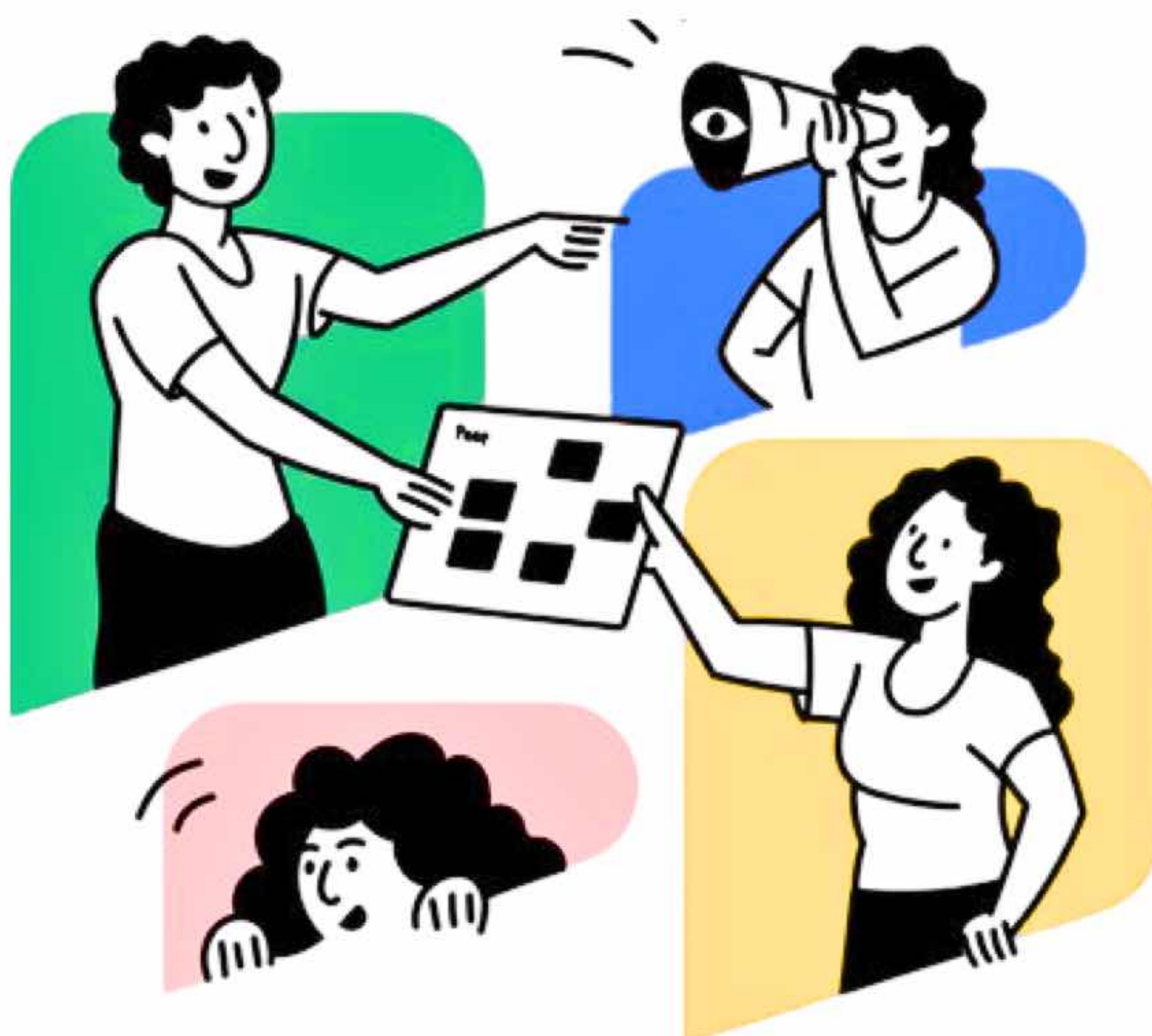


YOUTH TURN



Smriti Priyansha
Executive Secretary
Commission on Youth



youth@ncci1914.com
smriti@ncci1914.com
+91 9685331424

EDITORIAL

Dear Friends,

Friendship is one of God's greatest gifts. Throughout Scripture, we see how relationships shape lives and strengthen communities. Jesus Himself chose to live in close companionship with His disciples, teaching them not only through words but also through shared experiences. His example reminds us that genuine friendship requires time, openness, forgiveness, and mutual care.

An ecumenical spirit invites us to widen the circle of friendship. It challenges us to move beyond denominational boundaries, cultural differences, languages, and social backgrounds. Cultivating networks goes hand in hand with building friendships. Networks are not merely collections of contacts or opportunities for personal advancement. In the Christian understanding, they are communities of mutual support, collaboration, and shared mission. Through youth fellowships, church programs, community service, ecumenical gatherings, and digital platforms, young people can connect with others who inspire them to grow spiritually and serve society.

Young people have a unique role in becoming bridge-builders. Every conversation helps strengthen the bonds of Christian fellowship. These relationships become sources of encouragement during difficult times and opportunities for collective action.

As we journey together, let us remember that every person we meet bears the image of God. Our friendships should reflect Christ's compassion, our conversations should build hope, and our networks should become channels of God's love in the world.

Healthy networks are built intentionally, let UTh Turn do it for us.

Your Friend in Christ,
Smriti Priyansha

THE PINNACLE OF PEACEMAKING

John 18:10-11: Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

Peter defended Jesus Christ. He defended his Lord, in a sense, sought to defend the faith. Yet, in defending Jesus, Peter committed a violent act by cutting off Malchus's ear.



Today, many of us believe that defending our faith is the highest expression of faithfulness. In the conflicts we witness around the world, faith is often invoked not as a source of peace but as a justification for hostility. It is within this troubled reality that we turn to Peter's action. At first glance, it appears courageous and faithful. He stands when others retreat and acts when others remain passive. Yet beneath his courage lies a profound misunderstanding of what it truly means to defend the faith.

Peter is not the villain of the story; rather, he is a mirror of us. Faced with the threat against his teacher, he reacts instinctively. His loyalty is genuine, and his courage undeniable. He believes that defending Jesus means fighting for Jesus. In that moment, Peter embodies a logic that still governs much of our world today: when something sacred is threatened, it must be protected at all costs, even if it means harming others. This logic has fuelled wars, justified oppression, and sanctified violence. It has also been used to colonise and invade others throughout history. From the Crusades to modern conflicts, political and religious agendas have misused Scripture to portray violence as divinely justified and war as divinely initiated. The world continues to burn while innocent lives are shattered in the name of righteousness.

Certainly, we may defend our faith through apologetics, mission, and evangelism. However, none of these gives us the privilege of becoming violent. If our defence of the faith harms others, what are we really defending? The greatest danger facing Christian youth today is not only persecution but the temptation to become self-righteous and hostile in the name of faith.

We have slowly begun to believe that being a good Christian means winning arguments, defeating opponents, and protecting God's honour. Yet God has never needed bodyguards. Jesus did not ask Peter to defend him with a sword, and he does not ask us to defend him through hatred or hostility.

Instead of becoming violent, we are called to practise compassion and to embody Christlike character in our daily lives by loving our neighbours and showing concern for the whole of humanity. Too often, we protest when our faith is insulted but remain silent when human dignity is violated. Such faithfulness is incomplete. The call for believers today is simple, yet costly: to follow Jesus by leaving behind violent expressions of faith, by responding to oppression through non-violent means with resilience, and by becoming peacemakers in a divided world. We do this not because the world is safe, but because our faith is grounded not in fear or violence, but in the peace-giving Christ.

Methuselah Riameih

Intern - Commission on Communication, NCCI

Transforming Together : CNI Youth in Action



The Synodical Youth Fellowship Committee (SYFC) of the Church of North India (CNI), in collaboration with the Diocese of Gujarat, organised the Synodical Youth Summer Camp from 1–3 June 2026 at Ellisbridge Church, Ahmedabad, under the theme "Growing in Christ." The three-day programme brought together young people from various CNI dioceses for a meaningful journey of worship, Bible study, fellowship, leadership formation, and cultural exchange. The camp was inaugurated by the Deputy Moderator of the Church of North India. During the opening session, participants were encouraged to deepen their relationship with Christ and remain committed to the holistic mission of the Church.

The programme addressed contemporary challenges faced by young people, particularly addictions and temptations, through Bible-based reflections on Christian discipleship, spiritual disciplines, servant leadership, and vocational discernment. Interactive sessions, career guidance, panel discussions, sports, exposure visits to places of historical and cultural significance, and cultural presentations created opportunities for learning, friendship, and mutual encouragement among participants from diverse backgrounds.

The camp concluded with a renewed commitment among the participants to grow in faith and serve both the Church and society with integrity and compassion. By equipping young people spiritually, socially, and personally, the programme strengthened their leadership potential and inspired them to become faithful witnesses of Christ in their communities, reflecting the Church of North India's ongoing commitment to nurturing the next generation of Christian leaders.



ECHOES OF PRAISE

TALENT AND TOGETHERNESS AT TKP PLATINUM JUBILEE

As part of the Thalai Kristian Pawl (TKP) 75th Anniversary (Platinum Jubilee) celebrations, the Mizoram Thalai Kristian Pawl (MTKP) organised a Group Singing Competition to encourage young people to use their God-given musical gifts for God's glory while strengthening fellowship among church youth.

The competition witnessed enthusiastic participation from MTKP Units across Mizoram and was conducted in two stages. The first round was held across various Areas during April 2026, with 36 Units participating—20 from the Headquarters Area, 9 from Aizawl Area, and 7 from Lawngtlai Area. The top ten Units advanced to the Grand Finale, held at BCM Hall, Serkawn, Lunglei, on 10–11 June 2026.



More than a musical contest, the competition affirmed the ministry of music as a powerful expression of worship, Christian witness, and unity. Through gospel songs, participants proclaimed the message of Christ, encouraged one another in faith, and developed their musical talents for the service of the Church. The event also fostered fellowship among young people from different congregations, strengthening relationships, celebrating God's faithfulness, and inspiring churches to nurture vibrant youth ministries through music and worship.

All participating Units received a Platinum Jubilee Memento in appreciation of their involvement, while the finalists were honoured with prizes and consolation awards, along with citations. The competition stood as a joyful testimony to the transformative power of music in bringing young people together, nurturing their spiritual gifts, and inspiring a new generation to serve Christ with passion, creativity, and commitment.

MORE THAN A DONATION A YOUTH INITIATIVE THAT SAVES LIVES



The Mizoram Thalai Kristian Pawl (MTKP), the youth fellowship of the Baptist Church of Mizoram, was honoured with the Third Prize in the F. Kapsanga Award during the World Blood Donor Day celebration held on 17 June 2026 at the BSI Conference Hall, Aizawl. The annual award recognises organisations that have made significant contributions to voluntary blood donation across Mizoram. During the 2025–2026 period, MTKP contributed 2,861 units of blood, earning third place among the highest blood-donating organisations in the state.

The recognition reflects the commitment of MTKP youth to Christian service beyond the walls of the Church. Through regular voluntary blood donation, young people have demonstrated the values of compassion, selfless love, and concern for the wellbeing of others. Their consistent contribution—totalling 10,732 units of blood over the past four years—stands as a remarkable witness to how faith can be expressed through life-saving acts of service.

This achievement serves as an inspiration to churches and youth fellowships across the country to actively engage in ministries that promote the dignity of life and the wellbeing of communities. By offering a simple gift that can save lives, the young people of MTKP demonstrate that Christian discipleship is lived out not only in worship and fellowship but also through practical acts of love, generosity, and service to humanity.



PURPOSE-DRIVEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP INSPIRES YOUNG LEADERS



A two-day seminar on the theme "Entrepreneurship with a Purpose" was organized at Agartala Presbyterian Church, Tripura, from 25–26 June 2026. The programme brought together 113 young participants from different Synods of the Presbyterian Church of India (PCI). The seminar featured insightful sessions by Rev. Dr. Hmingthnagsang, Director of Interserve; Mr. Cini Baig, Founder of Cafe Jar Cafe & Bakery; and Mr. Noel De Cruz, Founder and CEO of Zion Pools. Through their presentations, the resource persons encouraged young people to view entrepreneurship as a meaningful vocation that integrates innovation, ethical leadership, and service to society, inspiring them to create enterprises with both social and spiritual impact.

NAVIGATION SPACE FOR YOUNG WOMEN IN CLERGY

The Presbyterian Church of India (PCI) organized consultations on women's ordination across all its Synods, with active participation from the Presbyterian Youth Fellowship (PYF). The consultations are part of an ongoing process to seek the views and consensus of the different Synods on the question of women's ordination.

A wave of change emerges with this discussion contemplating the very first prdination of women. The consultations provide an important platform for theological reflection, dialogue, and discernment on gender justice and inclusive leadership within the Church. They also encourage members to engage thoughtfully with the issue, fostering greater understanding and openness as the Church continues its collective discernment.



Young People Rally - A Day of Faith and Fellowship

With hearts united in worship and fellowship, The Salvation Army Young People's (YP) Rally was held on 19 April 2026 at Ramhlun Corps, bringing together young believers from Ramhlun, West Lungdar, and Khawrihnim for a day of spiritual growth, meaningful fellowship, and joyful celebration. The programme featured morning, afternoon, and evening sessions, with enthusiastic participation throughout.

Capt. Charles Chalrimawia delivered the keynote message on the theme "Being the Light of the World" (Matthew 5), encouraging the youth to live as faithful witnesses of Christ. Praise and worship, interactive Bible games, and special presentations by the YP members and the Company Guards created an uplifting and engaging atmosphere.



The rally strengthened the participants' faith, deepened fellowship, and inspired them to continue shining as lights for Christ in their homes, churches, schools, and communities.

Young Women's Call to Transformative Ministry

A three-day Child Protection Training for Women in Ministries of The Salvation Army India South Western Territory was held from 27–29 April 2026 at Vocational Training Centre, Nagercoil, India South Eastern Territory. The training was organized by the International Child Protection, International Headquarters.

Attended by 30 delegates, the programme equipped participants with essential knowledge and practical skills to strengthen child protection and promote children's well-being.

The training concluded with participants gaining greater confidence in addressing child protection issues and reaffirming their commitment to ensuring the safety and welfare of children in their ministries.



YOUTH LEADERSHIP DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING



The Nagaland Baptist Church Council (NBCC) Youth Department conducted a series of Youth Leadership Discipleship trainings in partnership with its member councils. On 29 April 2026, the Rengma Baptist Church Council (RBCN) visited the Zeme Baptist Church Council (ZBCC) Mission Centre, Peren, and conducted a training covering the Intensive Discipleship Movement (IDM), Mission Strategies: Youth and Mission, and practical Bible study methods. In addition, the NBCC Youth Department organized discipleship training for youth pastors in collaboration with the Youth Department of CBLT at Tuensang, the Youth Department of NBCA at Youth Oasis Centre, Eralibill, and SBAK Nito Mount at Nunumi Baptist Church. The trainings aimed to equip and empower youth pastors, promote Bible study among youth in local churches, and mentor young people to be firmly rooted in the Word of God.

Youth Sports Ministry and Coaching Training



The NBCC Youth Department organized a nine-day Youth Sports Ministry and Coaching Training to equip Christian youth leaders for sports ministry. Conducted in partnership with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) and the All India Football Federation (AIFF), the training integrated biblical principles of sports ministry with professional coaching. Twenty-four participants from all NBCC associations successfully completed the

programme and qualified as AIFF 'D' Licensed Coaches, strengthening the Sports, Skills, and Evangelism (SSE) Ministry as a platform for youth discipleship and mission.

The NBCC Sports Festival, held at the Police Complex, Chumoukedima, brought together 42 teams from 21 NBCC associations, making it one of the largest church-based sporting events in Nagaland. More than a competition, the festival combined sports, discipleship, and spiritual formation, with each team supported by both a coach and a chaplain, demonstrating how sports can effectively nurture faith, physical health, fellowship, and holistic youth development.



YOUTH CONVENTION STRENGTHENS FAITH, UNITY, AND LEADERSHIP



The Gossner Evangelical Lutheran (G.E.L) Church South West Diocese Youth Convention, organised by the Youth Wing of the G.E.L. Church South West Diocese, was held on 11–12 May 2026 at G.E.L. Church, Jambahal, Odisha. The convention brought together more than 4,500 young people and believers from parishes across the diocese for two days of vibrant worship, spiritual enrichment, cultural programmes, and fellowship.

The convention featured inspiring worship, Bible teaching, prayer, music, and youth-centred activities that strengthened faith, unity, and leadership among the participants. Youth also competed in eight different events, showcasing their talents, biblical knowledge, and understanding of Scripture and biblical characters.

The gathering was graced by Chief Guest Rt. Rev. Dr. Mohanlal Singh Manjar, Bishop of the South West Diocese, along with Rev. Anup Indwar, Professor at GTC, Ranchi, and Rev. Saban Bankar, Youth Director. Their messages encouraged the young generation to remain steadfast in their faith and committed to serving the Church and society.

The convention concluded with a prize distribution ceremony, recognising the winners of the various competitions for their outstanding performances. The event renewed the participants' spiritual commitment and enthusiasm to serve their churches and communities, while celebrating the unity and mission of the G.E.L. Church South West Diocese.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP LEADERSHIP TRAINING EQUIPS YOUNG LEADERS

The G.E.L. Church South Eastern Diocese Youth Fellowship Leadership Training Camp 2026 was held from 4–6 June 2026 at Bano New Congregation. Centred on the theme, “Those Who Wait on the Lord Shall Renew Their Strength...” (Isaiah 40:31), the three-day camp brought together young men and women from 19 parishes across the diocese.

Participants engaged enthusiastically in group discussions, workshops, and team-building activities designed to strengthen their spiritual lives and leadership skills. Indoor and outdoor games were also organised to provide



practical lessons in teamwork, discipline, and Christian leadership. The camp served as a platform to nurture young leaders, encouraging them to deepen their faith, strengthen fellowship, and prepare for effective service in the Church and their communities.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP VOCATIONAL BIBLE SCHOOL CAMP

The Ranchi Youth Fellowship (RYF) of G.E.L.C. successfully organized a 14-day Vocational Bible School (VBS) Camp from 24 May to 06 June 2026. The programme was based on the theme verse, 1 Corinthians 6:17 – “Fellowship with God.”

Children, youth, and many senior members actively participated in praise and worship, action songs, daily activities, Bible study, competitions, and many other activities. The VBS was a great success, with around 1,000 students participating and 128 registered committee members serving faithfully throughout the camp.



Their dedication, hard work, and commitment contributed significantly to making the event impactful and memorable by the grace of God.



Building Youth for Transformation



The Student Christian Movement of India (SCMI) organized the Building Youth for Transformation Programme from 21–31 May 2026 at the SCMI Programme Centre, Bengaluru, under the theme "Rooted in Faith, Growing in Service." Partially supported by the World Student Christian Federation–Asia Pacific (WSCF-AP), the eleven-day residential programme brought together young participants from diverse regions, denominations, and academic backgrounds for leadership formation, theological reflection, and social engagement. Through orientations, Bible studies, theological reflections, and interactive sessions on servant leadership, ecumenism, and Christian unity, participants strengthened their teamwork, communication, responsibility, and collaborative leadership skills while engaging Scripture in its contemporary context.

The programme combined classroom learning with practical exposure through visits to faith-based and ecumenical organizations, where participants explored youth leadership, women's empowerment, community service, interfaith dialogue, peacebuilding, and ecumenical cooperation. It also addressed contemporary issues such as environmental sustainability, gender justice, constitutional rights, caste discrimination, social inclusion, and gender and sexuality, encouraging participants to challenge stereotypes, affirm human dignity, and understand structural inequalities and legal protections against discrimination.



Daily worship, Bible studies, group discussions, cultural exchange, and reflective exercises fostered spiritual growth, critical thinking, mutual learning, and stronger relationships across diverse backgrounds. The programme concluded with reflection and action planning, as participants committed themselves to promoting leadership, ecumenical cooperation, gender equality, environmental responsibility, interfaith harmony, mental health awareness, and social justice in their communities.

Overall, the Building Youth for Transformation Programme nurtured a new generation of young leaders equipped with theological insight, leadership skills, and a deep commitment to ecumenism. By integrating faith with action, the programme strengthened their capacity to become transformative leaders who will contribute meaningfully to both the Church and society.

Promoting Holistic Health Through Yoga

In partnership with the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY) under the Ministry of AYUSH, Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) Kalathipady organized a Yoga Mahotsav on 20 May 2026, bringing together 420 participants. The programme promoted holistic health, mental well-being, and preventive healthcare while encouraging healthier lifestyles among women and young people. The collaboration also strengthened community partnerships, creating opportunities for continued wellness initiatives and health-focused interventions.



Young People Leading Environmental Stewardship

As part of the World Environment Day celebrations on 5 June 2026, YWCA Tuticorin participated in the Tharuvaikulam Plantation Project, an ambitious initiative to plant one million trees in support of land restoration and a greener future.

Organized in collaboration with the Thoothukudi Corporation, Murugappa Group, Tube Investments of India Ltd., and WeCanTrust, the programme engaged college students in tree plantation activities while raising awareness of climate change, biodiversity, and sustainable living. The initiative demonstrated how collaborative partnerships can inspire young people to become active custodians of the environment and champions of long-term climate action.



BUILDING HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES THROUGH FREE MONTHLY MEDICAL HEALTH CAMPS



The YWCA Dehradun, on 23 June 2026, under its Community Development Programme and in collaboration with HelpAge India, organised Free Monthly Medical Health Camps to ensure accessible healthcare services for older persons in the community.

The camps provided comprehensive medical consultations and preventive health screenings, enabling participants to receive timely medical advice and essential treatment. In addition to healthcare services, the programme promoted holistic well-being through counselling support and physiotherapy guidance, encouraging healthy ageing and an improved quality of life.

Recognising that access to healthcare remains a challenge for some older persons, the initiative also extended support through community outreach, ensuring that those unable to visit the camps were not left behind.

The initiative reflects YWCA Dehradun's continuing commitment to building compassionate and inclusive communities where older persons are cared for with dignity, respect, and empathy. Regular physiotherapy sessions organised throughout the year further strengthen this commitment by promoting physical wellness and active ageing.

Asian Ecumenical Youth Assembly 2026



The Fifth Asian Ecumenical Youth Assembly (AEYA 2026) was held from 17–22 April 2026 at Payap University, Chiang Mai, Thailand, bringing together more than 200 young leaders from churches and ecumenical organisations across Asia. Organised by the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) under the theme “Break Every Yoke” (Isaiah 58:6), the Assembly sought to empower young people to reflect on their role in promoting justice, peace, reconciliation, and sustainable communities.

The six-day programme featured Bible studies, keynote addresses, workshops, cultural exchanges, and discussions on issues such as climate justice, migration, gender equality, peacebuilding, and youth leadership. The Assembly also provided a platform for participants to exchange experiences, strengthen regional partnerships, and build networks for future ecumenical collaboration.

Among the participants were 28 Indian participants representing different Protestant and Orthodox christian traditions. Ms. Smriti Priyansha, Executive Secretary - Commission on Youth, NCCI, participated the program as one of the resource persons. The event offered a valuable opportunity to engage with youth leaders from across Asia, contribute to discussions, and foster meaningful connections that will support continued collaboration in addressing the challenges and opportunities facing young people in the region.



REWEAVING CREATION: INDIGENOUS YOUTH VOICES FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

This short write-up seeks to re-locate and understand how we, as an Earth community, continuously face the challenges of climate change. The climate crisis is already upon us, and it cannot be stopped. What we can do, however, is everything possible to prevent further loss of life and to mitigate the rise in global temperatures beyond what is already embedded in the climate system. Today, climate change is an undeniable reality, with consequences felt in every corner of the world. Mother Earth bleeds each passing second as humanity relentlessly exploits her for personal gain and profit.



At the current rate of greenhouse gas emissions, the Earth is projected to warm by at least 3.2°C by 2100. The urgent call, therefore, is not merely to discuss distant futures but to act decisively in the present. To speak of tomorrow without correcting today is a suicidal path without remedy. We must acknowledge that the climate crisis is not a distant threat but a present reality. By 2050, the world will face immense challenges: food production will decline as regions become too hot, too dry, or submerged under rising seas; staple crops will be harder to grow and more expensive to purchase. Water will become the epicenter of conflicts, sparking wars and riots, while genocides and violence will escalate in the struggle for survival.

In this critical juncture, we are called to witness and learn from Indigenous communities, who have long practiced protection and care for all of Earth's offspring. We must abandon the romanticized colonial language of anthropocentric mentality, which has inflicted immense harm through its mechanistic worldview. Instead, we should embrace the eco-centric model of Indigenous knowledge, which understands all creation as a co-community.

This worldview promotes respect, balance, and the flourishing of all life. Indigenous communities recognize the interconnectedness of creation, motivating efforts to restore ecological balance in a holistic manner. As land-centered peoples, they perceive Earth as Mother, and their collective, community-based ownership challenges capitalist, market-driven, and consumerist ideologies.

Their earth-honoring practices present profound alternatives to dominant anthropocentric ideologies of control, domination, and destruction. Today, anthropocentric philosophy must be discarded.

An eco-centric approach cannot be compromised, for it views Mother Earth as more than the sum of her parts, deserving reverence and care. We must honor and follow the path of Indigenous knowledge systems, which promote respect and a nurturing attitude toward the Earth. Indigenous spiritual values prohibit exploitation and affirm the sacred significance of all creation. By renewing this spiritual relationship, humanity can foster a sustainable environment for all.



Phom Naga Indigenous Morung

A place where Indigenous knowledge was taught and imparted.

Contributor:

Lempang H. Phom is a research scholar in the Department of Religions pursuing Doctor of Theology (D.Th.) at Bishop's College, Kolkata. His research explores the intersections of theology, religion, culture, and Indigenous identity. He is also a member of the WCC' Ecumenical Indigenous Peoples Network, where he advocates for the inclusion of Indigenous voices in the global Christian community.

ECUMENICAL YOUTH WORKSHOP “THEN + NOW = WHAT NEXT”



On 14 April 2026, the National Council of Churches in India – Commission on Youth, in collaboration with the Commission on Ecumenical Fora and the Bible Society of India (BSI), Jabalpur Auxiliary, organized a one-day Ecumenical Youth Workshop on the theme “Then + Now = What Next” at Christ Church Cathedral, CNI, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh. Around 111 participants from diverse church traditions and fellowships gathered for a day of learning, dialogue, and reflection on the role of youth in addressing contemporary social realities through an ecumenical perspective. The programme encouraged young people to reflect on the past, engage responsibly with the present, and envision a hopeful and transformative future.

Rev. Daniel Nath, Secretary of BSI Jabalpur Auxiliary, welcomed the participants, while Rt. Rev. Ajay Umesh James, Bishop of the Diocese of Jabalpur, CNI, extended his greetings and encouraged the youth by emphasizing their vital role as present pillars of the Church and society. He affirmed that the strength and potential of young people, when guided positively, can contribute to meaningful transformation.

The workshop featured three interactive sessions on pressing social concerns affecting youth: Migration, Intergenerational Relations, and Substance Abuse, facilitated by Mr. Bevei Konah Simeon, Programme Executive - Commission on Youth, NCCI, Rev. Ribin John, Executive Secretary - Commission on Ecumenical Fora, NCCI, and Mr. Nelson Nag - Programme Executive, NCCI-IDEA. The sessions integrated biblical reflections with contemporary realities, encouraging participants to promote hospitality, foster mutual respect across generations, use technology responsibly, adopt healthy lifestyles, and respond compassionately to issues such as discrimination, migration, and addiction.

Participants also engaged in group discussions, sharing practical insights on building inclusive communities, strengthening intergenerational relationships, and addressing substance abuse through awareness and support. The workshop concluded with a renewed commitment to ecumenical fellowship, social responsibility, and peaceful coexistence, inspiring participants to become agents of hope and transformation in the Church and society.

TRUE BELONGING: YOUTH LEADERS FOR DISABILITY INCLUSION



On 15 April 2026, a One-Day Training Retreat on Disability Inclusion was organized by the National Council of Churches in India (NCCI) – IDEA, with the active participation of the Commission on Youth, in collaboration with the Diocese of Jabalpur, CNI, at Vikas Asha Kendra Conference Hall, Jabalpur, under the theme “True Belonging: Disability Inclusion Workshop.” The training aimed to promote awareness and foster the inclusion of persons with disabilities within the Church, schools, and society. The programme witnessed the participation of pastors, school principals, and youth leaders, reflecting a shared commitment towards building inclusive communities.

The keynote address was delivered by Rev. Dr. Asir Ebenezer, General Secretary, NCCI, who emphasized the importance of inclusion in language, attitudes, and infrastructure. He highlighted the need to create accessible environments in church buildings, schools, and homes, including provisions such as ramps and lifts to ensure ease of access. Rt. Rev. Ajay Umesh James, Bishop of the Diocese of Jabalpur, CNI, conveyed his greetings and encouraged continued efforts towards inclusive ministry. The retreat featured interactive sessions by resource persons including Rev. Ribin John, Executive Secretary- Ecumenical Fora, Mr. Nelson Nag, Programme Executive of NCCI-IDEA, and Mr. Bevei Konah Simeon, Programme Executive- Commission on Youth, who led participatory Bible study, addressing attitudinal, physical, theological, and technological barriers.

The sessions included group activities, testimonial sharing, and inputs on legal rights, enabling participants to better understand the challenges faced by persons with disabilities. Rev. Daniel Nath, BSI Jabalpur Auxiliary Secretary, presented on Audio Bible and Braille Scriptures, highlighting the importance of accessible resources for persons with visual impairments. The programme concluded successfully, affirming the call to integrate faith and justice—moving from an approach of charity to dignity, and from awareness to meaningful action towards inclusion.



Youth Commission Members Meet to Strengthen Youth Ministry Across the Nation

The National Council of Churches in India (NCCI) – Commission on Youth convened its Commission Members' Meeting on 27 April 2026 via Zoom, bringing together commission members from across the country to reflect on youth ministry priorities and strengthen collaborative engagement. Rev. Dr. Asir Ebenezer, General Secretary of NCCI, delivered the welcome address, emphasizing the vital role of youth movements in today's changing world. He encouraged youth leaders to discern the signs of the times, respond meaningfully to the challenges faced by young people, and remain vibrant witnesses as the "salt and light of the earth." He also urged young people to be informed and responsible in decision-making for their present and future.



The meeting included introductions from new commission members and updates on the ministries and programmes of NCCI Youth Concerns, presented by Ms. Smriti Priyansha, Executive Secretary - Commission on Youth, NCCI. Key initiatives highlighted included ecumenical formation for young people, the Ecumenical Youth Gathering, the School of Ecumenism, the Uth Turn e-newsletter, and networking initiatives.

Members engaged in a meaningful discussion to identify priority themes for youth capacity building and leadership development. The Commission identified career guidance, social media engagement for youth ministry, youth participation in public life, substance abuse awareness, support for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), environmental stewardship, and youth entrepreneurship as key focus areas.

Participants emphasized the need for conferences, workshops, webinars, and action-oriented programmes that equip young people to serve both the Church and society.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to strengthening the youth movement through closer collaboration, inclusive leadership, creative programme sharing, and providing safe spaces for dialogue and participation. Members reaffirmed the Commission's vision of empowering young people to become responsible leaders who contribute to building a just, inclusive, and sustainable society while faithfully serving the Church and the nation.

Equipping Young Theological Students for Ecumenical Leadership



The NCCI Youth Concerns hosted three young theological students- Mr. Shomron Raj from Andhra Pradesh, Mr. Lamgunhao Chongloi from Manipur, and Mr. Master Suna Simon from Kerala- for a one month Ecumenical Exposure Programme during April and May 2026. During their exposure programme, they were introduced to the ministries of NCCI, the Christian Service Agency (CSA)

the social service wing of NCCI, and the India Peace Centre (IPC), which promotes interfaith dialogue and peacebuilding, along with various partner organizations.

As part of their formation, they visited various churches and fellowships in Nagpur, where they experienced diverse worship traditions. They also visited temples, mosque, gurdwara, and other socially and historically significant places, gaining valuable insights into the country's rich religious, social, and cultural diversity.



The programme provided practical learning beyond the classroom, broadening their understanding of Christian mission, leadership, and ecumenical engagement. Through interactions with different faith communities and organizations, they gained a deeper appreciation of NCCI's commitment to Christian unity, youth and women empowerment, peacebuilding, disability inclusion, interfaith harmony, and social justice. Such exposure equips young theological students to become open-minded, confident,

and transformative leaders in both church and society. The exposure programme was coordinated by Ms. Smriti Priyansha, Executive Secretary – Youth Concerns; Rev. Jyoti S. Singh Pillai, Executive Secretary – Women Concerns; and Mr. Bevei Konah Simeon, Programme Executive – Youth Concerns, NCCI.



Dn. Sanu Simon is a third-year B.D. student at Dharma Jyoti Vidya Peeth. He is originally from Thrissur, Kerala. As part of his theological studies, he completed his Summer Practical Exposure at the Delhi office of the National Council of Churches in India (NCCI). During the exposure, he had the opportunity to visit the NCCI office and meet individuals who enriched his learning experience. This practical ecumenical exposure helped him gain knowledge, improve his communication skills, and understand the practical aspects of theology and social service. He expresses his gratitude for the opportunity to be part of the exposure programme and for the support and guidance received from the staff and organisations he visited during the training period.

PARRE Shomron Raju is a theological student from Guntur, Andhra Pradesh. He belongs to the Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church (AELC) and is committed to translating the teachings of the Church into meaningful social action. He is currently in the final year of the Bachelor of Divinity (B.D.) programme at Master's College of Theology, Visakhapatnam. He previously earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics before pursuing theological studies. Shomron completed his one month ecumenical exposure programme at the National Council of Churches in India (NCCI), where he gained practical experience in ecumenical ministry and social engagement. Through this exposure, he is preparing for a future dedicated to social justice, Christian unity, and serving communities in need.



Lamgunhao Chongloi is from Taphou Kuki, Kangpokpi District, Manipur. He is a member of the Kuki Christian Church, Taphou. He is currently in the final year of the Bachelor of Divinity (B.D.) programme at Master's College of Theology, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. He completed the one month ecumenical exposure programme at the National Council of Churches in India (NCCI), where he broadened his horizons and gained valuable insights through the organisation's ministries and programmes. He is passionate about ministry, theological learning, and community engagement, and looks forward to gaining the knowledge and experience that will equip him for future service.

WELCOMING NEW INTERNS



Lina Zhimo is from Dimapur, Nagaland, belonging to the Sumi Naga community and an active member of Valley View Sumi Baptist Church. She holds a Bachelor of Divinity (B.D.) from Trinity Theological College, Dimapur, and a Master of Theology (M.Th.) in Christian Theology from Clark Theological College, Mokokchung, under the Senate of Serampore College (University). She began her internship with the Commission on Youth, NCCI, in early June 2026. Prior to joining the National Council of Churches in India (NCCI) as an Intern, she served as a Social Science Teacher at Holy Christ Mission School, Arunachal Pradesh, while actively engaging in local church ministry. Her academic formation and ministry experiences reflect a growing commitment to ecumenism, church leadership, and inclusive Christian witness, which she looks forward to further developing through her internship at NCCI.

Methuselah Riameih hails from Manipur, a Rongmei Naga community of Noney District. He belongs to the Baptist Church and is a member of Town Baptist Church, Khumji, which is confederated with the Rongmei Baptist Churches Council (RBCC) and affiliated under the Manipur Baptist Convention (MBC). He completed his Master of Arts in English and Cultural Studies from Manipur University, and recently graduated with a Bachelor of Divinity from Serampore College, Kolkata. His interests are Ecumenical Movement, Public Theology, and Social Ethics. He joined as an intern with the Commission on Communication, NCCI, on 1 June 2026.





SCHOOL OF ECUMENISM

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



DATES : 12TH TO 16TH AUGUST 2026 (5 DAYS)

DATE OF ARRIVAL: 11TH AUGUST 2026

Venue: NCCI Campus, Nagpur

Fee: Rs. 5000/- (Food, Stay & Tuition)

PARTICIPANTS WILL PAY THEIR TRAVEL*

**JOIN US IF YOU ARE BETWEEN AGE 20-35
WITH A BACHELOR'S DEGREE**

HIGHLIGHTS

Learning Together. Growing Together. Serving Together.

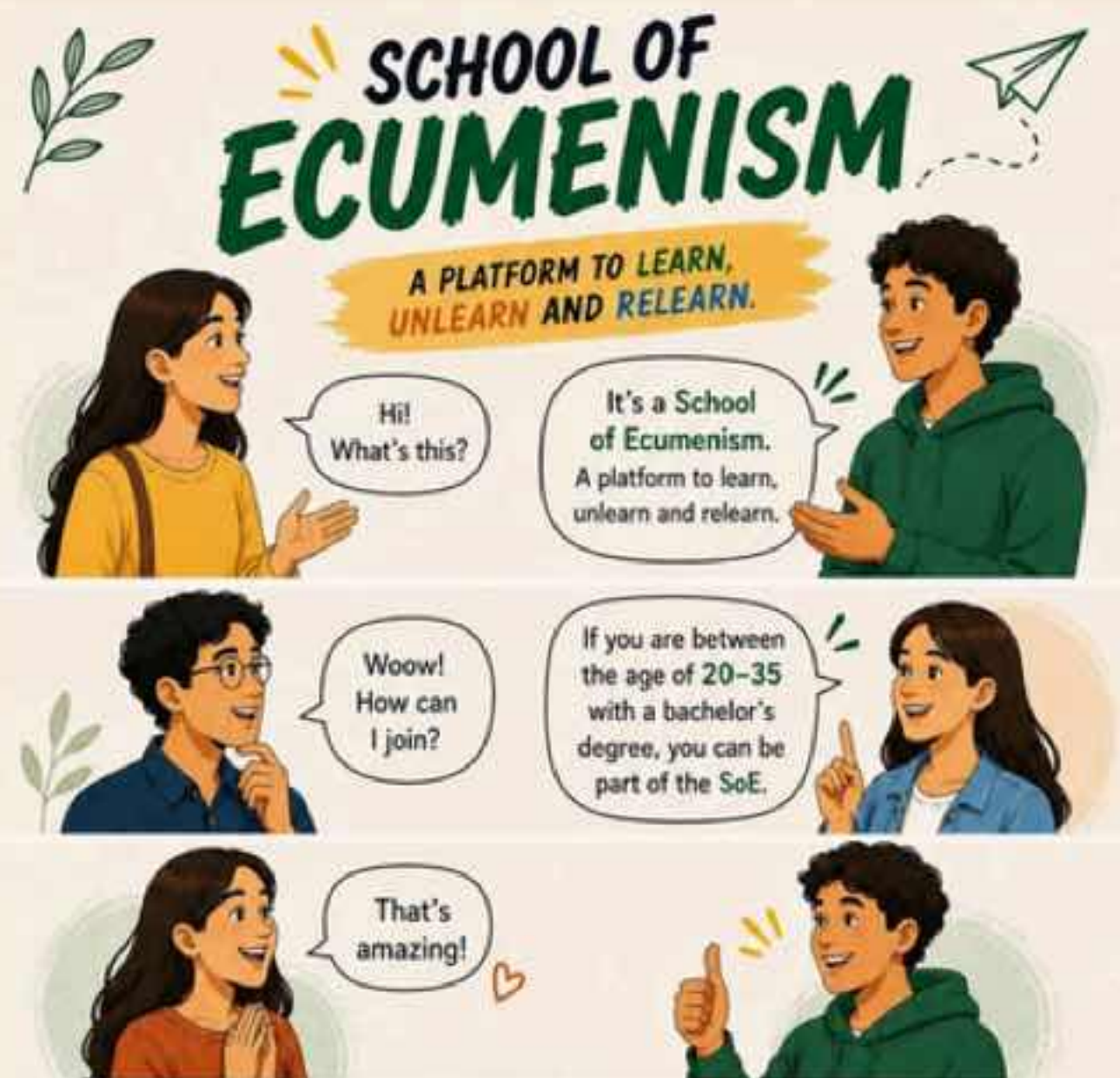
A 5-day journey towards unity,
understanding and collaboration
among Christian communities.



- 01 Foundations of Ecumenism**
 - Introduction to the history, theology, and principles of the ecumenical movement.
 - Understanding the significance of ecumenism in contemporary multi-faith and secular society.
- 02 Scripture and Theological Insights:**
 - Study of scriptural foundations supporting ecumenical dialogue.
 - Exploration of theological perspectives that encourage interdenominational and inter-faith understanding.
- 03 Church and Society:**
 - Examination of the church's role in promoting social justice and reconciliation.
 - Strategies for engaging in community development and peace building initiatives.
- 04 Ecumenical Networks and Partnership:**
 - Techniques for effective inter-church and inter-faith dialogue, partnership and resource sharing.
 - Building collaborative networks among various Christian communities.
- 05 Practical Workshops and Case Studies:**
 - Interactive sessions focused on real-life ecumenical challenges.
 - Group exercises, role plays, and case study analyses to apply learning in practical contexts.
- 06 Certificate Award:**
 - Participants completing the 5-day program receive a certificate of participation from the NCCI School of Ecumenism, recognizing their commitment to fostering unity and collaboration among Christian communities.

Together in Faith,
Stronger in Unity,
Committed in Love.

5 DAYS THAT CAN MAKE A LIFETIME
OF DIFFERENCE.



THE SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

- 1.** You'll learn all about ecumenism from the experts.
- 2.** Build network with like minded people from diverse groups.
- 3.** Certificate in ecumenical formation and leadership training.

READY TO GROW TOGETHER?
JOIN THE SCHOOL OF ECUMENISM!

Yes, limited seats. | Apply now to get early bird preference.

* Selected Participants will be informed individually.



FOR MORE INFORMATION



National Council of Churches in India
Commission on Youth Concerns,

+91-7218183675

youth@ncci1914.com

<https://ncci1914.com/>

NCCI, Christian Council Campus,
Post Box #205, Civil Lines, Nagpur-
440001. Maharashtra



APPLY NOW

SCAN ME

*WITH RECOMMENDATION LETTER FROM YOUR CHURCH/ COUNCIL/ ORGANISATION

ARE YOU IN DANGER? TAKE A TEST.

Identify the risks associated with substance use and the personalised feedback helps explore options for change.



eASSIST
8 QUESTION | 5 MINUTES

SAY NO TO DRUGS!



NCCI

**Commission on
Youth Concerns**

youth@ncci1914.com

WHAT

IS AHEAD???

UPCOMING EVENTS

SCHOOL OF
ECUMENISM

12-16 August 2026

INTERNATIONAL
YOUTH DAY

12 August 2026

ECUMENICAL YOUTH
GATHERING

YOUTH LEADER'S
MEETING