

Prayer Diary: India

11-17 June 2023



‘My only vision would be of an India where everyone is free of fear to express her or his feelings, thoughts, experiences, and opinions.’

These are the words of Indian journalist and human rights activist John Dayal. At present, John’s vision of India remains far from becoming a reality. The Indian government continues to promote a Hindu nationalist narrative, emboldening perpetrators of communal violence while cracking down on those who criticise its harmful policies and rhetoric. Muslims, Christians, Dalits, and members of the Adivasi communities who belong to minority religions remain highly vulnerable.

Find out more at csw.org.uk/india

Sunday 11 June

Since October 2022, we have recorded a notable uptick in attacks on Christians in tribal communities in Chhattisgarh. The authorities rarely intervene or investigate. Pray that the God of justice would reverse this concerning trend.

Monday 12 June

Give thanks for the vital work of CSW’s contacts in India. They often meet directly with communities who have suffered violence and harassment at the hands of Hindu nationalist groups. Ask God to protect these researchers and all who are willing to speak out about their traumatic experiences.

Tuesday 13 June

In December, a US-based forensics firm found evidence that incriminating documents had been planted on the computer of Father Stan Swamy. The Jesuit priest and tribal rights activist died in July 2021 at the age of 84, while still in police custody. Pray that justice would finally be served in his case.

Wednesday 14 June

Pray for restoration and justice for Christians from the Adivasi community in Odisha. In February, a mob damaged a community hall used for worship, took away livestock and burnt down around 40 homes. The hall had been newly built for them by Dr Christie Solomon, using donations he had received from well-wishers.

Thursday 15 June

Give thanks for courageous individuals like John Dayal, who still speak up for human rights in India, despite the risks. May God protect and re-energise them today. May he raise up even more human rights defenders who will speak truth to power.

Friday 16 June

Pray for God’s intervention in the hearts of the Indian government. Ask that those responsible for hate speech and intolerance would be removed from power, and that those tasked with protecting the nation’s vulnerable communities would do so loudly and honourably.

Saturday 17 June

Dear God, thank you that no part of the vast and diverse nation of India is unnoticed by you. Give peace and comfort to the marginalised and the oppressed, and change the hearts of those set on violence and division. Amen.