

Nandyal, South India (2026)

(A candle is lit)

We pray for the affiliated MU members in Nandyal, South India.

India, the second most populous country in the world with over 1.3 billion people, has seen rapid economic growth but still struggles with poverty, especially in rural areas. Human trafficking is a major issue with the United Nations estimating that up to 65 million people in India are affected by it.

Nandyal is about 900 miles south of Delhi and is a vibrant city in the Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh. The name 'Nandyal' is thought to have originated from 'Nandi Alayam', meaning "abode of Nandi", referring to the sacred bull of Lord Shiva, a prominent deity in Hinduism. It suggests a historical connection to Shaivism and the significant number of important religious sites that the area contains.

Historically, Nandyal has been an important administrative and commercial centre. The region has witnessed the rise and fall of several dynasties each of which left their mark on the cultural and architectural landscape. The city is renowned for its ancient temples, such as the Mahanandi Temple, a noteworthy pilgrimage site.

Nandyal plays a crucial role in the agricultural economy of Andhra Pradesh, being a hub for the cultivation and trade of various crops. The city's strategic location on major transportation routes has further contributed to its growth and development.

Despite being a minority religion in a predominantly Hindu country, Christianity in India has not only survived but also adapted, grown, and contributed significantly to the nation's spiritual fabric. Today, Christians comprise approximately 2.3% of India's population, totalling over 28 million people.

Mothers' Union in India is affiliated with the Women's Fellowship for Christian Service in both North and South India, with 1.9 million members. Members are very active in their local communities, reaching out to meet the needs of vulnerable women and girls through vocational training, health awareness, marriage preparation and campaigns against gender-based violence.

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 endeavours and reach out to you with the problems the country faces around poverty, gender-based violence and human trafficking.

Amen

Gill MU Nandyal 2026