

EREBB CONGRESS UPDATE

CONGRESS THEMES

The Congress has two interrelated themes: Nōmōshkar and Educating and Encountering Humanity.

Nōmōshkar - I bow to the divine in you.

Namaste is a respectful form of greeting in the Hindu tradition. Namaste is usually spoken with a slight bow and hands pressed together, palms touching and fingers pointing upwards, thumbs close to the chest. It means "I bow to the divine in you". It expresses politeness, courtesy, honour and hospitality in our welcome of others.

As our EREBB Congress is being held in Kolkata we have adopted the Bengali variation of Namaste, Nōmōshkar as the theme of our Gathering.

Inherent in every religious tradition in India is the sense of the sacred which is still very much alive today. This sense of sacredness is not restricted to places of public worship but pervades the entire landscape encompassing the lofty mountains, the great rivers, rocks, trees and the rich bio-diverse world of fauna and flora that India has been blessed with.

This helps us to go beyond just the material world and our own individual needs enabling us to recognize the Divine in each other and in the world around us.

Educating and Encountering Humanity

As Catholic educators in the Edmund Rice Tradition we are called to educate for the betterment of all humanity. This best happens when we, in the words of Pope Francis, engage in a "Culture of Encounter". Being held in one of the world's most populous cities, you definitely will have the opportunity to encounter humanity during the Congress.

DELEGATES

There will be just over 200 delegates representing 25 countries at the Congress. A rich and diverse grouping of wonderful and experienced educators!

The language of presentations at the Congress will be English, though Spanish translation services have been organised for our South American delegates. If you have other language needs that we need to consider, please do not hesitate to [contact us](#).

PROGRAM

A reminder that the Congress is not a conference, but an experience that will involve a variety of different processes that will enable the group to share, reflect, dialogue and vision. There will also be opportunities to socialise, network and build community.

A highlights program is attached and a more detailed program will be available when you arrive in Kolkata. Individual schools will inform you of the activities you will be involved in during your pre-congress immersion.

VENUES

The Congress will be held at St Joseph's College, Bowbazar (Sunday and Wednesday Night) and the Peerless Inn Hotel (all other times).

Travel between the hotels and St Joseph's is around 1.5km. You can walk, take the metro or catch a taxi. Due to difficulties of traffic, buses have not been organised.

For those staying at the Lytton hotel, it is a 600m walk to the Peerless Inn Hotel.

Maps and clear directions will be provided in your welcome packs.

STARTING AND FINISHING TIMES

Most delegates will have arrived into Kolkata by Saturday night (1st October) and there will be a relaxed social function at the Peerless Inn Hotel, hosted by the EREBB Leadership Forum. This is an optional event.

The formal part of the Congress will begin at 3.30pm (with afternoon tea) at the Peerless Inn Hotel on Sunday 2nd October.

The Congress will finish with lunch on Thursday, 6th October.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

We are aiming to make the Congress experience as comfortable and engaging as possible for delegates. If you have any special requirements (that have not already been communicated to the organisers) please do not hesitate to [contact us](#).

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation will be provided in the following venues:

- Pre-congress - Hotels or local Christian Brothers' Communities
- Kolkata – each delegate will be accommodated in individual, en-suited rooms at either the Peerless Inn Hotel or the Lytton Hotel. You will be advised which of these hotels you will be staying at two weeks prior to the Congress.

MONEY

There is a variety of ATMs available to access money throughout the program.

It is recommended that you purchase some Rupees (usually available from your departure airport), prior to leaving for India

DRESS

The dress code throughout the program is smart casual. For gentleman, it is recommended that a jacket (or similar) be worn at the opening and Congress Dinner. For women, conservative dress is appropriate throughout India, particularly when visiting religious sites.

Feel free to wear your own traditional dress at the opening and/or Congress dinner.

LAUNDRY

There will be opportunities through your hotel to have laundry done during the Congress.

MEDICAL

If required, quality medical care will be available at all times and pharmacies will be easily accessible.

AIRPORT TRANSFERS

Pre-congress delegates - You will have received updated information in your immersion site form. Please communicate with your host if you require further information. Transfers have been organised for the pre-immersion groups coming into Kolkata on the afternoon/evening of the 1st October.

Those not attending pre-congress - Due to the variety of arrival times, transfers will **not** be able to be organised from Kolkata airport. You will need to organise your own transfer to your hotel. This can be done prior to arrival or taxis are available at the airport

It is easy to organise an airport transfer from your hotel on the last day.

PRE- CONGRESS IMMERSION

You have been invited to make contact with your pre-congress immersion group and host. Please do this prior to arrival.

You are more than welcome to bring a small gift for the school/communities you are visiting from your country.

PAYMENT

Invoices are being organised through your local EREBB representative who will contact you to organise the most appropriate method of payment.

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