



INDIA PEACE CENTRE ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

WEAVING PEACE SINCE 1988



INDIA PEACE CENTRE

REGISTERED OFFICE

No 12, Sunkurama Chetty Street
George Town, Chennai
Tamilnadu, 600001

PROGRAM OFFICE

C K Naidu Road
Civil Line, Nagpur
Maharashtra, 440001

Thematic Concerns

Thematic Concern I

Environment

Ecology

Energy

Thematic Concern II

Nuclear Issues

Demilitarization

Disarmament

Thematic Concern III

Human Rights

Justice

Peace



Introduction

India Peace Centre continues to be committed to bring about transformative actions through peace education and training. It remains affirmative in its approach of creating spaces for interfaith dialogue and building sustainable communities. The centre continues to create opportunities for people from different faiths and ideologies to come together to discuss and deliberation on issues that confront human being and nature. IPC is largely concerned for the increasing ecological crisis and hence designs many environments specific activities.

India Peace Centre is grateful to its partners in India and abroad for their accompaniment and support that enabled IPC to plan and implement objective-based programs and projects during the last year 2023-24. IPC could organize many programs in the last financial year emphasizing its three thematic concerns – Environment, ecology, and energy; Nuclear Issues, Disarmament and Demilitarization; Human Rights, Justice, and Peace.

India Peace Centre has reached hundreds of students and young people from various academic institutions and organizations. Education and training on various peace related issues have been prioritized in all its programs and projects.

Programs organized in the financial year 2023-24

A. International and National Observances

1. Ambedkar Jayanti
2. World Earth Day
3. World Environment Day
4. World Blood Donation Day
5. Hiroshima Day
6. Independence Day
7. National Youth Day
8. Republic Day
9. International Women's Day
10. World Water Day

B. Regional / National Programs

1. Building Peace Through Overcoming Religious Prejudices - Special References to Gender, Food & Water, Human Security and Migration
2. Capacity Building Training for Education, Development, and Interfaith Learning

C. Partnership Programs

1. Discourse Identity, Plurality and Diversity: Role of Faith Communities in Affirming Peace
2. Face to Face 2023
3. Conflict, Disability, and the Response of the Faith Community in India

D. Coffee and Peace

1. Together with Gandhi: Journey towards Peace
2. UN Conference of Parties
3. Sustainable Planet
4. Peace and Poverty
5. Approach to Confronting mental health challenges

E. Discourses

1. Mental Health and Training – Towards Internalizing Peace
2. Building a Sustainable World Together

F. Humanitarian Assistance

1. Manipur Relief Efforts and Initiatives

G. IPC Chapters

1. Bhubaneswar
2. Kerala
3. Bangalore
4. Shillong

H. Volunteer and Internship Program

1. Volunteers from Germany
2. Interns from Kerala and Maharashtra

I. Collaboration with Academic Institution

1. Mahatma Gandhi Mission University

J. Director at different programs

1. Climate Justice Training, Indonesia
2. Master Peace Program, Bhubaneswar
3. Peace building through Climate Justice, Poland
4. Asia Pacific Climate Week, Malaysia
5. UN Conference of Parties, Dubai
6. World Social Forum, Nepal

2. INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL OBSERVANCES

1. Ambedkar Jayanti
2. World Earth Day
3. World Environment Day
4. Hiroshima Day
5. Independence Day
6. National Youth Day
7. Republic Day
8. International Women's Day

REGIONAL / NATIONAL PROGRAMS

1. Building Peace Through Overcoming Religious Prejudices – Special References to Gender, Food & Water, Human Security and Migration
2. Capacity Building Training for Education, Development, and Interfaith Learning

PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS

1. Discourse Identity, Plurality and Diversity: Role of Faith Communities in Affirming Peace
2. Face to Face 2023
3. Conflict, Disability, and the Response of the Faith Community in India

EVENTS 2023-24

COFFEE AND PEACE

1. Together with Gandhi: Journey towards Peace
2. UN Conference of Parties
3. Sustainable Planet
4. Peace and Poverty
5. Approach to Confronting mental health challenges

DISCOURSES

1. Mental Health and Training – Towards Internalizing Peace
2. Building a Sustainable World Together

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

1. Manipur Relief Efforts and Initiatives

IPC CHAPTERS

1. Bhubaneswar
2. Kerala
3. Bangalore
4. Shillong

VOLUNTEER AND INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Volunteers from Germany
B. Interns from Kerala and Maharashtra

COLLABORATION WITH ACADEMIC INSTITUTION

Mahatma Gandhi Mission University

DIRECTOR AT DIFFERENT PROGRAMS

1. Climate Justice Training, Indonesia
2. Master Peace Program, Bhubaneswar
3. Peace building through Climate Justice, Poland
4. Asia Pacific Climate Week, Malaysia
5. UN Conference of Parties, Dubai
6. World Social Forum, Nepal

International and National Observances

Ambedkar Jayanti, April 14, 2023

As people across India paid tribute to Dr.Bhim Rao Ambedkar, the Father of the Constitution of India on his 132nd Birth Anniversary, the India Peace Centre in collaboration with NCCI – DATA Concerns organized a discourse on “Ambedkar’s Narrative on Peace” on 14th April 2023 at India Peace Centre, Nagpur. The discourse highlighted the ways in which the life and work of Dr.Ambedkar contributed to peace building through social justice.



The discourse began as participants paid tribute to Dr.Bhim Rao Ambedkar by offering flowers to his photograph and paying respects.

Mr.Angelious Michael, Director of India Peace Centre, in his opening address, spoke on the importance of education that played a significant role in the life of Dr.Ambedkar and prepared him to undertake the social reformation journey. He said, Dr.Ambedkar doesn’t belong to one particular caste or community, but to the nation. His struggle was to envision equality of all through eradication of caste based discrimination. He inspired everyone irrespective of caste, gender, religion, ethnicity. His contribution of the Constitution is a gift to the nation.

Dr.Yugal Rayalu, a retired professor was the keynote speaker of the discourse, who highlighted the strength of the Indian constitution emphasizing that the constitution ensures Equality for all citizens, Respect for Rights of all, Power to the people, Liberty for all, Rule of Law, and Respect for the working class. He further said, Dr.Baba Saheb Ambedkar during those days was already a gender sensitive person which is reflected in the constitution. His vision was clearly formation of an India of justice, equality and social cohesiveness through the implementation of the constitution.

Rev.Charles Sundarkumar, the Program Executive of NCCI – Dalit, And Tribal / Adivasi Concerns chaired the meeting and also proposed vote of thanks.

World Earth Day

A discourse took place at the India Peace Centre, Nagpur on 29th April 2023 reflecting on the theme “Investing in our Planet” in observance of the World Earth Day (22nd April 2023). A small group of faith-based participants from different professional background including academic, NGOs and Law attended the discourse and shared their valuable thoughts on how individuals, families and civil society can make the earth sustainable and a better place for sustenance of life.



World Environment Day - Pollution to Peace



The India Peace Centre in collaboration with Wild CER organized a discourse on the theme of this year's UN World Environment Day – "Solutions to Plastic Pollution" at IPC, Nagpur. About 30 participants representing different faiths, organizations and initiatives attended the discourse, most of them were young people. In his keynote speech, Mr. Angelious Michael, Director, IPC said, Pollution is causing violence to nature, earth

and human being and all creation. Therefore, pollution is no peace, peace and pollution cannot exist together. We must transform from creating pollution to creating Peace

World Blood Donation Day

On the occasion of World Blood Donor Day on 14th June, 2023, India Peace Centre organized a Blood Donation camp at its premises in Civil Lines, Nagpur. The camp received overwhelming response from the citizens of Nagpur. Men and women from the age of 18 to 62 years, braved the summer heat of Nagpur, and came out to donate blood! The camp started at 10 AM, and went on till 8:30 PM till the last blood donor came in! The blood donation camp was supported by Nagpur Book Club and Lifeline Blood Bank, a premier blood bank of Nagpur. We thank Dr. Harish Warbhe, Mr. Ravi Gajbhiye, and the entire team of Lifeline Blood Bank who conducted the camp very smoothly and efficiently. All blood donors were given a Certificate of Appreciation, A token Gift, and were served refreshments. The satisfying smiles on the faces of the blood donors were reward to us.



Rohit Tokhi was the Project Incharge for the Blood Donation Camp. Dr. Asir Ebenezer guided and supported the project from the beginning to end. Mr. Angelious Michael, Director of India Peace Centre, facilitated and guided the team for a meaningful completion of the event.

Hiroshima Day

India Peace Centre observed "Hiroshima Day" on 6th August 2023. Dr. Yugal Rayalu, Retired Professor gave a lecture spoke on "Nuclear Weapon and Global Security". He called upon the young generation to stand against war and work for creating a peaceful world. Mr. Angelious Michael, Director of India Peace Centre presided over the lecture. Students from Tirpude College and Hislop College attended and made meaningful interventions.



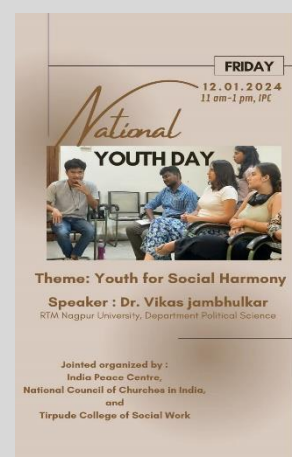
Independence Day, 15 August 2023



77th Independence Day of India was officially celebrated on 15th August 2023 at the India Peace Centre. Dr. Tejinder Singh Rawal, Treasure of the India Peace Centre hoisted the Tri-colour Flag. The ceremony was attended by Dr. Asir Ebenezer, Chairperson of IPC, members of the IPC Nagpur and newly arrived volunteers from Germany. Dr. Rawal in his speech encouraged young people to contribute towards nation building through promoting the culture of peace and harmony.

National Youth Day. 12th January 2024

National Youth Day was observed at the India Peace Centre on 12th January 2024 at IPC, Nagpur together with the Commission on Youth of NCCI. Dr. Vikas Jambhulkar, Assistant professor, Political Science of the Nagpur University spoke on "Youth for Social Harmony. Students from the Tirpude College of Social Work attended the observance and the presentation. Dr. Jambhulkar spoke about the strength of today's youth and their expertise on digital technology, which gives them the space and opportunity to contribute effectively to the society and nation. Youth are also potential in acquiring skills quickly. At the same time, they spoke of the increasing gap between the urban and rural youth which is a challenge of the time.



Republic Day Celebration, 26 January 2024



India Peace Centre observed Republic Day on 26th January 2024 at the India Peace Centre, Nagpur! Mrs. Asma Banu, Member of the IPC Nagpur Chapter hoisted the Tri-colour flag and greeting the members. She delivered an inspiring speech for selfless and dedicated contribution in upholding the values and ethos of our great country. The office bearers of India Peace Centre and other members were present on the occasion.

International Women's Day

India Peace Centre celebrated UN International Women's Day by organizing seminar on 7th and 8th March 2024. It was a very special and unique celebration felicitating women leaders working for women and society, to speak to students from the university, interaction with Ashakarmi workers and professionals. Accelerate progress, based on this theme, IPC organised a two-day discourse consisting of felicitating empowered and motivated woman achievers from different areas of work along with sessions by different speakers.

The discourse was inaugurated by the chief guest, Dr Vandana Badwaik, Principal of Nutan Bharat High School, Nagpur. Mrs. Asma Banu, member of IPC Nagpur Chapter, facilitated the inaugural session. Dr. Tejinder Singh Rawal, Treasurer of IPC and Mr. Angelious Michael, Director of India Peace Centre were present at the occasion and spoke of words of greetings. After the inaugural address by the chief guest, Dr Sabiha Khan and Mrs Benazir Khan were felicitated for the contribution of uplifting women at

grass root level. Dr Sabiha Khan, a doctor by profession and the president of Women's wing JIH Nagpur shared her work experiences with grassroots women. She expressed her concern about the competition and race between the genders, she emphasised education as the tool of power. She also gave a short presentation of Healing by Hijama Technique which is an age-old technique of pain relieve and healing of organs.

Mrs Benazir Khan was felicitated for her work with women of slums and creating empowerment ideas and facilities for slum women. She has also contributed in educating children of slums and making them graduates of various fields and providing appropriate jobs for them. Her address to the audience mainly concentrated on issues of women and how the social media impact and how families are affected by the hypocrisy of movies and advertisement.



Following the speech, Mr Michael opened a reflection session for the audience with the topic "What men need to do in today's scenario and what women need to do". The audience was set in 4 groups and they had a healthy discussion regarding the topic.

Ms Piyali Kanaber was felicitated by the director on Women's Day. She took a session "TEACH them YOUNG" related to the trauma girls/ women undergo by the male dominant society. The session focussed on identifying and understanding the difference in touch and relation to emotions. She expressed concern on the vulnerability of girls to false emotional concerns of boys and how girls slip for it ending it in trauma. She guided by making the audience understand the techniques of understanding that there is right time for everything in life and how to recognise it.



Ms Shraddha Deshpande with, the first Chief health inspector at Central Railway, Nagpur was felicitated by the director for her courage to enter the male dominated denomination. She shared her journey and expressed the power of education and how it empowers women and gives her right in the society.

Dr Charu Baheti, a gynaecologist by profession, a woman of Substance and an empathetic human was appreciated and felicitated by the Director for her work on women empowerment. Her session on dealing with conflict and mental health was the awaited session of the day. She commenced by playing a game of ballons in which the audience had to protect their own ballon for 50 secs. The lesson learnt from the activity was the it is inherent to human nature to protect our own but also not the others to exist peacefully. In her session she wonderfully personified the role of each gender and their need and impact on each other. She pointed out the difference and causes of disbalance. She emphasised on the role of understanding and importance of doing away with ego.

World Water Day

The United Nations World Water Day was observed in a meaningful way by the India Peace Centre on 22nd March 2024.

India Peace Centre organized a study tour early in the morning today to the Ambazari lake - the origin of River Nag to understand and reflect about the significance of water bodies and water for peace. Thanks to the core committee members of Nagpur, faculties, and students from Ambedkar College of Management. Thanks to Mr.Rohit Tokhi for briefing the history of the river and the current challenges



India Peace Centre organized panel discussions on - Water for Peace from science and religion perspectives. Dr. (Mrs) Atya Kapley, Chief Scientist and Head, Environmental Biotechnology and Genomics Division at CSIR-NEERI, Dr.Abhay Varade, Associate Professor, Department of Geology, RTM Nagpur University, Shreya Ghonmode, Student & Research Scholar, department of Zoology from Hislop College, Ms.Shona Thangavel, an Agriculturist, Dr.Vijay Kumar, Professor of Sociology, Hislop college spoke on the first

panel, while Shri Bhikkhu Samyak Bodhi Bhanteji, Bhahmakumari Kiran and Shri Hamed Quraishi, Retired Sub Divisional Officer, Water Resource Department, Govt of Maharashtra spoke from the scriptures. Mr.Dinesh Suna, Coordinator of Ecumenical Water Network, WCC, Switzerland and Jörg Ostermann Ohno, India Secretary, ZMÖ, Germany spoke on the International Water Situation and Germany and Europe perspective respectively - through recorded videos
It was a well-attended panel.

Regional and National Program

1. Building Peace Through Overcoming Religious Prejudices - Special References to Gender, Food & Water, Human Security and Migration.

One day symposium was organized in Bhubaneswar on the above theme. Around 80 participants including religious leaders, students, thinkers attended the event. Shri Soumendra Kumar Priyadarshi,

Commissioner of Police, Bhubaneswar & Cuttack was the chief guest. He spoke of the culture of unity and brotherhood and sisterhood of Odisha. He spoke of the significant characters of the traditions to keep people and communities together. Rev.Dr.Asir Ebenezer, chairperson of IPC spoke of different best practices and experiences of interfaith relations and cooperation. Mr.Angelious Michael, director of IPC introduced the theme to the participants

The following topics were presented by various speakers and were discussed

Gender – UN Sustainable Development Goal 5 : Gender Equality

1. Religious and social responsibility towards upholding gender justice and dignity
2. Network of men and women working together to increase the scope of understanding about gender sensitivity through education, research, and best practices
3. Imparting the knowledge and culture of respect and dignity towards all gender at family, education institutions, religious places and institutions, work place

Education – UN Sustainable Development Goal 5 : Quality Education

1. Peace Education
2. Scope of Peace Education in Institutions

Food & Water – UN Sustainable Development Goal 2 : Zero Hunger, Goal 3 : Good Health & Wellbeing, Goal 6 : Clean Water & Sanitation

1. Interfaith response to food and water – Interpretations of scriptures on dignity to life, life for all, livelihood, right to live, God's gift of resources, just distribution of wealth and resources
2. Human rights and human responsibilities
3. Wealth and poverty – increasing gap between the rich and the poor
4. Research and data

Human Security – UN Sustainable Development Goal 1 : No Poverty

1. Peace Building as Precaution and Conflict Management
2. Peace Education
3. Bridging gap of socio-economic status
4. Building a harmonious society

Migration - UN Sustainable Development Goal 11 : Sustainable Cities and Communities

1. Economic opportunities – local resources
2. Education and Employment opportunities
3. Entrepreneurship
4. Dignified existence without exploitation

On the keynote panel, **Dr.Asir Ebenezer** spoke on Ecumenism and Christianity, **Rajyogini B.K. Leena** from Brahmakumaris spoke about Hinduism, **Dr Sashikanta Panigrahi**, Retired Prof in English, Sankardev College of North Eastern Hill University, (NEHU) Shillong spoke of the Baha'I faith and **Mr.**

Ramjan Khan, Anjuman Islamia spoke of the Islam faith and **Mr.Bachhraj Betala**, President, Jain Terapanth spoke about the Jain faith on the topic.

Dr.Abha Mishra, Head of Office – Odisha, United Nations Development Programme gave a presentation on the role of United Nations. **Dr Tanaya Mohanty**, Department of Sociology, Utkal University spoke of the gender perspective, **Mrs.Nadia Moghbelpour**, Ph.D. Scholar on Peace Education share about the importance of education in building interfaith relations, **Dr.Manoranjana Mishra**, Country Coordinator, MasterPeace India spoke about Climate Change and **Mr. Daniel Umi**, Director, Migration & education Thematic unit at Aide et Action South Asia spoke about Human Security and Migration.

Ms.Ompriya Rath, Coordinator of the IPC Bhubneswar Chapter hosted the symposium. She put lot of hard work in the coordinating the event.

2. Capacity Building Training for Education, Development, and Interfaith Learning

Capacity Building on Education, Development through Interfaith Learning was organized at IPC, Nagpur from 6th to 14th December 2023. 13 Students and faculty members from the OCT College of Gopalpur attended the extensive one-week training course. The key area of focus of the training was

1. To be educated and empowered with
 - a. Gender Policy
 - b. Child Protection Policy
 - c. Climate Justice Policy
2. Interfaith relations learning
3. Constitution learning
4. Social Work



Rev.Dr.Asir Ebenezer, Chairperson of IPC inaugurated the training program and also led a session on Understanding Ecumenism, Ecumenical Movements, Ecumenism today.

Ms.Aradhana Upadhya, CNISSI took a session on understanding today's socio economic context.

Rev.Edith Martin spoke about Gender Policy

and laws related to women Gender Equity and Gender Justice. Mr.Vinod Shemron took a session on child right and child protection policy.

Prof Vijay Kumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology of Hislop College, Nagpur took a session on Understanding Education, Educational Institutions Educational Policies. Apart from this concerns and issues such as Artificial



intelligence, Indigenous knowledge, and wisdom also were presented.

There was a session on Understanding Buddhism, Understanding Jainism and Understanding Islam, presented by Dr.Vikas Jambhulkar, Dr.Aditya Kothari and Dr.Majid Parekh respectively. Prof Thakrey spoke of the Baha'I faith. Dr.Pranay Bin spoke of Understanding Religion, Faith, Scripture, and their relevance today.

The students of the OCT College shared of a very positive insight about the Capacity building training. It was a life changing experience for many of them. They admitted that, this was the first of its kind they attended such an intense program that had in depth understanding about concerns they would never think of.

There were exposures to Diksha Bhoomi, various historical places. The participants also were taken to different places of religious significance and worships and received a profound idea of each religion and the essence of interfaith relations.

Mr. Vinod Shemron, led many workshop and activity sessions to engage the participants in dialogue while adopting learning by doing methodology.

Partnership Programs

Discourse Identity, Plurality and Diversity: Role of Faith Communities in Affirming Peace

India Peace Centre together with National Council of Churches in India organized Interfaith Discourse on Identity, Plurality and Diversity - Role of Faith Communities in Affirming Peace in New Delhi on 9th August 2023. There were excellent speakers from diverse faith communities, academicians, thinkers followed by an engaging discussion.



Face to Face

India Peace Centre facilitated "Face to Face" program during 27th October – 24th November, 2023 in Nagpur a New Delhi. The program was organized around the objective of **Interfaith Learning about culture, traditions, faith practices, visiting religious places**. 12 participants from different countries attended the one-month long program.

Program was inaugurated by Dr.Sudipta Singh, Deputy General Secretary of the CWM. He spoke about the history of the Face-to-Face program and the role of faith and faith communities to respond to critical social challenges of our time. Dr.Asir Ebenezer, Chairperson of the India Peace Centre also emphasized on the role of young people and communities at large to peace building. Mr. Angelious Michael, Director of India Peace Centre gave a short introduction about the India Peace Centre.

There were different sessions on the following days. Introduction to Hinduism presented by B K Leena, Director, Bhubaneswar Subzone, Brahmakumaris, Bhubaneswar. Dr.Anil Kumar from Hyderabad led a session on Ecology and Creation from the perspective of Hinduism. The concept of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam was shared by Ms.Sonal Hikare, member of the IPC Nagpur chapter. A story telling session based on Hindu scriptures was presented by Dr.Indira Mukherjee. Hindu Religious festivals, rituals and festivals were presented by Mr.Rushikesh Potdar. There were sessions on Poverty, Economy and Migration presented by the Participants.

In the end of first week, the participants visited many Hindu Temples and visited families to get Indian Hindu families experience, culture, and food. Nagpur is known for the Tiger Reserves. The participants took the opportunity to visit Tadoba.

A session on Interfaith understanding on peace was led by Dr.Rohan Gideon, Department of Christian Theology, the United Theological College, Bangalore. He also presentation a paper on Peace and Religious pluralism. Dr.Bhiku Samyak Bodhi led a session on Understanding Buddhism, while Dr.Vikas Jambulkar from Nagpur University spoke about Buddhism in today's context. Dr.Aditya Kothare spoke on understanding Jainism. A panel on Neighborhood and hospitality was organized, where, Ms.Rupinder Kaur, Dr.Aarti Meshram, Mrs.Annu Sandip Pillai spoke.

Dr.Tejinder Singh Rawal, A Chartered Accountant and Treasurer of India Peace Centre presented on Understanding Sikhism. Ms. Judy R Joute, Lecturer, Leonard Theological College, Jabalpur spoke on Children and Peace Making. She also led a session on Gender Equality and Gender Justice.

The Participants made a visit to Sewagram and few social projects in Nagpur. Samuel Mall, Professor, Bishop's College, Kolkata led a session on Life affirmation and transformation. He also led a session on Life and Inclusivity.



In the fourth week, the participants travelled to New Delhi. They visited the Lotus Temple and attended round table discussion on Building Peace through Overcoming Religious Prejudices at the Lotus Temple. National Minority Commission Chairman, Shri Iqbal Singh Lalpura was the Chief Guest on the occasion who addressed the participants with his inspiring speech. There were various faith speakers who shared different faith

perspectives and necessity for overcoming prejudices for greater peaceful and harmonious society.

Conflict, Disability, and the Response of the Faith Communities in India

A comprehensive workshop was organized to formulate guidelines to create support and solidarity for people with disability affected in times of conflict. The workshop was held in Nagpur from 19th to 21st December 2023. The following sessions were part of the workshop

1. Physical disabilities and access barriers: Breaking barriers: Empowering mobility for all
2. Psychological trauma, and mental health issues Healing wounds unnoticed : Nurturing Mental wellbeing amidst conflict.
3. Inclusive disaster preparedness and response: collaborative interventions by NGOs for disabled and non-disabled individuals
4. Challenges for PWDs during conflict and disaster in the context of Northeast India
5. A Shelter for homeless women with disability
6. Disability risk reduction: Visual, hearing, physical and intellectual disabilities
7. Govt. Expedition for disability-inclusive conflict resolution and humanitarian response
8. Collaborating the needs of PWD at disaster, guidelines for institutions, social sector



During Session 3 on government initiatives for inclusive conflict resolution and humanitarian response, CRC Nagpur, led by audiologist and speech therapist Praful, shared insights. Operating under DEPWD, this marks the 9th CRC in India. Moderated by Dr. Gajendra Singh Rawal, the discussion emphasized composite centers for holistic PWD rehabilitation, focusing on early intervention and rehab services through government mechanisms. Advocacy for a shift from charity to rights-based thinking and the importance of Sarva Siksha Abhiyan and Nipun Bharat for educational strategies, specifically addressing hearing and visual impairments.

On January 30th and 31st, 2024, representatives from disability-affirming movements, and participants in the "Conflict, Disability, and Faith Response" consultation met in New Delhi to finalize guidelines aimed at assisting churches and institutions in effectively addressing the needs of individuals with disabilities during periods of conflict and disaster. This collaborative endeavor signifies a significant step forward, potentially introducing innovative strategies to foster inclusivity and empathy within faith-based communities. The gathering underscores a strong commitment to establishing a resilient and supportive environment, showcasing an ongoing dedication to tackling the distinct challenges confronted by individuals with disabilities in times of crisis. The outcome of the meeting, which consolidated a comprehensive set of guidelines, is forwarded to experts for the finalization process.



Few Guidelines Recommended

Social Work Agency:

1. Develop a policy on disaster management to handle conflicts.
2. Include PWDs as permanent staff.
3. Conduct a database assessment study.
4. Establish communication channels with government officials and PWDs within the communication team.
5. Network with insurances, hospitals, assistive material producers, and sign interpreters with basic counselling skills.
6. Develop a budget and raise awareness in handling budgets.
7. Train a rescue team with mock drills every six months.
8. Arrange care homes in advance.
9. Focus on rehabilitation through livelihood training, awareness campaigns, caregiver training, and shorter courses.

Institutions:

1. Ensure the presence of lifts and ramps for emergency situations with appropriate slopes.
2. Make exit points wheel-chair accessible during emergencies.
3. Ensure corridors and doors are spacious for wheel-chair accessibility.
4. Institutions should be aware of students with disabilities.
5. Provide books in soft copy or Braille.
6. Make disability studies a compulsory department in secular and theological fields.
7. Use Braille in hospitals and signboards for navigation.
8. Appoint a coordinator for people with disabilities and a social support team for assistance in usual and emergency situations.
9. Provide wheel-chair accessible washrooms and doors.
10. Establish separate washrooms for women with disabilities.
11. Implement scholarship schemes.
12. Conduct proper orientations and drills.
13. Train both disabled and non-disabled individuals on how to handle friends with disabilities.
14. Include sign language studies in institutions.
15. Form inclusive planning teams headed by PWDs.
16. Ensure doctors and nurses know sign language.
17. Make doctors accessible to all.
18. Include Deaf students in theological institutions.

Coffee and Peace

India Peace Centre has initiated a unique program called “Coffee and Peace”. The purpose is to engage in a dialogue / conversation / arts / music / discussion / review of books and films on issues related to peace which will happen over Coffee. This will give the attendees the opportunity to share their ideas and learn from others. The students will gain a lot from this endeavour.

Some of the highlighted sessions of coffee and peace are listed below

Date	Theme	Speaker
13 October 2023	Together with Gandhi: Journey towards Peace	Sanddep Jayant Barve
20 October 2023	UN Conference of Parties	Angelious Michael
27 October 2023	Sustainable Planet	Ompriya Rath
3 November 2023	Peace and Poverty	Angelious Michael
12 January 2024	Approach to Confronting mental health challenges	Smruti Priyansha



Students from Tirpude College, Hislop College, Law college and various other colleges have been attending the coffee and peace program. They are not only learning but contributing through their academic knowledge and experience. It's a unique platform to deepen understanding on life issues that we are highly confronted with. It is also an empowering platform that motivates students and youth to be open in expressing their perspectives.

One of the Coffee and Peace sessions was on Child Labour and Education for Children. Harshita Shrivastava, coordinator of Make A Difference Nagpur Chapter and a student of law spoke on the topic and shared her experience working with children in the care. It was good to have the members of Make A Difference. Many joined online as well.

Discourses

Mental Health and Training – Towards Internalizing Peace

Panel Discussion on Mental Health and Training - Internalizing Peace was organized by India Peace Centre at IPC, Nagpur on 22 July 2023. Panellists representing various professions including academic institutions, Health Institutions spoke their perspectives on the topic.



Building a Sustainable World Together



An Interfaith evening was organized on the topic “Building a Sustainable World Together” at the IPC on 29th August 2023. About 60 people from Nagpur and outside attended the program. The event began with a prayer of silence in memory of Mrs. Annie Zachariah, wife of the founder of India Peace Centre, Mathai Zachariah. A short video was presented to share the work of India Peace Centre. Dr. Asir Ebenezer, Chairperson of the India Peace Centre opened the dialogue

with greetings. Classical dance was presented by the students from Nrutyajali Nrutya Niketan. Thematic speeches were delivered by four speakers, namely Dr. Noorulamin Khwaja, Ms. Roshani Adsod, Dr. Bhante Dipankar, and Dr. Tejinder Singh Rawal from different faith perspectives. H G Geevarghese Mar Youlius, President of NCCI shared his response in the end. The event came to end with another dance from the Nrutyajali Nrutya Niketan after which Mr. Angelious Michael, Director of India Peace Centre proposed the vote of thanks. Ms. Daphne and Ms. Ilana, volunteers at the India Peace Centre moderated the evening.

Humanitarian Assistance

Relief Efforts in Manipur – I

In the region of Churachandpur

Relief was provided in the conflict hit Manipur, in Imphal, Churachandpur and Kangpokpi, mostly in the relief camps.



India Peace Centre distributed relief materials. As part of its first phase, the volunteers of Manipur (5 of them) distributed relief on 8th and 9th September 2023 to 104 families in Molphei Tampak village, P. Geljang Village, Gothol Village, Tonglhang Village, Matijang Village, N. Zalenphai Village, N. Molsopai Village, Na-Ang Village, Zohar Phaicham Village, S. Munjang Village. Rice, Dal, Oil, Onion, Potato, Sanitary pads, diaper, mosquito coil,

Torch light, bating soap, salt etc were provided.

The Second Phase of Relief Distribution was giving medicines to about 10 villages through a medical camp. Medicines were arrived from Aizawl, Mizoram (about 370 kilometers). Even though, Imphal (capital city of Manipur) is only 80 kilometers from the villages, but there is no vehicle moment after the conflict and border has been completely shield.

The medical camp was very well organized. Most needy people living in different relief camps came to the medical camp. Doctors and nurses did basic health checkup and distributed medicines.



In Imphal

Imphal West, Imphal East, Bishnupur and Thoubal.

1. Distribution of warm clothes to 300 children in Relief Camps
2. Distribution of woolen wrap around and undershirts to 600 women at Relief Camps
3. Assistance provided for 1 bicycle.

1. Distribution of warm clothes to 300 children in Relief Camps

During the month of October 2023, as the first initiative of India Peace Centre, the urgent needs of children were identified. It was decided that warm clothes comprising of Jogger Pants and Sweat Shirts for children upto 18 years of age be distributed and thus 300 children in total from 9 Relief Camps in the 4 valley districts of Manipur i.e., 1. Imphal West 2. Imphal East 3. Bishnupur and 4. Thoubal were reached.

Name of the Distributed Relief Camps

1. *Relief Camp, Phubala High School, Bishnupur District;*
2. *Relief Camp, Ngankha Lawai Upper Primary School, Bishnupur District;*
3. *Relief Camp, Praja High School, Imphal West District;*
4. *Nirvana Foundation, Imphal West District (TG children from Relief Camps were shifted to this CCI);*
5. *Konthoujam Primary School, Imphal West District;*
6. *Recent Higher Secondary, Imphal West District;*
7. *Relief Camp, Shelter Home Sawombung, Imphal East District;*
8. *Relief Camp, Yambem Girls Hostel, Yairikpok, Imphal East District;*
9. *Relief Camp, Lamding Primary School, Thoubal District.*

2. Distribution of woollen wrap around and undershirts to 600 women at different Relief Camps



During the month of December 2023, as the 2nd Initiative of India Peace Centre, woollen wrap around (400 Nos) and woollen undershirts (200 Nos) were distributed to 600 women in total Relief Camps and women volunteers in the 4 valley districts of Manipur i.e., 1. Imphal West 2. Imphal

East 3. Bishnupur and 4. Thoubal were reached.

Name of the Distributed Relief Camps

1. *Wangoo Sellungkhong Awang Upper Primary School Relief camp, Bishnupur District.*
2. *Tronglaobi Makha Leikai, Relief camp, Bishnupur District.*
3. *Ithai Khunou High School, Relief Camp, Bishnupur District.*
4. *Old Age Home, Relief Camp. Kakching District.*
5. *Phayeng Awang High School, Relief Camp Imphal West.*
6. *Kadangband Part II, Relief camp, Imphal West.*

3. Supported a widow and a single mother of 2 sons IDP staying at Phayeng Relief Camp by providing a bicycle to Angom Shashina of age 26 who had lost her husband.



Manipur Relief, Medical Camps and Psycho Social Support

Churachandpur

477 families identified in Churachandpur and were provided with groceries, mattresses, mosquito nets, torch lights in the first phase. Medicines were also provided to them through medical camps after due consultation with doctor, who provided the prescription. In addition, groceries were given to 104 more families and medicines too distributed for about 10 villages in Churachandpur region to about 300 people. Volunteers distributed the relief materials at different relief camps.

Three villages in Chandel District, namely New Songjang, Khangbarol and Joupi villages and 9 relief camps (Mizo and Zou communities) in Churachandpur and Kangpokpi District were supported.



The India Peace Centre with the support of Civil Society organizations carried relief distribution in the region / district of Churachandpur and Imphal in the state of Manipur. IPC provided groceries, mattresses, mosquito nets, torch lights to more than 500 hundred families in the first phase. Medicines were distributed at various relief camps. Dry Ration such as Rice, Dal, Cooking oil, Onion, Potato, Salt and Personal care and essentials such as Sanitary pads, Diapers, Mosquito coil, Torch light, Soaps and Mattresses, Mosquito nets provided.

Psychosocial Counseling in the area of Churachandpur and Imphal were carried out at 14 different relief campus with the help of doctors, nurses, counselors, volunteers and coordinators during January – March 2024. Trainings were organized for volunteers. Doctors and nurses were also part of the trainings. Doctors were of great help in determining the actual needs of the people at the relief camps.

It was held in the region of Churachandpur in the following places



1. Buallian Area
2. Mata Area
3. Ngalawi Area
4. Panglian Area
5. Sangaikot Area
6. Molcham
7. NECA
8. Sangai

Psychosocial Counselling in Imphal Region

1. Training for the volunteers at the Relief camps on Psycho social Care and support.

A three days training programme on 'Psycho Social Care and Support' for the volunteers at the Relief Camps was conducted at the Conference Hall of the Wide Angle Social Development Organisation situated at Sagolband, Imphal West District on the 11th, 12th and 13th of January 2024. Altogether 18 members from 4 different Relief camps participated in the Training. Resource persons from Psychiatry Department, and Department of Clinical Psychology, Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, were invited to speak on different topics on the mentioned programme.

2. Psycho social Medical camps at Relief Camps

6 Psycho Social Medical Camps were held at 3 different Relief Camps where counselling, Medical Checkup and medication were provided to the IDPs at the camps. Names of the Relief camps:

1. *Biramangol College Relief Camp.*
2. *Temporary Shelter Home, Sawombung*
3. *Govt. Ideal College, Akampat, Relief Camp*

3. Life skills Education for Adolescent Children at the Relief Camps.

For the children belonging to the age group between 11-18, Life Skill Education were conducted, where altogether 240 children from the following 3 different Relief Camps participated at the program.

1. *Biramangol College Relief Camp.*
2. *Temporary Shelter Home, Sawombung*
3. *Govt. Ideal College, Akampat, Relief Camp*



The module adopted is ***“Empowerment through Life Skill Education”***, it is developed after thorough study from the manuals developed by World Vision India, Child Rights and You and UNICEF keeping the core principles in the present context of Manipur. It comprises of 3 days to complete the overall modules where children are taught Life Skills enabling them to positively overcome any obstacles they faced during their lifetime and also could be applied directly or indirectly, to a day-to-day challenges and life experiences and lead a peaceful and successful life.

Training for the volunteers at the Relief camps on Psycho social Care and support.

A three days training programme on ‘Psycho Social Care and Support’ for the volunteers at the Relief Camps was conducted at the Conference Hall of the Wide Angle Social Development Organisation situated at Sagolband, Imphal West District on the 11th, 12th and 13th of January 2024. Altogether 18 members from 4 different Relief camps participated in the Training. Resource persons from Psychiatry Department, and Department of Clinical Psychology, Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, were invited to speak on different topics on the mentioned programme.

4. Psycho social Medical camps at Relief Camps

6 Psycho Social Medical Camps were held at 3 different Relief Camps where counselling, Medical Checkup and medication were provided to the IDPs at the camps. Names of the Relief camps:

4. *Biramangol College Relief Camp.*
5. *Temporary Shelter Home, Sawombung*
6. *Govt. Ideal College, Akampat, Relief Camp*

5. Life skills Education for Adolescent Children at the Relief Camps.

For the children belonging to the age group between 11-18, Life Skill Education were conducted, where altogether 240 children from the following 3 different Relief Camps participated at the program.

4. *Biramangol College Relief Camp.*
5. *Temporary Shelter Home, Sawombung*
6. *Govt. Ideal College, Akampat, Relief Camp*

The module adopted is ***“Empowerment through Life Skill Education”***, it is developed after thorough study from the manuals developed by Child Rights and You and UNICEF keeping the core principles in the present context of Manipur. It comprises of 3 days to complete the overall modules where children are taught Life Skills enabling them to positively overcome any obstacles they faced during

their lifetime and also could be applied directly or indirectly, to a day-to-day challenges and life experiences and lead a peaceful and successful life.

India Peace Centre, Nagpur organized a 3 days training on Psycho-Social Care and Support for the Volunteers of the Relief Camps/Organisations at Imphal, Manipur. 6 Relief Camps had already been identified and had also been mentioned in the proposal prepared for this program, but had to undergo some last minute changes in the selection of the Relief camps, as most of the relief camps has been clubbed and shifted to the newly constructed prefabricated houses constructed by the Government of Manipur for the internal displaced people (IDPs) and these prefabricated houses are located at the outskirts and travelling was a major hindrance for them and also the committee looking after the prefabricated houses shows less interest in the program, reason being the lack of awareness regarding the need of such program. But committee members of one of the prefabricated houses with whom we had worked earlier during the Psychological Assessment with the DLSA (District Legal Services Authority) were very interested in our program and had sent volunteers to participate in the training. We had also invited volunteers from other organization who worked for the relief camps at their organizational level.

India Peace Centre Chapters



Bhubaneswar : India Peace Centre initiated a chapter in Bhubaneswar voluntarily coordinated by Ms.Ompriya Rath, who is also the one of the board members of the India Peace Centre. The Chapter facilitated its first program in September 2023 on Overcoming religious prejudices. Faith leaders, academicians, social workers and students are part of the chapters.

Bhubaneswar Chapter of India Peace Centre in partnership with Master Peace and KT Global School organized a discourse on Water for Peace on the occasion of World Water Day on 23rd March 2024 at KT Global School, Bhubaneswar. Air Commander Niranjana Kumar Padhi (Retired) was the Chief Guest ! Brahmakumari Leena, Mr.Sankar Majhi, Mr.Tanwir Sayeb, Dr.Aditi Jena spoke from Hinduism, Baha'i, Islam, and Christian perspective. Dr.Manoranjan Mishra of Master Peace, Prof Ashish Kumar Dash, OUAT - Department Head, Soil Science, Dr.Jyotsna Mohapatra, NCERT, Dr.Bibhu Ranjan Pattnaik, Head of Training, Govt Initiatives and Social Responsibilities spoke from social perspectives.

Ms.Ompriya Rath, Coordinator (Hon) of Bhubaneswar Chapter and Member of IPC Board moderated the panel discussions. Participants from KT Global School, Master Peace and various other organizations attended the panel.

Kerala : The India Peace Centre was invited to the Interfaith Seminar was held in Kerala on the theme "Love, Tolerance and Peace - Different Religious Perspectives" - a joint program of the India Peace Centre and Kerala Council of Churches at the Mor Baselious Dental College, Kothamangalam. There were very profound presentations from different faiths.



Efforts were taken to initiative new chapters in Bengaluru and Shillong.

Volunteer and Internship Program



India Peace Centre received two volunteers from Germany, Daphne and Ilana, who volunteered at the India Peace Centre, helped in organizing different activities. They got a unique exposure into multi faith and culture. Their 11 months stay were life changing experience for them. This is an ongoing program of the India Peace Centre in partnership with the Ecumenical Centre in Hamburg, Germany. This provided young people in Germany an opportunity to explore India, its values, festivals, family life, interfaith relations which Daphne and Ilana experienced during their stay of eleven months. They were deeply moved by different impressions and hospitality they received from different people in Nagpur and where ever they travelled.

Internships Program

India Peace Centres provide Internship Program for students and youth to undergo both training on Peace building. They also support the work of India Peace Centre. IPC received Samiksha from Maharashtra and Lilu from Keral as interns. They did their internship for 6 months.

Visit of the Director

The Director of India Peace Centre, Mr. Angelious Michael attended different international seminars and Programs and visited different organizations.



On June 19-20, 2023 a Meeting of Members of the Climate Justice Forum (Climate Justice Forum) originating from Indonesia has been held. Taking place at Pematang Siantar, this meeting becomes one of the transformation actions of LWF to invite and encourage drastic reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, improve energy efficiency, and conservation and restoration of forests and lands. Similarly, there is a need for climate change-resistant development actions. On the one hand, this is to ensure sustainable adaptation and on the other hand it allows action to protect climate with natural processes intended to benefit society.

LWF members are committed to being able to strengthen climate justice efforts, advocate climate action at all levels and contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation particularly that is adverse and widespread in vulnerable countries. The activity is attended by forum members who are representatives of LWF members. At this meeting, Elena Cedillo (LWF Geneva) and Angelious Michael (Climate Justice Forum India) were present together to facilitate participants in formulating climate justice forum action in Indonesia.

Angelious Michael, Director of IPC spoke at the Interfaith Dialogue in Peace and Harmony in Bhubaneswar on 24TH July 2023 organized by the Master Peace India under the leadership of Dr. Manoranjan Mishra, the national coordinator of Master Peace. The discourse brought together people from diverse faith background and thinker to speak about interfaith relations and contributions of faith communities in building a peaceful and harmonious society.



India Peace Centre conducted a workshop on "Interfaith Approach to Peace Building through Climate Justice" at the LWF Assembly in Krakow, Poland on 17th September 2023. Angelious Michael led the workshop. About 30 international delegates attended the workshop. It was part of the Jarmark – workshop of the Lutheran World Federation.

Angelious Michael, Director of India Peace Centre recently attended the UN Asia Pacific Climate Week held at Johor Bahru, Malaysia from 13th to 17th November 2023. Seen in the picture is the Mayor of Johor Bahru who organized a tree plantation ceremony during the climate week. This was a Pre Consultative process before United National COP28. Asia Pacific Climate Week will play an important role in driving the Global Climate Agenda, said the Chief Minister of Johor Bahru today at the opening of the Asia Pacific Climate Week at the Persada Johor International Convention Centre, Malaysia! He said the world must rise to care for the most vulnerable people that face consequences of climate change. The opening ceremony was also graced by Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Onn Hafiz Ghazi.



As symbolic act and expression towards building resilience communities, the city Mayor organized tree plantation. The Lutheran World Federation was represented in the Tree Plantation which was an opportunity for specific delegates.



Angelious Michael attended United National Conference of Parties, COP28 in Dubai in December 2023. He had a productive time of meeting people, had bilateral discussion, interacting with faith communities. He attended several workshops including those at the faith pavilion. Loss and damage funds was intensely discussed. There was a demand on developed countries to renew and strengthen their commitment to fund for loss and damage to the developing nations.

The board of trustees of the India Peace met in January 2024 to plan and approve future programs based on the core objectives of the organization. The board continues to inspire the work of the India Peace Centre through meaningful decisions and consistent encouragement and collaborations.



Conclusion :

India Peace Centre extends its gratitude to all the participants and well wishers who attended different Seminars and conferences. It extends its gratefulness to the funding organizations for supporting its work In promoting and building peace and harmony in the society.