

FEBRUARY 2025



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SANGH MAIL

# Maha Kumbh - Prayagraj 2025

Largest Gathering Of Humanity on Earth – Taking a Holy Dip

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FEBRUARY 2025

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'Whether through the lens of spirituality, celestial alignment, or the living heritage of Naga sadhus,

the Maha Kumbh is a reminder  
of the timeless connection  
between the cosmos, culture  
and community'



# महाकुम्भ 640 million

**NO** Status  
**NO** Class  
**NO** Colour  
**NO** Prejudice  
**NO** Religion

*Sea of Humanity,  
All Taking a Holy Dip.*

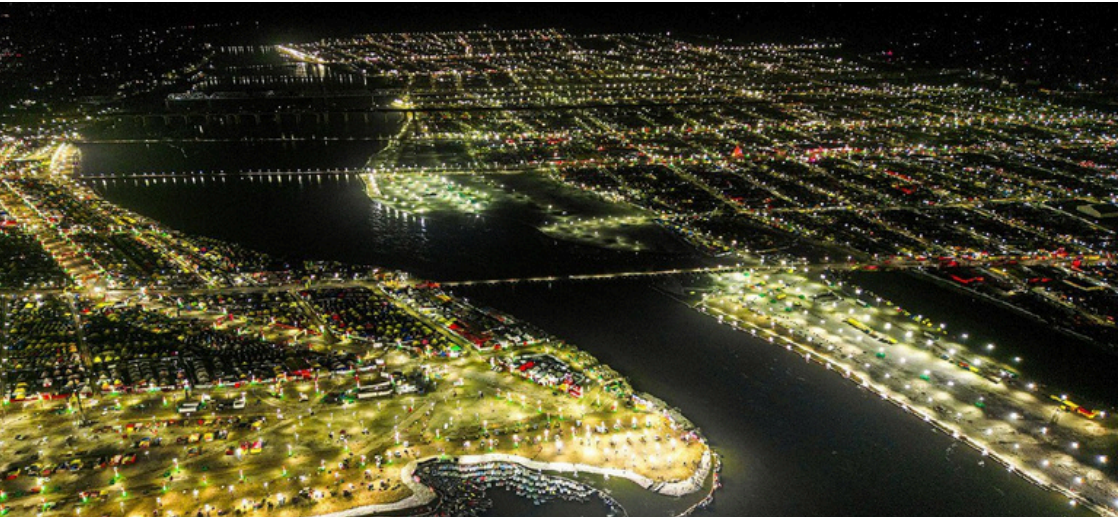
Hindutva -  
Hinduness







# महाकुम्भ





| MAHAKUMBH 2025

# Astronomical Marvel

**Early morning at Prayagraj... a glorious sight to behold! Saturn, Mars, Venus, Jupiter, and the crescent Moon just before sunrise.**

Maha Kumbha Mela is connected to this rare planetary parade. For the first time in 144 years, this combination was seen parading in the same line on 29 January early morning along with the Nakshatra (constellation) Pushya. What a brilliance of Indian astronomy and astrology.



| MAHAKUMBH 2025

## Team YogKulam at Mahakumbh

Our very own, Team YogKulam karyakartas Shri Kantibhai Chhabadiya and Pradeep ji, accompanied by Prashant ji from Nashik, took the holy dip on Magh Purnima at the Maha Kumbh. Kantibhai reported back on the excellent facilities provided by the Uttar Pradesh government and management of unbelievable numbers attending. Many of our HSS (UK) members have also attended and have been awe-inspired and spiritually uplifted, by the simplest of acts, a humble holy dip.



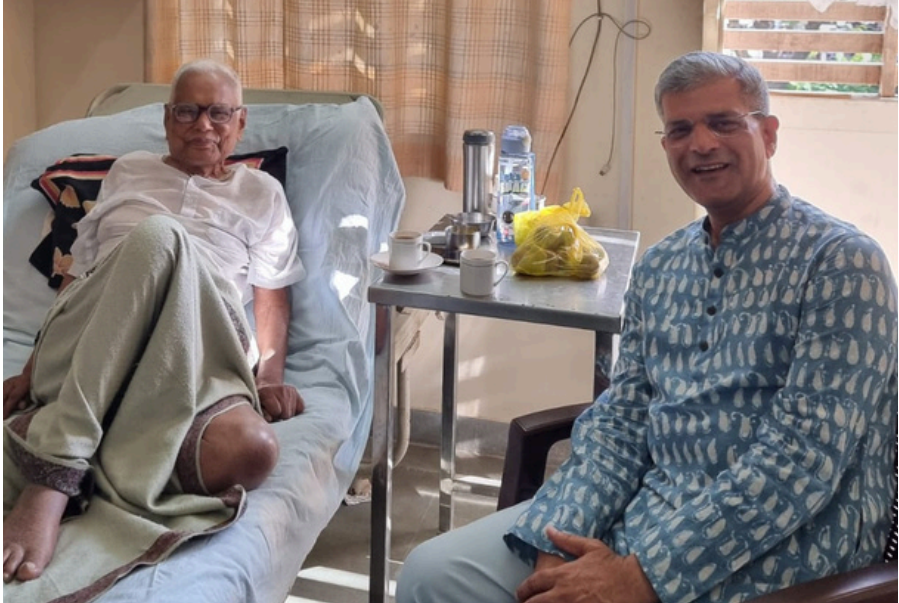




# Other news

PHOTO BY [ABSOLUTVISION](#) ON [UNSPLASH](#)

## Namaste from Mananiya Shankar Rao Tatwawadi ji



Shri Chandrakant Sharma visited Mananiya Shankar Rao Tatwawadi ji, to enquire about his health. Apart from weakness in the knees, he is in general good health. His memory, presence of mind, and humour are all as good as ever. Shankar Rao ji will soon be 92. Over a cup of tea, they discussed various issues and sent his regards to all in the UK.

**We also wish him well and hope to see both Shankar Rao ji and Chandrakantji sometime soon in Bharat.**



| OTHER NEWS

## **Bromley Shakha Takes Kho-Kho, Kabaddi, and Yoga to School.**

In our Bromley Parivar Shakha, some of the boys attend St Olave's Grammar School. At the school, there was a dysfunctional Hindu Society. With the efforts of our boys, the Hindu Society got reactivated with the onset of the 2023-24 session. They have been playing kho kho and kabaddi during lunch, and that got noticed by the school sports department. The department requested them to submit the rules of the games. Hopefully, kho kho and kabaddi will be in the school curriculum.

On the development front, the school decided to start performing Suryanamaskars in the individual forms of PE lessons.



| OTHER NEWS

## HSS Germany's First-Ever Vistarak Varg

HSS Germany held its first-ever Vistarak Varg in Hamburg. Thirteen Kishor/Kishoris pledged to dedicate a minimum of two weeks as vistaraks in 2025.

From Friday to Sunday, the varg was packed with insightful sessions designed to cultivate the key skills for a vistarak's journey. Participants engaged in sessions on facilitating baithaks and charchas, planning and conducting shakhas, and embracing the sadhana of vistaraks and pracharaks.

On the final day, in a solemn moment of dedication, all vistaraks took a sankalp before the Bhagwa Dhwaj, reaffirming their commitment to serve as vistaraks. This was followed by an inspiring bauddhik by Germany's Karyawaha, Shri Harish Babu ji, motivating everyone to carry forward the mission with conviction.





| OTHER NEWS

## Reading Hanuman Shakha Makar Sankranti with a Khichdi Twist!

On a freezing Friday evening of 10 January 2025, Hanuman Shakha, Reading hosted a heartwarming and welcoming Khichdi Party. Despite the cold weather, the karyakam was filled with warmth, laughter, and the spirit of togetherness. The goal was simple - unit families, share stories and create a memory.

There was a showcasing of the key highlights of 2024. This was followed by interactive activities, a short pradarshan, and a geet that added a special touch of unity and joy.





The highlight of the evening was the much-anticipated khichdi-sharing, where families brought their unique versions of this classic dish, each representing their home state or family traditions. This exchange celebrated the incredible diversity of our samaj.

**The evening was an unforgettable experience for all!**





**Forthcoming  
events**

# V5

THE 5TH COHORT

## SAMAROP

## SHOWCASE

# vaani

SPEAKERS



16

March, Sunday



2pm - 5pm



North London

INVITE ONLY

Registration Required

[vaani.org.uk](https://vaani.org.uk)



## | FORTHCOMING EVENTS

# What is Vaani?

Vaani is a public speaking platform focused on developing Dharmic speech delivery. We provide a supportive environment for individuals to cultivate their oratory skills while grounding their expression in Dharmic principles. This means that speakers are encouraged to explore their beliefs and values and express them clearly and confidently.

We aim to create a network of confident orators who exude intellect, creativity, and a Dharmic perspective. The goal is to build a community of skilled speakers who can articulate themselves well and are also deeply connected to their Dharmic roots. These speakers will serve as role models and inspire others to develop their voices.



## The journey

The Vaani experience has been crafted to help orators explore themselves, their thinking, the culture they represent, and their expression. The structure of each cohort has been tweaked over the years, and most recently has comprised of:



- **Three in-person workshop weekends, the Abhyas Vargs:** These intensive workshops provide hands-on training and practical experience in public speaking. Participants engage in exercises, receive feedback, and learn from experienced mentors.
- **Abhyas Webinars:** These online sessions offer additional learning opportunities and enable participants to connect with the Vaani community remotely. Webinars cover specific topics, provide further training, and offer a checkpoint for speakers to share their progress.
- **Mentors:** Experienced mentors guide participants, providing personalised feedback, support, and encouragement. Mentors play a crucial role in each speaker's development.
- **Regular Comms and Feedback:** Consistent communication and constructive feedback are essential components of the Vaani program. Participants receive regular updates, reminders, and personalized feedback to help them track their progress and make improvements.





## Previous Cohorts

We encourage you to look back at past material, all uploaded to YouTube. Each orator has given an 'Introduce Your Grandparent' speech. For most, this has been a revelatory experience, requiring orators to do research, dig deep, and discover hidden gems and untold stories about their ancestors.



V1.

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?  
list=PLqASX7u7RT8hPcPKdvrifywgw\\_8mdLWBUD](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqASX7u7RT8hPcPKdvrifywgw_8mdLWBUD)

V2.

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?  
list=PLqASX7u7RT8jAxLz8jCCFnkiodgHE2meL](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqASX7u7RT8jAxLz8jCCFnkiodgHE2meL)

V3.

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqASX7u7RT8gj-68ITUXyH8wvZA-  
rKavE](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqASX7u7RT8gj-68ITUXyH8wvZA-rKavE)

V4.

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?  
list=PLqASX7u7RT8ibHn3eKe4frA1uMq0zAqr6](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqASX7u7RT8ibHn3eKe4frA1uMq0zAqr6)

## 2025 Cohorts and Samarop

The current cohort V5, are undergoing training as we speak.



Their Samarop Showcase is on Sunday 16th March 2025 in North London and you are invited, please visit [vaani.org.uk](http://vaani.org.uk) to register for a place to come and watch the following orators:

**Punit Vara, Tulsi Dave, Manoj Mishra,  
Prachi Joshi, Nikhil Parbat**



# SAMSKRITA BHARATI UK

heartily welcomes you to attend the

**SAMSKRĀTA SAMBHĀṢANA ŚIBIRAM**

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**Easter Weekend (18th – 20th April 2025)**

Beaumanor Hall, Beaumanor Dr, Woodhouse  
Loughborough, LE12 8TX, United Kingdom

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- Learn Sanskrit in an immersive atmosphere sans distractions
- Practise your spoken-Sanskrit skills with like-minded friends
- Listen to stories, sing songs, and play games in Samskr̥tam
- Find some hard-to-find Sanskrit books and educational materials on sale at the venue.

All this and more in a fun-filled environment!

Please register before **15 April 2025** at

<https://www.sanskritabharatiuk.org/event/shibiram-2025/>





# Essential reading

PHOTO BY [REY SEVEN](#) ON [UNSPASH](#)



| ESSENTIAL READ

## **Proud to be a Sanatani Nari**

As a mother, a woman, and a proud Sanatani, this picture is more than just a moment - it is a statement, a powerful answer to every lie told about my Bharat and my Dharma.

For years, they have tried to convince us that our culture suppresses women, that our traditions hold us back, and that our identity must be shed to succeed. But here, in this single frame, is the truth that destroys every one of those falsehoods.



A Sanatani Nari - Droupadi Murmu, a tribal woman, sits as the First Citizen of Bharat, the President of this great nation. Another Sanatani Nari - Nirmla Sitharaman, from a middle-class background, is the one handling the economy of a 1.4 billion-strong nation, navigating it through global crises. No dynastic privilege, no “empowerment” handed to them as charity - only merit, grit, and the indomitable spirit of Sanatana Dharma.

And they do it not by rejecting their identity, but by embracing it. Draped in sarees, wearing bindis, deeply rooted in our Sanskaras, they prove that true power does not come from mimicry of the West—it comes from standing tall in one’s own civilization.

I see Rashtra Mata Murmu feeding dahi-cheeni to Sitharaman before she presents the budget—a ritual every mother in Bharat follows before sending her child into an important battle, be it an exam or a new journey. This is not superstition; this is Sanatana Sanskriti in its purest form—tradition blending seamlessly with progress.



PHOTO BY SRIMATHI JAYAPRAKASH ON UNSPLASH



And as I watch this, I know what to tell my daughters. This is your Bharat. This is your Sanatana Dharma. And no matter what the world tells you, never believe that you must abandon your roots to reach your potential. This is proof that our traditions do not shackle us - they empower us. Our culture does not suppress us - it uplifts us.



For those who claim that Bharat is a land of oppression, look here. This is a country where women rise, not because of their gender, caste, or privilege, but because of their Karma and Gyaan. This is a country where a tribal girl can become President and a middle-class woman can lead its economy. Where Shakti is not a symbol, but a living force guiding the nation.

This picture is my assurance, my hope. My daughters will grow up knowing that as Sanatani Naris, they are limitless. They do not need to seek validation from the world; the world will take note of them. Because in Bharat, we do not just speak of women's empowerment - we live it. And that, to me, is the greatest strength of our civilization.



# We want to hear from you!

When submitting your articles, here are a few points to consider:



**Provide a summary**

Don't forget to include your Shakha name and location



**A picture tells a thousand words**

Attach your best high resolution pics (maximum of 8 @ 300 dpi).



**Who it's from**

Keep articles short, highlighting the best parts

Send all articles and pictures to [sanghmail@hssuk.org](mailto:sanghmail@hssuk.org)

[info@hssuk.org](mailto:info@hssuk.org) • [www.hssuk.org](http://www.hssuk.org) • Registered Charity No. 1202635