



# NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN INDIA

## The Hour has come; let us get going

**November-December 2025****E-Newsletter**

### In this Issue...

- \* *From Bethlehem to Neighbourhoods*
- \* *Sharing the Joy of Christmas with Leaders*
- \* *Breaking Silence, Bridging Digital Safety – 16 Days of Activism*
- \* *United Voices Call for Dalit Christians*
- \* *Rainbows of Faiths: Stories of Courage and Inclusion*
- \* *Dialogue on Gender & Sexuality Begins in CSI Karnataka Diocese*
- \* *Churches Remember and Reaffirm Dignity*
- \* *PWD Awards 2025 Honour Excellence & Inclusion*
- \* *Engage Disability: NCCI-IDEA Sparks Conversation*
- \* *Entrepreneurs Unite: EEF Chapters Inspire New Vision*
- \* *Climate Justice Conversations Build Hope Ahead of COP30*
- \* *New Skills, New Strength for Young Women*
- \* *Legal Protection for Domestic Workers Spotlighted*
- \* *India Peace Centre Begins 10-Day Training in Kolkata*

### SIGNIFICANT DAYS

Dec 25 – Christmas

Jan 01 – New Year

Jan 04 – World Braille Day

### If Christ Is Born Again—Where Will He Find Space?

Advent unsettles us with a provocative question: If Christ is born again today, where will He find space? The first Christmas reveals a pattern we often choose to forget. God did not choose palaces, power centres, or privileged spaces. Christ entered the world through those whom society ignores—an unprotected young woman, a migrant family denied shelter, shepherds dismissed as unimportant, and a manger that stood outside systems of comfort and control.

If this is God's way, then what would Christ find in our India today? Would there be room for Him among Dalit and Adivasi communities fighting for dignity? Among religious minorities pressured to prove their belonging? Among migrants, daily-wage workers, persons with disabilities, and women whose struggles remain invisible? Or would Christ be pushed out again—politely by our piety or violently by our prejudice?

Advent is not a call to decorate our sanctuaries alone; it is a call to rearrange our priorities. Christmas becomes authentic only when our celebrations challenge exclusion, confront injustice, and create room where society refuses to.

To prepare a place for Christ is to prepare a place for those denied space. For the manger remains God's radical announcement: Christ is born at the margins—and that is where He waits for us still.

**Rev Dr Asir Ebenezer**  
General Secretary



"The church is only the church when it exists for others. Unity is found in serving together." – Dietrich Bonhoeffer

## NEWS FROM NCCI

## FROM BETHLEHEM TO OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS: NCCI WITNESSES HOPE AT CHRISTMAS

The National Council of Churches in India (NCCI) celebrated Christmas under the theme “From Bethlehem to Neighbourhoods” with the participation of a wide cross-section of the Christian community in the National Capital. The celebration was graced by Members of Parliament, officers from the Government of India and the Government of Delhi, leaders of NCCI member churches and organisations, and friends from different faith communities.



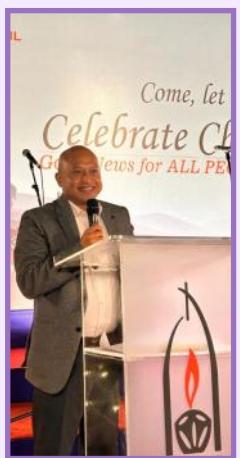
Speaking on the occasion, Adv. P. Wilson, MP, called upon the Christian community to continue sharing Christ's message of love and hope amid the pressing challenges of the times. He extended Christmas greetings on behalf of the Indian Christian Parliamentarians' Council. Mr. Ricky Syngkon, MP, reflected on Christmas as a celebration that brings all people together and offered prayers for the nation and for the ministry of the NCCI.

Christmas greetings were also conveyed by Most Rev. Dr. Anil Couto, Archbishop and Secretary General of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India; Rev. Dr. Vijayesh Lal, General Secretary of the Evangelical Fellowship of India; and Rev. Dr. Ajith Kumar, General Secretary of the Church of North India Synod. Ms. Nilakshi Rajkhowa, Director of Public Affairs, Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of India, extended greetings on behalf of the various faith communities represented through the India Peace Centre.



His Grace Dr. Geevarghese Mar Yulios, Metropolitan of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church and President of the NCCI, delivered the Christmas message, emphasising the enduring hope and peace embodied in the birth of Christ. Rev. Dr. Joshua Peter, Executive Secretary of the United Evangelical Lutheran Churches in India and Treasurer of the NCCI, conveyed greetings on behalf of the Council. Rev. Asir Ebenezer welcomed the gathering and introduced the NCCI, highlighting its role and relevance in the contemporary context.

Among those who participated in the celebration were Rt. Rev. Dr. Paul Swarup, Bishop of the CNI Diocese of Delhi; HG John Mor Iraneus, Archbishop of the Diocese of Delhi of the Believers Eastern Church;



Lt. Colonel Abraham Lincoln Mudda, Chief Secretary, Northern Territory of the Salvation Army; and Rev. Edwin John Wesley, Bishop Commissary of the Delhi Diocese of the Evangelical Church in India. The celebration was enriched by Christmas music presented by choirs from the Church of North India, Mar Thoma Syrian Church, and Methodist Church in India, along with a special presentation by Ms. Grace Thaimei from Manipur, who rendered carols in different languages, reflecting the rich diversity of faith expressions in India.

The NCCI Christmas Programme stood as a powerful witness to ecumenical unity and inter-community harmony, bringing together churches, Christian organisations, and faith communities in a shared celebration of the birth of Christ. It reaffirmed the collective commitment to peace, justice, inclusiveness, and compassionate engagement with society, reminding all present that the message of Christmas calls the Church to move beyond celebration into faithful witness and transformative service in the world.



## SHARING THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS WITH LEADERS OF NATION AND CHURCH

The Hon'ble Vice-President of India, Shri.C. P.Radhakrishnan, hosted a Christmas Luncheon at the Vice-President's Enclave in New Delhi on 19 December 2025, bringing together political leaders, church dignitaries, and representatives of Christian institutions from across the country. Among those who met the Vice-President on the occasion were the President of the National Council of Churches in India (NCCI), HG Geevarghese Mar Yulios, and the General Secretary of the NCCI, Rev Dr Asir Ebenezer, who conveyed Christmas greetings on behalf of the Council. As a gesture of goodwill and fellowship, the NCCI leaders presented a book on Sadhu Sundar Singh, along with the daily devotional Fresh from the Word 2026, underscoring the shared values of spiritual reflection and Christian witness. The Christmas Luncheon was attended by several political leaders, Cardinals, Archbishops, Bishops, Priests, Pastors, Reverend Fathers and Sisters, and senior representatives from various church administrations across India, along with other distinguished guests. The gathering reflected the spirit of peace, mutual respect, and fellowship that marks the Christmas season.



## WOMEN CONCERN

## 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 women safety at Home and Society, Online Abuse, Digital Violence and Christmas announcing a collective resolve to create a society in which women and girls may live in equality, safety, and dignity.

## BREAKING THE SILENCE, BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE - 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM



NCCI, through its Commission of Women's Concern, is observing the global 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence from 25 November to 10 December 2025. This year's theme, “UNiTE to End Digital Violence against All Women and Girls,” draws attention to the rising forms of online abuse, including cyberstalking, harassment, and non-consensual image sharing. As digital spaces increasingly shape daily life, the church recognises the urgent need to respond with awareness, compassion, and advocacy. The campaign was launched on 25 November—International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women—with the unifying message: “We Rise, Resist, & Unite – Women's Fight for a Better Future.” The visuals portraying women standing together reflect the commitment of Indian churches to resist all forms of gender-based oppression and to uphold justice, dignity, and equality. Churches and Christian organisations are encouraged to engage through awareness services, educational sessions, prayer walls, candlelight vigils, and partnerships with shelters and advocacy groups. Congregations are also invited to strengthen policies that ensure safe physical and digital environments and to provide training for leaders on pastoral care and appropriate responses to violence. Public advocacy—including peaceful rallies and community engagement—remains a key part of the campaign, affirming that ending violence against women and girls is both a social responsibility and a gospel mandate. NCCI reaffirms its commitment to stand with all women and girls and calls its member churches to join in rising, resisting, and uniting for a safer and more equitable world.

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## **DALIT CONCERNS**

### **UNITED VOICES CALL FOR DALIT CHRISTIAN RECOGNITION IN CENSUS**



On 2 December 2025, a delegation comprising representatives from the NCCI–Commission on Dalits, the National Council for Dalit Christians (NCDC), and the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) met the Registrar General and Caste Census Commissioner in New Delhi. The delegation submitted a formal representation urging that the upcoming caste census adopt an inclusive framework that adequately recognises and reflects the lived realities of Dalit Christians. The submission highlighted long-standing concerns regarding social exclusion and emphasised the need for accurate recording to ensure visibility, justice, and equitable policy engagement. This collaborative effort marks a significant ecumenical step toward advocating dignity and constitutional rights for Dalit Christians at the national level.

## **ECUMENICAL FORA**

### **ECUMENICAL INSIGHTS ON GENDER JUSTICE SHARED AT YMCA ASSEMBLY 2025**



Rev. Ribin John, Executive Secretary of Ecumenical Fora, NCCI, represented the National Council of Churches in India at the YMCA Central India Region's Gender and Women's Assembly 2025, held on 6 and 7 December at YMCA Nagpur. He led an engaging and insightful session on the theme "Collaborative Communities: Engaging Men, Youth, and Families in Gender Justice." In his presentation, Rev. Ribin John highlighted the crucial role of men, young people, and family networks in building equitable and violence-free communities. Emphasising that gender justice is a shared responsibility, he invited participants to rethink

traditional roles, challenge harmful norms, and cultivate partnerships that promote dignity and empowerment for all. His session was well-received, offering practical pathways for community engagement and reinforcing the YMCA's and NCCI's shared commitment to advancing justice, inclusion, and transformative social change.

## **NATIONAL ECUMENICAL FORUM FOR GENDER AND SEXUAL DIVERSITY (NEFGSD)**

### **TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE 2025 OBSERVED ACROSS CHURCHES**



The Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDoR) 2025 was marked on 20 November 2025, across churches and communities with heartfelt prayers and acts of solidarity, honouring transgender persons whose lives were lost to violence and discrimination. In the CSI Diocese of Erode–Salem, a meaningful service led by Rt. Rev. Dr. Jacob Livingston, Bishop of CSI Erode–Salem Diocese at CSI Church, Namakkal, brought together transgender persons,

congregants, and diocesan leaders in a collective moment of remembrance and commitment to inclusion. At Gedium, the ALC Women's Fellowship donated a freezer to support a transgender community's provision store, a gesture celebrated by community leader Sindhul Nayak as a milestone of hope and affirmation. In Ambattur, transgender friends and clergy held a candlelit remembrance, creating a moving space of grief, solidarity, and compassion. St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Thiyyagadurugam, observed TDoR during Sunday worship, reflecting ecumenical unity in honouring transgender lives. At Snehidhan and Snehidhi (Redhills), trans women gathered with Dr. Inba Ignatius for a solemn remembrance prayer, reaffirming resilience and the ongoing pursuit of justice and dignity.



## RAINBOWS OF FAITHS SESSION SHARES TRANSFORMATIVE JOURNEYS OF INCLUSION

**EPISODE**

### RAINBOWS OF FAITH FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

Lived Faith Experiences of Gender and Sexually Diverse Communities



**Ruby Almeida**

Chair Bridge & Embrace, an apostolate for LGBT Catholics in India



**Femila Livingston**

Former faculty TTS



**Nachia Sampath**

Missionary National Missionary Society

The National Ecumenical Forum for Gender and Sexual Diversity held its “Rainbows of Faiths – Series 2, Session 6” on 21 November 2025, offering a moving space where transgender persons and their families shared stories of courage and transformation.

Ms Shanthi, mother of trans woman Nachia, recounted her journey from fear to acceptance after pastoral counsel transformed her understanding. Ms Nachia, a missionary preparing for her Bachelor of Divinity exam, spoke of exclusion within church spaces and her hope to become a pastor so others will not experience similar rejection.

The session began with a prayer by Sorambi Amanullah, followed by the Transgender Day of Remembrance, honouring lives lost to violence, with a candlelit prayer led by Rev. Louis Nelson. Dr Ruby Almeida offered a global pastoral perspective, emphasising support for those pushed out of churches because of their gender or sexual identity. The gathering concluded with a blessing from Fr. Dr George Varghese.

The event reaffirmed the mission of Rainbows of Faiths: to nurture compassionate, inclusive faith communities where every person can belong.

## CONVERSATION ON GENDER AND HUMAN SEXUALITY BEGINS AT CSI KARNATAKA CENTRAL DIOCESE



A focused conversation on Gender and Human Sexuality began at the CSI Karnataka Central Diocese Office on 5 December 2025. Rev. Deva Jyothi, along with eight facilitators, led an engaging session with 30 young pastors and theological students, creating a space for open dialogue and learning on gender, diversity, and inclusive ministry. The initiative aims to equip emerging church leaders with deeper understanding and sensitivity as they serve their communities.

## INDIAN DISABILITY ECUMENICAL ACCOMPANIMENT (NCCI-IDEA)

### PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AWARDS 2025 CELEBRATE EXCELLENCE AND INCLUSION

The third Annual Persons with Disabilities Awards, announced during the PWD Fellowship on 6 November, honoured remarkable individuals and institutions for their contributions to disability inclusion and empowerment.

Sharon Rachel Aby, from the Madras Mar Thoma Syrian Church, Chetpet, received the Award for Extraordinary Achievement and Innovation. Diagnosed with Spinal Muscular Atrophy at age two, she has excelled internationally as a chess player, becoming an inspiring model of resilience and advocacy. In the Allies/Facilitators (Individual) Category, Rt. Rev. Dr. Euyakim Mar Coorilos, Suffragan Metropolitan of the Malankara Mar Thoma Church, was recognised for his long-standing commitment to disability advocacy, marked by visionary leadership and compassionate ministry.

The Institutional Award was presented to Rev. William Clark Anbin Illam, CSI Tirunelveli Diocese, Tenkasi District, for its outstanding, compassionate care for persons with mental illness—restoring dignity and offering transformative Christian service.

These awards highlight exceptional dedication to justice, inclusion, and the empowerment of persons with disabilities.



## DISABILITY ADVOCACY SUNDAY OBSERVED ACROSS CHURCHES



Disability Advocacy Sunday was observed on 23 November across churches in India, guided by the efforts of NCCI-IDEA. This year's focus, "Dignity in Work for All," highlighted the urgent need for equal employment opportunities for persons with disabilities and affirmed their

rightful place in the economic and social life of the community.

Congregations engaged in prayers, reflections, and advocacy messages that called for inclusive workplaces, the removal of structural barriers, and the promotion of just and dignified labour for all. The observance encouraged churches to strengthen their commitment to disability justice and to champion meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in every sphere of life.

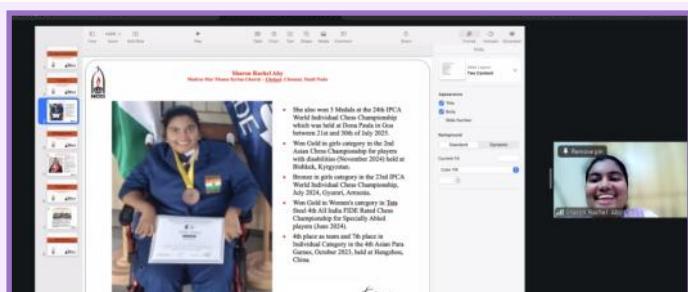
## ENGAGE DISABILITY: NCCI-IDEA SPARKS CONVERSATION



At the 4th Engage Disability National Conference, held from 12-14 December, 2025 under the theme "Belonging: Be In, Be Loved, Be Blessed," NCCI-IDEA drew significant attention with its creative and interactive exhibition stall. The highlight was a "Communicating Tree" installation featuring QR codes that allowed participants to easily access information about NCCI-IDEA's disability inclusion initiatives. The visually engaging display invited delegates to explore resources, connect with ongoing programmes, and reflect on the importance of inclusive ministry. During the conference, Rev. Ribin John addressed the gathering, sharing insights into the work of NCCI-IDEA and its commitment to advancing dignity, accessibility, and community participation for persons with disabilities across churches in India. His presentation affirmed the vital role of faith communities in shaping a more inclusive and compassionate society. The conference offered NCCI-IDEA a rich opportunity to strengthen networks, highlight its advocacy efforts, and encourage wider collaboration for disability inclusion.



## PWDs MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP HIGHLIGHTS INCLUSION AND CELEBRATION



The PWDs Monthly Fellowship on 6 December 2025 brought together participants nationwide for an evening of worship, reflection, and disability inclusion. The programme included a welcome by Mr. Nelson, an opening prayer by Ms. Cathuriya, and a special dance by Gerzim Trust. A keynote address marking the International Day of Persons with Disabilities was delivered by Mrs. Gertrude Oforiwa

Fefoame, Global Advocacy Manager (Social Inclusion) at Sightsavers, Immediate Past Chair of the UN CRPD Committee, and Commissioner of the World Council of Churches. Her message affirmed the global call to dignity, accessibility, and equal participation for all persons with disabilities.

The fellowship also featured the announcement of the Disability 2025 Award Winners, presented by Rev. Ribin John, recognising outstanding contributions in disability inclusion across individuals and institutions. A musical instrument performance by Mr. Samuel Marcus enriched the evening with artistic expression and joy. The fellowship concluded with a vote of thanks, affirming continued commitment to justice and empowerment.



## ECUMENICAL ENTREPRENEURS' FELLOWSHIP

### ENTREPRENEURS UNITE: EEF MEETINGS INSPIRE AND EQUIP



The EEF conducted a series of chapter meetings across different regions, fostering learning, inspiration, and collaboration among Christian entrepreneurs. In Trivandrum, Mr. Praveen Peter, Management Consultant, led an insightful session on “Basics of a Business Process: Checkpoints and Improvements” on 22 November, helping participants strengthen their understanding of effective business systems and strategic growth. In Mangalore, Rev. Ribin John delivered an inspiring message drawing lessons from the Three Wise Men, while also introducing participants to the vision and work of NCCI-EEF, encouraging faith-rooted entrepreneurship and leadership. Similar gatherings were also held in the Chennai and Bengaluru chapters, bringing together entrepreneurs for mutual encouragement and purposeful engagement.

## NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN SERVICE AGENCY – CSA

### NEW SKILLS, NEW STRENGTH FOR YOUNG WOMEN



Nai Subah – New Morning Project (2025–2026), a transformative skill-building and awareness programme for HIV-positive adolescent girls and young women was held on 19 November 2025 at DI Hall, Burdi, Nagpur, with 17 participants engaged in the training.

Led by three women resource persons, the sessions equipped participants with vital knowledge on the basics of HIV and AIDS, personal health and hygiene, and tuberculosis prevention. Interactive activities on personality development helped build confidence, leadership, and self-esteem, while discussions on adolescent changes supported emotional and psychological understanding. The programme proved highly empowering, enabling participants to make informed health decisions and strengthening their capacity for a healthier future. Challenges such as long travel distances, concerns about marriage prospects, and initial hesitation among first-time attendees were addressed through supportive counselling, including guidance for one participant who had discontinued ART treatment. A second phase of training is planned soon to deepen the learning and continue nurturing the well-being of these young women.

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### CONSULTATION HIGHLIGHTS LEGAL PROTECTION AND SAFETY FOR DOMESTIC WORKERS IN NAGPUR



A consultation on the rights and safety of domestic workers was held on 15 December, in Nagpur, jointly organised by Lok Kalan Yojana and Vardhvin Mooklenner Sanstha. Speakers highlighted the urgent need for clear legislation and stronger protection for domestic workers, one of the most vulnerable labour groups. Labour leader Anil Kamble stressed the importance of laws and safety measures, while Dr. Kavita Bhagade and Vilas Bhingde shared information on government schemes and financial support available to women and domestic workers. Dr. Asir Ekka, Maharashtra Regional Secretary of the Christian Service Agency (CSA), underlined the significance of advocacy and awareness in ensuring justice and dignity for domestic workers. The event, moderated by Pramod Ratnaparkhi, brought together social workers and community leaders committed to improving welfare and access to benefits. The consultation concluded with a vote of thanks from Titus Bhisey.



## NEWS FROM AUTONOMOUS BODIES

### INDIA PEACE CENTRE (IPC)

#### CLIMATE JUSTICE CONVERSATIONS: BUILDING HOPE AHEAD OF COP30

As global leaders gather in Belém for COP 30, the India Peace Centre expresses solidarity with global climate efforts and released statement on 10 December, 2025. The IPC has completed eight programmes—academic webinars, Dynamics of COP sessions, and an interfaith dialogue—reaching over 1,000 participants. These initiatives highlighted the growing impact of extreme weather on vulnerable communities and stressed the need for just, people-centred climate action. The Centre called for stronger global cooperation, climate finance, and inclusive decision-making at COP 30. Faith communities were encouraged to integrate environmental stewardship into their mission. Moving forward, the Centre will complete its remaining climate activities and launch the “Faith for Climate” campaign to strengthen interfaith environmental engagement.

[Read More...](#)

#### INDIA PEACE CENTRE LAUNCHES 10-DAY CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME IN KOLKATA



The India Peace Centre has begun its annual 10-day Capacity Building Programme in Kolkata, designed to equip theological students with a holistic understanding of interfaith learning, eco-theology, gender equity, education, and social work. The

initiative aims to prepare future faith leaders to engage meaningfully with communities at the margins. The programme opened with a city tour and orientation, introducing participants to the purpose of the training and the vital role faith communities play in social transformation. On the second day, students explored various methods of diaconia and engaged in practical skill-building sessions. The day concluded with vibrant cultural performances, showcasing the diversity and creativity of the group.

This immersive programme continues to serve as a formative platform for theological students, shaping them into compassionate, socially aware leaders for the future.

## NEWS FROM CONSTITUENT MEMBERS

### CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA

#### NEW BISHOPS CONSECRATED IN CSI



The Church of South India (CSI) joyfully celebrated the consecration of two newly elected bishops in a series of solemn and grace-filled services held in their respective dioceses. On Saturday, 06 December 2025, Rev. Dr. S. Amuel Rajadurai was consecrated as the seventh Bishop of the Trichy-Tanjore Diocese at CSI St. Luke's Church, Bishop Heber College, Trichy. The following day, Sunday, 07 December 2025, Rev. Dr. S. Christopher Vijayan was consecrated as



the seventh Bishop of the Kanyakumari Diocese in a historic service at CSI Home Church, Nagercoil, beginning at 2:00 PM. Both services were presided over by The Most Rev. Dr. K. Reuben Mark, Moderator of the Church of South India, joined by CSI and ecumenical bishops who participated in the liturgy and prayers. NCCI welcomes new episcopal leadership to guide the mission and ministry of the dioceses with vision, humility, and faith.


**CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS IN THE SPIRIT OF WELCOME AND DIGNITY**


The CSI Madras Diocese marked a meaningful Christmas celebration with members of the transgender community members on 9 December at CSI St. George's Cathedral, Chennai. The gathering reflected the Diocese's commitment to inclusion, compassion, and shared fellowship during the Christmas season.

Rt. Rev. Paul Francis Ravichandran, Bishop of the CSI Madras Diocese, graced the occasion and

brought Christmas greetings, affirming the church's call to embrace all people with dignity and love. The celebration became a joyful space of prayer, fellowship, and solidarity, witnessing Christ's message of hope, peace, and inclusive grace.

## CHURCH OF NORTH INDIA

### CNI SYNOD OFFICE CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS WITH WORSHIP, AND FELLOWSHIP



The Church of North India (CNI) Synod Office joyfully organised its Christmas Programme on 19 December at the CNI Bhawan Campus, celebrating the spirit of Christmas with reverence, worship, and warm fellowship.

The programme was inaugurated by the Moderator of the Church of North India, Most Rev. Dr. Paritosh Canning, who also delivered the Christmas message. In his reflection, he reminded the gathering of the true meaning of the birth of Christ—peace, hope, love, and a life of service to humanity.

The celebration was blessed by the presence of all CNI office bearers and several Bishops, reflecting unity and shared joy within the life of the Church. Distinguished guests included Shri. Kurien George, Hon'ble Minority Minister; Shri. Manoj Tiwari, Hon'ble Member of Parliament; and Shri. Anil Antony, National Secretary, BJP, among others.

The ecumenical character of the celebration was further enriched by the participation of eminent church leaders, including Archbishop Anil Joseph Thomas Couto, and HG Dr Geevarghese Mar Yulios, Metropolitan of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church and President of the National Council of Churches in India (NCCI), and Rev Dr Asir Ebenezer, General Secretary of the NCCI, who conveyed Christmas greetings on behalf of the Council. The programme was enlivened by Christmas performances presented by children from St. Thomas School Mandir Marg and St. Crispin's Senior Secondary School, Diocese of Delhi. Their carols, skits, and presentations joyfully expressed the message of Christmas and were warmly appreciated by the gathering. Adding to the festive spirit, the staff of the CNI Synod Office joined together in singing traditional Christmas carols, spreading joy, unity, and the message of Christ's love through music.

The programme concluded with a fellowship dinner, offering an opportunity for Church leaders, guests, and participants to share in togetherness and harmony. Mr. Neil Alexander served as the General Convenor of the programme and coordinated the arrangements. The Christmas celebration stood as a meaningful gathering marked by worship, fellowship, and a shared commitment to peace, goodwill, and unity—reflecting the true essence of the Christmas season.

## LUTHERAN WORLD SERVICE INDIA TRUST (LWSIT)

### UNITING FOR MIGRANT DIGNITY: A NATIONAL FAITH RESPONSE



A National Consultation on Migration and the SDGs was held from 1–3 December 2025 at the NCCI Campus, Nagpur, organised by LWSIT with support from Kerk in Actie. Bringing together 35 leaders and practitioners, the consultation examined India's migration challenges and opportunities.

Prof. S. Irudaya Rajan highlighted major migration trends, while Mr. Umi Daniel addressed post-pandemic

vulnerabilities, trafficking risks, and legal gaps. An international perspective on cross-border trafficking was offered by Ms. Jane Pawadee. Leadership insights came from Rev. Dr. Asir Ebenezer, Mr. Kishore Kumar Nag, and Mr. Bibekananda Biswal. A session on resource mobilisation by Ms. Uttama Pandit outlined CSR, institutional funding, and new opportunities through the Social Stock Exchange.

A key outcome was the formation of the National Ecumenical Diakonia Network, uniting 32 churches and partner organisations. Participants adopted a national action plan focusing on migrant training, registries, counselling, women-centred support, health camps, vocational initiatives, awareness programmes, and observances such as Migrant Sunday and International Migration Day. The consultation marked a significant faith-based step toward migrant dignity and SDG advancement.

## CHRISTIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF INDIA (CMAI)

### CMAI BIENNIAL CONFERENCE 2025 BRINGS HEALTHCARE LEADERS TOGETHER



The Christian Medical Association of India (CMAI) held its 48th Biennial Conference from 6–8 November 2025 in Kochi, gathering over 650 healthcare professionals from mission hospitals and Christian health institutions nationwide. The event was inaugurated by His Grace Metropolitan Dr. Geevarghese Mar Yulios, President of



National Council of Churches in India (NCCI). A key moment was the announcement of Dr. Ronald Lalhanmawia as the new General Secretary, succeeding Dr. Priya John after six years of impactful leadership.

Rev. Dr. Asir Ebenezer addressed the conference, highlighting the historic and ongoing contributions of Christians to India's medical mission. The gathering reaffirmed CMAI's commitment to compassionate, ethical, and mission-driven healthcare while strengthening networks and shared purpose across the sector.

## YOUNG MEN CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION (YMCA)

### 150TH WORLD WEEK OF PRAYER: A JUBILEE OF FAITH, UNITY, AND ACTION

The YMCA and YWCA celebrate 150 years of the World Week of Prayer from 9–15 November 2025, themed "Jubilee: 150 Years of Prayer in Action." Established in 1875 and joined by the YWCA in 1901, this tradition honours restoration and renewal. Prayers for this Jubilee year are written by young people facing hardship, calling communities to unity, justice, gratitude, and faith-inspired action.

**CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGION AND SOCIETY (CISRS)****CISRS BIENNIAL COUNCIL MEETS IN HYDERABAD**

The Biennial Council Meeting of the CISRS was held on 5 December 2025 at the Henry Martyn Institute, Hyderabad, bringing together scholars, church leaders, and practitioners for reflection on emerging social and theological concerns in India today. During the gathering, CISRS released the book *“Public Religions in a Postsecular Era,”* adding a valuable resource to ongoing conversations on religion and society.

**MALANKARA JACOBITE SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH****NICAEA 325 AT 1700: FAITH AND CULTURE REFLECTED IN NATIONAL GATHERING**

The Malankara Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church organised a National Conference titled “NICAEA 325: Celebrating 1700 Years of the Ecumenical Council of Nicaea” on 14–15 November 2025 at the Malankara Syrian Orthodox Theological Seminary, Kochi, Kerala. The conference, held under the theme “Nicaea 325: Crossroads of Faith and Culture,” brought together a wide gathering of Orthodox Metropolitans, Bishops, priests, theologians, and students for two days of reflection and dialogue. Rev. Dr. Asir Ebenezer, General Secretary of the NCCI, participated in the symposium and offered insights on the enduring significance of the Nicene tradition. In his address, he highlighted the importance of fostering a deep and lived sense of ecumenical unity as churches commemorate the 1700-year legacy of the Council of Nicaea.

**INDIA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH****REV. MOHAN MANUVEL ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE INDIA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

The India Evangelical Lutheran Church (IELC) has elected Rev. Dr. M. Mohanan Manuvel as its new President, on 29 November, 2025 marking an important leadership transition in the life and mission of the Church. His election reflects the confidence placed in his pastoral vision and commitment to guiding the IELC in faithful witness, service, and mission in the contemporary context. NCCI expresses its prayers and good wishes for his leadership, affirming the importance of continued ecumenical cooperation and service to society.

**JEYPORE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH****GUIDED BY FAITH AND SERVICE: RT REV ANANTA KUMAR NAG CONSECRATED AS BISHOP OF JELC**

The Rt Rev Ananta Kumar Nag was elected in the 70th Synod Elections held on 21–23 November and consecrated as the Bishop of the Jeypore Evangelical Lutheran Church (JELC) in a solemn worship service marked by prayer, thanksgiving, and commitment to the mission of the Church.

NCCI joyfully extends its greetings on the consecration of the Rt Rev Ananta Kumar Nag as the new Bishop. NCCI conveys its prayerful support and best wishes to the Rt Rev Ananta Kumar Nag as he begins this sacred responsibility.



## NEWS FROM REGIONAL COUNCILS

### TAMILNAD CHRISTIAN COUNCIL

#### TNCC AND UELCI CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH GENDER-DIVERSE COMMUNITY



The Tamilnad Christian Council (TNCC) and the United Evangelical Lutheran Churches in India (UELCI) celebrated Christmas with gender-diverse community members on 10 December at Bethel Hall, CWC, UELCI Campus, Chennai. The celebration witnessed the joyful participation of many transgender community friends, creating a warm and inclusive space of fellowship, worship, and shared celebration.

Rev. Dr. Deva Jothi Kumar, Programme Executive of the NEFGSD, NCCI, also took part in the gathering, affirming the church's commitment to dignity, inclusion, and accompaniment. Rev Samuel Logan spoke on the occasion, reflecting on the message of Christmas as one of welcome, love, and solidarity with all people. The National Ecumenical Forum for Gender and Sexual Diversities (NEFGSD) was also part of the event, reinforcing the ecumenical commitment to justice, inclusion, and walking alongside gender-diverse communities. The event was thoughtfully organised by Ms. Esther Kathiroli of TNCC and Ms. Beyrl Logan of UELCI. The celebration reflected the spirit of Christmas as a time of welcome, solidarity, and hope.

## NEWS FROM ECUMENICAL PARTNERS

### WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (WCC)

#### FAITH LEADERS MARK 1700 YEARS SINCE THE COUNCIL OF NICAEA



On 28 November, faith leaders gathered in Nicaea (Iznik, Türkiye) to commemorate the 1700th anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council. Patriarch Bartholomew, Pope Leo XIV, and WCC general secretary Rev. Dr. Jerry Pillay joined an ecumenical prayer service affirming the enduring call to Christian unity. The gathering highlighted hope amid global turmoil and renewed commitments to reconciliation. Patriarch Bartholomew and Pope Leo XIV signed a Joint Declaration encouraging continued steps toward unity and peace, affirming: "God will not abandon humanity." [Read more...](#)

#### INDIGENOUS WISDOM AND GLOBAL SOLIDARITY: EIPN GATHERS IN TAIWAN



The Ecumenical Indigenous Peoples Network (EIPN), a Reference Group of the World Council of Churches, met from 4–10 December 2025 in Changhua, Taiwan, hosted by the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan, creating a vibrant space for dialogue, cultural exchange, and strategic planning. Participants visited Indigenous communities in Taiwan's mountains, engaging deeply with the Atayal people's culture and concerns. A key highlight was the visit to Smangus, a unique self-reliant Indigenous commune known for equitable resource-sharing, community-owned forests, and sustainable tourism rooted in tradition and stewardship.

During the meeting, members drafted a strategic plan for future EIPN programmes, projects, and inter-regional cooperation. The network also expressed strong hope and readiness to hold the next EIPN gathering in India in 2026. Mr. Joy Raj Eric Tudu represented the NCCI at this global Indigenous forum.

## CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE OF ASIA (CCA)

### REV. JUNG EUN MOON ELECTED AS NEXT CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE OF ASIA'S GENERAL SECRETARY



Christian Conference of Asia has elected Rev. Jung Eun (Grace) Moon of the Presbyterian Church of Korea as its next General Secretary during the Executive Committee meeting in Chiang Mai. She will succeed Dr. Mathews George Chunakara and assume office on 5 June 2026 at an installation service in Chiang Mai. NCCI extends warm congratulations on her election. [Read More...](#)

### ASIAN ECUMENICAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE OPENS WITH CALL FOR DIGNITY AND RIGHTS OF WOMEN



The Asian Ecumenical Women's Conference opened in Chiang Mai under the theme "Towards Upholding the Dignity and Rights of Women in Asia," gathering eighty women leaders, theologians, and ecumenical representatives from across the region. The conference addressed key challenges facing women, including violence, limited leadership representation, shrinking democratic spaces, and widening digital inequalities.

Ms. Vernie Yocogan-Diano of the Philippines delivered the thematic address, highlighting how displacement, economic injustice, militarisation, and fundamentalisms continue to erode women's dignity. She affirmed the strength of Asian women's movements—grounded in intersectionality, solidarity, and collaboration—and called for deeper cooperation between churches, ecumenical bodies, and broader social justice movements to build collective power for change. [Read More...](#)

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