

Government of India

National Commission for Minorities

Ground & 3rd Floor, Block-3,

CGO Complex, New Delhi-110003

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PRESS RELEASE

The National Commission for Minorities celebrated Christmas on 23rd December, 2022. The function was presided over by Shri Iqbal Singh Lalpura, Hon'ble Chairman, National Commission for Minorities. Hon'ble Vice Chairman of National Commission for Minorities, Shri Kersi Kaikhushroo Deboo, Shri Dhanyakumar Jinnapa Gunde, Jain Member, Smt. Rinchen Lhamo, Buddhist Member, and senior officials of National Commission for Minorities were also present on the occasion.

Various Christian religious leaders including Mr. Edwin John Wesley, Fr. Sebastian Kollithanam, Fr. Roby and Mr. John Deepak, Archbishop Youhanon Mar Demetrios, Fr. Saji Yohanaw, Rev. Riyesh Marih, and Rev. B. Immanuel also joined the event and discussed different aspects of Christianity including the birth of Jesus Christ, teachings of Christ, real meaning of Christmas and much more. Mr. Edwin John Wesley delivered the keynote address to the gathering. Archbishop Youhanon Mar Demetrios discussed the relevance of Christmas. Fr. Sebastian Kollithanam said, "The meaning of Christmas is beyond gifts and shepherds. It is about the arrival of the god to the world in the form of a human being to spread love."

Mr. John Deepak said, "Christmas means the presence of god around us. If we start feeling god around us, life will become a cake walk."

In his remarks Hon'ble Chairman, National Commission for Minorities, Shri Iqbal Singh Lalpura said, "Christmas is an occasion to enjoy, and it gives a message of love, brotherhood and prosperity. Jesus Christ, the son of god, came into the world

to help humanity. Christ and Guru Gobind Singh delivered a similar message to the world, the message of love, peace and harmony.”

Hon'ble Vice-Chairman of National Commission for Minorities, Shri Kersi Kaikhushroo Deboo, said, “We cherish all those happy Christmas memories that we created during our school days, when we go back in time. We can learn about some important life lessons from the journey of Jesus Christ.”

Other Hon'ble Members also extended Christmas greetings wishing peace and harmony for the society.