

Nandyal, South India (2025)

(A candle is lit)

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. It is a vibrant city with a population in the region of 306,000. 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 city experiences a moderate and tropical climate with temperatures ranging from 25 to 40 degrees Centigrade. The land is fertile making it ideal for the cultivation of paddy, bananas, maize, groundnuts and cotton. Nandyal is known for its skilled artisans who produce exquisite wood carvings, stone sculptures, and handloom textiles.

Christianity is a minority religion in India with an estimated 2.3% of the population. The main religion is Hinduism, at around 80%. Nandyal District is at the centre of nine Nandi (Hindu) temples and has been a famous and 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.

Mothers' Union in India is affiliated with the Women's Fellowship for Christian Service in both North and South India. 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 that these women are led by you and that they are very active in helping their communities. We pray for the success of their programmes and reach out to you with the problems the country faces around poverty and human trafficking.

Amen

Gill MU Nandyal 2025