— OCTOBER 2026 EDITION · NEWSLETTER · PRAY FOR INDIA

The month in *prayer* for India.

Seven stories from October about India's Christians, each with a published source and a reason to pray.

01 Chhattisgarh's new anti-conversion law reaches the High Court

02 West Bengal Christians take the attacks to human rights commissions

03 A mob attacks a Bible convention of more than 2,000 people

04 Three Christian families are assaulted on three straight days

05 The last Christian families in a village lose their homes over their faith

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07 A flood in Bastar hits Christians who were already boycotted

— THE MONTH AT A GLANCE

A church that keeps gathering, under pressure that runs from the law to the front door.

October brought an anti-conversion law challenged in Chhattisgarh's High Court, a Bible convention of more than 2,000 people attacked in West Bengal, and families put out of their homes in tribal villages. There is also a response: court petitions, complaints to human rights commissions, legal aid, and local Christian networks bringing relief to those left without shelter.

60+

incidents against Christians in West Bengal between May and September, according to India Hate Lab

2,000+

people at the Santhal Bible convention attacked by about 200, in Nadia, on October 9

30

days' notice to the district magistrate to change faith under Chhattisgarh's new law

571

villages in Bastar hit by the worst Indravati River flood in nearly 15 years

> **Matthew 5:10**
>
> *"Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."*

— LAW AND JUSTICE

CHHATTISGARH · OCT 13 · INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN CONCERN

01 Chhattisgarh's new anti-conversion law reaches the High Court

Christian leaders and civil rights advocates say a person's faith cannot depend on state approval.

On October 8, the High Court heard the petition against the state's religious freedom law, passed in March and signed in April. The court gave the government three weeks to respond.

The law requires 30 days' notice to the magistrate to change faith, treats two or more people as a “mass conversion” with penalties from 10 years to life imprisonment, allows arrest without a warrant on a third party's complaint, and puts the burden of proof on the accused.

PRAYER FOCUS

Pray for the judges of Chhattisgarh, that they will rule justly and with regard for each person's conscience; and for the state's Christian families.

Source: International Christian Concern

— RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

WEST BENGAL · OCT 7 · ALT NEWS

02 West Bengal Christians take the attacks to human rights commissions

After three months of disrupted services, the Bengal Christian Council held a public hearing in Kolkata.

On October 5, the council filed complaints with the National Human Rights Commission, the state commission and the National Commission for Minorities.

Christians report house churches raided, edited videos used as “proof” of forced conversion, and police who question the victims instead of the attackers. Only 13 cases became police reports. They ask for an independent inquiry and police protection on worship days.

PRAYER FOCUS

Pray for the families in house churches, that they will not lose heart; and for the commissions, that they will investigate justly.

Source: Alt News

— PERSECUTION

NADIA DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL · OCT 20 · INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN CONCERN

03 A mob attacks a Bible convention of more than 2,000 people

The Santhal community's annual retreat ended early after stones were thrown and anti-Christian slogans shouted.

On October 9, about 200 people arrived in vehicles carrying bamboo sticks and bricks, threw stones and damaged church property. Several worshippers were hurt.

The report describes no police action and no arrests. The Bengal Christian Council says it fears police inaction and has begun providing legal aid to the affected communities.

PRAYER FOCUS

Pray for the injured and their families, that they will be comforted; and for the Santhal community, that they will keep gathering around the Word without fear.

Source: International Christian Concern

— PERSECUTION

WEST MEDINIPUR, WEST BENGAL · OCT 30 · BARNABAS AID

04 Three Christian families are assaulted on three straight days

Groups of 10 to 15 people dragged Christians out of their homes and threatened to kill them unless they renounced Christ.

Between October 18 and 20, three related families were attacked. On the last day, two husbands were taken to an isolated spot and threatened with death.

One of the women filed a police report naming 13 people, and police promised to investigate, but as of publication no one had been arrested.

PRAYER FOCUS

Pray for the three families, that they will feel upheld and keep both faith and gentleness; and for the police, that they will investigate impartially.

Source: Barnabas Aid

PERSECUTION

KANKER DISTRICT, CHHATTISGARH · OCT 30 · MORNING STAR NEWS

05 The last Christian families in a village lose their homes over their faith

Three families, 18 people, were beaten by about 150 people and then pressed by local officials.

After weeks of pressure, the mob attacked on September 21, and four people needed hospital treatment. On returning, the families found their belongings on the road and were ordered to leave the village.

Local officials threatened to confiscate their land unless they renounced Christ. Two families agreed to convert to Hinduism; the third refused and decided to leave.

PRAYER FOCUS

Pray for the injured and for those who had to leave; for those who gave way under pressure, that they will be held by Christ's mercy; and for the authorities, that they will protect everyone.

Source: Morning Star News

PERSECUTION

KANKER AND SUKMA DISTRICTS, CHHATTISGARH · OCT 27 · INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN CONCERN

06 Christians are left homeless in Chhattisgarh's tribal belt

One family was evicted and other homes lost their roofs after a refusal to renounce the faith.

In Kanker, on October 24, a family was put out and its belongings thrown into the street. In Sukma, about ten days earlier, attackers removed the roofing sheets from a pastor's home and from four houses belonging to two Christian families.

According to ICC, police contain the crowd but give no lasting protection and do not help the displaced return home. The organization says many similar cases go unreported.

PRAYER FOCUS

Pray for the families who lost their roofs, that they will find shelter and provision; and for those who pressure them, that the love of Christ will reach their hearts too.

Source: International Christian Concern

— DISASTER

BASTAR DISTRICT, CHHATTISGARH · OCT 6 · INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN CONCERN

07 A flood in Bastar hits Christians who were already boycotted

The worst Indravati River flood in nearly 15 years struck families already isolated in their own villages.

Between September 24 and 27, official figures show 8 dead, about 16,000 people rescued and 571 villages affected. Many Christians were already cut off from wells and local trade because of their faith, and now the fields are buried in sand and stones.

In one mud-walled church, six homeless families sleep and cook under tarpaulins. Local Christian networks brought food, tarpaulins, drinking water and medical kits to the stranded families.

PRAYER FOCUS

Pray for the families who lost home and harvest, that they will have provision; and that Christian relief will open doors even among the neighbors who boycotted them.

Source: International Christian Concern

— TO PRAY THROUGH THE MONTH

Seven requests, one for each day.

MONDAY	For the judges of Chhattisgarh's High Court and the state's Christian families.
TUESDAY	For the Bengal Christian Council and the commissions that will look into the complaints.
WEDNESDAY	For those injured at the Santhal convention in Nadia, and their families.
THURSDAY	For the three families assaulted in West Medinipur.
FRIDAY	For the Kanker families who lost their homes, and for those who gave way under pressure.
SATURDAY	For the families left without a roof in Kanker and Sukma.
SUNDAY	For the Bastar families who lost home and harvest, and the pastors who take them in.

— KEEP FOLLOWING

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Sources: International Christian Concern, Alt News, Barnabas Aid and Morning Star News, stories from October 6 to 30, 2026, with a link to the original in each news item on the site. This summary condenses the text published at orepelaindia.com/en/news.

