



ALL INDIA CATHOLIC UNION

Founded in 1919. Registered under Societies Registration Act 1850
Representing the Catholic Laity of India through 120 Diocesan Units Nation-wide

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All India Catholic Union expresses heartfelt grief over Nepal-China border floods

New Delhi, 30 August 2026:

The All India Catholic Union (AICU), Asia's oldest lay Catholic organisation and now in its 107th year, has expressed profound grief and solidarity with the people of Nepal following the catastrophic floods that struck the Trishuli river basin on 26 August 2026. The disaster, triggered by a glacier collapse near Langtang Lirung, sent flash floods and mudslides through Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Dhading, Gorkha, Tanahun, Nawalparasi and Chitwan districts, destroying the Gyirong Port complex on the Nepal-China border and carrying victims' remains as far as 240 kilometres downstream into India.

The scale of loss is staggering. At least 734 people are confirmed dead and 2,498 remain missing in Nepal, while a further 16 deaths and 546 people are unaccounted for across the border in the Tibet Autonomous Region of China. Entire settlements along the river have been swept away, bridges destroyed and livelihoods erased within minutes. The AICU regards this as among the gravest natural disasters to strike the Himalayan region in living memory.

AICU's newly elected National President, A Chinnappan, said the organisation stood in mourning with the bereaved families of Nepal and China alike. "This tragedy does not recognise borders. Nepali villagers, Chinese labourers and Indians have all perished together in the same waters. Our grief, and our prayers, extend to every family touched by this calamity, regardless of nationality or faith," he said.

The AICU has written to Father Silas Bogati, Apostolic Administrator of the Apostolic Vicariate of Nepal, offering its condolences and prayers. It has also offered prayers for those involved in the search for survivors, as well as for religious and lay faithful engaged in relief work on the ground, and has asked that the Church's charitable effort be strengthened wherever the AICU or its affiliated bodies in India can be of assistance.

The AICU further prayed for the safe recovery of the hundreds still missing, for strength for the rescue and recovery teams working under extremely difficult conditions, and for the swift and dignified rehousing of survivors who have lost everything. It expressed the hope that the government of Nepal, with support from the international community, would be able to provide displaced families with secure shelter before the onset of Nepal's winter.

The floods coincided with Teej, the Hindu festival ordinarily marked by prayer and celebration among Nepali communities at home and abroad. The AICU noted the particular poignancy of a season of festivity turning instead into one of mourning and search for the dead, and expressed the hope that the spirit of communal solidarity associated with the festival might now be channelled into the relief effort.

The AICU has called upon its members and affiliated organisations across India to hold the victims and their families in prayer, and to consider what practical support can be extended to relief agencies working in Nepal. It reiterated its long-standing conviction that disasters of this magnitude, occurring as they do across an international boundary shared by Nepal and China, ought to prompt closer regional cooperation on early warning systems and glacial monitoring in the Himalayas, given the evident fragility of that terrain.

The AICU has supported the ecumenical call for prayer across all faith communities in India for the victims of the Nepal-China floods, and for the resilience of the Himalayan peoples who now face the long task of rebuilding.

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