



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN INDIA

The Hour has come; let us get going

December 2025-January 2026

E-Newsletter

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Beyond the Comfort of Seasons: A Call to Courageous Faith

Faith cannot be confined to seasons, calendars, or ceremonial moments. The times we inhabit are marked by deep fractures—growing inequality, normalised violence, shrinking democratic spaces, ecological crisis, and rising intolerance. In such a context, the church is confronted with a hard truth: silence is not neutrality, and comfort is not faithfulness.

The gospel does not allow the church to remain a spectator. When injustice becomes routine and the dignity of communities is threatened, faith demands public responsibility. Worship that does not lead to witness, and prayer that does not disturb complacency, risk becoming hollow. The credibility of the church today lies not in numbers or institutions, but in moral courage. Unity, too, must be tested beyond declarations. Ecumenism finds its meaning when churches stand together where life is wounded and rights are denied. To speak of reconciliation without naming injustice is to offer cheap peace. Prophetic faith calls for truth-telling—even when it is uncomfortable, costly, or unpopular.

This moment also calls for honest self-examination. Have we adjusted too easily to injustice? Have we spiritualised suffering instead of challenging its causes? Have we prioritised survival over solidarity? Renewal begins when the church listens again—to the cries of the marginalised and to the Spirit who unsettles settled consciences.

The challenge before us is clear: to preserve comfort or to embody courage. Faith that refuses risk loses its power to heal, liberate, and transform.

Rev Dr Asir Ebenezer
General Secretary

NCCI Statement on Christmas violence

[Click here](#)

SIGNIFICANT DAYS

- Jan 18** – NCCI Sunday
- Jan 24** – National Girl Child Day
- Jan 26** – Republic Day
- Jan 18-25 2026** - Week of Prayer



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“Christian unity is not uniformity, but a reconciled diversity.” - Jürgen Moltmann



NEWS FROM NCCI

WALKING TOGETHER FOR MANIPUR: NCCI COORDINATES INTERVENTIONS OF ITS AGENCIES

The National Council of Churches in India (NCCI) convened a coordination meeting to review and strengthen ongoing and proposed interventions in Manipur. The meeting was held on 14 January 2026 via Zoom.

Representatives from NCCI, the Christian Service Agency (CSA), the India Peace Centre (IPC), and the Lutheran World Service India Trust (LWSIT) participated in the discussion.



The meeting provided a platform to share updates, assess emerging needs on the ground, and explore collaborative strategies for effective response. The coordination emphasised the discussion about education and livelihood support and importance of joint planning, ecumenical cooperation, and sustained accompaniment of affected communities in Manipur. Participants reaffirmed their commitment to work together in addressing humanitarian concerns and supporting peace, justice, and reconciliation efforts in the region. The meeting reflected NCCI's continuing role in facilitating ecumenical collaboration for coordinated and meaningful action in contexts of crisis.

HARVEST OF HARMONY: NCCI NATIONAL OFFICE OBSERVES PONGAL AND MAKAR SANKRANTI



NCCI – National Office, Delhi observed Pongal and Makar Sankranti on 14 January 2026 as a moment of thanksgiving, prayer, and reflection, remembering farmers and the agricultural life that sustains the nation.

As part of the harvest observance, staff members reflected on the significance of agriculture as a gift of God's provision and the renewal of life. The celebration also acknowledged the changing realities of farming, including issues related to land use, agricultural systems, and evolving technologies such as genetically modified seeds, inviting thoughtful engagement from faith communities.

The observance provided space for fellowship and cultural sharing, linking faith with gratitude for the labour of farmers and care for creation. Through this celebration, NCCI reaffirmed its commitment to unity in diversity, respect for agrarian communities, and responsible stewardship of land and agricultural practices.

“ONE BODY, ONE SPIRIT” — NCCI CALLS CHURCHES TO OBSERVE NCCI SUNDAY



NCCI will observe NCCI Sunday on 18 and/or 25 January 2026, inviting churches across the country to join in prayer and reflection under the theme “One Body, One Spirit.”

Marked in solidarity with the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, this observance calls churches to celebrate their shared faith in Christ and to reaffirm their ecumenical commitment under the guiding affirmation “United in Christ, Called to Serve.” Churches are encouraged to organise special worship services, prayers, and reflections that highlight unity, fellowship, and common witness.

The NCCI—an ecumenical expression of Protestant and Orthodox churches as well as affiliated councils and agencies in India—supports this call to unity as part of its broader mission to foster communion, witness, and mutual service in the church and society. Click for resource - https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Tjr0R5-6yH6LHWmK80Xmcl-O_5WC3qNS/view?usp=sharing

BUILDING ECUMENICAL UNDERSTANDING ON THE PALESTINE-ISRAEL CRISIS



The National Council of Churches in India (NCCI) organised a Staff Orientation Program on the Palestine-Israel issue at its Nagpur campus, creating a space for critical reflection, learning, and ecumenical solidarity on one of the most pressing global justice concerns of our time.

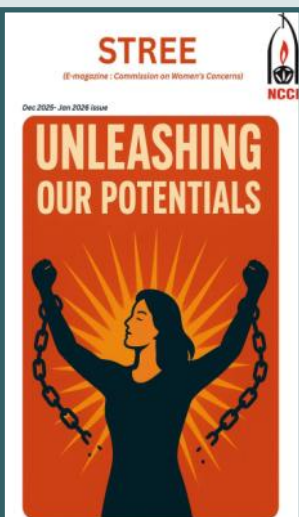
The orientation was initiated by the Kairos India Partnership (KIP) and

brought together nearly 30 participants representing a wide spectrum of Christian organisations and church bodies, including NCCI, the Christian Service Agency (CSA), YMCA, Bible Society of India (BSI), and pastors from the Church of North India (CNI) and the Marthoma Church. The diverse participation enriched the dialogue and reinforced the collective commitment of churches and Christian institutions to issues of peace and justice. The program focused on deepening participants' understanding of the historical, political, and humanitarian dimensions of the Palestine-Israel conflict, while also encouraging theological reflection rooted in faith-based responses to injustice. Special emphasis was placed on nurturing ecumenical solidarity with the Palestinian people and linking global struggles with the lived realities of marginalised communities in the Indian context.

The Kairos India Partnership, hosted by NCCI, is a collaborative platform involving the Student Christian Movement of India (SCMI), National Council of YMCA's, Christian Institute for the Study of Religion and Society (CISRS), Christian Union of India (CUI), Board of Theological Education Senate of Serampore College (BTESSC), and the National Dalit Christian Watch (NCDW). The orientation also highlighted KIP's objectives, which include promoting dialogue and peace-building, engaging with global people's movements, strengthening theological reflection, developing pastoral resources, and fostering networks of theologians and faith practitioners engaged in Kairos movements. Through this orientation program, NCCI reaffirmed its commitment to prophetic witness, informed advocacy, and ecumenical accompaniment in situations of conflict and injustice, calling churches and Christian institutions to stand in solidarity with communities facing oppression and violence.

WOMEN CONCERNS

NEW YEAR EDITION OF E-STREE HIGHLIGHTS WOMEN'S STRENGTH AND VISION



The January 2026 edition of E-STREE, published by NCCI – Women Concerns, focuses on the theme “Unleashing Our Potentials,” calling women to begin the new year with faith, courage, and renewed commitment in church and society.

The issue features reflective articles on friendship, faith, purpose, and resilience, drawing inspiration from biblical narratives such as Mary and Elizabeth, and encouraging women to recognise and use their God-given gifts for meaningful engagement. The magazine also includes reports on women's fellowship activities and reflections linked to the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.

Through this edition, E-STREE continues to serve as a space for ecumenical reflection, connection, and empowerment of women across churches.

The January 2026 issue can be accessed online at: <https://ncci1914.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/E-STREE-Jan-2026.pdf>



THURSDAYS IN BLACK: NCCI'S ONGOING WITNESS FOR JUSTICE



The “Thursdays in Black” campaign, a global advocacy against sexual harassment, rape, and all other forms of violence against women. Women Concern released posters on every Wednesday in the context of against Domestic Violence, Christmas season, and new resolution on New Year announcing a collective resolve to create a society in which women and girls may live in equality, safety, and dignity.

ECUMENICAL FORA

INDIAN DISABILITY ECUMENICAL ACCOMPANIMENT (NCCI-IDEA)

WHEN KNOWLEDGE IS FELT: WORLD BRAILLE DAY AT PWDS FELLOWSHIP



NCCI-IDEA observed World Braille Day during its Monthly Online Persons with Disabilities (PWDS) Fellowship held on 3 January 2026.

The fellowship focused on the theme of Braille literacy and its transformative role in the lives of persons with visual impairment. Pastor Satish Taksande of the Bartimaeus Blind Ministry, Nagpur, Maharashtra, served as the main speaker and shared an inspiring reflection on the importance of Braille, emphasising that “Braille is knowledge you can feel, not just see.” He highlighted how Braille literacy empowers persons with visual impairment by enabling independence,

access to education, spiritual growth, and meaningful participation in society.

The fellowship also featured powerful testimonials. Mr. Dilbertstar Lyngdoh Nonglait from Shillong, Meghalaya, working with the Bethany Society, shared his journey from visual impairment to a successful life of service, underscoring how Braille literacy played a crucial role in his personal and professional development. Mr. Azarbrao Rane, a Braille trainer and musician from the ELCMP Blind School, Madhya Pradesh, spoke about the challenges faced by visually impaired youth in rural areas, where lack of access to Braille education often limits opportunities for spiritual, educational, and economic development. The fellowship concluded as a meaningful and eye-opening encounter, reaffirming the vital importance of promoting Braille literacy as a tool of dignity, inclusion, and empowerment for persons with visual impairment.

ECUMENICAL ENTREPRENEURS FORUM (EEF)

EMPOWERING ENTERPRISE WITH PURPOSE: EEF INTRODUCES WEEKLY PULSE

The Ecumenical Entrepreneurs Forum (EEF), a fellowship platform bringing together Christian business people for mutual support, relationship-building, and faith-based engagement, has announced the launch of EEF Pulse, a weekly update initiative beginning in January 2026. EEF Pulse is designed to keep members informed, connected, and empowered by sharing timely information, opportunities, and reflections relevant to the entrepreneurial journey. The initiative will feature five key sections: Stories, highlighting inspiring entrepreneurial journeys; Schemes, providing updates on government and institutional support; Strategies, offering practical business insights; Skills, focusing on capacity-building tools and knowledge; and Spiritual Reflections, nurturing faith-based perspectives for Christian entrepreneurs. The first edition of EEF Pulse focuses on Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Schemes, outlining available support and development opportunities for business owners. The update covers schemes under the SME Division, Development Commissioner (DC-MSME), National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), and ARI Division, offering guidance on access and growth. EEF encourages Christian business persons interested in joining the fellowship to connect by writing to eef@ncci1914.com for further information and participation.



YOUTH CONCERNS

NEW PROGRAMME EXECUTIVE FOR YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AT NCCI



NCCI welcomed Mr. Bevei Konah Simeon as Programme Executive for Youth Concerns, with additional responsibility of assisting the Office of the General Secretary. Bevei Konah Simeon hails from Purul, Senapati District, Manipur, and belongs to the Poumai Naga community under the Poumai Naga Baptist Association (PNBA), a constituent member of the Manipur Baptist Convention (MBC), affiliated to the Council of Baptist Churches in North East India (CBCNEI). He holds a Bachelor of Divinity from the Baptist Theological College, Pfutsero, Nagaland, and a Master of Theology in Social Analysis from the Tamilnadu Theological Seminary (TTS), Madurai.

Further enriching his ecumenical formation, he has received a Complementary Certificate in Ecumenical Studies from the Ecumenical Institute of Bossey, Switzerland, an institute of the World Council of Churches. Prior to joining NCCI, he served as Youth Director and Sunday School Superintendent at Purul Akutpa Baptist Church, PNBA, contributing actively to youth formation and church education. In his present role at NCCI, he will support youth-focused programmes while contributing to the Council's wider ecumenical mission.

A NEW YOUNG VOICE JOINS THE NCCI



NCCI has welcomed a new intern Mr. Emmauel Joel to serve with the Youth Department and the Ecumenical Fora, strengthening its engagement with young people and ecumenical initiatives. He is a member of the C.S.I. Wesley Tamil Church, Haines Road, Bengaluru, under the Karnataka Central Diocese, and holds a Bachelor of Commerce in Business Analytics. A self-taught bass guitarist, he has previously served as a music teacher in two mission schools, introducing children to hymns and songs.

He has also gained ecumenical experience through his internship with the Student Christian Movement of India (SCMI). At NCCI, he is gaining practical exposure to youth ministry, service, and community engagement, contributing to the NCCI's wider ecumenical mission.

WELCOMING NEW VOLUNTEER INTO NCCI'S ECUMENICAL JOURNEY



NCCI is enriched by the addition of Ms. Irene David, who has recently joined the Council as a volunteer, contributing to its mission and activities.

Hailing from Nagpur, Irene is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in English and Psychology at Hislop College, Nagpur. She is a member of the New India Church of God, Nagpur, and brings with her a growing commitment to service and learning.

Through her volunteer engagement, she will support NCCI's programmes while gaining meaningful exposure to the Council's ecumenical vision and community-oriented work.

NEWS FROM CONSTITUENT MEMBERS

SENATE OF SERAMPORE COLLEGE (UNIVERSITY) (SSC)

GUIDING THEOLOGICAL VISION: NEW PRESIDENT ELECTED AT SSC



NCCI congratulates Revd Prof. Dr. C. I. David Joy on his election as President of the Senate of Serampore College, one of the crucial positions in Indian theological education.

NCCI extends its prayerful best wishes as he assumes this significant leadership role in service of the churches and theological formation in India.

**CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA (CSI)****CSI RAISES CONCERN OVER ANTI-CHRISTIAN VIOLENCE, URGES PROTECTION OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**

The Church of South India (CSI) has expressed serious concern over a recent rise in incidents of intimidation and disruption of Christian communities and Christmas celebrations in several parts of India. In a statement issued by the CSI Synod Secretariat, the Church strongly condemned these acts and called upon the government to safeguard religious liberty and constitutional rights.

Incidents were reported from Delhi, Kerala, Uttarakhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, and other states, including threats, cancellation of events, vandalism of Christmas displays, and coercive moral policing during peaceful celebrations. CSI noted that such actions have created fear and insecurity, raising serious concerns about the freedom to practise one's faith.

Reaffirming that Article 25 of the Indian Constitution guarantees freedom of conscience and religion, CSI expressed solidarity with affected families and communities, especially children. The Church urged civil society, religious leaders, and authorities to uphold the rule of law and ensure that all citizens can celebrate their festivals without fear or discrimination, while reiterating its commitment to religious freedom, human dignity, and peaceful coexistence.

MALANKARA MAR THOMA SYRIAN CHURCH**MAR THOMA CHURCH CALLS FOR JUSTICE AMID ATTACKS ON CHRISTIANS**

The Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church has expressed concern over the rise in violence against Christians during the Christmas season in various parts of India. In a statement issued by HG Dr. Theodosius Mar Thoma Metropolitan, the Church described the incidents as deeply distressing and a serious challenge to India's democratic and judicial framework.

The statement noted with particular concern that such incidents have been reported even in Kerala, a land with a long and vibrant Christian tradition. It cautioned against deliberate attempts to erase Christian symbols from the public sphere, warning that such actions undermine the constitutional freedom to believe, profess, and practise religion. Calling for urgent intervention, the Church urged both central and state governments to take firm action against individuals and organisations instigating violence, and to uphold the principles of justice, religious freedom, and democracy enshrined in the Constitution.

Statement issued from Tiruvalla and signed by HG Dr. Theodosius Mar Thoma Metropolitan.

MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH**ORTHODOX CHURCH HEAD SHARES PASTORAL CONCERN OVER ATTACKS ON CHRISTIANS**

HG Baselios Marthoma Mathews III, Catholicos of the East and Malankara Metropolitan of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church, has shared his deep pastoral concern regarding the increasing instances of violence and hostility faced by Christian communities, particularly during the Christmas season.

Speaking during a church gathering in Kerala, the Catholicos warned that attacks on Christian communities and disruptions of Christmas celebrations reflect a dangerous trend that threatens India's pluralistic and constitutional fabric. He cautioned that hate-driven actions and rhetoric threaten India's constitutional values and religious freedom, and urged authorities to act firmly against those promoting communal hatred, reaffirming that Christians are an integral part of India's plural fabric. [Read more...](#)



CHRISTIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

BEYOND ROUTINE: CMAI'S 2026 MANDATE IS TO "ReTHINK TO REACH OUT"

The Christian Medical Association of India (CMAI) has launched the 2026 Healing Ministry theme, "ReThink to Reach Out," for observance in February with partners CHAI, NCCI, and CBCI.

Bible study and resources are now available for download at cmai.org/healing-ministry.html.

NEWS FROM ECUMENICAL PARTNERS

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (WCC)

CHURCHES WORLDWIDE INVITED TO OBSERVE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Churches and Christian communities across the globe are invited to participate in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, taking place from 18–25 January 2026. The annual ecumenical observance calls believers to pray together for unity and shared witness in Jesus Christ. For 2026, the prayers and reflections have been prepared by the Inter-Church Relations Department of the Armenian Apostolic Church and are published jointly by the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity and the World Council of Churches (WCC). These resources draw upon historic Armenian prayer traditions and ancient hymns, offering a rich spiritual heritage for use in congregations worldwide. The theme for this year's observance is taken from Ephesians 4:4: "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling." This theme invites Christians, despite diverse traditions and expressions of faith, to recognise their belonging to the one body of Christ.

Materials for the Week of Prayer are available in multiple languages, and churches are encouraged to adapt the resources for local use, fostering ecumenical prayer and cooperation throughout the week and beyond.

[Read more...](#)

CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE OF ASIA (CCA)

CCA CALLS HUMAN RIGHTS "EVERYDAY ESSENTIALS" ON HUMAN RIGHTS DAY 2025



The Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) reaffirmed the importance of human rights as essential to daily life in a statement on Human Rights Day (10 December 2025), reflecting this year's global theme, "Our Everyday Essentials."

CCA General Secretary Dr. Mathews George Chunakara emphasised that human rights are not distant ideals but fundamental realities that enable people to live with

dignity, safety, opportunity, and freedom. The statement highlighted the shared responsibility of churches and communities to stand in solidarity, uphold the common good, and act with respect, compassion, and courage to protect these rights. Dr. Chunakara also expressed deep concern over growing threats to human rights across Asia, including political turmoil, repression, discrimination against women, minorities and Indigenous peoples, and restrictions on civic freedoms. He drew attention to the impact of humanitarian crises worsened by climate change, which undermine basic rights to safety, shelter, and livelihood, especially for the most vulnerable. The CCA called on its member churches and councils to strengthen their role as advocates for justice, defenders of human rights, and protectors of human dignity, urging the church to be a voice for the voiceless and a refuge for the vulnerable in challenging times. [Read more...](#)



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THERE IS
ONE BODY
AND
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ONE HOPE
OF YOUR CALLING
EPHESIANS:4:4

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
18-25 January 2026


An Invitation
to all Christians Communities



National Council of Churches in India



ECI



CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE OF INDIA

National Council of Churches in India

**ONE BODY,
ONE SPIRIT**



NCCI Sunday
18 January 2026
25 January 2026

United in Christ, Called to Serve

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