

# International Prayer Connections

*A Monthly Journal to Guide Intercession for Our World*



## INDIA - PRAYER FOCUS

### INDIA – Prayer Focus

Dear Precious Intercessors,

Greetings! What a joy it is to be living in this point of time where the Lord is propelling the Church to do so much activity!

The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves.

**Zephaniah 3:17**

This scripture excites me to know that God is with us and is there to save us. I believe that God who is mighty is greater than any challenges that the nations are going through. Every region in the world is going through unprecedented times including India. I am carefully listing the present situation in India for your precious prayers.

I am furnishing these issues not to undermine the power of Jesus Christ. I believe as the body of Christ across the nation intercede, there will be a breakthrough in our nation.



**Elections:** During the last elections in India, the whole united Body of Christ (Church) prayed together. We were able to mobilize different types of prayer campaigns from 24 hours non-stop and 100 hours' non-stop prayers. The Church in India prayed like never before. However, it was evident from the results from the recent elections 2019 that the Hindu radical nationalist government was elected back with an absolute majority. We find ourselves living in a period of historic transition that presents a great challenge especially to the Christian church. Every action of this government drives the nation towards a primary identity of Hindutva by promoting hate, violence, dividing people on region, religion and food.

**Pray:** for government officials and elected representatives to take positive actions to empower the poor in India.

**Pray:** against the wide scale government sponsored corruption in the country.

**Pray:** for the people of India to reject the government's inducements to give up education early on and to seek Blue collar jobs. Pray for them to strive to gain higher education.

**Pray:** that the local church will build relational bridge to the communities and promote civic participation (in

**and with all communities) and rapport with political leaders, influencing (mentoring) them in godliness and righteousness so that they frame righteous policies and laws.**

**Pray: against the rapid increase in social injustice and against the oppression of human rights in India.**

**Persecutions:** The Church is at a critical juncture in India and going through a very challenging time. Persecution has increased drastically and over 500 Churches were targeted for various levels of violence during 2018-19. Many were martyred for the faith last year in our nation. The local law enforcement turns the other way most of the time or they detain the persecuted and harassed instead.

There are plans to introduce a slew of new provisions in the existing Constitution to make a national anti-conversion bill. (Open doors persecution Index reflects India on the top 10 of the most persecuted nations in the world, it was in 40's earlier in the past.)

It is also a challenging time for the Christian institutions especially educational institutions as the new policies are drawn to will affect children of the entire nation and the character of the nation. It intentionally promotes hate and polarity in the society. It was felt that the new educational policy takes away the constitutional rights and protections provided to minority school and colleges. This may lead to closure of minority educational institutions

*On 28 July 2019 in Kanshiram Colony, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, members of the Bajrang Dal trespassed into a private prayer meeting, beat up the pastor and later handed him over to the police alleging conversions. Pastor Raju Prasad was leading prayers at a local Christian home at Kanshiram Colony when Bajrang Dal people surrounded few women and two men identified as Nandlal and Vishwakarma as they were on their way to the prayer meeting. The Hindutva radicals beat up the men and verbally abused the women.*

*Then the attackers trespassed into the house where the prayer was on, dragged the pastor outside and beat him up. They alleged that the Christians were involved in conversions. The police arrived and took the pastor and the two Christians to the Chakeri police station.*

*According to reports the fanatics beat up the pastor in the police station too and created a scene shouting loud slogans. The Christians were detained for around 5 hours after which they were let go when investigations by the police*



*revealed that there were no conversions going on. No action was taken against the attackers, but the Christians were warned not to gather to pray again , taken from - EFL Religious Liberty Commission - [efirlc.india@gmail.com](mailto:efirlc.india@gmail.com)*

**Pray for the persecuted, especially in North India. Pray for their protection and for their courage. May He shield them with Peace and surround them with favor.**

**Pray: that the persecuted believers would know the love of God and the hope God gives and be greatly encouraged by the Lord.**

**Pray: that God may provide the missionaries with Spirit of Boldness, Wisdom & Knowledge to face any and every situation boldly.**

**Pray: for persecuted Christians who have been imprisoned - for their early release; that the Holy Spirit would strengthen them.**

**Pray: for the persecuted Christians to have the courage to remain in their homeland.**

**More: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019\\_Indian\\_general\\_election](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019_Indian_general_election)**

**Lynching:** There is a new wave of lynching that are carried out throughout Northern India, this is a planned strategy of the right-wing Hindutva group to inflict fear and intimidation on Muslims. So far, this violence has been directed primarily at Muslims. However, since the main reason for lynching has been cow slaughter, the Christian community which is known for its consumption of beef, is not safe either.

**Pray: for the authorities to bring those responsible for these heinous lynching's to be brought to justice.**  
**Pray: against the hate which is spread on news forums and on social media by radical groups.**

**Economy:** The country's economy has come to a standstill and is slowed down considerably on account of dubious policies by this government such as demonetization and Goods and Services Tax (GST). While demonetization brought several hundreds of thousands of small industries crashing down, the GST, contrary to its purpose has reduced government earnings by 10%. In addition, hostile policies against FDI (Foreign Direct Investments) and a large increase in taxes on FDI have forced investors exit the country in droves.

As a result, the stock market has plummeted along with job creation. India is facing its worst job crisis in over forty years. The ripple effect has been the decline in the purchasing power of salaried Indians. The automobile industry has borne the brunt of this decline with the loss of over 300,000 jobs in the last few months. More job cuts are expected with automobile and accessory manufacturers suspending production temporarily. The resurgence of the stock market back to its former glory is impossible now with the government's 1.74 Trillion-rupee withdrawal yesterday. Economists doubt that the funds can be used to resurrect the ailing economy.

**Pray: for fresh investment and innovation that will bring a turnaround for the Indian economy.**

**More info:** <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-in-economic-slowdown-a-back-story-about-falling-investor-confidence-5936308/>

**Hindu Ideologies:** Furthermore, the linking of mythology and science has made Indian science conventions into laughing-stock by the world and the scientific community. All safeguards for whistle-blowers were removed to ensure no one blows any whistles in view of corruption and criminal conduct. CBI Directors, investigators and Judges are all working in one motto bringing in Hindu Rasthra (Hindu kingdom). Organizations that collect facts, institutions which provide access to information, and the media are totally controlled by the government. They are, in fact, rewriting history in textbooks for schoolchildren. Military, Judiciary, Administration and CBI are under the control of the government with key decision makers from RSS (Rastriya Swayamsevak Sangh, which is the Key Hindu organization which promotes these ideologies).

**Pray: for the mythology to be removed from textbooks, science and education.**

**Pray: that credible science can be restored so that Indian industry is trusted and reputable on the world stage.**

**Pray: against superstitious practices which bring so many lives to ruin.**

**Natural Disasters:** In addition to the havoc wrecked by the government, the weather seems to have a mind of its own. The country experiences extreme weather in Cyclones, Floods, and drought. The majority of India's water table has been depleted. The rest is poisoned by industrial waste. Large sections of forest land are being demarcated for industrial use. When a part of the forest was marked as inhabited by an endangered animal, an old tigress, the beautiful animal was killed by a contracted hunter; against the law. The very next week, this land was taken up for industrial use. The building of a massive statue when millions of Indians starve, resulted in Great Britain stopping its annual 100-Million-pound grant to India.

**Pray: for a replenishment of resources; the massive population of the country is expected to overtake China shortly. The natural resources are decreasing constantly.**

**Children and Women:** India is one of the fastest-growing economies in the world, poverty has been on a decline but significant percentage of its population still live in poverty with 73 million people living in extreme poverty which makes up 10% of its total population, Women and Children are most vulnerable in our nation. Challenges of Child Marriages, Infant mortality rate (11,000 children die each day as the result of poverty and other medical issues), female infanticide and so on, India is also becoming unsafe place for women with so many rapes and attacks on women every day.

**Pray: for Psalm 91 protection upon the population of women and children in India. Children and women are constantly targeted by criminals and even government leaders for sexual assault, human trafficking, and sex trafficking.**

**More:** [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rape\\_in\\_India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rape_in_India)

**The Church:** There are so many endless challenges, There is only one Hope for the Christian is the Promises from the Bible, It is time for the church to dig deep into His presence and draw closer to God like never before, It is also time to and display the very nature of Jesus Christ in their lives, It is also the time to come to God in united prayer and shed the division of denominations, castes, power and position so that our paths will be directed by Him as we strive to minister in our land.

It is high time We are persuaded that faithfulness to God and His call to us to be salt and light to our generation means to believe that God is Sovereign over the nations, and He directs the rulers to fulfill His purposes of Justice and righteousness; and to us as His people to bear witness to His character.

**Pray: that the Christian leaders and ministers to work beyond the congregation to the community. We are aware that the Church needs to model the Kingdom of God, through its reconciled relationships**

**Pray: that the leaders will exhibit servant leadership style in this fragile society and that they should be sensitive to all age groups.**

**Pray: that all the Christian workers will be strongly grounded in the Scripture, outward looking, indigenous in governance, worship and management of local resources and equipping the laity and united in engagement.**

**Pray: for great unity among Christians from all denominations, to stand together as Body of Christ.**

**Pray: that the Church should become more people-centered, equipping front-line disciples both with the message and vision and to be relevant in their mission.**

**Kashmir:** Pray: for the developing situation in Kashmir, where the Indian government has revoked the state's 'special status' and implemented restrictions on movement and communication.

**More:** <https://www.theguardian.com/world/kashmir>

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**For more info, videos and prayer guides on India and its unreached people groups - see:**  
**[OPERATION WORLD](#) | [JOSHUA PROJECT](#) | [PRAYERCAST](#)**