



ST JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY

LALBAGH ROAD, BENGALURU -560027

PRE CONFERENCE INVITE

CENTER FOR RELIGION & CULTURE , SJU

PRESENTS

ONE DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR

ON THE THEME

**CHRISTIAN VOICES IN THE MAKING
OF THE NATION:**

Forgotten histories from South India

ON

SATURDAY, 17TH OCTOBER 2026

In Collaboration With

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

ST. JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY, BENGALURU

CHRIST (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY), BENGALURU

ST. ALOYSIUS (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY), MANGALURU



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CONCEPT NOTE

India's freedom struggle was a collective national movement that united people across regions, religions, languages, and social backgrounds. While the contributions of prominent political leaders and revolutionary movements are well documented, the role of Indian Christian communities, particularly in South India, remains largely absent from mainstream historiography. Often viewed solely through the lens of missionary activity and colonialism, Indian Christians were, in reality, active participants in the nationalist movement. They contributed through political engagement, education, journalism, social reform, constitutional advocacy, labour movements, and humanitarian service, demonstrating that Christian faith and Indian nationalism were mutually reinforcing.

South India offers a significant yet understudied perspective on this history. Christian communities across Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Goa and Telangana played a vital role in fostering literacy, political consciousness, social justice, and public discourse. Leaders such as K. T. Paul, V. S. Azariah, George Joseph, and Akkamma Cherian, celebrated as the "Jhansi Rani of Travancore," championed self-rule, civil liberties, indigenous leadership, and democratic values. Organizations like the All India Conference of Indian Christians (AICIC) affirmed the patriotic commitment of Indian Christians and supported constitutional reforms and India's independence.

Christian educational institutions, including Madras Christian College, Scott Christian College, Union Christian College, and St. Joseph's College, Tiruchirappalli, became centers of intellectual exchange and nationalist thought, producing leaders who contributed to India's political, social, and educational development. Christian organizations also played an important role in public health, social welfare, and humanitarian relief, strengthening civil society during the colonial period.

Despite these significant contributions, the history of South Indian Christians in the freedom movement remains inadequately researched. Recovering these forgotten narratives is essential for presenting a more inclusive understanding of India's struggle for independence and recognising the diverse communities that shaped the nation.

Against this backdrop, St. Joseph's University, Bengaluru, in collaboration with St. Aloysius (Deemed to be University), Mangaluru, and Christ (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru proposes to organise a One-day National Seminar on the theme "Christian Voices in the Making of the Nation: Forgotten Histories from South India." The seminar seeks to provide a platform for scholars, researchers, historians, and students to examine the political, social, educational, and cultural contributions of Christian communities to India's freedom movement and nation-building, thereby enriching the historiography of modern India.



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SUB-THEMES FOR PAPER PRESENTATION

- Indian Christian Communities and the Freedom Movement in South India
 - Unsung Christian Freedom Fighters and Nationalist Leaders
 - Christian Educational Institutions, Journalism, and the Rise of National Consciousness
 - Christian Social Reform, Humanitarian Service, and Nation Building
 - Faith, Nationalism, and Christian Subaltern Voices
 - Christian Participation in Political, Labour, and Social Reform Movements
 - Interfaith Collaboration and the Making of Modern India
 - Recovering Forgotten Histories: Archives, Oral Traditions, and Public Memory
- OR ANY OTHER RELATED TOPICS

IMPORTANT DATES

Last Date for Abstract Submission: 5 September 2026

Last Date for Full Paper Submission: 20 September 2026

TO BE SUBMITTED AT

christiancontribution.Indianfreedom@office.sju.edu.in

GUIDELINES FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

- Abstract should be 250–300 words.
- Include title, author(s), affiliation, email address and keywords.
- Use Times New Roman, 12 pt, 1.5 line spacing.
- Submit in MS Word format.
- Original and unpublished work only.

GUIDELINES FOR FULL PAPER SUBMISSION

- Length: 3,000–5,000 words including references.
- Follow Times New Roman, 12 pt, 1.5 spacing.
- Use Chicago/APA style consistently.
- Papers must be original and free from plagiarism.
- Selected papers may be considered for publication after peer review.