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MODERATOR'S MEESSAGE

FROM THE DESK OF GENERAL SECRETARY

EDITORIAL

DEVOTION

NEWS FROM CNI SYNOD

NEWS FROM CNI SBSS

DIOCESAN NEWS

Moderator's Message

3rd July- Indian Christian Day/ St. Thomas Day

Theme: "Faith that Transforms a Nation"

Bible Verse: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."- John 20:29

Indian Christian Day was declared for the first time on July 3rd, 2021 on the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle. Apostle Thomas came to India around 52 AD and was martyred near Chennai in Tamil Nadu, South India, in 72 AD. The church commemorates his martyrdom on July 3. This day is currently celebrated as Yeshu Bhakti Divas.



Let us look at our theme for today, "Faith that transforms a Nation" in the context of this celebration and keeping our Bible passage in mind.

Thomas was absent when Jesus first appeared to the disciples after his resurrection. He famously stated that he would not believe Jesus was alive unless he saw the nail wounds and touched them. Eight days later, which is the subject of the passage in John 20:29, Jesus appeared to the disciples again and specifically invited Thomas to examine His hands and side. While Jesus gently rebuked Thomas for needing physical proof, he pivoted to offer a profound blessing to all future believers who will put their faith in Jesus without seeing him in the flesh.

This Bible passage gives hope to all those who wish to see God's promises been fulfilled on the basis of faith, even though they cannot see them. This reiterates the affirmation in Hebrews 11:1 that faith is "confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." The spectacular part in this passage is that Jesus was unhesitant to show Thomas the evidence of his resurrection. Jesus knew that Thomas was a genuine seeker of truth. Although, apparently, he is often branded as "doubtful Thomas", he is the one who came out with the affirmation of "My Lord and my God", which was the surest indication of faith. Yet Jesus commends those who did not see, yet have believed.

Equally important is the fact that as is believed, Apostle Thomas was the first missionary to come to India, who brought Christianity here. So, this event marks the fact that

India received the gospel right in the first century, in contrast to the popular notion that Christianity came to India from Britain and America during the medieval and colonial times. As Christians, we are proud that Christianity has a 2000 years history in the subcontinent. There is a vibrant community of Thomas Christians in Kerala which continues to witness to this great event. Through the Thomas Christians, India has a legacy of a sort of Indian Christianity, which showed the possibility of being Christian in faith yet Indian in culture. Thus, the name Yeshu Bhakta or devotee of Christ symbolises that we are Indian Christian followers of Jesus.

As we celebrate St. Thomas Day as Indian Christian Day today, we remember Thomas' coming to India and spreading of the gospel, and his sacrifice. At a time in India when various religions including Christianity face enormous challenges, Thomas showed us that as Indian Christians we must boldly witness to the gospel and be rooted in Christ and in our Indian identity. As Thomas was himself transformed from doubt to faith in Christ, our bold faith can transform our nation. Our task as Indian Christians is to work together for the transformation of the society, beginning from grassroots to the various strata, towards empowerment, liberation, peace and justice, to the renewal of humanity. Today let us take this pledge in the name of Christ and through the inspiration of Apostle Thomas.

With Blessings and Prayers,
Yours in His service,

✚ The Most Revd. Dr. Paritosh Canning
Moderator, Church of North India
& Bishop, Diocese of Calcutta

From The Desk of General Secretary

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.



As we enter the month of July, the Church in India joyfully remembers and celebrates Indian Christian Day, also known as Yesu Bhakti Divas, observed on 3rd July in honour of St. Thomas the Apostle. This special day commemorates the arrival of the Gospel in India through the ministry of St. Thomas, one of the twelve disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is a day that reminds us of our rich Christian heritage and calls us to renew our commitment to Christ and His mission. The theme for this year, "Faith that Transforms a Nation," invites us to reflect on the remarkable impact that genuine faith can have upon individuals, communities, and society as a whole. St. Thomas is often remembered for his doubts, yet his encounter with the risen Christ transformed him into a courageous witness. From questioning, he moved to confession, proclaiming, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28). His faith was no longer dependent upon sight but rooted in a personal experience of the living Christ.

According to the ancient tradition of the Indian Church, St. Thomas arrived on the shores of India and faithfully proclaimed the Gospel. His mission was not merely the establishment of congregations; it was the transformation of lives through the message of Jesus Christ. The seeds of faith that he planted have grown through the centuries and continue to bear fruit in countless ways across our nation. Faith that transforms a nation is not merely intellectual belief; it is faith expressed through action. It inspires service to the poor, compassion for the suffering, education for the marginalized, healing for the broken, and justice for the oppressed. Throughout history, Christians in India have contributed significantly to nation-building through schools, colleges, hospitals, social service institutions, and humanitarian ministries. These contributions are rooted in the transforming power of the Gospel.

In today's context, India faces numerous challenges - social divisions, economic inequalities, environmental concerns, violence, and growing uncertainties among many communities. As followers of Christ, we are called not to withdraw from these realities but to engage them with faith, hope, and love. The witness of St. Thomas reminds us that authentic faith compels us to become instruments of God's peace and agents of transformation. The words of Jesus, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed," are particularly meaningful for us. Like generations of Indian Christians before us, we have not physically seen the risen Lord, yet we believe in Him. This faith has sustained the Church through trials, challenges, and changing times. It continues to empower believers to live courageously and faithfully in the service of God and humanity.

As the Church of North India joins Christians across the country in observing Indian Christian Day, may we celebrate not only the memory of St. Thomas but also the mission entrusted to us. Let us be faithful witnesses of Christ in our homes, churches, workplaces, and communities. Let our faith be visible through acts of kindness, integrity, reconciliation, and service. May the legacy of St. Thomas inspire us to deepen our devotion to Christ and strengthen our commitment to His mission. May our lives reflect a faith that transforms hearts, communities, and ultimately our nation for the glory of God. Wishing you all a blessed and meaningful observance of Indian Christian Day.

Yours in His Mission

The Revd. Dr. D. J. Ajith Kumar
General Secretary, CNI Synod



INDIAN CHRISTIAN DAY: THE FAITH THAT TRANSFORMED A NATION

Commemorating the Life and Witness of Saint Thomas the Apostle

Indian Christian Day offers a unique opportunity to celebrate the rich and ancient Christian heritage of India, tracing its roots to the apostolic mission of Saint Thomas the Apostle. According to longstanding Christian tradition, Saint Thomas arrived on the shores of India in the first century AD, bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a land renowned for its spiritual quest and cultural diversity. His life and witness continue to inspire generations of Indian Christians who have sought to live out their faith with courage, conviction, and service.

The theme, "The Faith that Transformed a Nation," invites us to reflect on the enduring impact of the Christian message in India. Christianity's contribution to the nation extends beyond its spiritual dimension. Through education, healthcare, social reform, and humanitarian service, Christians have participated in the building of a more just, compassionate, and inclusive society. The transformative power of faith is evident wherever lives have been touched by the values of love, dignity, forgiveness, and hope embodied in the Gospel.

The choice of John 20:29 is particularly significant. Saint Thomas is often remembered for his doubt, yet his journey from scepticism to profound faith culminated in one of the most powerful confessions in Scripture: "My Lord and my God!" His story reminds us that authentic faith is not the absence of questions but the willingness to encounter truth and respond with trust. Jesus' words, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe," speak directly to believers across generations who continue to follow Christ through faith rather than sight.

In today's rapidly changing world, marked by uncertainty, division, and moral challenges, the witness of Saint Thomas calls Christians to be faithful disciples and courageous ambassadors of peace. His example encourages us to engage society constructively, foster interfaith harmony, uphold human dignity, and contribute to the common good of the nation.

There are few areas that can be focussed on this particular event.

Firstly, A Faith Rooted in Witness: Indian Christian Day invites us to remember the enduring legacy of Saint Thomas the Apostle, whose witness brought the Gospel to Indian shores. His journey reflects a faith that moved from doubt to conviction and from conviction to mission. Secondly, "Blessed Are Those Who Have Not Seen and Yet Have Believed" (John 20:29): The words of Christ to Thomas continue to inspire generations of believers who embrace faith not through sight, but through trust, discipleship, and lived experience. Thirdly, Faith That Transforms Society: Christianity in India has contributed significantly to nationbuilding through education, healthcare, social service, and the promotion of human dignity. The faith received through apostolic witness continues to bear fruit in service to all people. Fourthly, Celebrating India's Christian Heritage: Indian Christian Day is an opportunity to recognize the ancient roots of Christianity in India and the rich spiritual, cultural, and social contributions of Christian communities across the nation. Fifthly, A Call to Authentic Discipleship: The life of Saint Thomas challenges believers today to be credible witnesses of Christ through integrity, compassion, justice, and hope in their families, workplaces, and communities. Sixthly, Unity in Diversity: The Christian presence in India reflects the nation's pluralistic fabric. Inspired by Saint Thomas, Christians are called to foster dialogue, peace, and mutual respect while faithfully witnessing to the Gospel. Seventhly, Looking Forward with Hope: As we commemorate Saint Thomas, we renew our commitment to being agents of transformation, contributing to the spiritual and social well-being of India through faith expressed in love and service.

Let this celebration be both a remembrance of our sacred heritage and a renewed call to live as instruments of hope, reconciliation, and transformation for the nation and the world. May the witness of Saint Thomas inspire Indian Christians to continue being a transforming presence in the nation, living the Gospel with courage, humility, and hope.

The Revd. Dr. Binod Peter Senapati
Principal,
Satyaniketan School of Theology,
Nagpur & Member, NICR Editorial Board

MOVEMENT CHURCH OR MAINTENANCE CHURCH

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”- John 20:29

July has a very special place in the entire church history and particularly in the Indian Church history. 3rd July is celebrated as Indian Christian Day (Yeshu Bhakti Divas) to commemorate the life of Apostle St. Thomas.

Actually, the contribution and the impact of Thomas's work are undervalued. However, this month's devotion gives us an opportunity to ponder upon the immense contribution of St. Thomas and challenges us in today's context. The proofs suggest that St. Thomas landed on the coastal area of Malabar region of the present day Kerala around AD 52. Now, I would encourage you to imagine yourself as a scriptwriter of a movie, who is writing a step by step script detailing and describing the entire journey and work of St. Thomas. If you sincerely try and imagine, I am sure the thrilling story of St. Thomas will give you goose bumps.

Thomas must have been challenged by the great commission of Jesus to go to all the nations and preach the Gospel. After being filled with the Spirit on Pentecost day disciples of Jesus began spreading the Gospel Palestine and Roman Empire. Thomas too might have begun spreading Gospel, but maybe he wanted to do something big for Jesus that no one had ever thought of. He could have heard exciting stories about a far and strange land, present India, from the traders and sea voyagers and could have decided to go to this far land to share Gospel. During those days, there was active trading relationship between India and Palestine.

This raises many un-told practical questions, which in fact challenges us today. We don't know who could have funded his missionary journey. There were no commercial or passenger ships available, he might have embarked on some cargo ship. The sea-voyages were very highly risky affairs. Even if Thomas reached India safely there would be no-one to welcome him, and arrange for his stay and food.

These days, many of the Churches have forgotten the mission work. We just try and maintain the "religious" activities. Yea, there are some Churches who suddenly remember Jesus' great commission, and therefore they arrange a mission field visit. But, even before the mission trip begins, the participants would ask some questions of "great importance" like will the bus have AC, will there be proper washrooms, what kind of food will be served, and so on.

In spite of this, risking his life Thoma came to India. His family let him go and he was martyred for the name of Jesus. This was because Thoma wanted to spread the Jesus movement, a movement that was bringing new life to the lost world. Let us recommit ourselves to this Jesus movement when most of the Churches have got merely into maintenance mode.

Before we end I would like to make an appeal. Historical records reveal that Thomas was killed by a three pronged spear. He was martyred for the sake of Jesus' name. His tomb is present today in Mylapore, Chennai. We go out for vacations, and please do go with your family, but make a point to visit Thomas's tomb. It will challenge you to be part of Jesus movement, just as Thomas did. Let us be a "movement" church, and not just a "maintenance" church.

The Revd. Sanjay Malaviya
Diocese of Gujarat



CNI SBSS WELCOMES MS. MONIJINJIR BYAPARI AS CHIEF COORDINATOR

AND HONOURS THE SERVICE OF MR. SOUMYA RANJAN MOHANTY



The Synodical Board of Social Services (CNI SBSS), the social development arm of the Church of North India, is committed to promoting justice, compassion, and empowerment among marginalized communities through development initiatives, advocacy, and partnerships. Guided by the values of service and social transformation, CNI SBSS continues to work towards building inclusive and sustainable communities across the country. "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace." — 1 Peter 4:10 In this spirit of continued leadership and service, CNI SBSS warmly welcomes Ms. Monijinjir Byapari as its new Chief Coordinator. A development practitioner, social activist, evaluator, trainer, and church worker with over 23 years of experience, she has worked extensively in community development, gender and child rights, livelihoods, organizational development, and partnership building. She holds Master's degrees in Sociology from the University of Calcutta.

Ms. Byapari was formally installed as Chief Coordinator in the presence of Rt. Rev. Dr. Paul Swarup, Bishop of the Diocese of Delhi; The Revd. Dr. D.J. Ajith Kumar, General Secretary of the Church of North India; Mr. Subrata Gorai, Treasurer CNI Synod; Rt. Revd. Denzal Peoples and members of the CNI SBSS staff. Under her leadership, CNI SBSS looks forward to strengthening its mission of justice, compassion, and service to marginalized communities. We congratulate her and seek God's blessings as she leads the organization in serving the last and the least



At the same time, CNI SBSS expresses its sincere gratitude to Mr. Soumya Ranjan Mohanty for his dedicated leadership and service as Chief Coordinator. His vision, commitment, and guidance significantly contributed to the growth and strengthening of the organization, laying a solid foundation for future initiatives. We thank him for his invaluable contributions and wish him God's continued blessings in all his future endeavors.

Building upon this strong foundation, CNI SBSS continued to advance its commitment to accountability, sustainable development, and community empowerment through a range of organizational and fieldlevel initiatives during the reporting period. To strengthen programme management and transparency, CNI SBSS organized a two-day workshop in collaboration with the CPA (Centre for Promoting Accounting), focusing on organizational systems, financial management, compliance, and accountability standards. The organization also observed World Environment Day 5th June 2026 at the Synod level with the participation of staff members, reaffirming its commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable living. Across project areas, a range of community-based activities were organized. In Kolkata, Youth Resource Persons conducted a drawing competition and tree plantation drive involving children and community members. In Barrackpore, CNI SBSS partnered with ATMA and the Department of Agriculture, Government of West Bengal, to implement the "Khet Bachao Abhiyan," promoting sustainable agriculture through fruit saplings, organic manure, and model farmer initiatives

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*Communication and
Documentation desk
CNI SBSS*



THE WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY



pledge to promote environmental awareness and to work together towards a greener, healthier, and more sustainable world.

CNI SYNOD

On 5th June 2026, the Church of North India (CNI) Bhavan observed World Environment Day with a special programme emphasizing the Christian responsibility of caring for God's creation. The service began with a meaningful sermon delivered by the Rt. Revd. Dr. Paul Swarup, Bishop of the CNI Delhi Diocese, who highlighted the biblical mandate of stewardship, environmental responsibility, and the need to protect and preserve nature for future generations. As part of the observance, three informative presentations were delivered on important environmental concerns related to Soil, Water, and Fire. Mr. Neil Alexander of CNITA spoke on the significance of soil conservation and sustainable environmental practices. Miss. Akansha from the Synodical Board of Social Services (SBSS) presented on the importance of water conservation and responsible management of natural resources. Mr. Sanjay Harrison from the Communication Department addressed issues related to fire, climate challenges, and the collective responsibility of communities in safeguarding the environment. In a visible expression of solidarity with the global movement to care for and protect nature, a tree was planted within the CNI Bhavan campus. The tree-planting ceremony symbolized the commitment of the Church of North India to environmental stewardship, sustainability, and the preservation of God's creation for present and future generations. The programme concluded with a renewed



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY CELEBRATION

The Church of North India Programme Office, Nagpur, joyfully observed World Environment Day on 5 June 2026 with a meaningful time of worship, reflection, prayer, and action. The celebration began with a blessed devotion led by The Revd. Dr. Binod Peter Senapati, Principal of

Satyaniketan School of Theology, Nagpur. Reflecting on Genesis 2:15, he reminded us that God has entrusted humanity with the sacred responsibility of being faithful stewards of His creation. He encouraged all present to care for the environment as an expression of our

obedience to God and our commitment to future generations. A special prayer for the protection, growth, and sustainability of God's creation was offered by Bishop Sharad Gaikwad, seeking God's guidance and blessing upon all efforts to preserve and nurture the environment.



As responsible and faithful stewards entrusted by God, we reaffirm our dedication to protecting and

preserving the environment for future generations. Through this small yet meaningful initiative, we express our gratitude for the gift of nature and our responsibility to nurture it with love and care. As a visible expression of our commitment to creation care, members of the Programme Office planted saplings, symbolizing our respect for nature and our dedication to the growth and development of God's creation. The observance of World Environment Day served as a timely reminder that caring for the earth is both a privilege and a responsibility entrusted to us by God. May we continue to work together in safeguarding and nurturing His creation for the well-being of all.

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The Revd. Dr. Binod Peter Senapati
Principal,
Satyaniketan School of
Theology, Nagpur



THE REVD. PARANJYOTHY SANDELA ELECTED BISHOP OF CHURCH OF NORTH INDIA

On Sunday, 14th June 2026, the Holy Consecration Service for the Bishopelect, The Rt. Revd. Paranjyothy Sandela for the Church of North India

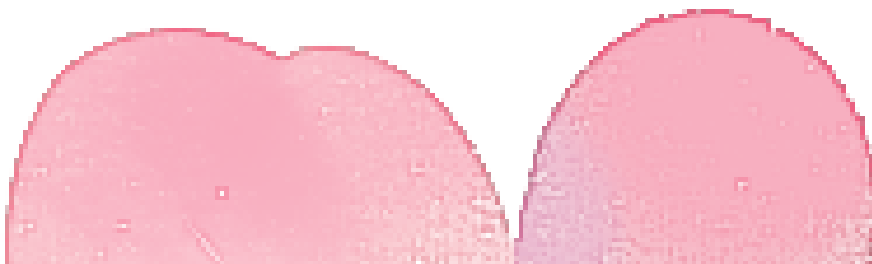


Throughout his ministry, he has held several significant responsibilities, including serving as Honorary Secretary of the Nagpur Diocesan Council and the Nagpur Diocesan Trust Association. He has also served as Director of the CNI Social Service Institute. The Rt. Revd. Paranjyothy Sandela is blessed in his family life. He is married to Mrs. Krupa Devi, and together they are blessed with three children. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Rt. Revd. Paranjyothy Sandela on his consecration and appointment as the 13th Bishop of the Diocese of Nagpur. We pray that God will richly bless and guide him in his Episcopal ministry as he leads the Diocese with wisdom, faith, and dedication.

The Rt. Revd. Dr. D. J. Ajith Kumar
General Secretary,
CNI Synod

(CNI) Diocese of Nagpur was administered by the Most Revd Dr Paritosh Canning, Moderator of the CNI Synod, at St. Paul's Cathedral, Kolkata. Through this sacred service, the Rt. Revd. Paranjyothy Sandela was consecrated as the 13th Bishop of the Diocese of Nagpur. The service was attended by almost all the Bishops of the Church of North India, along with ten superannuated bishops, including former Moderators of the CNI. It was indeed a blessed and memorable occasion.

The Rt. Revd. Paranjyothy Sandela was born on 1st August 1966. He earned his Bachelor of Divinity (B.D.) degree from the United Theological College, Bangalore, in 1995. He later completed his Master of Theology (M.Th.) through The Association for Theological Education by Extension (TAFTEE) in 2004, under the University of Wales, United Kingdom. He was ordained as a Presbyterian on 7th September 1997 in the Diocese of Nagpur, Church of North India. For nearly 29 years, he has faithfully served the Diocese in various capacities as a Presbyterian. He is presently serving at All Saints' Cathedral, Nagpur.



FAITH THAT TRANSFORMS A NATION INDIAN CHRISTIAN DAY (YESU BHAKTI DIVAS)

“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” – John 20:29

Every year on July 3, Christians across India observe Indian Christian Day (Yesu Bhakti Divas) in remembrance of St. Thomas the Apostle, one of the twelve disciples of Jesus Christ. This day commemorates his arrival in India and celebrates the enduring legacy of faith he established through his ministry, witness, and sacrifice.

St. Thomas is often remembered as the disciple who doubted the resurrection of Jesus until he saw the risen Lord with his own eyes. Yet, after encountering Christ, his faith became unshakable. According to ancient Christian tradition, he travelled to India around A.D. 52, bringing the Gospel to the Malabar Coast and planting the seeds of Christianity in Indian soil. His journey demonstrates that genuine faith is not merely belief in words but a lifechanging encounter with Jesus Christ.

The theme, “Faith that Transforms a Nation,” reminds us that faith is not a private matter alone; it has the power to influence communities, shape values, and contribute to national well-being. The Christian faith brought by St. Thomas inspired generations of believers to establish schools, hospitals,

orphanages, and social service institutions that have served people regardless of caste, creed, colour, language, or religion. Through these ministries, Christians have contributed significantly to the development of India.

Faith transforms a nation when it is expressed through love, compassion, justice, and service. Jesus taught His followers to be the “salt of the earth” and the “light of the world.” As citizens of India and followers of Christ, Christians are called to promote peace, uphold truth, care for the poor, and work for the common good. Such witness reflects the teachings of Christ and strengthens the moral and spiritual fabric of society.

The example of St. Thomas also teaches courage and perseverance. Leaving his homeland and travelling to distant lands, he faced many challenges and ultimately gave his life as a martyr for the Gospel. His dedication inspires Indian Christians today to remain steadfast in faith amidst Persecution, difficulties and problems and to share the love of Christ through both words and actions.

Indian Christian Day is therefore not only a remembrance of history but also a call to renewed our commitment to the Lord and Nation. It invites believers to embrace their Christian heritage with gratitude and responsibility. The faith that St. Thomas brought to India continues to bear fruit when Christians live as faithful disciples, serving society with humility and integrity.

As we celebrate this special day, let us thank God for the witness of St. Thomas and pray that the Church in India may continue to be a source of hope, unity, and transformation. May our faith in Jesus Christ inspire us to build a nation marked by compassion, justice, and peace, reflecting God’s love to all people.

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” May this blessing guide and strengthen the people of God in India today and always.

**The Revd. Himanshu Christian
Diocese of North East India.**



ORDINATION SERVICE AT CHRIST CHURCH, CHAPRA PASTORATE

On Sunday, 31 May 2026, at 7:30 a.m. a solemn Ordination Service was held at Christ Church, Chapra Pastorate. During this sacred service, the Bishop of the Barrackpore Diocese, Rt. Revd. Subrata Chakrabarty, ordained six candidates to the Diaconate and Five Deacons to the Priesthood.

Ordained to the Priesthood

1. Revd. Deacon Adhishwar Makhal,
2. Revd. Deacon Anmoy Bhuiya,
3. Revd. Deacon Samu Singh
4. Revd. Deacon Shantanu Sardar
5. Revd. Deacon Apurba Mitra

Ordained to the Diaconate

1. Evangelist Daniel Sen
2. Mr. Pradyut Mondal
3. Mrs. Sangeeta Sarkar
4. Mr. James Debkumar Ghatak
5. Mr. Tanmoy Bodhak
6. Mr. Barun Sarkar



As part of their spiritual preparation, a retreat and silent meditation program was arranged for the ordinands from 28–30 May 2026. The retreat was led by Rt. Revd. Subrata Chakrabarty, the Diocesan Vice-President Revd. Dr. Surajit Sarkar, Revd. Miran Kumar Mondal, and Revd. Bishwarup Chatterjee, among others. The arrangements for the ordination service were made through the dedicated efforts of the Priest-inCharge of Chapra Pastorate, Revd. Kishore Mondal, together with the local Church Committee, the Women's Fellowship, the Youth Fellowship, and numerous volunteers. It is noteworthy that all the priests, deacons, and evangelists of the Barrackpore Diocese were present at this special occasion. The service was conducted in a joyful and deeply spiritual atmosphere, where the congregation united in prayer and thanksgiving, seeking God's blessings upon the newly ordained ministers as they begin their sacred ministries in the Church.

JOINT SUMMER YOUTH CAMP AT OXFORD MISSION, BEHALA, KOLKATA

Under the presence and guidance of Subrata Chakraborty, who lit the the Moderator of the Church of North India, the Most Revd. Dr. Paritosh ceremonial lamp to mark the opening of the event. The inaugural session was attended by clergy from both the Kolkata and Barrackpore Dioceses, along with distinguished diocesan leaders and guests. They encouraged the youth to build their lives on Christian values and inspired them to dedicate themselves to the service of the Church and society. Centered on the theme "Come and See," the camp emphasized the importance of unity, leadership, and spiritual growth



among young people. Through various sessions, participants shared their experiences, strengthened their faith, and developed meaningful relationships with one another. The evening cultural programs, featuring songs, dances, dramas, and group performances, brought joy and

enthusiasm to all present. Sports and team-building activities further fostered cooperation, friendship, and a mutual understanding among the youth. During the closing ceremony, the birthday of the Moderator, the Most Revd. Dr. Paritosh Canning, was celebrated with a cake-cutting ceremony. The organizing committee expressed its gratitude to all participants and supporters and called for the

continuation of such youth-oriented initiatives in the future. This Joint Summer Youth Camp proved to be a memorable and spiritually enriching experience for the young people, leaving a lasting impact on their lives and strengthening their commitment to Christian fellowship and service.



CHILDREN CONFERENCE FOR SOUTHERN PASTORATE OF THE DIOCESE OF BARRACKPORE AT ST. GABRIEL CHURCH, CANNING PASTORATE

Under the guidance of the Rt. Revd. Subrata Chakrabarty, Bishop, Diocese of Barrackpore and the leadership of the local Priest-in-Charge, Revd. Soumen Mondal, a special conference for children was organized on 23rd May 2026 at St. Gabriel Church, Canning Pastorate, by the Southern Pastorates of the Barrackpore Diocese. The theme of the conference was "Child Development Through Jesus." The chief guest of the program was Bishop Subrata Chakrabarty, accompanied by the Diocesan Secretary Sukalyan Haldar and other diocesan clergy. Children from the

Sunday Schools of various congregations participated enthusiastically in the event. The program included Bible teaching, songs, dances, quizzes, and a variety of cultural activities. The children's joy and active involvement created a vibrant and lively atmosphere throughout the day. In his address, Bishop Subrata Chakrabarty emphasized the importance of following God's path from an early age and receiving sound moral and spiritual education. He also conducted a creative session, teaching the children how to make attractive crafts from palm leaves,

which brought great excitement and enjoyment to all participants. The conference concluded in a spiritually



uplifting atmosphere, leaving the children inspired, encouraged, and strengthened in their faith.

SPIRITUAL REVIVAL CONVENTION AND PENTECOST CELEBRATION AT GOSABA PASTORATE

Under the inspiration and leadership of Bishop Subrata Chakraborty, the fifth annual Spiritual Revival Convention and Pentecost Celebration was held at Gosaba Pastorate on 24–25 May 2026. The gathering was attended by Bishop Subrata Chakraborty, Diocesan Secretary Sukalyan Haldar, diocesan clergy, and numerous guests and believers. The convention began on 24th May at 4:00 p.m. with a flag-hoisting ceremony, a procession, and the lighting of candles. Greetings from distinguished guests, inspiring sermons by the clergy, and

the Bishop's uplifting preaching and devotional singing deeply encouraged and inspired the congregation. On 25th May, the Holy Communion service was led by the Bishop along with the diocesan and local clergy. At the conclusion of the event, Joint Secretaries Kalyan Das and Pulak Naskar, together with the Convention Committee President Revd. Saptadwip Biswas, expressed their gratitude to all participants and supporters. The convention concluded with a fellowship meal and thanksgiving.



STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM AT CHAPRA PASTORATE



From 29–31 May 2026, a special Stewardship Program was conducted in Chapra Pastorate under the leadership of Bishop Subrata Chakrabarty and the careful planning of the Stewardship Committee Director, Revd. Shubhra Mondal. The program was attended by diocesan clergy, evangelists, deacons, and members of various congregations. Local church committee members, women's fellowship members, and youth fellowship members actively participated in door-to-door home visits and offered prayers for families throughout the pastorate. Through the collective efforts and dedication of all participants, the Stewardship Program became a joyful and meaningful spiritual event. On the evening of 31 May, a Revival Meeting was held at Christ Church. Through inspiring songs, heartfelt prayers, and dynamic preaching, Bishop Subrata Chakrabarty encouraged and strengthened the faith of those gathered. Under the excellent arrangements of the local Priest-in Charge, Revd. Kishore Mondal, and the Bishop's leadership, the program concluded with united prayer, seeking God's blessings, peace, and well-being for all. The Stewardship Program ended in a spirit of thanksgiving, fellowship, and renewed commitment to Christian stewardship and service.

Sukalyan Halder
Secretary, BDC
Diocese of Barrackpore, CNI

BARRACKPORE ZONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL CAMP AND TREE PLANTATION PROGRAMME

Under the leadership of the Rt. Revd. Subrata Chakrabarty, Bishop of the Diocese of Barrackpore, Mr. Sukalyan Halder, Diocesan Secretary, and Revd. Biswarup Chatterjee, Priest-in-Charge of Dumdum Pastorate, a joyful and educational



another and gain a deeper understanding of Christian values and fellowship. A special highlight of the programme was the Tree Plantation Drive. The Rt. Revd. Subrata Chakrabarty and the Diocesan Secretary, Mr. Sukalyan Halder, led this initiative by planting saplings of fruit-bearing, medicinal, and shade-giving trees within the church premises. They encouraged

Zonal Sunday School Camp was organized on 6th June 2026 at St. Stephen's Church, Dum Dum. Students and teachers from Sunday Schools of various congregations enthusiastically participated in the camp. Throughout the day, special all present to take responsibility for environmental conservation and to care for God's creation. In his address, Bishop Subrata Chakrabarty emphasized that planting a tree is a commitment to building a healthier and more beautiful world for future generations. He encouraged the children to grow into environmentally conscious and responsible citizens. The camp successfully promoted prayer, fellowship, and spiritual growth while also conveying an important message of environmental stewardship. Through the collective efforts of all participants and organizers, the programme proved to be highly successful, meaningful, and fruitful.

emphasis was placed on the spiritual and moral development of children through Bible-based teachings, prayer sessions, songs, dances, quiz competitions, and various creative activities. The participants also had the opportunity to interact with one



BARRACKPORE ZONAL DWFCs WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

On 13th June 2026, an inspiring and spiritually enriching Women's Conference was organized by the Barrackpore Zonal DWFCs at St. Stephen's Church, Dum Dum. A large number of women members from various congregations participated enthusiastically and wholeheartedly in the event. The conference was graced by the presence of the Rt. Revd. Subrata Chakrabarty, Bishop of the Diocese of Barrackpore, as the chief guest, along with Mrs. Florence Supriya Chakrabarty, President of DWFCs, and other distinguished diocesan and zonal leaders. The programme commenced with prayer and hymns of praise. In his inspiring message, Bishop Subrata Chakrabarty highlighted the significant role of women in Christian life. He emphasized that women make invaluable contributions to both the Church and society and that through their faith, service, and sacrifice, the Kingdom of God is expanded and strengthened. Mrs. Florence Supriya Chakrabarty, President of DWFCs, also addressed the gathering. She encouraged the women to remain united, cultivate a prayerful life, and participate more actively in social service and community building activities. The conference was further enriched by topic-based discussions, personal testimonies, special musical presentations, drama performances, and cultural programmes, all of which added to the spirit and attractiveness of the event. Through this conference, the participants were spiritually renewed and encouraged to move forward in their Christian journey with greater faith, commitment, and determination. Owing to efficient organization and the sincere cooperation of all involved, the programme was highly successful. The conference concluded with a vote of thanks, after which the gathering was formally brought to a close. All participants expressed their desire and expectation for more such spiritual fellowship and uplifting events in the future.



PENTECOST WORSHIP SERVICE AT ST. THOMAS CHURCH, JEADARGOT PASTORATE



On 7 June 2026, inspired by the guidance of our Bishop, the Rt. Revd. Subrata Chakrabarty, a special Pentecost Worship Service was held at St. Thomas Church, Jeadargot Pastorate. The service was attended by the Rt. Revd. Subrata Chakrabarty, Bishop, Diocese of Barrackpore, Revd. Dr. Surajit Sarkar, Priest-in-Charge of the pastorate, along with other clergy members of the Diocese. During the worship service, Bishop Subrata Chakrabarty delivered an inspiring and spiritually uplifting sermon that deeply touched and encouraged all those present. His message emphasized the significance of Pentecost and the power of the Holy Spirit in the life of every believer. Following the sermon, the Holy Communion service was conducted by the Bishop together with the local clergy of the Diocese. The congregation participated reverently in the sacrament, experiencing a meaningful time of worship, fellowship, and spiritual renewal. The service concluded with a vote of thanks, after which the gathering was formally brought to a close. The Pentecost celebration served as a source of spiritual inspiration and blessing for all who attended.

Mr. Sukalyan Halder
Secretary, BDC
Diocese of Barrackpore (CNI)



Diocese of Calcutta News

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS OF THE MOST REVD. DR. PARITOSH CANNING, MODERATOR, CHURCH OF NORTH INDIA AND BISHOP OF CALCUTTA

On Saturday, 30th May 2026 the Diocese of Calcutta, CNI celebrated the birthday of The Most. Revd. Dr. Paritosh Canning, Moderator, Church of North India and Bishop of Calcutta, CNI in a Thanksgiving Worship at St. Paul's Cathedral at 11 am. Office Bearers of the CNI Synod, Bishops, Heads of Institutions from other Dioceses in the CNI; Church Leaders from India and overseas; Clergy from the Diocese of Calcutta, CNI; Office-Bearers; Heads of Institutions and friends of the Diocese of Calcutta, CNI and the Office Bearers of the Barrackpore Diocese were present on the occasion. The worship was conducted by Revd. Abir Adhikari, assisted by Presbyters and Office Bearers of the Diocese of Calcutta, CNI with Scripture readings and Prayers. Diocesan Youth Choir presented a special hymn. The Diocese of Calcutta through an audio-visual presentation depicted the Moderator's life Journey from the time "His Grace" joined the Oxford Mission till the present times, thanking God for his incessant Blessings in the Moderator's life and ministry with his unwavering faith in Jesus. The Revd. Abir Adhikari Hon'y., Secretary, Diocese of Calcutta, CNI on behalf of the Diocese of Calcutta, CNI acknowledged the contribution





of the Moderator in the Church of North India and the Diocese of Calcutta in his speech. It was followed by greetings from the CNI Synod by Revd. Dr. D. J. Ajith

Kumar, General Secretary, CNI. He also shared his experience about the Moderator's whole-hearted commitment to Jesus and his prayer life in particular.



Kumar, General Secretary, CNI. He also shared his experience about the Moderator's whole-hearted commitment to Jesus and his prayer life in particular.

Charles William Ringrow
Programme Coordinator
Diocese of Calcutta

CONSECRATION OF THE REVD. PARANJYOTHY SANDELA AS A BISHOP IN THE CHURCH OF NORTH INDIA



On 14 June, 2026 The Most Revd. Dr. Paritosh Canning, Moderator, Church of North India and Bishop of Calcutta consecrated the Rev. Paranjyothy Sandela as a Bishop in the Church of North India at the Consecration Ceremony held at St. Paul's Cathedral, Kolkata. Bishop-Elect Revd. Paranjyothy Sandela hails from Kazipet, Telangana. He is the youngest child of Late Mr. Elisha & Late Mrs. Suvarthamma. He completed his undergraduate studies at Kakatiya University, Warangal. Responding to God's call for ministry, he pursued



Theological education at the United Theological College (UTC), Bengaluru, where he obtained the Bachelor of Divinity (B.D.) degree. He later earned a Master of Theology (M.Th.) degree through TAFTEE in association with the University of Wales, United Kingdom. Driven by a keen interest in human rights and social concerns, Revd. Sandela is married to Krupa Sandela, and they are blessed with three children. All three are married and settled abroad. He presently resides with his wife Krupa and his mother-in-law,



Mrs. Jayamma. Throughout his ministry, Rev. Paranjyothy Sandela has been known for his commitment to Pastoral care, Church administration, and the Holistic Mission of the Church. He will be installed as the Bishop of Nagpur on 15th June, 2026. The Consecration Ceremony was well attended by 11 former CNI Bishops and over 16 Bishops from the Church of North India, Clergy and Lay People from Diocese of Nagpur, CNI Synod Office Bearers, Calcutta Diocese Office-Bearers, Clergy and heads of Institutions, Barrackpore Diocese Office-Bearers; Clergy, Pastorate Committee Members and

Congregation of St. Paul's Cathedral, and members of Bishop-Elect's immediate family. The Most Revd. Dr. Paritosh Canning shared the word of God. Quoting from the Gospel of John, just as Jesus asked Simon Peter three times, "Simon son of



John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "You know that

love You." Jesus said, "Tend my sheep"; The Moderator said-"He is repeating the same once again to you, Revd. Paranjyothy Sandela. God has selected you to lead the people of Diocese of Nagpur. This a great opportunity of shepherding God's flock. This is an opportunity of a lifetime. May you be reminded at all times to live a life worthy of your calling and be a good shepherd who knows His sheep by name and who loves His flock enough to lay down His life for them. You are anointed not only to look after your own family but the Diocese of Nagpur family as your own. " After the consecration, The Moderator. Representatives of the CNI Synod, former and present Bishops of the CNI, Bishops, and representatives of the Diocese of Nagpur, other guests and invitees were led in a procession with tribal dance up to the Parish Hall for the Felicitation and Reception. The programme concluded with fellowship and breakfast for all.



ST. MARK'S CHURCH - 125 FOUNDATION DAY CELEBRATION

John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "You know that

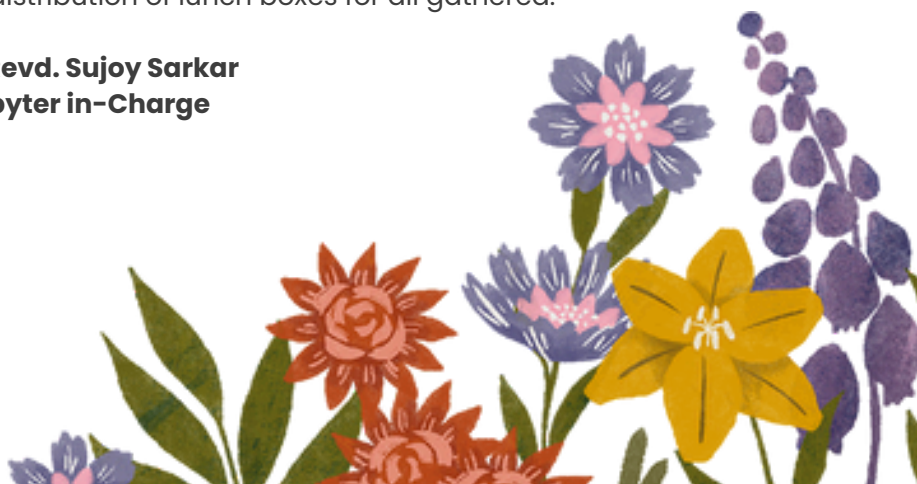


Calcutta, presided over the Worship and shared the foundation day message. Clergy, Heads of Institutions, Congregation and Invited Guests joined the occasion. The Most Revd. Dr. Paritosh Canning, thanked the Pastorate Committee and the members of the Church for their dedication and service to the Church. He inspired the congregation to be obedient to God and to the Church. Referring to examples of the Israelites, he mentioned how Christian should act in her/ his daily life



The Sunday School, Youth and W.F.C.S of the Church gave special performances to mark the occasion. The celebration concluded with the cake cutting ceremony followed by a time of fellowship and distribution of lunch boxes for all gathered.

The Revd. Sujoy Sarkar
Presbyter in-Charge



SCOTTISH CHURCH COLLEGE INAUGURATION AND DEDICATION OF THE REFURBISHED OGILVIE BUILDING

College's second campus to support its expanding academic programmes and future growth. The dedication of the refurbished Ogilvie Building by The Most Revd



Dr. Paritosh Canning, Moderator, Church of North India, Bishop of Calcutta and President of the College Council reflects the rich educational and cultural heritage of the College and reaffirmed its commitment to academic excellence and service to the society.

Founded in 1830 as the General Assembly's Institution and later renamed Scottish Church College in 1929, the College has stood for nearly two centuries as a beacon of liberal education, intellectual inquiry, social responsibility, and nation-building. Through generations, it has nurtured scholars, scientists, administrators, artists, reformers, and leaders who have contributed significantly to the society and nation building.

The inauguration of the refurbished Ogilvie Building marks yet another milestone in this continuing journey of excellence. The Ogilvie Building, originally established in 1914 as one of the Boys' Hostels of Scottish Church College, has undergone extensive refurbishment and infrastructural restructuring over the past two years. According to reports, the building has been transformed into an academic block to accommodate the growing needs of the College following the introduction of the fouryear undergraduate programme under the National Education Policy, 2020.

The renovated building will house the BBA and Commerce Departments, thereby significantly expanding the academic infrastructure of the Institution. The solemn and spiritually uplifting Dedication Worship invoked God's blessings upon the new academic space, the Institution, and all who will learn, teach, and serve within its walls. The inauguration ceremony and dedication Worship was attended by an illustrious gathering of Church Leaders, gathering of Church Leaders, Educational Administrators, Academicians, Alumni, Former Principals, Faculty Members, Students, Staff, Civic Representatives, and Well-wishers whose presence added dignity and warmth to the occasion. Among those present were Revd. Sorojit Biswas, Vice-President of the Diocese of Calcutta; Revd. Abir Adhikari, Hony. Secretary, Diocese of Calcutta; Revd. P. K. Nanda, Registrar, Diocese of Calcutta; Revd. Biswajit Biswas, Hony. Secretary, Diocesan Board of Education; Revd. Martin Pakhare, Chaplain, Scottish Church College; and Mr. symbolizes the Institution's successful adaptation to contemporary educational needs while preserving its rich heritage and traditions. The event reflected a collective vision of progress, service, and excellence, and heralded a new chapter in the College's journey as one of India's most distinguished Institutions of higher learning. As Scottish Church College advances towards its Bicentenary, the Ogilvie Building will remain a visible



reminder that true Institutions grow by building upon it their heritage, with a commitment to nurture learning, character, leadership, and service for generations to come, carrying forward the proud legacy of Scottish Church College into a new era of achievement and distinction.

Charles William Ringrow
Programme Coordinator
Diocese of Calcutta



DEDICATION OF ST. STEPHEN'S HOSPITAL HEALTHCARE FACILITY, GURUGRAM

The St. Stephen's Hospital, Delhi proudly dedicated the Inpatient



Services of its new Healthcare Facility in Gurugram on May 2nd, 2026. This was dedicated in a solemn service that was led by the Rt. Revd. Dr. Paul Swarup, Bishop, Diocese of Delhi, CNI. He was assisted by Revd. Prateek Pillai, Presbyter-in-Charge of Church of the Epiphany, Gurugram. Prayers of dedication were made, invoking blessings upon the hospital, its staff, and patients. The Rt. Revd.

Dr. Paul Swarup began by thanking God for the completion of the building and said that we will dedicate it with joy for His glory so that people would benefit from it. The Bishop in his message emphasized the importance of the right foundation. Prayers of dedication and blessings were made for the building, facilities, equipments, doctors, nurses, medical, allied health, administrative, support staff, patients, procedures and treatment. After the formal dedication of the building to the glory of God, the dedication stone was unveiled. Each of the rooms, and the equipment were blessed.

The facility is equipped with a state-of-the-art modular OT complex, a dialysis unit with six stations, and a Stephen's Hospital as it further expands its ministry of care and compassion to Gurugram.

John Manohar
Asst. General Superintendent
St. Stephen's Hospital, Delhi



41ST DELHI DIOCESAN COUNCIL

The Diocese of Delhi held its 41st Diocesan Council on May 20th and 21st, 2026. This is the key triennium event for the Diocese and it merited the importance it received. The achievements were visibly highlighted under the theme of Transparency and Focus which has been the operational way of doing things in the Diocese. Greeting the large audience at the opening session, The Most Revd. Dr. Paritosh Canning, Moderator, Church of North India emphasized that for

this Council meeting the Bible must be our constitution. The Revd. Dr. Ajith Kumar, General Secretary, CNI Synod prayed that following the significance of 40 in the Bible, the 41st should be the dawn of a new and promising era. He also congratulated the Delhi Diocese on a compliment he received personally from the Income Tax Commissioner who had appreciated the Diocese of Delhi as the best among the 29 Dioceses in the keeping of their accounts.



President's Address: The essence of the Bishop's address along with the Diocesan Secretary and Treasurer's reports was a perfect alignment and adherence to the Diocesan Vision, Mission and



Objectives that had been endorsed by the same council at the start of the previous triennium. He reiterated the Diocesan vision - 'To Grow in the Word of God, Rebuilding our Institutions and Preparing Responsible Leadership for Bringing Glory to the Father.' So also our Mission statement - 'Restore Foundational Christian Values and Invite the Holy Spirit to Transform the CNI Diocese of Delhi.' Therefore, aligning to the first part of the vision- Growing in the Word various Bible Study projects focused on: Jesus Shaped Life / Intentional Discipleship and Disciple making/ Five marks of Mission/ Fruit of the Spirit/ Thy Kingdom Come and Studying the book of Mark. Twice a month online Zoom Bible meeting has been held consistently. All pastors were urged to attend and also ensure more people from their churches join. Yearly Diocesan Conventions in Delhi and Haryana have been held over a period of three days each. Monthly Clergy fellowship meets and an annual Clergy family retreat have focused on God 'sword systematically. Lay Leaders are being involved and trained successfully. The Buniyaad Lay Leaders course on the scriptures is held every Saturday

Much progress has been made on the second part of the vision - Rebuilding our Institutions. Schools have stabilized and got a fresh lease of positivity. Balvatika schools are starting and a new school planned. The St. Stephen's College hiring of faculty is now happening and its first lady principal appointed after 145 years. St. Stephen's Hospital process of expanding to a medical college is work in progress. This along with the Philadelphia Hospital at Ambala have received key accreditations. So too under Preparing Responsible Leadership much attention was given to the development of clergy and lay leaders. The Diocesan Secretary, Mr. Rohit David in his Secretary's Report highlighted that "The Diocese of Delhi, CNI is no longer merely 'surviving' its legacy challenges but is 'thriving' through a disciplined, transparent framework. Transparency built the trust; Focus built the future." Loopholes in legal matters and records, compliance and governance have been plugged. Significant strides have been made in consolidating, protecting and monetizing our property assets.

Dr. Mrs. Anuradha Amos the Diocesan Treasurer in her report stated that income continues to increase and expenses have been in line with and less than the total income. A bright spot has been the increase in income from the Ekta Utsav which has been increasing year after year. However, the big gap between the assessment received from the churches is still far less than what is disbursed in the form of salaries to the clergy. Each of the churches and institutions shared a brief report on their last three years progress. The power of the Holy Spirit was clearly evident in some of the testimonials that were so inspiring and motivating.



Sunil Sannoo
Diocese of Delhi

HOTEL MANAGEMENT SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME INAUGURATED

PROGRAMME INAUGURATED With the aim of creating employment opportunities for young boys and girls from Kochpara and Dinajpur

districts, a new Skill Development Programme in Hotel Management was inaugurated through a joint

initiative of the Golden Park Hotel, Hotel Malda and Diocese of Durgapur (CNI).



The programme is designed to equip participants with practical skills and professional training in various areas of the hospitality industry, including Front Desk Operations, Reception Management, Housekeeping, Food and Beverage Service and Hospitality Management. In addition to skill development, the training will also provide opportunities for future placement, helping trainees build sustainable careers in the growing hospitality sector. The programme was formally inaugurated by the Rt. Revd. Sameer Issac Khimla, Bishop of the Diocese of Durgapur, along with Mr. Dilip Kumar Aggarwal, Managing Director and Owner of Golden Park Hotel, and Mrs. Reshmi Aggarwal. Speaking on the occasion, the dignitaries highlighted the importance of vocational training in empowering young people and opening doors to meaningful employment.

Among those present were A.H.T. Coordinator Revd. Sandipan Sinha, Revd. Ramesh Chandra Kisku, Revd. Kishanta Tudu, Revd. Kalep Tudu, Revd. Siben Tudu, Mr. Shyamal Kisku and Mr. Rabi Hembram. This initiative reflects the Diocese's commitment to youth empowerment and community development by providing practical training and employment-linked opportunities. It is hoped that the programme will enable many young people to gain valuable skills, secure employment, and build a brighter future for themselves and their families.



AWARENESS PROGRAM ON CLIMATE CHANGE

As a part of World Environment Day observation on 5th June, 2026, the diocesan staff, along with the Diocesan Office Bearers Revd. Swapan Darman, Vice President and Revd. Sudhir Hembram, Education and Social Empowerment Project Treasurer participated, encouraging the action. Bishop, Rt. Revd. Sameer Issac Khimla enlightened the participants with his guiding words on the role of every individual in becoming agents of change by advocating for sustainable practices, engaging in decision-making processes, and mobilizing the communities. He also shared that World Environment Day is not just sending a message; it is passing one on. Revd. Darman also shared an inspiring message on environmental awareness in a theological context. Miss. Ankita Chakraborty, an environment practitioner, explained about the ongoing Climate crisis, focusing on the urgent action on climate change and the necessity of nature-based solutions to combat global warming and promote sustainable living—embracing the 5 R's (Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, Recycle). The session was an interactive one, and participants pledged to change one thing that will contribute in protecting the environment.



Awareness Program on Climate Change under the UNEP theme—"Inspired by Nature, For Climate, For Our Future"—This year, ESEP initiated a 10-day campaign (25th May to 5th June 2026) on Action on Climate Change, engaging all the project communities. The program marked the closing of the project-initiated campaign. All the



CENTENARY CELEBRATION OF ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, PURULIA (1927–2026)



The Centenary Celebration of St. Barnabas Church, Purulia, under the Diocese of Durgapur CNI, was held with great joy and thanksgiving on 11th June 2026. The celebration commenced with a solemn Holy Communion Service, marking one hundred years of God's faithfulness and grace upon the church. The service was presided over by The Rt. Revd. Sameer Issac Khimla, Bishop of the Diocese of Durgapur, along with Diocesan clergy, office bearers, the local congregation, distinguished pastorates, and clergy from various denominations. A large number of believers gathered to rejoice and give thanks to God for the rich spiritual heritage and witness of the church over the past century.

During the service, Bishop Sameer Issac Khimla delivered a powerful sermon based on Luke 4:13–25, commonly known as the Nazareth Manifesto. In his message, he emphasized the importance of faithful participation in Sunday worship and highlighted the central role of the Word of God in the life of every believer.

He encouraged the congregation to deepen their relationship with God through regular Bible reading, prayer, fasting, and a life of committed discipleship. The sermon inspired all present to renew their spiritual commitment and to walk more closely with God in the days ahead. The centenary celebration thus became not only a time of thanksgiving for the past but also a call to greater faithfulness and spiritual growth for the future. A special highlight of this historic occasion was the inauguration of a Centenary Monument by the Bishop. The monument was dedicated to the glory of God and erected in loving memory of the founders, pioneers, and faithful servants whose vision, sacrifice, and commitment laid the foundation of the church's ministry in Purulia. The monument will stand as a lasting reminder of God's faithfulness through generations and as an inspiration for future generations to continue the mission of the Church. The occasion concluded with heartfelt fellowship, praise, and gratitude to God for His abundant blessings upon St. Barnabas Church throughout its hundred-year journey of ministry and witness. As the church enters its second century, the congregation looks forward with renewed faith and commitment to proclaiming the Gospel and serving the community for the glory of God.

The Revd. Sandipan Sinha
Communication Department
Diocese of Durgapur



HOLY ORDINATION CEREMONY IN GUJARAT DIOCESE

A blessed Holy Ordination Ceremony took place on May 2, 2026, in the Gujarat Diocese at the historic Ellisbridge CNI Church in Ahmedabad. On this momentous day, 21 candidates were ordained into church ministry, comprising 15 Presbyters and 6 Deacons.



The Rt. Revd. Dr. Silvans S. Christian, Deputy Moderator, CNI Synod and Bishop of the Gujarat Diocese, officiated the ordination service. The ordination ceremony was attended by large numbers of the clergy, church leaders, families, and devoted members from various congregations within the Diocese, creating a spiritually uplifting and joyful atmosphere

The Revd. Dr. D. J. Ajith Kumar, General Secretary of the CNI Synod, shared the Word of God during the service, urging the newly ordained ministers to stay true to their vocation and devoted to the mission and work



of the Church. The entire event was organized wonderfully, thanks to the enthusiastic support and active involvement of all the office bearers and members of the Gujarat Diocese. The service showcased the unity, dedication, and spiritual vitality of the Diocese, making it a momentous and uplifting occasion in its life and ministry. The Church expresses gratitude to God for raising new ministers for His vineyard and prays that the newly ordained Presbyters and Deacons may serve the Lord with commitment, humility, and divine guidance.



THE VALEDICTORY CEREMONY OF THE GUJARAT UNITED SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

On May 3, 2026, the Gujarat United School of Theology (GUST), which operates under the Gujarat Diocese, conducted a solemn and jubilant valedictory ceremony. The program was overseen by The Rt. Revd. Dr. Silvans S. Christian, GUST President, who also gave the graduating candidates their degrees.



Three Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.) students and candidates from the BCS and Diploma in Christian Studies programs were among the sixteen candidates who successfully finished their courses and were awarded certificates. It was a genuinely auspicious and significant event that represented a significant turning point in the graduating students' lives and ministry. Under the direction of GUST the Revd. Sanjay Malavya, Principal, United School of Theology, the program was expertly planned, and the hard work of the faculty and diocesan office bearers made it a success. The Revd. Dr. D. J. Ajith Kumar, General Secretary, CNI Synod preached the Word of God and urged the graduating students to stay devoted to the Church's mission and ministry. We give thanks to God for GUST's life and mission.



THE 55TH ANNUAL COUNCIL OF THE DIOCESAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE (DWFC)

The Gujarat Diocese's, Diocesan Women's Fellowship Committee (DWFC) convened its 55th Annual Council from May 7-9, 2026, in the CNI Ellisbridge Church in Ahmedabad. The three-day event, which brought together women from various Diocese and churches for worship, fellowship, prayer, and introspection, was an uplifting and spiritually fulfilling event. Along with Mrs. Bliss Kharadi, President of the CNI Synodical Women's Fellowship Committee (SWFC), Revd. Smita Gameti, committee members, and over 665 participants from throughout the Diocese of Gujarat, the program was attended by the Rt. Revd. Dr. Silvans S. Christian, Deputy Moderator, CNI Synod and Bishop of the Gujarat Diocese. The fellowship gathering was greatly strengthened and encouraged by their presence. Through worship services, Bible studies, devotional sessions, and fellowship meetings, the Council's theme of "Growing in Christ" was thoughtfully pondered. Revd. Jasmine, Diocese of Chandigarh, CNI encouraged the attendees to strengthen their faith and dedication to Christcentered living and ministry by sharing the Bible and giving spiritually uplifting talks. The Council's three days were genuinely auspicious and significant, enhancing women's unity, spiritual development, and role in the Church's life and mission.



THE YOUTH FESTIVAL 2026 OF THE GUJARAT DIOCESE

On May 15, 2026, the Gujarat Diocese's Youth Festival 2026 was



successfully held at CNI Church, Ambosi, Dharampur Area, with the motivational theme "Growing in Christ." Over 3,000 young people from four locations of South Gujarat enthusiastically participated in the spiritual gathering. The occasion developed into a potent forum for worship, solidarity, spiritual support, and strengthening young people's trust in Christ.

The Rt. Revd. Dr. Silvans S. Christian, Deputy Moderator, CNI Synod and Bishop of Gujarat Diocese, was the festival's principal speaker. His speech, which was centered around the theme "Growing in Christ," was uplifting and full of faith. He inspired the young people to stay firmly grounded in God's Word, develop spiritually, and become powerful representatives of Jesus Christ in society through his messages. Worship sessions, Bible-based sermons, choir performances, youth engagement activities, and companionship among young people from many locations were all part of the program. The event demonstrated



harmony, spiritual renewal, and young people's active participation in the Church. Prayer and gratitude marked the end of the Youth Festival 2026, leaving a lasting spiritual impression on all attendees and inspiring the next generation to keep developing faithfully in Christ.

