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Mahakumbh 2025 in Prayagraj A Grand, Safe, and Spiritually Enriching Event



Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Uttar Pradesh government is undertaking massive preparations to ensure that the Mahakumbh 2025 in Prayagraj becomes one of the largest and most spiritually enriching gatherings in India's history. Scheduled to take place from January 13 to February 26, 2025, this 45-day event is expected to draw over 40 crore devotees (400 million) from across the globe. With this immense turnout in mind, the authorities are focused on creating an event that not only showcases India's rich cultural her-

itage and spiritual traditions but also prioritizes safety, accessibility, and sustainability.

Infrastructure Development: The scale of preparations for Mahakumbh 2025 is unprecedented. The temporary setup of the Mahakumbh Nagar, also known as the "KumbhMela City," is designed to accommodate the millions of pilgrims and tourists who will visit Prayagraj for the occasion. Thousands of tents and shelters are being

constructed to house the visitors, including high-end accommodations. One of the notable features is the IRCTC's "Mahakumbh Gram", a luxury tent city offering deluxe tents and villas with modern amenities.

The infrastructure for the event also includes extensive road improvements. A total of 92 roads are being renovated, while 17 major roads are being beautified to ensure smooth traffic flow and enhanced visitor experience. Additionally, over 2.69 lakh checkered plates are being laid in the Mela area to ensure safe and efficient movement of devotees.

A significant part of the infrastructure is dedicated to bridges, with the construction of 30 pontoon bridges

using over 3,308 pontoons. By the end of the year, 28 bridges will be ready for use, ensuring easy crossing over the river Ganges for the pilgrims participating in the holy bath at the Sangam.

Signage and Navigation: To aid the vast number of visitors, a robust signage system is being installed across the Mahakumbh area. A total of 800 multilingual signages are planned, with over 400 already installed. These signages will be available in multiple languages, including Hindi, English, and several regional languages, guiding visitors through key areas and services during the event. By December 31, 2024, the complete signage system will be ready for use, ensuring smooth navigation for devotees and tourists.

Safety Measures: Given the scale of Mahakumbh, ensuring public safety is paramount. The Uttar Pradesh government has put in place advanced surveillance systems and robust security measures to guarantee the safety of millions of visitors.

Advanced Surveillance and Security Technologies: To monitor crowd density and ensure a secure environment, over 2,700 CCTV cameras equipped with AI capabilities will be deployed throughout the Mahakumbh area. Facial recognition technology will be used at entry points to ensure enhanced





safety. Additionally, drones will be deployed for aerial surveillance to monitor crowd movement and detect any unusual activities.

For the first time, the event will also use underwater drones capable of diving up to 100 meters to conduct round-the-clock surveillance in the Sangam area. This initiative aims to enhance safety in the river and nearby areas.

Fire Safety:The authorities have also invested heavily in fire safety measures. A budget of ₹131.48 crore has been allocated for fire safety equipment and protocols. The Articulating Water Towers (AWTs), capable of tackling fires up to 35 meters high and 30 meters wide, will be deployed at key locations. These state-of-the-art fire safety systems include advanced features such as video and thermal imaging to enhance situational awareness and reduce fire risks.

Security Personnel Deployment: Over 50,000 security personnel, including paramilitary forces, will be stationed at key points throughout the Mahakumbh area. In addition, state-of-the-art Multi-Disaster Response Vehicles will be deployed to handle emergencies ranging from natural disasters to road accidents.

Health Services:The health of pilgrims is a top priority for the authorities, and comprehensive medical infrastructure is being set up. Temporary hospitals equipped with surgical and diagnostic fa-

ilities will be established to cater to any medical emergencies. Additionally, the "Bhishma Cube", a mobile health unit capable of treating up to 200 patients simultaneously, will be stationed at various locations.

A particularly unique initiative for Mahakumbh 2025 is the Netra Kumbh eye care program. The initiative aims to conduct eye tests for over 5 lakh pilgrims and distribute more than 3 lakh eyeglasses, with the goal of setting a Guinness World Record. The program also seeks to encourage eye donations, building on the success of previous years where 11,000 people donated their eyes in 2019. This initiative aims to reduce blindness in the country, especially among the 1.5 crore visually impaired individuals.

In addition to eye care, there will be dedicated health camps for vulnerable groups such as the elderly and children, providing mobility assistance, hydration support, and emergency care services.

Environmental Sustainability: Ensuring that Mahakumbh 2025 is eco-friendly is another priority for the Uttar Pradesh government. Efforts are being made to protect the Ganga and Yamuna rivers, which are central to the event, by installing three temporary sewage treatment plants (STPs) to ensure clean water during the festival.

Additionally, the authorities are promoting solar power for lighting, encouraging the use of reusa-

ble materials, and enforcing a ban on single-use plastics to minimize environmental impact.

Digital Innovations:Mahakumbh 2025 will embrace technology to make the event more accessible and organized. A dedicated mobile app has been developed to provide real-time updates on crowd density, emergency alerts, directions, and accommodation details. The app will also integrate with Google Maps to help visitors navigate within Mahakumbh Nagar, while temporary Wi-Fi zones will ensure connectivity for visitors.

Online services for registration and ticketing are also available,

will also feature a handicrafts market and cultural performances showcasing classical music, dance, and India's spiritual heritage.

Economic Impact:Mahakumbh 2025 is expected to have a significant economic impact, not just in terms of tourism but also local trade. Sales of Mahakumbh-themed products, including diaries, calendars, jute bags, and stationery, have already seen an increase of up to 25% due to effective branding and promotion.

Global Outreach: Efforts are being made to make Mahakumbh 2025 a global event that attracts international visitors. With multilingual signages, special cultural



making it easier for devotees to manage their visit and avoid overcrowding.

Cultural and Tourism Promotion: The Mahakumbh is not only a religious gathering but also a celebration of India's rich cultural heritage. Uttar Pradesh's tourism sector is set to benefit greatly from the event, with special programs and exhibitions aimed at highlighting the state's diverse cultural history.

The Uttar Pradesh Pavilion, located near the Nagavasuki Temple, will span 5 acres and showcase the state's various tourism circuits such as the Ramayana Circuit, Krishna-Braj Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, and the Bundelkhand Circuit. The pavilion

programs, and initiatives like the "Mahakumbh Gram" luxury tent city, the event will not only be a spiritual gathering but also a showcase of India's cultural diversity and modernity.

With an estimated 40 crore visitors and a myriad of infrastructure, safety, health, and sustainability measures in place, Mahakumbh 2025 is set to be a historic and globally significant event. Through meticulous planning and strategic implementation, the Uttar Pradesh government is poised to create an experience that combines India's spiritual traditions with modern safety standards, making Mahakumbh 2025 not just a religious event, but a grand celebration of India's culture, heritage, and unity.



Freedom from Fear is about empowering women to live confidently and safely, without the constant threat of violence or discrimination. It encourages women to show courage in practical situations by asserting their rights, setting boundaries, and speaking out against harassment or abuse. Whether it's confronting uncomfortable situations, reporting incidents of violence, or seeking support, each courageous action helps break the cycle of fear. By fostering

a culture of respect and solidarity, women can reclaim their spaces and navigate their lives with confidence. True freedom comes from having the strength to act and stand up for oneself and others.

Depika Sirwani

Author, Choreographer, Resin Artist

By taking a stand against the wrong, we can create a society that upholds justice, equality, and respect for all. Whether it's challenging harmful behaviour, speaking out against injustice, or refusing to accept discrimination, standing up for what is right is crucial for fostering positive change. When individuals take a firm stance against wrongdoing, they send a powerful message that oppression, violence, and inequality will not be tolerated. This collective courage helps break down harmful societal norms and systems, creating

a more inclusive and fair environment. By standing together against the wrong, we empower others to do the same, building a future where justice and integrity prevail.

Kritika Sharma

Educator



Voice Of Grand Queen

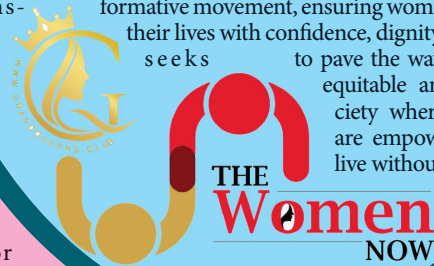
The Freedom From Fear campaign, a crucial initiative by GrandQueensClub in partnership with The Women Now, is dedicated to enhancing women's safety in both public and private spaces. Recognizing that fear often restricts women's full participation in life, the campaign advocates for a society where women can live, work, and thrive free from violence and harassment.

At its core, the campaign focuses on awareness, education, and community involvement. It empowers women by informing them of their rights and available resources, encouraging them to speak out against violence and seek support when necessary.

The campaign also calls for systemic change, urging governments to strengthen laws against gender-based violence and harassment. It advocates for more accessible support systems like hotlines and safe spaces, ensuring women can report incidents without fear of stigma or retaliation.

Community engagement plays a key role, with the campaign encouraging men and boys to actively support women's safety. By fostering a culture of respect and accountability, it aims to challenge societal norms that enable fear and violence.

Ultimately, the Freedom From Fear campaign strives to create a transformative movement, ensuring women can navigate their lives with confidence, dignity, and safety. It seeks to pave the way for a more equitable and just society where women are empowered to live without fear.

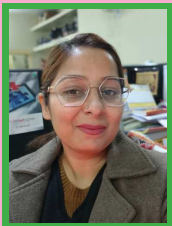


Facing fear is the first step to overcoming it. Escape should never be an option. Freedom isn't given; it's claimed. Change begins when

one person stands up against injustice, inspiring others to join the cause. That single voice, no matter how small, has the power to spark a movement. We must remember the words, "Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high." Even if you're the only one fighting at first, raise your voice against negativity. Sometimes, a single step can ignite a transformation, leading to a future where fear is replaced by courage and freedom.

Prof. Basudha Basu

Motivational Speaker & Human rights activist



Reclaiming freedom from fear for women is essential for building a more just and equitable society. Women face various

forms of fear, including street harassment, domestic violence, and the constant threat of sexual assault, which restrict their freedom and create lasting trauma. This fear often limits their ability to move freely, make choices, and live life on their own terms. It also perpetuates patriarchal norms, reinforcing the oppression of women. To reclaim this freedom, we need awareness and education about the causes and effects of fear. Establishing support systems, such as helplines and safe spaces, is crucial for empowering women. Advocating for policy changes and stricter laws against violence and harassment will help create a safer environment. Self-defense training and community engagement can foster a culture of respect and support, enabling women to live without fear and with full autonomy.

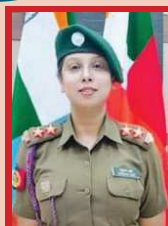
Arjita Singh

Life coach and Educationist

Freedom from Fear: A Call to Action: In a world striving for equality, freedom from fear is an essential right for every woman. The alarming rise in violence against women highlights the need for collective action. Awareness of laws like the POSH Act, which safeguards women from workplace harassment, is crucial to protect their fundamental right to freedom. While laws provide a framework, societal sensitivity to gender issues must complement them. Media portrayals that objectify women should be curbed, as they misguide youth and perpetuate disrespect. Parents and educators play a vital role in fostering a gender-neutral mind-set through positive socialization. By encouraging respect and equality in words and actions, we can empower future generations to create a safer, more inclusive society. Together, we can ensure a world where women live without fear and thrive with dignity.

Dr. Biva Samadder

Academician, Lieutenant & Social Activist



Freedom from fear is a fundamental human right essential for building peaceful and just societies. It goes beyond physical safety, encompassing emotional and psychological well-being, allowing individuals to live without anxiety, intimidation, or persecution. It enables people to express themselves, make choices, and participate in society without the threat of harm or retribution. Unfortunately, many face challenges in attaining this

freedom, such as conflict, discrimination, persecution, climate change, and economic insecurity. To address these issues, we must foster empathy, inclusivity, and understanding. Governments, organizations, and individuals should advocate for human rights protections, support vulnerable groups, encourage dialogue across divides, and tackle the root causes of fear like poverty and inequality. Achieving freedom from fear requires collective action toward a more just and compassionate world.

Manpreet Kaur

Educator

From a psychologist's perspective, self-defence training is vital in reshaping a woman's narrative about safety and control. It empowers women to transition from a mind-set of vulnerability to one of strength, addressing the psychological scars left by societal conditioning that portrays them as inherently at risk. This empowerment significantly impacts mental health, alleviating feelings of helplessness and trauma-related anxiety while enhancing self-worth and assertiveness. In workplaces, psychological safety is as crucial as physical safety. Many women face implicit biases and subtle intimidation, leading to chronic stress and burn-out. Genuine workplace safety means fostering environments where emotional risks—such as voicing concerns about harassment or setting boundaries—are validated. A psychologically safe workplace encourages openness, inclusion, and respect, allowing women to thrive without the burden of defending their worth or presence.



Sradhanjali, Consultant Psychologist

'Telangana Thalli'

Revanth Reddy unveiled statue in the Secretariat

In a momentous event that has etched itself into the history of Telangana, the state government organized a grand celebration on December 9, commemorating the inauguration of the Telangana Thalli statue. This event, described by officials as a "historic moment" for the state, saw the convergence of a vast crowd, reflecting the unity and strength of the people of Telangana.

In his address, the Chief Minister of Telangana extended heartfelt congratulations to all participants and highlighted the importance of the occasion. He drew comparisons between the gathering and the mighty flows of the Krishna and Godavari rivers, which converge at a symbolic level to signify the unification of the people's efforts in building the state. The day marked a significant step in the recognition and reverence of the cultural and historical identity of Telangana.

The Chief Minister emphasized the central role of "Mother" as the foun-

nificant challenges and crises, which the current government is committed to addressing through welfare, development, and cultural rejuvenation.

A key moment of the event was the announcement of the decision to install the Telangana Thalli statue, a long-awaited symbol of pride for the people of Telangana. The statue, unveiled after consultations with Cabinet colleagues, is intended to embody the aspirations and dreams of the people.

The Chief Minister highlighted the importance of this gesture, noting that Telangana Thalli is not just a statue, but a symbol of the collective struggle and spirit of the people. "This statue inspires us as a replica of our own mother," he said, underscoring how the statue serves as a rallying point for Telangana's future.

The Chief Minister also took a moment to remind the audience about the historical

powerful emotions stirred by the song during the Telangana movement, noting that it had inspired generations of people in their struggle for statehood. "The felicitation of renowned poet Andesri in the Secretariat will remain one of the greatest memories of my lifetime," he said, referring to the poet's pivotal role in shaping the cultural fabric of the movement.

In a fitting tribute to those who contributed to the Telangana movement, the government announced that several iconic figures would be honoured for their sacrifices. Poets and activists who had



ing their homes, livelihoods, and, in many cases, facing political persecution for their steadfast support of the Telangana cause.

The Chief Minister also emphasized that Telangana's fight for a separate state was never about serving a family or a political party. Instead, it was about securing the future and dignity of the people. He acknowledged the humiliation and neglect faced by the people during the era of united Andhra Pradesh and the subsequent years following the formation of Telangana.

"This state was not achieved for the sake of any family or individual. It was the result of the sacrifices made by countless people who fought for their rights," he said. The Chief Minister reiterated the government's commitment to ensuring that such neglect would never occur again. To this end, the Telangana government has decided to officially celebrate Telangana Thalli Day every year on December 9, in honor of the state's progress and the continuing struggle to secure its future.

As the event concluded, the Chief Minister spoke about the government's vision for Telangana's future, focusing on the themes of welfare, development, and reconstruction. He said that the state has made tremendous progress, moving from crisis to welfare, and from corruption to development. He urged the people to continue their support for the government's initiatives, assuring them that the government would remain steadfast in its efforts to create a more prosperous and inclusive Telangana. The celebrations concluded on a note of optimism, with the Chief Minister reaffirming his government's resolve to never let the people of Telangana experience the humiliation and neglect that had characterized their past. With the unveiling of the Telangana Thalli statue and the official recognition of key cultural symbols and figures, the event marked a defining moment in the history of the state, one that will resonate for generations to come.



dational identity for both individuals and communities. "Mother is the embodiment of our culture and traditions," he remarked, calling attention to how the image of mother—particularly the Motherland—has played a vital role in shaping the aspirations of the people of Telangana.

He further explained that during the time of the erstwhile united Andhra Pradesh, Telangana's culture and identity were not only neglected but also insulted. "Our culture was assaulted," he stated, underlining the long-standing neglect and marginalization faced by the people of the region.

With the formation of Telangana as a separate state, the Chief Minister noted that one political figure and party dominated the discourse, putting their own priorities ahead of the people's aspirations. This disregard for public sentiment, he argued, led to sig-

nificant challenges and crises, which the current government is committed to addressing through welfare, development, and cultural rejuvenation. He referenced the decision by the previous government to use the abbreviation "TS" instead of "TG" for vehicle registrations, an issue that was met with strong opposition from Telangana activists. In response, the current government made the bold decision to use "TG" for vehicle registration, reflecting the people's desire for a stronger, more distinct identity.

Another highlight of the event was the official recognition of the famous Telangana anthem "Jaya Jaya He Telangana," a song that became a rallying cry during the Telangana movement. For nearly a decade, the song had not been officially declared the state song. This was rectified by the present government, which recognized the anthem as the "official state song."

The Chief Minister recalled the

fought for the cause of Telangana—many of whom had lost their livelihoods and faced immense hardship—were celebrated for their courage and commitment.

Among those honored were GudaAnjaiah, Gaddar, BandiYadagiri, Andesri, GoretiVenkanna, Suddala Ashok Teja, Jayaraju, PashamYadagiri, and Ekka Yadagiri Rao. As a token of appreciation, the state government promised each of them a 300-square-yard house plot and a cash award of Rs. 1 crore, along with a felicitation letter.

"These poets and fighters are the true heroes of Telangana. Their struggle was not for political gain, but for the empowerment and dignity of the people," the Chief Minister said, pointing out that these individuals had endured significant hardships, including los-

President Of India Presents Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar

On December 26, 2024, President Droupadi Murmu awarded the prestigious Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar to 17 exceptional children, honoring their extraordinary achievements across seven categories:



art and culture, bravery, innovation, science and technology, social service, sports, and environment. The awards were conferred at a ceremony held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre in New Delhi, where the President lauded the young awardees for their remarkable contributions to society.

The Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar, established to recognize the outstanding efforts of children, celebrates talent and achievement in various fields that positively impact communities and the nation at large. The ceremony, attended by dignitaries and family members of the awardees, saw a diverse group of children—seven boys and ten girls—from 14 states and union territories across India, being acknowledged for their unique and inspiring accomplishments.

In her address, President Murmu expressed immense pride in the award winners, emphasizing that their achievements exemplify the limitless potential that resides within the youth of the country. "These children have not only excelled in their respective fields but have also set remarkable examples for others to follow," she said. The President highlighted that nurturing and recognizing children's talents have always been integral to Indian tradition, and it is essential to continue fostering such an environment where every child can realize their full potential. She further added that acts of courage and patriotism displayed by children inspire the nation and strength-

en its confidence in a bright future.

Among the awardees was 14-year-old Keya Hatkar, an accomplished author and disability rights advocate. She was recognized for her exceptional contributions to art and

culture. Keya, who has overcome numerous personal challenges, has become a strong voice for people with disabilities, using her platform to inspire others and raise awareness about accessibility and inclusion. Another noteworthy recipient

was Ayaan Sajad, a 12-year-old Sufi singer from Kashmir. Ayaan was honoured for his soulful renditions of traditional Kashmiri music, preserving the cultural heritage of his region through his voice. In the category of bravery, 9-year-old Saurav Kumar was acknowledged for his heroic act of saving three young girls from drowning. Saurav's courage and quick thinking in a life-threatening situation earned him widespread admiration. Similarly, 17-year-old Loanna Thapa was awarded for her exceptional bravery when she rescued 36 residents from a burning building, demonstrating selflessness and an unyielding commitment to saving lives in the face of danger.

The innovation category saw 15-year-old Sindhoora Raja being recognized for her creation of self-stabilizing devices designed to aid Parkinson's disease patients. Her innovative solutions are transforming the lives of many individuals who struggle with the physical challenges of this debilitating condition. Another awardee in the innovation sector was 17-year-old Risheek Kumar, a cybersecurity entrepreneur who launched Kashmir's first cybersecurity firm. Risheek's work in the tech industry is paving the way for enhanced digital security in the region, and his entrepreneurial spirit serves as an inspiration to young people across the country.

The science and technology category recognized 17-year-old Vyas Om Jignesh, who, despite having cerebral palsy, has memorized over 5,000 Sanskrit slokas. His dedication to preserving and promoting Sanskrit literature is extraordinary, and his achievement serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of perseverance and commitment in the face of adversity. In the sports category, Hembati Nag, a young judo player from a Naxal-affected area, was honored for her resilience in overcoming significant challenges to win a silver medal at the Khelo India

FIDE-ranked player in history. Anish's early success in chess has stunned the chess community, and his potential seems limitless.

President Murmu praised the young athletes and innovators for their resilience and determination, noting that their stories were a testament to the strength of the human spirit. "Hembati's resilience amidst adversity is an example of unmatched courage and determination," the President remarked, emphasizing how her journey in sports is not just about winning medals but also about inspiring others to overcome their own challenges.

The recipients of the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar came from a wide range of backgrounds, representing the rich diversity of India. Their achievements span across disciplines as varied as art, technology, sports, and social service, showcasing the breadth of talent and potential that exists within the country's youth.

In conclusion, the ceremony was a poignant reminder of the immense capabilities of India's



President Of India Droupadi Murmu Group Photo with Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar winners.

children. The Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar serves not only to recognize individual achievements but also to inspire the next generation to follow in these young trailblazers' footsteps. As President Murmu pointed out, providing opportunities for children to excel and celebrating their talents is vital for building a stronger, more vibrant nation. By encouraging children to push boundaries and make meaningful contributions to society, India is ensuring that its future remains bright and full of promise.

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Renowned Environmentalist Tulsi Gowda Passes Away at 86

Tulsi Gowda, a revered environmentalist and Padma Shri awardee, passed away on December 17, 2024, at the age of 86 at her residence in Honnali village, Ankola Taluk, in the Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka. Known as the "VrukshaMaate" (Mother of Trees), Gowda had been suffering from age-related health issues in her final years.

A proud member of the Halakki tribal community, Tulsi Gowda dedicated over six decades of her life to environmental conservation, becoming a symbol of afforestation and ecological stewardship. Her tireless efforts in planting and nurturing trees in and around Ankola earned her widespread recognition. She was credited with growing lakhs of saplings and ensuring their survival with a unique, hands-on approach to plant care. Her extensive knowledge of plants and trees earned her the affectionate title of the "Encyclopaedia of Plants," a fitting tribute to her expertise in the field of environmental conservation.

Born in 1944 to a tribal family, Tulsi Gowda developed a deep bond with

nature from a young age. Raised in the forests of Uttara Kannada, she spent much of her childhood in close contact with the natural world, which sparked a lifelong passion for environmental preservation. She began her professional journey working as a daily wage laborer in a forest department nursery, where she cultivated a profound understanding of plant life. Her dedication and work ethic quickly made her a prominent figure in the field, and she went on to spearhead numerous afforestation initiatives in

is one of nurturing nature and cultivating an awareness of the importance of sustainable environmental practices.

In recognition of her tireless efforts, Tulsi Gowda was honored with the Padma Shri in 2021, one of India's highest civilian awards. The prestigious award was presented to her by former President Ram Nath Kovind, a moment that brought national attention to her lifetime of silent, selfless work. The award rec-



was also the recipient of the Indira Priyadarshini Vriksha Mitra Award and various regional honors, cementing her status as one of India's foremost environmental advocates.

Despite her growing recognition, Tulsi Gowda remained a humble and private individual, deeply focused on her work rather than on accolades or fame. Her life was a testament to the power of quiet determination, and her dedication to the environment inspired many in her community and beyond. Her efforts were instrumental in restoring and protecting local ecosystems, ensuring that future generations would benefit from the green spaces she worked so hard to create.

Tulsi Gowda is survived by her children and grandchildren, who carry forward her legacy of environmental conservation. Her last rites performed in her native village, where her contributions to nature will continue to be celebrated for years to come. Her passing marks the end of an era for those who knew her, but her impact on the environment will endure in the forests and trees she nurtured throughout her lifetime.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his condolences, describing her as "Deeply saddened by the passing of Smt. Tulsi Gowda Ji, a revered environmentalist from Karnataka and Padma Awardee. She dedicated her life to nurturing nature, planting thousands of saplings, and conserving our environment. She will remain a guiding light for environmental conservation. Her work will continue to inspire generations to protect our planet. Condolences to her family and admirers. Om Shanti."

her community and beyond.

Over the years, Tulsi Gowda's work went largely unnoticed by the wider public, but her dedication to planting and caring for trees left an indelible impact on the region. She is credited with transforming vast areas of land by planting thousands of trees and creating green spaces that benefited local wildlife and communities alike. Her approach to afforestation was innovative, focusing not just on planting trees but on ensuring that they survived and thrived in the often-challenging environment. Her legacy

recognized her immense contributions to environmental conservation, particularly in the areas of afforestation and reforestation. This honor marked a significant milestone in her life, bringing her decades of dedication to a broader audience.

In addition to the Padma Shri, Tulsi Gowda was conferred with several other accolades throughout her lifetime. She received an honorary doctorate from Dharwad Agricultural University, acknowledging her vast knowledge and contributions to the field of environmental science. She



Seventeen-year-old Kaamya Karthikeyan, a student from Navy Children School in Mumbai, has made history by becoming the youngest female ever to summit the highest peaks on all seven continents. Her remarkable achievement culminated on December 24, 2024, when she reached the summit of Mount Vinson in Antarctica, completing the prestigious Seven Summits Challenge.

Kaamya, along with her father, Commander S. Karthikeyan of the Indian Navy, reached the summit of Mt Vinson at 5:20 PM Chilean Standard Time. The Indian Navy congratulated the duo for this extraordinary feat, highlighting Kaamya's determination and dedication in achieving this milestone at such a young age.

The Seven Summits challenge requires climbers to scale the highest peak on each of the seven continents. Kaamya has already conquered Mt Kilimanjaro in Africa, Mt Elbrus in Europe, Mt Kosciuszko in Australia, Mt Aconcagua in South America, Mt Denali in North America, and, of course, Mt Everest in Asia. Kaamya's journey into adventure began at the age of seven when she embarked on her first trek in Uttarakhand. By the age of 16, she became the youngest Indian to summit Mount

Kaamya Karthikeyan becomes youngest female to conquer 7 highest peaks



Everest, further cementing her reputation as a trailblazing young adventurer. In addition to her climbing achievements, Kaamya is a recipient of the Rashtriya Bal Shakti Puraskar, a prestigious award given to outstanding children who have demonstrated exceptional accomplishments. Kaamya is not stopping here. She is now working toward completing the Ex-

plorer's Grand Slam, an even more challenging goal that involves reaching both the North Pole and South Pole, in addition to climbing the Seven Summits. In a statement, Navy Children School, Mumbai expressed immense pride in Kaamya's success, stating, "Breaking barriers and reaching new heights! Kaamya Karthikeyan, Class XII, Navy

Children School, Mumbai, becomes the youngest female in the world to conquer the Seven Summits. A moment of immense pride for NCS Mumbai!" Kaamya's journey stands as a testament to her determination, grit, and relentless pursuit of adventure, inspiring young girls and adventurers worldwide to follow their dreams.

Indian Grandmaster Koneru Humpy created history by winning her second World Rapid Chess Championship title on Sunday, December 29, 2024, in New York. The victory makes her only the second player after China's Ju Wenjun to claim the prestigious title twice in the women's section.

At 37, Humpy's achievement marks another milestone in her illustrious career. She secured the title in dramatic fashion, defeating Indonesia's Irene Sukandar with the black pieces in the final round of the tournament. Humpy's victory was essential for her to clinch the top spot, and she rose to the occasion in what was a crucial battle in the competition.

With 8.5 points from 11 rounds, the Indian Grandmaster finished at the top of the standings, demonstrating her mastery in rapid chess. This

old Volodar Murzin won the men's title, becoming the second-youngest player to win the FIDE World Rapid Championship, after Uzbekistan's Nodirbek Abdusattorov, who claimed the crown at the age of 17. Murzin's victory added to what has been an exciting year for chess enthusiasts globally, especially with rising young stars making their mark in the game.

Humpy's triumph has been widely celebrated in India, with figures such as Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and former Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju offering their congratulations. Naidu called it "a moment of pride" for the entire nation, while Rijiju praised Humpy for "cementing her place among the all-time greats in chess."

This year has been particularly sensational for Indian chess, following

bronze medal at the World Rapid Chess Championship held in Moscow. Her defining moment came in 2019, when she clinched her first World Rapid title in Batumi, Georgia, after defeating China's Lei Tingjie in a tense Armageddon game.

In the 2023 World Rapid Champi-

onship. She also came close to winning the Women's Candidates Tournament in 2024, finishing once again with silver, a testament to her consistency and skill across different time controls.

As one of India's most accomplished chess players, Koneru



Koneru Humpy

FIDE Women's World Rapid Champion

victory follows her first World Rapid Championship title in 2019, when she triumphed in Moscow.

The World Rapid Chess Championship is known for its fast-paced, high-stakes format, where players have limited time to make their moves. Humpy's ability to adapt and thrive in this environment solidified her status as one of the most formidable players in the world.

Later in the day, Russia's 18-year-

old D Gukesh, who recently won the Chess World Championship in the classical format. Gukesh's victory made him only the second Indian man, after Viswanathan Anand, to claim the prestigious World Chess Championship title.

Koneru Humpy's journey to the top of the World Rapid Chess Championship has been nothing short of extraordinary. She first caught global attention in 2012 when she won a

championship in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, Humpy narrowly missed out on the title, finishing with a silver medal. She was edged out by Russia's Anastasia Bodnaruk in a tiebreaker, showcasing the razor-thin margins at the top level of competitive chess.

Humpy's dominance is not limited to rapid chess alone. She has excelled in various other formats, including a silver medal finish at the 2022 Women's World Blitz Chess

Championship. Humpy has continuously proven her resilience, adaptability, and brilliance in the game. Her second World Rapid title adds to her growing legacy, reinforcing her place as one of the leading figures in women's chess. In the coming years, Humpy's influence and success will likely inspire a new generation of chess players in India and across the world, as she continues to push the boundaries of excellence in the sport.

The National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal Allows The Public To Report Cyber-Crimes

'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. The States/UTs are primarily responsible for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of crimes including cyber-crime through their Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs). To strengthen the mechanism for online safety and to deal with cyber-crimes in a comprehensive and coordinated manner, the Central Government has taken steps which, inter-alia, include the following:

The Ministry of Home Affairs has set up the 'Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre' (I4C) as an attached office to deal with all types of cybercrime in the country, in a coordinated and comprehensive manner. The 'National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal' (<https://cybercrime.gov.in>) has been launched, as a part of the I4C, to enable public to report incidents pertaining to all types of cyber-crimes, with special focus on cyber-crimes against women and children. Cyber-crime incidents reported on this portal, their conversion into FIRs and subsequent action thereon are handled by the LEAs of State/UT concerned, as per the provision of law. The 'Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System', under I4C, has been launched in year 2021 for immediate reporting of financial frauds and to stop siphoning off funds by the fraudsters. So far, financial amount of more than Rs. 3431

Crore has been saved in more than 9.94 lakh complaints. A toll-free National Cyber Crime Helpline Number (1930) was introduced in 2020 as part of the government's efforts to support victims of cyber-crimes. This helpline operates 24x7x365 and provides guidance on how victims, particularly women and children, can report cybercrimes such as online harassment, identity theft, or financial fraud. I4C has imparted cyber hygiene training to 7,330 officials of various Ministries/ Departments of Government of India. I4C has imparted cyber hygiene training to more than 40,151 and 53,022 NCC cadets and NSS cadets respectively. Till 15.11.2024, more than 6.69 lakhs SIM cards and 1,32,000 IMEIs as reported by Police authorities have been blocked by Government of India. The Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) platform, namely 'CyTrain' portal has been developed under I4C, for capacity building of police officers/ judicial officers through online course on critical aspects of cyber-crime investigation, forensics, prosecution etc. More than 98,698 Police Officers from States/UTs are registered and more than 75,591 Certificates issued through the portal.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has provided financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 131.60 crores under the 'Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children (CCPWC)' Scheme under Nirbhaya fund,

to the States/UTs for their capacity building such as setting up of cyber forensic-cum-training laboratories, hiring of junior cyber consultants and training of LEAs' personnel, public prosecutors and judicial officers. Cyber forensic-cum-training laboratories have been commissioned in 33 States/UTs and more than 24,600 LEA personnel, judicial officers and prosecutors have been provided training on cyber-crime awareness, investigation, forensics etc. The Central Government and Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) have a system to identify and block incoming international spoofed calls displaying Indian mobile numbers appear to be originating within India. Such international spoofed calls have been made by cyber-criminals in recent cases of fake digital arrests, FedEx scams, impersonation as government and police officials, etc. Directions have been issued to the TSPs for blocking of such incoming international spoofed calls.

Further, Cyber Crimes cases are handled under the provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023 and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO Act), the Information Technology Act, 2000 (IT Act). The IT Act includes gender-neutral provisions to address cybercrimes like identity theft (Section 66C), cheating by personation (Section 66D), violation of privacy (Section 66E), and the



transmission of obscene material (Sections 67, 67A, and 67B). These provisions aim to combat online harassment and ensure the safety of women in digital spaces.

To spread awareness on cyber-crime, the Central Government has taken initiatives like Cyber Dost to promote online safety through various media channels that include dissemination of messages through SMS, I4C social media account i.e. X (formerly Twitter) (@CyberDost), Facebook (CyberDostI4C), Instagram (cyberDostI4C), Telegram (cyberdostI4C). Radio campaign, engaged MyGov for publicity in multiple mediums, organizing Cyber Safety and Security Awareness weeks in association with States/UTs, publishing of Handbook for Adolescents/Students, newspaper advertisement on digital arrest scam, announcement in Delhi metros on digital arrest and other modus operandi of cyber criminals, use of social media influencers to create special posts on digital arrest, digital displays on railway stations and airports across, etc.

Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav Displays Northeast India's Legacy



bamboo artistry were seamlessly woven into the event's narrative, creating a vibrant tapestry that celebrated tradition, artistry, and cultural pride.

A symbolic figure at the event was 'Purvi', a mascot representing the hopes, dreams, and resilience of the Northeast. More than just a figure, Purvi became the soul of the Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav, embodying the spirit of progress and poten-



Wizcraft Entertainment Agency conceptualized the inaugural Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav, a grand cultural event held at Bharat Mandapam in Delhi, celebrating the rich heritage and creative brilliance of Northeast India. At the heart of this event was the 'Ashtalakshmi Designer Conclave', an initiative aimed at bringing together emerging designers from the



tial. In a moment of pride, Purvi was presented to Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the grand opening, symbolizing the region's aspirations and bright future.

The Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav also reflected the vision of Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, who advocated for showcasing the Northeast as a dynamic, culturally rich, and forward-thinking region. His vision came to life



Northeast and renowned global fashion experts. This conclave created a platform for collaboration and innovation, with the goal of propelling Northeast Indian design onto the international fashion stage by bridging local talent with global trends.

The event drew inspiration from the eight Northeastern states, often referred to as the 'Ashtalakshmi' or 'eight goddesses' of India, and reflected the region's unique cultural identity. Key elements such as Assam's golden muga silk, Nagaland's intricate weavings, and Meghalaya's

through this celebration, highlighting the region's heritage while positioning it for global recognition.

The Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav served as a powerful testament to the cultural vibrancy and creative potential of Northeast India, offering its artists, designers, and craftspeople a significant platform to shine on the world stage. Through this event, Northeast India's unique heritage was not only celebrated but also elevated to new heights, leaving an indelible mark on the global cultural landscape.



Risa



Gamosa



Lakadong turmeric



Moirang Phee





Shri Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurates one-day Workshop for Women Leaders

Shaping Academic Excellence for VIKSIT Bharat @ 2047, organised by UGC, on 13th December in New Delhi. Union Minister of State for Education and Development of the North-Eastern Region, Dr. Sukanta Majumdar, was also present at the event. Secretary, Ministry of Education, Shri Sanjay Kumar; Chairman, UGC, Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar; Director General, Aeronautical Systems, DRDO, Dr. Rajalakshmi Menon; Vice Chairman, UGC, Prof. Deepak Kumar Srivastava; Director, IIT Delhi, Prof. Rangan Banerjee; and eminent dignitaries from across the country were also present at the event.

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, while addressing the audience, highlighted how the workshop, aligning with the vision of NEP 2020, emphasises the empowerment of women at every level of education. He also mentioned that the workshop aims to showcase how women are elevating educational standards in higher education and also equip and inspire them for leadership roles.

Shri Pradhan also mentioned that Nari Shakti is a symbol of strength, resilience, and hope, and treating women with respect is an inherent value of Indian civilisation. Expressing his gratitude to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, he said how the government in the last 10 years, has led from the front to bring a transformative shift from women's development to women-led development.

The Minister also noted that the emerging new world order will be driven by knowledge and women are breaking glass ceilings, challenging gender roles and their participation is increasing in all spheres, including in STEM. It is important to establish a level playing field for women in all spheres, he added. He also said that he was confident that the deliberations, dialogues, and experience sharing in the workshop would provide a roadmap for that.

Shri Pradhan emphasised that an Indian model of women em-

powerment has to be created to ensure that women belong to all decision-making structures and life choices. As we move towards realising the goal of Viksit Bharat, Nari Shakti will assume more decision-making roles, he said.

The Minister said that equality and empowerment of women alone can empower our society and nation.



Dr. Sukanta Majumdar, in his address, emphasised the importance of women leadership in education to achieve the goal of Viksit Bharat. Paying reverence to ancient knowledge leaders such as Maitreyi and Gargi, as well as present-day scientists like Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, he mentioned how women leaders are playing a pivotal role in shaping academic excellence and contributing to nation-building. Referring to the impressive women

Gross Enrolment Ratio, he noted that it is poised to increase further in the future. He also mentioned the significance of initiatives such as PM-USHA, which focuses on gender inclusivity in policies, along with WISE-KIRAN and DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing) and how the government has empowered women to excel in academia and research. Compar-

the sciences. Noting the highest participation of women in STEM education in India, he mentioned that this achievement must be backed by policy to ensure its sustainability. Reiterating Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision for a Viksit Bharat, he expressed confidence that India will become a developed nation led by Indian women.

Eminent personalities will engage with participants throughout the day, sharing insights and leading discussions on critical topics, including: Smt. Lakshmi Iyer, Joint General Manager at Larsen & Toubro (Importance of industry-academia partnerships and their role in fostering leadership in higher education); Smt. Vandana Bhatnagar, Member of the Board of Governors at IIM Jammu (Leadership experiences and contributions to institutional growth and development); Smt. Geeta Singh Rathore, Director General, National Sample Survey, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (Data-driven leadership in education and its impact on shaping policies); Dr. Sonal Mansingh, Padma Vibhushan Awardee and Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha (2018-2024); Dr. Rajalakshmi Menon, Director General, Aeronautical Systems, DRDO, (Fostering Women-Led Research for a Developed India); Prof. Neelima Gupta, Vice Chancellor, Dr. Harisingh Gaur University, (Future of Women in Higher Education Leadership for Viksit Bharat @ 2047); Prof. Preeti Aghalayam, Director-in-charge, IIT Madras, Zanzibar Campus, (Women Leadership in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics - STEM); Shri Sanjiv Mehta, Advisor and Head of Programme Development at IBM Innovation Centre for Education, (Strategies for Balancing Leadership Responsibilities with a Healthy Work-Life Balance); and Dr. Shamika Ravi, Member, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, (Creating Mentoring and Networking Platforms for Women in Leadership Roles).



The Sankranti celebrations in Hyderabad have been elevated this year by the International Kite and Sweet Festival 2025, which wrapped up on 15th January 2025 at the Parade Grounds in Secunderabad. This vibrant three-day event has become a major highlight of the city's cultural calendar, drawing large crowds and creating an unforgettable experience for locals and visitors alike.

The skies above Parade Grounds were transformed into a mesmerizing canvas, with colorful kites soaring through the air. Participants from 29 countries, including Argen-

are part of traditional Sankranti celebrations. The stalls offered a rich variety of flavors, from savory snacks to sweet treats, allowing

guests to indulge in the authentic tastes of Indian cuisine. The fusion of cultural celebrations and culinary delights made the festival an enriching experience for all attendees.

The influx of visitors to the Parade Grounds led to an interesting contrast in the city's usual hustle and bustle.

As thousands of people headed to the festival, areas like Maitreevanam, Panjag-

popularity of the event and its impact on daily life in the city.

Authorities worked diligently to ensure the smooth flow of the event, with special attention given to traffic management and visitor convenience. Rashmi Perumal, the Deputy Commissioner of Police, praised the organization of the festival, noting that adequate parking spaces were arranged, and special facilities were provided for women attendees. She highlighted the efforts of the police force, who managed the crowd effectively, ensuring safety and a pleasant experience for everyone involved. "The festival has been a huge success, attracting record crowds. We've taken every precaution to make sure visitors enjoy the event without any hassle," she remarked.

The conclusion of the International Kite and Sweet Festival 2025 marks the end of a vibrant celebration of cultural diversity and culinary richness. As the event draws to a close, Hyderabad's residents are left with memories of a spectacular show of international kite flying artistry, a delightful array of traditional foods,

3 Days International Kite Festival Held In Hyderabad



tina, China, Italy, South Korea, Singapore, and Sri Lanka, showcased a spectacular array of traditional and modern kite designs. Among the most captivating were the glowing Tarajuva kites, which lit up the evening sky, offering a magical visual experience. The event provided a unique opportunity for kite enthusiasts to witness diverse cultural expressions through this ancient art form, making it a true international celebration.

In addition to the stunning kite displays, the festival was a haven for food lovers. The food and sweet stalls featured a wide range of regional delicacies from across India, making the event a gastronomic journey for visitors. Over 400 women from the local community contributed homemade sweets, many of which



Hills Checkpost, Sanath Nagar, and Somajiguda experienced a noticeable dip in traffic. The normally busy streets were unusually calm, with only a few vehicles on the roads, further emphasizing the

and the warmth of community spirit that made the festival truly special. The event has undoubtedly added a new dimension to the city's Sankranti celebrations, leaving a lasting impression on all who participated.



CM A. Revanth Reddy Inaugurated Hyderabad's second longest flyover, Names It After Dr. Manmohan Singh

The Zoo park – Aramghar flyover was opened for public in Hyderabad on 6th January 2025. The longest flyover of Telangana, the P V Narasimha Rao Express highway was built by former Chief Minister Dr YS Rajashekhar Reddy during the previous Congress regime.

The present Congress government constructed the second largest flyover in the city. This flyover construction completion in record time is a proof of the highest onus Congress government under Shri CM Revanth Reddy is placing on urban development and re-imagination of

the capital as part of mission Hyderabad Rising.

Soon after coming to power, the Congress government made all-out efforts to solve every problem of the metropolis.

During the Nizam rule, Osman Sagar and HimayatSagar were built to address drinking water problem in Hyderabad. CM Shri Revanth Reddy is as part of the Vision 2050 leading initiatives of provide drinking water for the city for next few decades in a sustainable way.

The Metro Rail expansion and Musi rejuvenation project are

meant for the not only for the development of Hyderabad city but to ensure long-term environment sustainability and an answer to climate crises.

“We are ready to join hands work in tandem with everyone for the development of Hyderabad. We will move forward with the MIM for city development. We pursue politics only during the elections and move together with everyone for Hyderabad development. Development must become a people's movement,” Mr Reddy said.

Telangana will develop further

once the Regional Ring Road work is completed. This is not an old city but the original city and original Hyderabad. Government will take up the construction of a cable bridge over Mir Alam Tank and develop it as the most attractive tourist spot, he said.

We are prepared to provide funds for development and the responsibility of completing the work lies with the public representatives. Foundation stone for the construction of Osmania Hospital at Goshamahal will be laid soon, he said.



महिलाएं कैसे बनती हैं नागा साधु? जानिए इनकी रहस्यमयी दुनिया

नागा साधु, विशेष रूप से पुरुष साधु, हमेशा से ही समाज में अपनी विशिष्टता और आध्यात्मिकता के कारण आकर्षण का केंद्र रहे हैं। इन साधुओं के जीवन का तरीका और उनके आदर्श कई लोगों के लिए रहस्य बना हुआ है। लेकिन क्या आप जानते



हैं कि पुरुषों के अलावा महिलाएं भी नागा साधु बन सकती हैं? महिला नागा साधु बनने का मार्ग बेहद कठिन और चुनौतीपूर्ण होता है। इस प्रक्रिया में वे अपनी व्यक्तिगत इच्छाओं और मोह-माया को छोड़कर एक गहन तपस्वी जीवन अपनाती हैं। महिला नागा साधुओं की रहस्यमय दुनिया को समझना उतना ही रोचक और जटिल है जितना कि पुरुषों के नागा साधुओं की दुनिया।

महिला नागा साधु बनने की प्रक्रिया

महिला नागा साधु बनने के लिए किसी महिला को एक विशेष प्रक्रिया से गुजरना पड़ता है। यह रास्ता सरल नहीं है और इसमें 10 से 15 साल तक का कठोर ब्रह्मचर्य व्रत अनिवार्य होता है। इस दौरान साधिका को अपनी जीवनशैली को पूरी तरह से त्याग कर, पूरी तरह से साधना में लीन होना पड़ता है। उनका यह समय गुरु के मार्गदर्शन में बीतता है, जिसमें वे अपने भीतर की सभी इच्छाओं और सांसारिक बंधनों को छोड़ने का प्रयास करती हैं।

महिला नागा साधु को इस यात्रा में अपने गुरु को यह साबित करना होता है कि वे सांसारिक मोह-माया को छोड़ने के लिए पूरी तरह से तैयार हैं। इस कठिन प्रक्रिया में कई मानसिक और शारीरिक चुनौतियां आती हैं, जिनका सामना साधिका को करना होता है।

इसके अलावा, उन्हें अपनी दीक्षा के समय पिंडदान और मुंडन जैसी प्रक्रियाओं से भी गुजरना होता है।

माता के रूप में सम्मान

एक बार जब कोई महिला नागा साधु बन जाती है, तो उन्हें पूरे समाज में माता के रूप में सम्मानित किया जाता है। यह सम्मान न केवल उनकी तपस्या को मान्यता देता है, बल्कि उन्हें समाज में एक विशिष्ट स्थान भी प्रदान करता है। महिला नागा साधु को अन्य साधु-साधिकाओं और भक्तगण श्रद्धा और आदर के साथ संबोधित करते हैं।

पुरुष नागा साधुओं में दो प्रकार होते हैं-वखधारी और दिवांबर। पुरुषों का चयन होता



है कि उन्हें अपने शरीर पर वख पहनने हैं या फिर वे पूर्णतः निर्वख रह सकते हैं। लेकिन महिला नागा साधुओं के लिए यह नियम है कि वे कभी भी निर्वख नहीं रहेंगी। उन्हें हमेशा केसरिया रंग के वख पहनने होते हैं। यह वख सिला हुआ नहीं होता, और यह साधु के आध्यात्मिक समर्पण का प्रतीक होता है। महिला नागा साधु के लिए केसरिया वख पहनने का नियम पूरी तरह से अनिवार्य है।

महिला नागा साधुओं का जीवनशैली

महिला नागा साधु का जीवन पूर्ण रूप से आध्यात्मिक साधना से भरा होता है। उनका दिन सुबह जल्दी उठकर शिवजी का जाप करने से शुरू होता है। वे ब्रह्म मुहूर्त में उठकर अपनी साधना करती हैं, फिर

दिन में कुछ समय भोजन करती हैं और फिर से पूजा-पाठ में लीन हो जाती हैं। उनका भोजन सादा और प्राकृतिक होता है-कंदमूल, फल, जड़ी-बूटी और पत्तियों उनकी मुख्य आहार सामग्री होती हैं। महिला नागा साधुओं का जीवन तप



और साधना का प्रतीक होता है। वे अपनी दिनचर्या में दत्तात्रेय भगवान की पूजा भी करती हैं। उनकी जीवनशैली का उद्देश्य मानसिक और शारीरिक शुद्धता की ओर अग्रसर होना होता है। वे हर समय अपने आत्म-ज्ञान को बढ़ाने और शारीरिक सुखों से परे एक

समर्पित जीवन जीने की कोशिश करती हैं।

महिला नागा साधु और मासिक धर्म

महिला नागा साधुओं के लिए मासिक धर्म के दौरान विशेष नियम होते हैं। वे कभी भी गंगा स्नान के समय दिवांबर नहीं रहतीं। इस दौरान वे केवल गंगा जल का छिड़काव करती हैं और किसी भी स्थिति में अपने केसरिया वख को नहीं छोड़तीं। मासिक धर्म के दौरान, वे एक छोटा वख बहाव के स्थान पर लगा लेती हैं, जिससे उनका शरीर शुद्ध रहता है और धर्म के नियमों का पालन भी होता है।

कुंभ मेले जैसे बड़े आयोजन में महिला नागा साधु अपनी उपस्थिति दर्ज कराती हैं। वहाँ पर, उनके लिए एक अलग माई बाड़ा (महिला साधुओं का विश्राम स्थल) बनाया जाता है, जहाँ सभी महिला नागा साधु रहती हैं। यह व्यवस्था उनके आराम और सुरक्षा को सुनिश्चित करती है।

महिला नागा साधु की सामाजिक और आध्यात्मिक भूमिका

महिला नागा साधु समाज में एक अद्वितीय स्थान रखती हैं। वे न केवल आध्यात्मिक उन्नति की दिशा में काम करती हैं, बल्कि समाज में एक उदाहरण भी प्रस्तुत करती हैं कि महिलाएं भी किसी भी क्षेत्र में पुरुषों से कम नहीं हैं। उनके जीवन का उद्देश्य केवल आत्मज्ञान और तपस्या नहीं होता, बल्कि वे समाज को यह संदेश देती हैं कि नारी शक्ति को पहचानना और उसे सम्मान देना अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है। महिला नागा साधु बनने की यात्रा कठिन और चुनौतीपूर्ण होती है, लेकिन यह उनके आत्म-समर्पण और तपस्विता की गहरी मिसाल पेश करती है। वे अपने जीवन को एक नई दिशा देती हैं, जिसमें सांसारिक सुखों से अधिक महत्व उनके आत्मिक उन्नति को होता है। महिला नागा साधुओं की दुनिया रहस्यमय और अद्वितीय है, जो न केवल आध्यात्मिक दृष्टिकोण से महत्वपूर्ण है, बल्कि सामाजिक दृष्टिकोण से भी यह महिलाओं के शक्ति और आत्मनिर्भरता को दर्शाती है।

144 साल के बाद लग रहा महाकुंभ

हिन्दू धर्म में कुंभ मेला एक विशेष धार्मिक आयोजन है, जो हर 12 वर्ष में चार पवित्र स्थलों-प्रयागराज, हरिद्वार, उज्जैन और नासिक पर आयोजित किया जाता है। 2025 में यह मेला न केवल 12 साल के चक्र के तहत, बल्कि 144 साल बाद विशेष महाकुंभ के रूप में मनाया जाएगा। महाकुंभ का यह आयोजन इसलिए अत्यधिक महत्वपूर्ण है, क्योंकि यह एक विशेष खगोलीय घटना से संबंधित है, जो हर 144 वर्षों में होती है। ज्योतिषशास्त्र के अनुसार, यह समय तब आता है जब ग्रहों और नक्षत्रों की स्थिति पृथ्वी पर विशेष प्रभाव डालती है। 14 जनवरी 2025 को शाही स्नान के साथ यह मेला शुरू होगा, और 26 फरवरी तक जारी रहेगा। इस दौरान करीब 10 करोड़ श्रद्धालुओं के मेला में भाग लेने की उम्मीद है।

महाकुंभ और कुंभ का अंतर

कुंभ मेला, जो हर 12 साल में आयोजित होता है, ग्रहों और नक्षत्रों की विशेष स्थिति पर निर्भर करता है। यह मेला तब आयोजित होता है जब सूर्य, चंद्रमा और बृहस्पति एक विशिष्ट स्थिति में होते हैं। हालांकि, जब बृहस्पति मकर राशि में प्रवेश करता है और सूर्य व चंद्रमा अन्य शुभ स्थानों पर होते हैं, तब महाकुंभ का समय आता है, जो हर 144 वर्षों में एक बार होता है। महाकुंभ को विशेष रूप से शुभ और दिव्य माना जाता है। शास्त्रों के अनुसार, महाकुंभ में स्नान और पूजा करने से कई गुना अधिक पुण्य की प्राप्ति होती है, और यह अवसर मोक्ष प्राप्ति के लिए अत्यधिक फलदायी माना जाता है। महाकुंभ का आयोजन उन विशिष्ट खगोलीय घटनाओं के आधार पर होता है, जो पृथ्वी पर विशेष आशीर्वाद और ऊर्जा का संचार करती हैं।

कुंभ मेला क्यों लगता है ?

कुंभ मेला की धार्मिक मान्यता पौराणिक कथाओं से जुड़ी हुई है। शास्त्रों के अनुसार, देवता और असुरों ने अमृत प्राप्ति के लिए समुद्र मंथन किया था। इस मंथन के दौरान अमृत का कलश (कुंभ) निकला, जिसे असुरों से बचाने के लिए देवता-असुरों ने इसे चार स्थानों-प्रयागराज, हरिद्वार, उज्जैन और नासिक में रखा। माना जाता है कि अमृत की कुछ बूंदें इन चार स्थानों पर गिरी थीं, जिसके कारण इन्हें पवित्र स्थल माना जाता है और वहां हर 12 वर्ष में कुंभ मेला

महाकुंभ और पुण्य

महाकुंभ मेला मोक्ष प्राप्ति का एक प्रमुख अवसर माना जाता है। हिन्दू मान्यता के अनुसार, इस समय गंगा, यमुना, सरस्वती और अन्य पवित्र नदियों में स्नान करने से पापों का नाश होता है और पुण्य की प्राप्ति होती है। यह आयोजन न केवल आत्मशुद्धि का अवसर है, बल्कि समाज की आध्यात्मिक उन्नति का भी एक माध्यम है। साधु-संत, ऋषि-मुनि और योगी इस दौरान ध्यान, साधना और धर्म प्रचार में व्यस्त रहते हैं, जबकि लाखों श्रद्धालु पुण्य कमाने के लिए पवित्र नदियों में स्नान करते हैं। महाकुंभ के दौरान विशेष रूप से पुण्यफल की प्राप्ति होती है, जो अन्य समय के कुंभ मेलों से कहीं अधिक होती है। इसे एक दिव्य और आशीर्वादमयी समय माना जाता है।

आयोजित किया जाता है। कुंभ मेला का धार्मिक और आध्यात्मिक महत्व कुंभ मेला का आयोजन श्रद्धालुओं को आत्मशुद्धि का अवसर प्रदान करने के लिए किया जाता है। इस दौरान पवित्र नदियों

कुंभ मेला हर १२ साल में क्यों लगता है ?

कुंभ मेला की तिथियां खगोलीय घटनाओं के आधार पर निर्धारित होती हैं। बृहस्पति ग्रह और सूर्य की स्थिति इस आयोजन से जुड़ी होती है। जब बृहस्पति ग्रह कुंभ राशि में प्रवेश करता है और सूर्य मकर राशि में होता है, तब कुंभ मेला आयोजित होता है। बृहस्पति ग्रह को अपनी कक्षा में 12 साल का समय लगता है, और इस कारण कुंभ मेला हर 12 साल में एक बार आयोजित किया जाता है। हिन्दू ज्योतिषशास्त्र में यह चक्र महत्वपूर्ण माना गया है, और इसे मानव जीवन के समय चक्र से जोड़कर देखा जाता है। 12 वर्षों के इस चक्र में आत्मशुद्धि, ध्यान और आस्था का विशेष समय होता है।

शाही स्नान और उसका महत्व महाकुंभ मेले में सबसे खास आकर्षण होता है शाही स्नान। शाही स्नान केवल शरीर को धोने का कार्य नहीं है, बल्कि यह आत्मा और मन की शुद्धि का भी प्रतीक है। शाही स्नान का आयोजन विशेष खगोलीय स्थिति में किया जाता है, जब

पहले, एक भव्य जुलूस निकाला जाता है, जिसमें साधु-संत पारंपरिक शस्त्रों और ध्वजों के साथ शामिल होते हैं। यह जुलूस हाथियों, घोड़ों, ऊँटों और रथों पर सवार होकर निकाला जाता है। शाही स्नान के बाद, आम श्रद्धालु भी पवित्र नदियों में स्नान करते हैं।

महाकुंभ २०२५ के शाही स्नान की तिथियां

2025 के महाकुंभ में शाही स्नान के लिए विशेष तिथियां निर्धारित की गई हैं:

मकर संक्रांति: 14 जनवरी 2025

मौनी अमावस्या: 29 जनवरी 2025

बसंत पंचमी: 03 फरवरी 2025

माघी पूर्णिमा: 12 फरवरी 2025

महाशिवरात्रि: 26 फरवरी 2025

इन तिथियों पर शाही स्नान के आयोजन से प्राप्त पुण्य को असंख्य यज्ञों और तपस्या के बराबर माना जाता है। यह समय आत्मा की शुद्धि और मोक्ष प्राप्ति का सबसे सरल मार्ग होता है। महाकुंभ मेला न केवल हिन्दू धर्म के अनुयायियों के लिए, बल्कि



में स्नान करने से व्यक्ति के पापों का नाश होता है और आत्मा की शुद्धि होती है। कुंभ मेला में साधु-संतों, गुरुओं और श्रद्धालुओं का मिलन होता है, और यहां ज्ञान, भक्ति और सेवा का आदान-प्रदान होता है। यह मेला आध्यात्मिक उन्नति का एक महत्वपूर्ण अवसर होता है, जहां लोग जीवन के विभिन्न पहलुओं पर विचार करते हैं और अपने जीवन को सुधारने का दिशा में काम करते हैं।

ग्रह-नक्षत्रों की स्थिति अत्यंत शुभ होती है। यह स्नान अमृत प्राप्ति का प्रतीक माना जाता है और इसे असंख्य यज्ञों, तपस्याओं और दान के बराबर माना जाता है। महाकुंभ में शाही स्नान विभिन्न अखाड़ों के साधु-संतों द्वारा किया जाता है, जो विशेष क्रम में स्नान करते हैं। इन अखाड़ों में प्रमुख हैं-जूना अखाड़ा, निरंजनी अखाड़ा, और महानिवाणी अखाड़ा। शाही स्नान से

मानव-ता के लिए एक प्रेरणा का स्रोत है। यह समाज को एकजुट करता है, आध्यात्मिक उन्नति की दिशा में प्रेरित करता है, और प्रत्येक व्यक्ति को जीवन के वास्तविक उद्देश्य की ओर मार्गदर्शन प्रदान करता है। 2025 का महाकुंभ विशेष रूप से महत्वपूर्ण है, क्योंकि यह 144 वर्षों के बाद आयोजित हो रहा है और इसके साथ जुड़ी खगोलीय घटनाएं इसे एक अत्यंत पवित्र और दिव्य अवसर बनाती हैं।

