

PRESS RELEASE

Christian Delegation Meets AICC President Shri Mallikarjun Kharge; Raises Key Concerns of the Christian Community in Karnataka

Bengaluru: 14th Sept, 2026 A delegation representing the Christian community in Karnataka, led by Most Rev. Dr. Peter Machado, Archbishop of Bangalore, met Shri Mallikarjun Kharge, President of the All-India Congress Committee (AICC) and Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, at his residence today. Mr Priyanka Kharge, Hon'ble Minister of Home, Government Of Karnataka was also present.

During the meeting, the delegation brought to his attention several important and long-standing concerns affecting the Christian community in the State. The delegation sought his intervention and support in addressing these issues and ensuring that the legitimate concerns and aspirations of the Christian community receive due consideration at the appropriate levels of government.

The delegation specifically raised the following major issues:

1. Repeal of the Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Bill, 2021

The delegation urged for the repeal of the Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Bill, 2021, commonly referred to as the Anti-Conversion Bill. The delegation expressed its concerns regarding the provisions of the legislation and its implications for the Christian community, particularly with regard to the exercise of constitutional freedoms and the right to practise and propagate one's faith.

2. Nomination of a Christian Representative to the Legislative Council

The delegation also sought representation of the Christian community through the nomination of a suitable Christian representative to the Karnataka Legislative Council (MLC). It was emphasised that such representation would provide the community with an appropriate platform to voice its concerns and contribute constructively to the legislative process.

3. One Per Cent Exclusive Reservation for the Christian Community

Another significant issue discussed was the demand for an exclusive one per cent reservation for the Christian community under the Backward Class classification. The delegation highlighted the socio-economic challenges faced by sections of the Christian community and urged that appropriate measures be taken to ensure greater opportunities in education, employment and other areas of development.

4. Representation on Boards and Corporations

The delegation further requested adequate and meaningful representation of members of the Christian community on various Government Boards, Corporations and other statutory and nominated bodies. The delegation stressed that fair representation in such institutions would enable members of the community to participate more effectively in public administration and contribute to the development of the State.

Shri Mallikarjun Kharge gave a patient and attentive hearing to the delegation and engaged in a detailed discussion on the various issues presented before him. He sought to understand the concerns raised by the representatives and acknowledged the importance of addressing matters relating to the Christian community.

Shri Kharge assured the delegation that he would take up the issues with the concerned leaders of the State Government and provide the necessary directions for their consideration and appropriate action.

The delegation expressed its appreciation to Shri Mallikarjun Kharge for granting them an audience and for his patient and attentive consideration of the issues raised. The delegation also expressed hope that the concerns discussed would receive due attention and that appropriate steps would be taken by the State Government.

The delegation comprised Most Rev. Dr. Peter Machado, Archbishop of Bangalore; Rev. Dr. Peter Paul, Bishop of Mangalore; Rev. Dr. Francis Serrao, Bishop of Mysore; Rev. Fr. Arun Lewis SJ, Director of Ashirwad, Mr. Praveen Peter; Mr. Anthony Vikram; and Mr. J. A. Kanthraj, PRO and Spokesperson of the Archdiocese of Bangalore.

J A Kanthraj
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Archdiocese of Bangalore