

## **Nandyal, South India (2024)**

We pray for the affiliated MU members in Nandyal, South India. India has a population in excess of 1.3 billion and is the second most populous country in the world, after China.

Nandyal is about 900 miles south of Delhi and is a large town with a population in the region of 270,000. 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. The lands in this area are fertile and covered in paddy fields and banana plantations, amongst other crops.

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

Nandyal District is at the centre of nine Nandi (Hindu) temples and has been an important pilgrimage site for many years.

Despite rapid economic development in the last few decades, India still has high levels of poverty, particularly in rural areas. One of the major problems facing India today is human trafficking, with the United Nations estimating that up to 65 million people are affected by this, somewhat akin to the entire population of the UK.

In 2024 India is holding a general election. The Nandyal constituency has over 2.5 million voters, with the majority being Muslim voters. However the outcome is not guaranteed as there is tension between Muslims and Hindus, and the significant numbers of voters from the minority community can tilt the balance in favour of any candidate.

Mothers' Union in India is affiliated with the Women's Fellowship for Christian Service. Members are very active in their local communities, reaching out to meet the needs of the most vulnerable, often women and girls. Their work includes programmes such as vocational skills training, campaigning against gender based violence, marriage preparation and health awareness programmes.

Loving Lord, we thank you for all the good work being carried out by these women and pray for the success of their programmes. We also reach out to you with the problems the country faces around poverty and human trafficking.

**Amen**

*Gill MU Nandyal 2024*