inclusivity. NCCI warmly congratulates Rev. Peacock and prays for God’s guidance as he leads the global Reformed family in its mission for justice, peace, and unity. [Read more...](#)

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Dates : 31st October to 4th November 2025 (5 Days)
 Date of Arrival : 30th October 2025
📍 Venue : NCCI Campus, Nagpur
Fee: Rs. 5000/- (Food, Stay & Tuition)
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THURSDAYS IN BLACK
 Towards a
world
without
rape and
violence



 National
Council
of Churches
in India

**WORLD WEEK OF
PRAYER FOR PEACE**
 in Palestine and Israel



**Let
Justice
Flow**
 Amos 5:24

21st to 27th September 2025





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