

# NEWSLETTER

JULY 2025

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## Launch of Interfaith Coalition on Land, Water & Food

 Bhubaneswar, Odisha

 4 January 2025



India Peace Centre, in collaboration with faith-based and environmental networks, formally launched the Interfaith Coalition on Land, Water & Food. The event, facilitated by IPC Board Member Ms. Ompriya Rath and moderated by Mr. Angelious Michael (Director, IPC), featured Mr. Dinesh Suna, Program Executive of the World Council of Churches (WCC), who debriefed learnings from UNCCD COP16.

Over 54 participants—faith leaders, academicians, scholars, youth and social workers—engaged in dynamic dialogue. Spiritual leaders from six major religions shared how their faith traditions call for care and justice in relation to the earth and its resources.

## Welcoming International Peace Worker: Ms. Sabine Henning

 Nagpur, Maharashtra

 15 January 2025



IPC welcomed Sabine Henning, an editor at Andere Zeiten, Germany, who joined IPC during her sabbatical. Her presence symbolizes the spirit of global solidarity in peacebuilding. Deeply moved by India's religious diversity, Sabine shares IPC's mission of promoting interfaith understanding and nonviolence.

## Strengthening Institutional Ties: Visit of Mr. Eldo N Varghese



📍 IPC Campus, Nagpur

📅 21 January 2025

India Peace Centre hosted Mr. Eldo N Varghese, National General Secretary of YMCA India and IPC Board Member. Discussions focused on collaborative programs in peace education, with the leadership of IPC—including Chairperson Dr. Asir Ebenezer and Treasurer Dr. Tejinder Rawal — present to explore synergies between YMCA and IPC’s grassroots engagements.



📍 IPC Campus, Nagpur

26 January 2025

## Celebrating India’s 76th Republic Day

The IPC community celebrated Republic Day under the national theme “Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas”. Mr. Angelious Michael hoisted the flag in the presence of IPC Chairperson Dr. Asir Ebenezer and Treasurer Dr. Tejinder Rawal IPC members, friends, and international guests, reaffirming our dedication to justice, liberty, and unity.



## School of Peace (SOP) Begins: 50 Days of Learning, Living, Sharing

📍 IPC & NCCI Campus, Nagpur



📅 27 Jan – 16 Mar 2025

IPC Chairperson Rev. Dr. Asir Ebenezer and Treasurer Dr. Tejinder Singh Rawal graced the opening, offering words of encouragement. Director Mr. Angelious Michael set the tone with an inspiring address, urging participants to cultivate peace not only as a philosophy but as a daily practice rooted in compassion, justice, and solidarity.





In collaboration with the Asia Pacific Alliance of YMCAs (APAY), the India Peace Centre (IPC) hosted the annual School of Peace (SOP) – a 50-day immersive interfaith journey of learning, dialogue, and shared living. Youth leaders from Indonesia, the Philippines, East Timor, Nepal, and India came together, representing diverse faiths and cultural traditions, united by a common commitment to building peace in their communities.

The SOP experience went beyond classrooms. Participants explored faith-based teachings on peace through engaging sessions, personal storytelling, and interreligious dialogue. Each day began with reflective morning meditations, creating space for inner grounding before entering into rich conversations about justice, equity, and coexistence. Learning was interactive—combining workshops, roleplays, cultural exchanges, and on-field learning visits to significant places such as the Sewagram Gandhi Ashram and other sacred sites, where participants connected with living examples of peace in action.

The SOP was a living example of “peace in diversity” – evenings filled with cultural sharing, music, and traditional dances from across Asia, meals prepared together, and the simple yet profound act of living in community. Participants discovered not only the richness of others’ traditions but also a deeper understanding of themselves.



As the 50 days came to a close, the SOP cohort emerged not just as learners but as peace ambassadors—equipped with skills, friendships, and the courage to lead change in their societies.

## 📍 Pathanamthitta, Kerala



6–9 March 2025

As part of its Peace Education Series, the India Peace Centre (IPC) brought the School of Peace to South India, hosting a 4-day program at the Rajan Achen Foundation Ecumenical Centre in Pathanamthitta. The event brought together youth aged 18–28 from diverse backgrounds for interactive learning on peace, coexistence, and cultural understanding.

Participants left inspired to see peace as a daily practice, ready to apply the skills of dialogue, respect, and cooperation in their communities.

## **Regional SOP in Kerala – Empowering South Indian Youth**



## **International Women's Day – A Collective Voice for Equality**

## 📍 IPC Campus, Nagpur



7 March 2025



With 40+ participants, IPC celebrated Women's Day under the theme "For ALL women and girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment."

Powerful insights were shared by:

- Dr. Anjali Gaidhane, Hislop College – Investing in Women's Rights
- Rev. Priscilla Rawade, SCMI – Empowerment leads to Transformation
- Rev. Erica Samosino, Philippines – Youth Aspiration

Thanks to Dr. Rawal and Mrs. Simi Rawal, participants received organic perfumes as tokens of celebration.

## 📍 NCCI Campus, Nagpur

🐝 20 May 2025

Mr. Vijay Bhagar, an urban beekeeper, introduced participants to the world of bees and their role in biodiversity and food security. Presentations by IPC Chairperson Rev. Dr. Asir Ebenezer and Treasurer Dr. Tejinder Singh Rawals emphasized the theme "Bee Inspired by Nature to Nourish Us All", linking ecological protection to peacebuilding.

## **World Bee Day: Peace with Nature**





## Youth Voices Against Plastic Pollution

📍 IPC Campus, Nagpur

📅 30 May – 3 June 2025



To mark World Environment Day, IPC hosted an elocution competition on “Plastic Pollution: With Special Focus on Land, Water, and Food.” Students shared ideas, solutions, and concerns, engaging in post-speech discussions. Winners were awarded on June 2nd.

📍 Bhubaneswar

📅 5 June 2025

## World Environment Day at Bhubaneswar – Youth-led Green Action

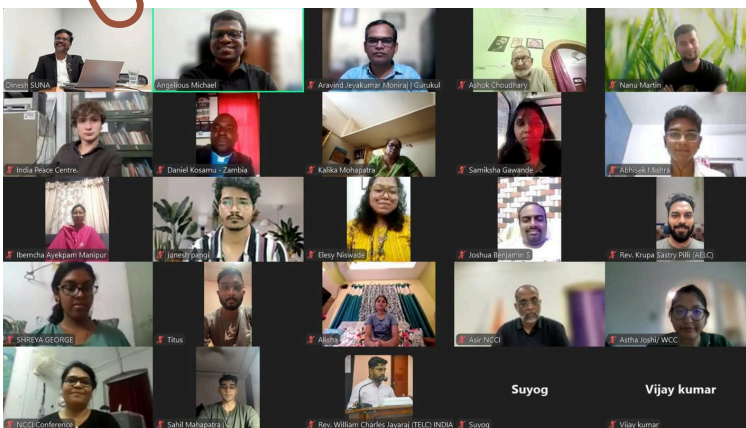
In partnership with Jeevan Rekha Parishad, Earth Guardians, and Plant Lovers' Association, IPC Bhubaneswar Chapter organized a plantation drive involving school youth. Discussions focused on low-cost grassroots solutions to plastic pollution.



## World Environment Day at Bhubaneswar – YouEducational Webinar Series on Land, Water, and Food Nexusth-led Green Action

📅 May–June 2025

In collaboration with the WCC and NCCI, IPC organized a four-part educational online webinar series. Sessions featured national and international experts unpacking the interdependence of natural resources and faith-based stewardship.



📅 Dates: 22 May | 29 May | 5 June | 12 June

🕒 5:30 – 7:00 PM IST

 **30 June 2025**

## **Launch of Interfaith Coalition Towards UN COP30**

The India Peace Centre (IPC) has launched the Interfaith Coalition Towards UN COP30, marking a new chapter in faith-based climate action. As part of this initiative, IPC will be organizing:

- 7 Interfaith Seminars -- 7 Academic Seminars -- 3 Webinars
- These will be held between July and October 2025 across different parts of India. Each program will bring together faith leaders, scholars, and youth to discuss urgent climate issues, share indigenous wisdom, and strengthen interreligious collaboration in addressing the climate crisis.

### **Farewell to Volunteer Ben Vollmer**



**IPC Campus, Nagpur**



**June 2025**

The India Peace Centre extends its heartfelt thanks to Ben Vollmer from Germany, who successfully completed his volunteer program with IPC. During his stay, Ben immersed himself in Indian culture, traditions, and social values, attending numerous seminars and interfaith programs. His commitment and openness enriched IPC's work, and we wish him success in all his future endeavors.

### **Upcoming Activities**

- Academic Seminar on Climate Action – Road to UN COP30 📍 Utkal University, Bhubaneswar
- Capacity Building Program 📍 28 July – 1 August 2025

#### **Program Office**

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### **Angelious Michael**

**Director, India Peace Centre**

#### **Stay Engaged**

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