

We pray for the affiliated MU members in **Nandyal, South India**.
(A candle is lit).

Nandyal is about 900 miles from Delhi. It is surrounded by hills with the Kundu River on its west, the dense forests of Nallamala Hills to the east, and granite mines to the south. It is a large town with a population in the region of 270,000. At this time of year the daytime temperature will be about 91 degrees Fahrenheit.

The Kundu River is a tributary of the Penna River which is unfortunately known for frequent floods that bring heavy damage to the Nandyal area and hence it is commonly called the "Sorrow of Nandyal". Serious floods in the region last September resulted in the displacement of over 25,000 people in 95 villages. No casualties were reported but there was significant crop and property loss. Over 52,000 acres of paddy fields, and 16,000 acres of chilli, banana, turmeric and other horticulture crops were inundated with floodwater.

Nandyal is however a thriving centre for trade and commerce due to its significant water resources and is a major hub of industry and agriculture. It is also rich in natural resources like marble. There are many rice mills and oil mills and industries which produce milk, soft drinks, sugar and PVC pipes.

Members in Nandyal and the rest of India are affiliated members through the WFCS (Women's Fellowship for Christian Service). They make visits to some of the country's poorest slum areas, preaching the gospel and providing school uniform and other clothes to children, as well as educating them on health and hygiene. They also run health camps with specific focuses such as dental health and eye health.

Huge challenges around gender-based violence and women's empowerment are being faced by India – a vast country with a rapidly growing economy, large urban population and high levels of inequality and social and economic poverty. A further major concern is that of the high prevalence of human trafficking. Each year approximately 3 million women are trafficked, 40% of whom are minors. In a bid to tackle this, our affiliated members in India work on programmes aimed at empowering women and supporting them in fighting against this crime, including training events and awareness raising rallies.

Lord of the harvest, we pray for growth in our membership that our mission to give Christian care to families and communities will flourish throughout the world.

Amen