



Hindu

PRAYER GUIDE



“There is nothing that intercessory prayer cannot do.”

When Charles Spurgeon spoke these words more than 150 years ago, he wasn't thinking specifically of India or Hinduism, but his words still hold true today. Intercessory prayer can accomplish the impossible. Indeed, intercessory prayer is the only thing that will overcome the challenge of bringing the life-giving message of Jesus to Hindus around the globe.

The goal of the Hindu Prayer Guide is to help Jesus Followers throughout the world to focus on praying for Hindu people. It is a tool translated into 20 languages and used by over 5,000 international prayer networks. During these 15 days, more than 200 million people will be praying. We are excited that you are joining them!

In addition to sharing some amazing stories of how the Holy Spirit is working in the hearts of Hindu people, this guide offers information on several cities in India. Teams of Jesus Followers will be praying for spiritual breakthroughs in these specific cities during the days leading up to the Diwali festival.

May the Holy Spirit guide and speak to you as you pray for our Lord to bring a revelation of Himself to Hindus.

Why Pray Leading Up to and Including Diwali?

Hindu festivals are a colorful combination of rituals and celebrations. They occur at various times each year, each with a unique purpose. Some festivals focus on personal purification, others on warding off evil influences. Many celebrations are times for the extended family to gather for a renewal of relationships.

Since Hindu festivals relate to the cyclical life of nature, they may last for many days, with specific activities each day. Diwali lasts five days and is called the “Festival of Lights,” representing a new beginning and the triumph of light over darkness.

Day 1: “Dhanteras”

This first day is dedicated to Lakshmi, the goddess of prosperity. Purchasing jewelry or new utensils is customary.

Day 2: “Choti Diwali”

On this day, Lord Krishna is said to have destroyed the demon Narakasur, freeing the world from fear. Hindus typically stay home and cleanse themselves with oil.

Day 3: “Diwali”

(The day of the new moon)—This is the most important day of the festival. Celebrants clean their houses to welcome the goddess Lakshmi. Men and women put on new clothes, the women wear new jewelry, and family members exchange gifts. Oil lamps are lit inside and outside the home, and people light firecrackers to banish evil spirits.

Day 4: “Padwa”

Mythology recounts that on this day, Krishna lifted the mountains on his little finger to protect the people from the rain god Indra.

Day 5: Bhai Dooj

This day is dedicated to brothers and sisters. Sisters put a red tilak (mark) on their brothers' foreheads and pray for a prosperous life, while brothers bless their sisters and give them presents.

The Diwali festival is when Hindus celebrate with family and look forward to a prosperous year. During this time, Hindus are most open to spiritual influence.

The background image shows three large, ornate Hindu deities seated in a temple setting. The deities are highly decorated with jewelry and are set against a backdrop of intricate carvings and colorful murals. The central deity is seated in a meditative posture, flanked by two other deities, each also in a meditative posture. The entire scene is bathed in a blue light, creating a serene and majestic atmosphere.

Origins of Hinduism and Summary of Hindu Beliefs

The origins of Hinduism reach back to the Indus Valley Civilization, which flourished around 2500 BC. The development of Hinduism as a religious and philosophical system then evolved over the centuries. No known “founder” of Hinduism exists—no Jesus, Buddha, or Mohammad—but ancient texts known as the Vedas, composed between 1500 and 500 BC, provide insights into the region’s early religious beliefs and rituals. Over time, Hinduism absorbed ideas from different religious traditions, including Buddhism and Jainism, while retaining its core principles and concepts.

Hinduism encompasses many beliefs, making it a diverse and inclusive religion. However, most Hindus accept certain fundamental concepts. Central to Hinduism

is the faith in dharma, the moral and ethical duties individuals must follow to lead a righteous life. Hindus also believe in the cycle of birth, death, and rebirth (samsara), guided by the law of karma, which states that actions have consequences. Moksha, liberation from the cycle of rebirth, is the ultimate spiritual goal.

Additionally, Hindus worship a multitude of deities, revering Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva, and Devi, among others.

With more than 1.2 billion adherents worldwide, Hinduism is the 3rd largest religion. Most Hindus live in India, but Hindu communities and temples are found in almost every country.

Who Is a Hindu? What Is Their Access to the gospel?

Approximately 15% of the world's population identifies as Hindu. Unlike most other belief systems, very little information is available on how someone can become Hindu or leave the religion. Due to the caste system, historical precedence, and a traditional worldview, Hinduism is essentially a “closed” religion. One is born a Hindu, and that is the way it is.

Hindus are the second largest least reached people in the world. Accessing the Hindu community is extremely difficult for outsiders, particularly missionaries from the West.

Hinduism includes dozens of unique languages and people groups, many living in tight-knit rural areas. The Indian government recognizes 22 individual “official” languages, but in reality, more than 120 languages are spoken with numerous additional dialects.

Portions of the Bible are translated in approximately 60 of these languages.



The Holy Spirit at Work...

“Vihaan is one of the key leaders in the Church Planting Movement. He has planted churches in over 200 villages in North India and trained many other pastors and leaders. He is an ordinary man doing extraordinary things for God’s Kingdom. He is extremely humble and dedicated to obeying the commands of Jesus.”

“Once, he prayed for a child, and the child was raised from the dead. The child had been dead for a few hours, but after Vihaan laid his hands on him and prayed for him, God brought the boy back to life.”

“Through this miracle, many people came to Christ and received not only physical healing but also eternal life.”



Delhi is India's national capital territory and one of the largest cities in the world. Delhi consists of two components: Old Delhi, the historic city in the north dating to the 1600s, and New Delhi, India's capital.

In Old Delhi stands the imposing Mughal-era Red Fort, a symbol of India, and Jama Masjid, the city's principal mosque, whose courtyard accommodates 25,000 people.

The city can be chaotic and calm. Streets designed for four lanes are frequently crowded with seven vehicles abreast, yet it is common to see cows wandering on the side of the road.

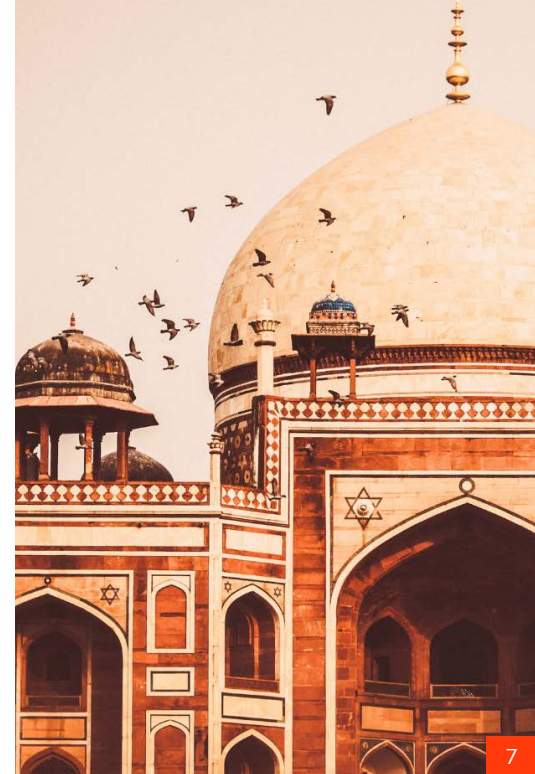
People Group Prayer Focus

Chamar: https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/16561/IN

Rajput Garhwali: https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/20392/IN

Muslim Badhai (Urdu): https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/16333/IN

October 29
Delhi





The Holy Spirit at Work...

“A widow in our area came to faith in Jesus and started a small fellowship in her home. A couple with twin boys joined the group. One of the boys had been normal until he was three, then became possessed by a spirit and unable to speak.”

“We began to pray for this boy. Every week a new demon came out of him. During our worship times, we often said, ‘Hallelujah.’ When the mute boy began to speak, his first sounds were bits of ‘Hallelujah.’ Then he began to speak the whole word and soon was speaking normally. He had been completely healed!”

“The news of his healing spread like wildfire, and people started coming to the widow’s house for prayer and healing. The fellowship had a fresh beginning and doubled within the next two months.”

October 30

Varanasi



Varanasi is a city in the Uttar Pradesh state of northern India. As can be seen by the miles of ghats, temples, and shrines lining the river Ganges, Varanasi is the holiest site in Hinduism, drawing more than 2.5 million religious devotees yearly.

This ancient city dates back to the 11th century BC. Tradition says that Lord Shiva and his wife Parvati walked here at the beginning of time.

Approximately 250,000 Muslims reside here, almost 30% of the city's population.

People Group Prayer Focus

Bhojpuri Bhar: https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/16405/IN

Hindi Bhoi: https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/16429/IN

Jat (Muslim tradition): https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/17571/IN

The Holy Spirit at Work...

“I come from a high-caste family. I had heard about Jesus, but I had no interest in him at all.”

“One night, my wife suddenly woke up screaming, ‘Please save me; someone is trying to cut me and burn me.’ I was frightened and couldn’t figure out what to do. Soon her screams woke the whole village, and they came to our home.”

“We called the shamans to apply their healing powers, but nothing stopped the pain. The priest also came and could do nothing. We called a doctor, but after he examined her, he said my wife had no physical problem.”

“Someone suggested we call a pastor from a neighboring village. I resisted but had to find some way to relieve her pain. Within an hour, the pastor and another brother came and asked for permission to pray for her. I didn’t see how that could do any good, but I agreed to let them pray.”

“He prayed, and when he said ‘Amen,’ she immediately calmed down. All of the village, the shamans, and the priest saw this. That day I decided to follow Jesus. My wife and I now work together to bring peace to other families.”



Kolkata is the capital of the West Bengal state and the former capital of British India. Once formed by the colonial British into a grand European capital, it is now one of India's poorest and most overpopulated regions.

Kolkata is the oldest port city in India and is most famous for its grand colonial architecture.

The city is also the home to Mother House, the headquarters of the Missionaries of Charity founded by Mother Teresa, whose tomb is on site.

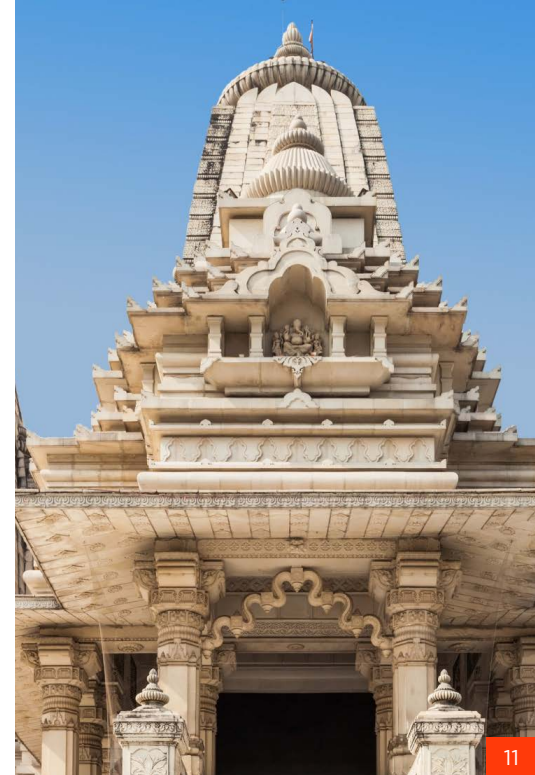
People Group Prayer Focus

Hindi Teli: https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/18229/IN

Khandait (Odia): https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/17150/IN

Sayyid (Urdu): https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/18045/IN

October 31
Kolkata
(formerly Calcutta)





The Holy Spirit at Work...

“While I was studying at university, I became friends with two sons from the potter tribe. They followed an offshoot of the Sikh religion—Nirankari (which means ‘God is shapeless’).”

“I started sharing the good news with them, but they were very staunch followers of their religion. They didn’t want to listen to what I said about the good news. Then their father suddenly fell ill and became paralyzed. Another believer and I prayed for him continuously for a week, and he was completely healed.”

“After the healing, the father said, ‘Every Monday we will meet here and pray.’ The prayer group turned into a worshipping community among that tribe. As the message spread and people got trained, they started more worshipping communities. They now have 20 fellowships among that group.”

November 1

Mumbai

(formerly Bombay)



Mumbai is India's most populous city and the capital of the Maharashtra state. The metropolis is one of the world's largest and most densely populated urban areas. It is a leading financial center in India.

Initially, seven different islands made up Mumbai. However, between 1784 and 1845, British engineers brought all these seven islands together, uniting them as one large landmass.

The city is famous as the heart of the Bollywood film industry. It combines iconic old-world charm architecture with strikingly modern high rises.

People Group Prayer Focus

Hindi Rajput: https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/17928/IN

Byari (Konkani): https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/21707/IN

Devadiga (Tulu): https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/16693/IN

India's Caste System

Originating over 3,000 years ago, the caste system divides Hindus into five main categories and is still active in modern-day India. Deeply rooted in Hinduism's beliefs in karma and reincarnation, this societal organization can dictate where people live, with whom they associate, and even what water they can drink.

Many believe the caste system originated from Brahma, the Hindu God of creation.

The castes are based on Brahma's body:

- 1. Brahmins:** the eyes and mind of Brahma. Brahmins are frequently priests or teachers.
- 2. Kshatriyas:** the arms of Brahma. Kshatriyas, the "warrior" caste, typically work in the military or government.
- 3. Vaishyas:** the legs of Brahma. Vaishyas generally hold positions as farmers, traders, or merchants.
- 4. Shudras:** the feet of Brahma. Shudras often work in manual labor.
- 5. Dalits:** the "untouchables." Dalits are considered impure from birth and unworthy to even be near the higher castes.

While the caste system is less prevalent in major cities, it still exists. In rural India, castes are very much alive and determine what job a person can have, to whom they can speak, and what human rights they might have.

November 2

Bengaluru (formerly Bangalore)

Bengaluru is the capital city of the Karnataka state in southern India and is the 3rd largest city in India, with a metropolitan population of 11 million. Situated at an elevation of 3,000 feet above sea level, the climate of Bengaluru is one of the most pleasant in the country, and with its many parks and green spaces, it is known as the Garden City of India.

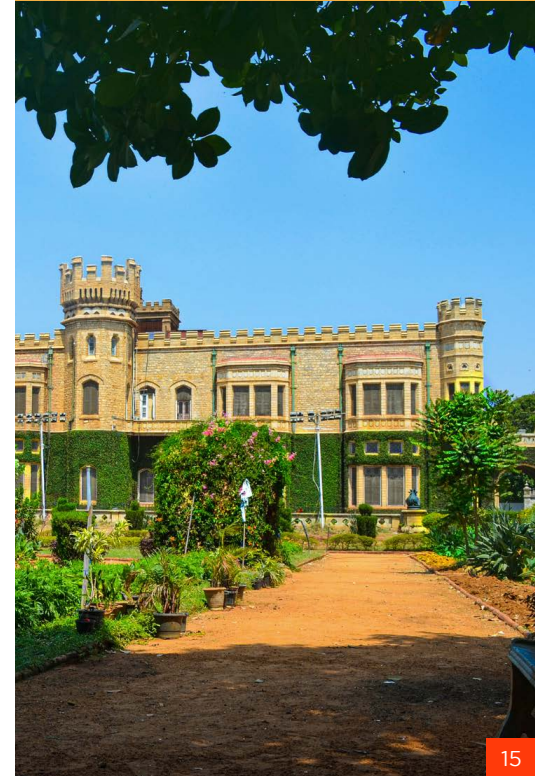
Bengaluru is also the “Silicon Valley” of India, with the country’s highest concentration of IT companies. As a result, Bengaluru has drawn a large number of European and Asian immigrants. While the city is primarily Hindu, there are significant populations of Sikh, Muslim, and one of the largest Christian communities in the nation.

People Group Prayer Focus

Tamil: https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/15234/IN

Urdu Shaikh: https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/18084/IN

Kannada Vakkaliga (Vokkaliga): https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/18293/IN





The Holy Spirit at Work...

“In a house church meeting we attended, the leaders asked a shy eight-year-old girl to stand up. She had died and was raised back to life after a group prayed for her.”

“In the same church, a man had been healed of blindness and a woman healed of cancer. They saw these miracles as normal; God worked this way in the Bible, so of course he would do the same today.”

November 3

Bhopal



Bhopal is the capital city of the Madhya Pradesh state in central India. Though not a large metropolis by Indian standards, Bhopal houses the 19th-century Taj-ul-Masjid, the largest mosque in India. A three-day religious pilgrimage at the mosque occurs annually, drawing Muslims from all parts of India.

Bhopal is one of India's greenest cities, boasting two major lakes and a large national park.

The effects of the 1984 Union Carbide chemical accident still linger over the city nearly 40 years after the incident. Court cases remain unresolved, and the ruins of the empty plant are still untouched.

People Group Prayer Focus

Darzi Muslim Tradition: https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/17513/IN

Panika: https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/17824/IN

Arora Hindi Tradition: https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/16239/IN

The Holy Spirit at Work...

“About 12 years ago, Sashi was sick with a fever, so her parents took her to the hospital. After two days, her condition became more serious, and she was moved to the ICU. She had not been there long when the doctors came out and told her parents, ‘Your daughter is dead.’”

“When they saw the body, Sashi’s mother began crying and screaming. Her father said, ‘Don’t cry. Let’s pray.’”

“So they went in, knelt by Sashi’s body, and began to pray. They prayed earnestly for about 10 minutes, then suddenly heard Sashi hiccup and start breathing again. They called for the doctor, who came and checked her over thoroughly. At last, he said, ‘She’s completely healed! She doesn’t need any more treatment. You can take her home now.’”

“She went from the ICU with a high fever to dead to wholly healthy and on her way home. This miraculous work is just one of many the Lord has done among the Bhojpuri.”



November 4

Jaipur

Jaipur is the capital city of the Rajasthan state in northwestern India. The metropolis has a mixed Hindu-Muslim population and was the site of numerous bombing attacks in the early 21st century, with mosques and Hindu temples being targets.

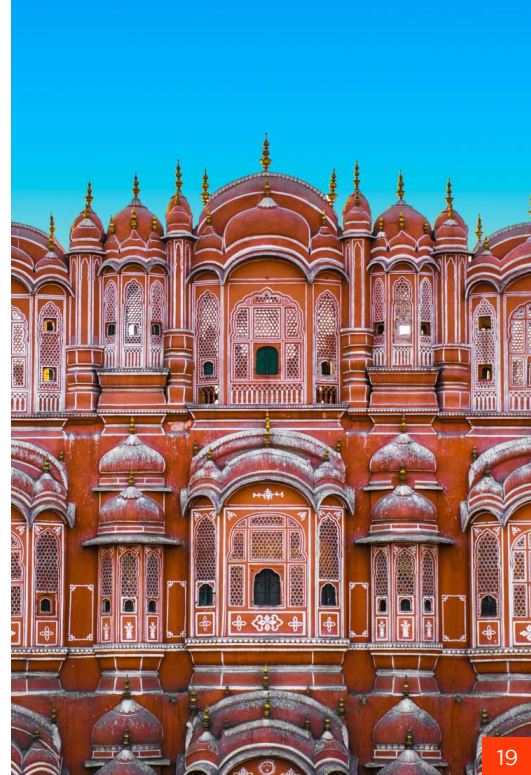
The city gets its name from King Jai Singh, renowned for his astronomy knowledge. Known as the “pink city” for its trademark building color in the Old City, Jaipur is a frequent tourist destination in India.

People Group Prayer Focus

Gormati (Banjara): https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/16315/IN

Gujar: https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/16878/IN

Koiri (Hindi): https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/17236/IN





The Holy Spirit at Work...

“I came to faith in 1987. My older brother had a serious mental health problem and had gone to many doctors but had not gotten healed.”

“Then we learned about Pastor Gautam and heard that many people had been healed at his fellowship. I took my brother to this man, and within one hour of prayer, he was completely healed!”

“I often share this testimony with people to build relationship and interest before presenting the good news.”

November 5

Amritsar



Amritsar, the largest and most important city in the Punjab state, is located 15 miles east of the Pakistan border in northwestern India. The city is the birthplace of Sikhism and the site of the Sikhs' chief pilgrimage destination—the Harmandir Sahib, or the Golden Temple.

Founded in 1577 by Guru Ram Das, the fourth Sikh guru, the city is an exciting mix of religious traditions, housing numerous Hindu temples and Muslim mosques in addition to the Golden Temple.

Amritsar is known as “the city where no one goes hungry,” due to the Sikh concept of seva, meaning “selfless service.” At the Golden Temple, employees and volunteers serve more than 100,000 meals each day.

People Group Prayer Focus

Punjabi Jat (Sikh) (Eastern Punjabi): https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/18777/IN

Kanet Rajput (Kangri): https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/20404/IN

Muslim Valmiki (Urdu): https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/22349/IN

Hinduism Worldwide

Globally

There are approximately **1.2 billion** adherents to Hinduism worldwide.

16% of the world's population is Hindu.

India

1.09 billion people in India are Hindu.

India is home to **94%** of Hindu believers in the world.

80% of India's population is Hindu.

North America

1.5 million people in the U.S. are Hindu.

The U.S. is the **8th** most significant concentration of Hindus worldwide.

830,000 people in Canada are Hindu.



November 6

Prayagraj (formerly Allahabad)

Prayagraj is a Buddhist and Hindu pilgrimage site in the Uttar Pradesh state in northern India. Prayagraj stands at the confluence of the Ganges and Yamuna rivers and is a holy city comparable in fame to Varanasi and Haridwar. Millions of religious devotees visit the city yearly.

The ruling Hindu nationalist political party, objecting to “Allahabad,” changed the city’s name in 2018. After all, that name was coined by a Muslim ruler 435 years ago.

India’s first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, was born in Prayagraj.

People Group Prayer Focus

Hindi Nai: https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/17745/IN

Urdu Qureshi Shaikh: https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/21236/IN

Kurmi (Bagheli): <https://peoplegroups.org/explore/GroupDetails.aspx?peid=46067#topmenu>





The Holy Spirit at Work...

“In another area, a pregnant woman had a lot of complications, and her doctor said, ‘It’s possible she won’t survive.’ Two of our leaders prayed for her daily as the Lord led them.”

“On the second day, while they went to the hospital to pray, they fell off their scooter and had scrapes and bruises. They said to each other, ‘This is bad, but let’s go and pray first, then we can come back and get some first aid.’ When they finished praying and left, they found no more bruises! They were completely healed!”

“For four days, they regularly prayed for the woman, then said, ‘Tomorrow morning, everything will be okay.’ And that’s exactly what happened; everything was okay. The woman was healed and had a normal delivery, which opened a door for the good news.”

November 7

Prayer Walk Cities: Ayodhya, Mathura, Haridwar



AYODHYA. Lord Ram, said to be the seventh incarnation of Lord Vishnu, was born here. Ayodhya is the holiest city in India, with more than 700 temples, and is believed to be 9,000 years old. The city is a leading metropolis in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

MATHURA. Also situated in the state of Uttar Pradesh, Mathura is the birthplace of Lord Krishna. Krishna is believed to be the incarnation of Lord Vishnu, who came to protect the earth from evil and powerful King Kansa. Mathura is sometimes called the “heart of Indian culture” because of its many multi-hued temples.

HARIDWAR. The literal translation of this city’s name, Hari ka Dwar, means “Gateway of Lord Vishnu.” Hindus come here before going on Char Dham Yatra (Four Abodes of the Hindu Religion) for the ritualistic bath in the holy water of the Ganges River. The world-renowned Kumbh Mela is held in this sacred city every 12 years.

The Holy Spirit at Work...

“We spent a day with a man who had been a drunkard and had killed two men. God powerfully saved him. He has helped start 100+ churches that each have their own leaders—a good number of those being women leaders.”

“He currently works with 82 leaders (church planters starting churches beyond their home church) who have each started between one and 30+ churches themselves. That number does not count leaders he has developed who now repeat this process with their own leadership groups. This man and his teams also shared stories of three people who came back to life after prayer....”



November 8

Siliguri

Siliguri is a city in the West Bengal state of northern India. Siliguri sits at the intersection of several roads leading to Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, and Tibet. Due to its proximity to international borders, the city has become a crowded refugee center.

The city is a commercial hub and transportation center and has several universities, helping attract a younger population. Siliguri has become one of India's more liberal and cosmopolitan cities and boasts one of the highest literacy rates in the country.

Situated in the foothills of the Himalayas and surrounded by tea plantations, Siliguri is known for its "Three T's:" tea, timber, and tourism.

People Group Prayer Focus

Chhetri (Nepali): https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/16589/IN

Shaikh (Bojpuri): <https://peoplegroups.org/explore/GroupDetails.aspx?peid=46192#topmenu>

Bengali: <https://peoplegroups.org/explore/GroupDetails.aspx?peid=48197>





The Holy Spirit at Work...

“We visited the work among railway children, which the movement has started in multiple cities. Abandoned children by the tens of thousands live at railway stations across India. They usually sleep only 2-3 hours daily due to fear of robbery, rape, and beatings.”

“The Bhojpuri movement has started homes for these children. When they first arrive, most children are so exhausted they spend the first week doing nothing except eating and sleeping. Rescue workers help the children learn to trust and recover from trauma and reunite them with their families. They also help their families get healthy enough to care for the children, or they find them foster homes with families they know.”

“There is a constant stream of children coming through this service. In two children’s homes, we listened with lumps in our throats as the children sang about God’s love in local languages.”

November 9

Prayer Walk Cities:
Ujjain, Madurai, Dwaraka,
Kanchipuram



UJJAIN. One of the seven sacred cities of India called the “Sapta Puri,” Ujjain is situated on the banks of the Kshipra River. Legends tell that this holy city emerged during the time of Samudra Manthan. The Mahakaleshwar Shrine, one of the twelve sacred abodes of Shiva, is in Ujjain.

MADURAI. Known as the “temple town” of India, Madurai is home to many sacred and beautiful temples. Some are among the most ancient in the country, and many are known for their outstanding architecture.

DWARAKA. Said to be where Lord Krishna spent his life after the assassination of King Kansa, Dwaraka is a sacred destination for those seeking mental peace. Dwaraka depicts the tale of Krishna’s life.

KANCHIPURAM. Located on the bank of Vegavathi River, “Kanchi” is also called the City of Thousand Temples and City of Gold. There are 108 Shaiva temples and 18 Vaishnava temples in Kanchi.

The Christian Church in India

The presence of Christianity in India dates back to ancient times, tracing its roots to the apostle Thomas, who is believed to have arrived on the Malabar Coast in the first century AD. Over the centuries, the Christian church in India has experienced a complex and diverse history, contributing to the religious tapestry of the country.

After the arrival of Thomas, Christianity gradually spread along the west coast of India. The appearance of European colonizers in the 15th century, including the Portuguese, Dutch, and British, further influenced the growth of Christianity. Missionaries played a crucial role in establishing churches, schools, and hospitals, impacting India's social and educational landscape.

The church in India today represents roughly 2.3% of the population. It encompasses various denominations, including Roman Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox, and independent churches. Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Goa, and the northeastern states have a significant Christian presence.

As is the case in many parts of the world, some may choose to follow Jesus but continue to identify culturally as Hindu.

Significant challenges to the growth of the church include occasional religious intolerance and conversions being criticized as a threat to indigenous culture. The caste system has been difficult to eradicate, and the current government has largely ignored a climate of prejudice and outright oppression in parts of the country.

November 10

Kanpur

Kanpur is a large city in the state of Uttar Pradesh, nestled on the banks of the Ganges River. Kanpur has been the major financial and industrial center of North India and is the ninth-largest urban economy in India, primarily due to the cotton textile mills that make it the largest producer of these products in Northern India.

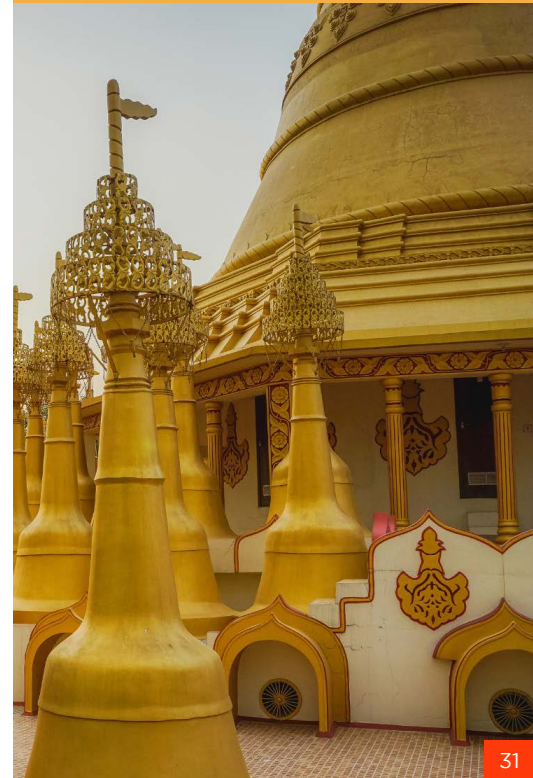
Today, Kanpur is famous for its colonial architecture, gardens, parks, and fine-quality leather, plastic, and textile products, which are exported mainly to the West.

People Group Prayer Focus

Hindi Kurmi: https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/17334/IN

Awadhi Hajam: https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/19655/IN

Ansari (Urdu): https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/16221/IN





The Holy Spirit at Work...

“In another village, we met a low-caste woman who started a church in her home and then also started churches among the high-caste people nearby. Other Indians visiting with us were shocked she could do that. We learned that after she had prayed for healing for some high-caste people and God had healed them, they didn’t care what caste she came from. God’s truth and power can break down any walls!”

November 11

Lucknow



Lucknow is the capital city of the Uttar Pradesh state. Situated at the junction of numerous roads and rail lines, the city is a food processing and manufacturing hub for northern India. Fondly called the City of Nawabs, Lucknow has established its cultural identity with its tehzeeb (manners), grand architecture, and beautiful gardens.

One of India's most unique buildings is the railroad station in Lucknow. From the street, one sees numerous pillars and domes. However, when viewed from above, the station resembles a chessboard with pieces engaged in a game.

Lucknow was the first city in India to install an extensive CCTV system, which has dramatically reduced crime and made it one of the safest cities in the country.

People Group Prayer Focus

Hindi Kumhar: https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/17316/IN

Urdu: https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/15727

Lunia: <https://peoplegroups.org/explore/GroupDetails.aspx?peid=41267#topmenu>



Diwali:

The Festival of Lights and Joy

Diwali, also known as Deepavali, is one of the most celebrated festivals in Hindu culture. It symbolizes the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil. This joyous occasion brings together families, communities, and regions to honor ancient traditions, spread happiness, and create a vibrant atmosphere of spiritual renewal.

For Hindus, Diwali carries profound spiritual and cultural significance. It represents the victory of Lord Rama, the seventh avatar of Lord Vishnu, over the demon king Ravana and the return of Lord Rama to Ayodhya after a 14-year exile. The lighting of oil lamps called diyas and bursting fireworks are symbolic gestures that ward off evil and invite prosperity, happiness, and good fortune. Diwali also holds significance in other religious contexts, such as celebrating the goddess Lakshmi, the Hindu deity of wealth and prosperity.

Diwali is a time of spiritual reflection, renewal, and joy for Hindu communities. It encapsulates the values of triumph over darkness, good over evil, and the importance of familial and community bonds. This celebration of light and happiness brings people closer, inspiring them to spread love, peace, and prosperity throughout the year.

November 12

Hyderabad

Hyderabad is the largest and most populous city in Telangana state. With 43% of the city's inhabitants being Muslim, Hyderabad is an essential city for Islam and is home to many prominent mosques. The most famous of these is the Charminar, dating back to the 16th century.

At one time, Hyderabad was the only global center for trading large diamonds, emeralds, and natural pearls, earning it the nickname "The City of Pearls."

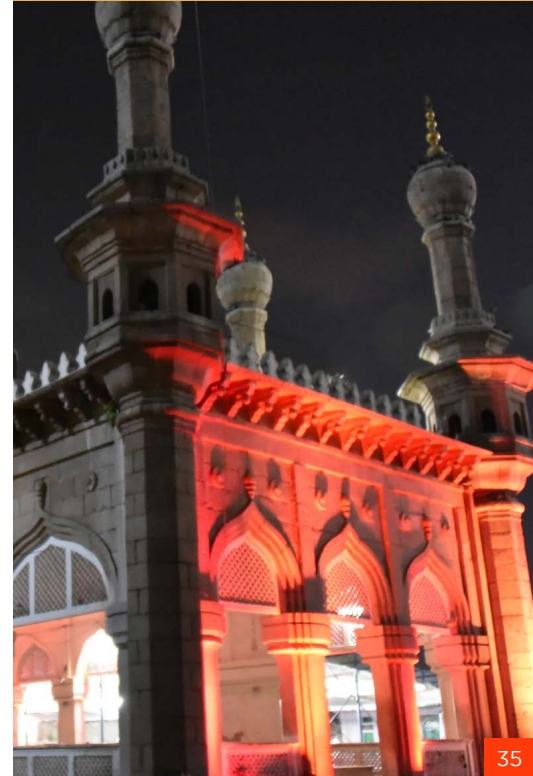
Hyderabad is also home to the largest film studio in the world.

People Group Prayer Focus

Vaddar (Od): https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/18288/IN

Telugu Brahmin Telugu: https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/19983/IN

Patel (Varhadi-Nagpuri):
<https://peoplegroups.org/explore/GroupDetails.aspx?peid=46251#topmenu>



How Hindus View Christianity

In India, Christianity is primarily viewed as a foreign white man's religion brought in with British colonialism. For many Hindus, converting to Christianity is considered an attempt to erase their ancient culture, which they are very proud of, and replace it with Western morals and values, which they deem inferior.

Hinduism generally promotes a pluralistic outlook, acknowledging the validity of different spiritual paths. They recognize Jesus Christ as an essential spiritual teacher and appreciate the ethical teachings found in the Bible.

Hindus may find certain aspects of Christian doctrine unfamiliar or contradictory to their beliefs. For example, the concept of original sin, the view of a single life followed by eternal heaven or hell, and the exclusive nature of salvation through Jesus Christ can be challenging for Hindus to reconcile with their belief in karma, reincarnation, and the potential for self-realization.

Christian missionaries have played a role in education, healthcare, and social reforms in India. While Hindus appreciate the positive contributions, they also value their religious and cultural heritage, sometimes expressing concerns about aggressive proselytization. They see our claim that Jesus is the "only way" to God as the height of arrogance.

November 13

Ahmadabad



Ahmadabad, the most populous city in the Gujarat state, is a sprawling metropolis in west-central India. The city was founded by the Muslim ruler, Sultan Ahmad Shah, next to the older Hindu town of Asawal.

Though Ahmadabad endured a massive earthquake in 2001 that killed nearly 20,000 people, ancient architecture from Hindu, Muslim, and Jain traditions still stands throughout the city today, accurately portraying the religious and cultural diversity that is a defining characteristic of Ahmadabad.

With several textile mills, Ahmadabad is called the “Manchester of India” after the better-known city in England. The city also has a thriving diamond district.

People Group Prayer Focus

Marathi: <https://peoplegroups.org/explore/GroupDetails.aspx?peid=41674#topmenu>

Lohar (Bagri):

<https://peoplegroups.org/explore/GroupDetails.aspx?peid=47900#topmenu>

Bhil (Bhilala), Central Bhil, Eastern Bhil (Vil), Northern Bhil:

https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/16414/IN

The Holy Spirit at Work...

“One of our leaders is a young girl working for a wealthy man who owns much property. She shared these stories of the Lord’s work: ‘My top boss’s son was very sick and had not eaten for quite a while. So his parents took him to the doctor. While they were there, I happened to meet them, and I offered to pray for the son. After I prayed, he was immediately healed and began to eat and drink, which made an impression on the parents.’”

“Within a couple of days, the boss called me and said, “My wife wants to spend some time with you because when she talked with you, she felt peace. So we’re sending a car to pick you up and bring you to my house.” So I went because I wanted to make disciples, and the wife wanted to know: “What exactly is this all about?” This gave me an opportunity to share the good news.”



November 14

Srinagar

Srinagar is the summer capital of northern India's Jammu and Kashmir Union territory. The city lies along the Jhelum River at an elevation of 5,200 feet. Though Srinagar is well known for its beauty, it is also home to many mosques and temples, including a center of worship reportedly containing a hair that belonged to the Prophet Muhammad.

An interesting facet of life in Srinagar is the tradition of houseboats on Dal and Nigeen, the two lakes around the city. This tradition started during British rule in the 1850s as a way for government officials to escape the heat of the plains. The local Hindu Maharaja denied them the ability to own land, so the Brits began converting barges and industrial boats to houseboats. As recently as the 1970s, more than 3,000 were available for rent.

Due to Islam's predominant influence, Srinagar has many restrictions on apparel, alcohol, and social events that are more common in the Middle East.

People Group Prayer Focus

Kashmiri (Muslim): https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/12558/IN

Gujjar (Muslim): https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/16879/IN

Muslim Dogra: <https://peoplegroups.org/explore/groupdetails.aspx?peid=48423#topmenu>



November 15

Char Dahm



Char Dahm is a set of four pilgrimage sites in India. Hindus believe that visiting all four during one's lifetime helps achieve salvation. The Char Dahm was defined by Adi Shandara (686-717 AD).

The pilgrimage sites are considered the four abodes of God. They are located in the four corners of India: Badrinath in the North, Puri in the East, Rameswaram in the South, and Dwarka in the West.

Badrinath Temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu. Legend says that he did penance in this location for a year and was unaware of the cold weather. Goddess Lakshmi protected him with a Badri tree. Due to its high elevation, the temple is only open from the end of April to early November each year.

Puri Temple is dedicated to Lord Jagannath, revered as a form of Lord Krishna. Three deities reside here. The famous festival of Rath Yatra is celebrated at Puri each year. Non-Hindus are not permitted in the temple.

Rameswaram Temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva. The iconic temple has 64 holy water bodies around it, and bathing in these waters is a critical aspect of the pilgrimage.

Dwarka Temple is believed to have been built by Lord Krishna, so it is quite ancient. The temple is five stories high, built atop 72 pillars.

A thriving tourist business is built around Char Dahm, with various agencies offering a wide range of trip packages. Tradition dictates that one should complete the Char Dahm in a clockwise direction. Most devotees try to visit the four temples over a two-year period.





Patmos Education Group and RUN Ministries

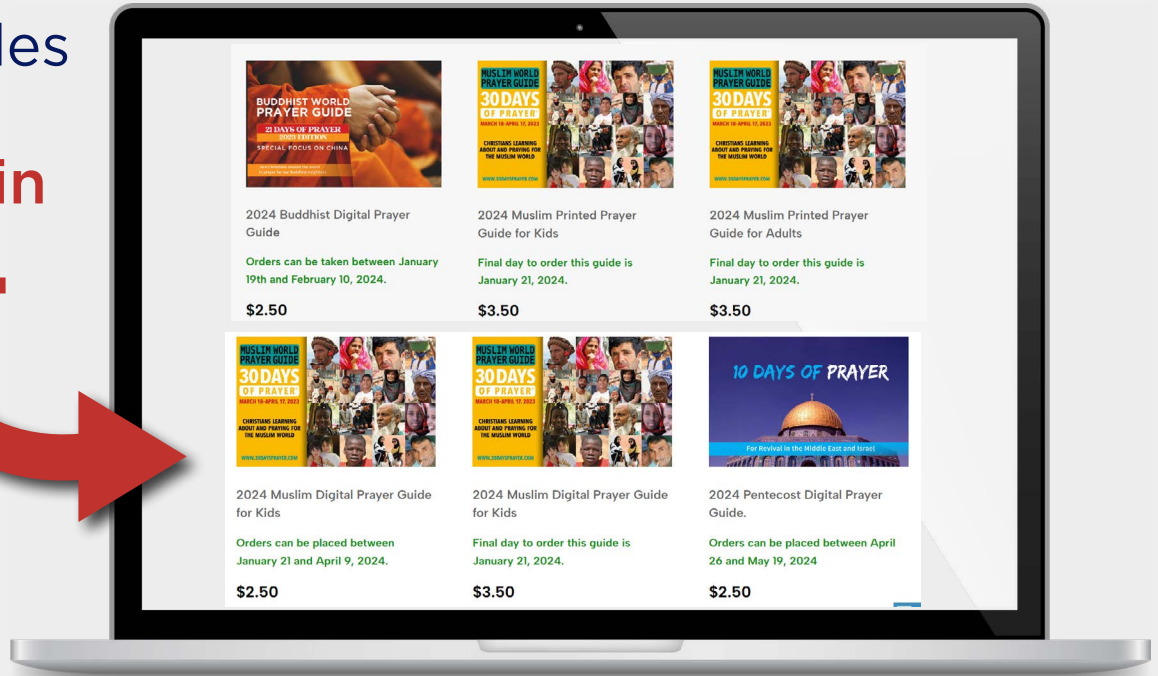
Patmos Education Group is a 'for profit' affiliate of RUN Ministries. The Patmos team curates content for five prayer guides each year. Prayer guides are translated into 20 languages and available to individuals and partner ministries worldwide.

Since its founding over 30 years ago, God has enabled Reaching Unreached Nations, Inc. (RUN Ministries) to come alongside first-generation Jesus Followers and launch multiplying church planting movements from within the unreached world.

Providing culturally sensitive discipleship models, evangelistic media tools, and practical skills for their ministries to become self-sustaining, today RUN provides spiritual leadership and care to more than 58 million believers who speak 796 languages and are growing in their faith in Christ in more than 3 million house churches.

Reaching Unreached Nations, Inc. (RUN Ministries) was founded in 1990 as a 501 (c) 3 tax-deductible organization. An interdenominational mission, RUN is a longstanding member of ECFA, subscribes to the Lausanne Covenant, and cooperates with Christians worldwide to help fulfill the Great Commission.

Prayer guides that will be published in **2024**





Hindu

PRAYER GUIDE