



CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF INDIA (CBCI)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF INDIA (CBCI) CONCLUDES 2026 GENERAL BODY MEETING; ANNOUNCES NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM

BENGALURU, India, February 10, 2026 The Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) successfully concluded its General Body Meeting today. The assembly, held from February 4 to February 10, 2026, was hosted at the St. John's National Academy of Health Sciences in Bengaluru.

The week-long gathering brought together bishops from dioceses across the country to deliberate on vital issues pertaining to the Christian community and the nation at large. The assembly served as a platform for deep reflection, dialogue, and strategic planning regarding the Church's role in social welfare, education, healthcare, and pastoral care.

Election of New Leadership

A key highlight of the General Body Meeting was the election of the new Office Bearers who will lead the conference for the upcoming term. The CBCI is pleased to announce the following appointments:

NEW OFFICE BEARERS OF THE CBCI:

President: Cardinal Poola Anthony, Archbishop of Hyderabad

Vice President I: Archbishop Thomas Mar Koorilos, Archbishop of Tiruvalla

Vice President II: Archbishop Mathew Moolakkatt, Archbishop of Kottayam

Secretary General: Archbishop Anil Couto, Archbishop of Delhi

ELECTION OF COMMISSION CHAIRMEN

In addition to the core committee, the General Body also elected new Chairmen to head various CBCI Offices and Institutes. These leaders will oversee specific sectors of the Church's mission in India:

1. Chairman, Labour & Migrants: Bishop Vincent Paulos
2. Chairman, Dialogue & Desk for Ecumenism: Bishop Joseph Kallaranghat
3. Chairman, Clergy, Religious & NVSC: Bishop Johannes Gorantla, ocd
4. Chairman, Education & Culture: Archbishop Elias Gonsalves
5. Chairman, Healthcare: Archbishop Thomas Netto
6. Chairman, Scheduled Castes & Backward Classes: Bishop Jaya Rao Polimera

7. Chairman, Tribal Affairs: Bishop Telesphore Bilung, SVD
8. Chairman Social Communications & NISCORT: Bishop Vijay Kumar Rayalara, PIME
9. Chairman Doctrine: Archbishop Raphy Manjaly
10. Chairman Environnement & Climate Change: Bishop Ivan Pereira
11. Chairman Justice Peace and Development: Archbishop Peter Machado
12. Chairman Carita India: Archbishop Linus Neli

Moving Forward

The meeting concluded with a renewed commitment to service and nation-building. The bishops emphasized the need for unity and continued dialogue to address the challenges faced by the community.

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