

Happy & Prosperous Sankranti to All!!

A REPORT OF
Sports4Peace Cricket Tournament & Multi Faith Celebrations*
For Christmas, Guru Govind Singh Jayanti & Sankranti

Organised by



On 13 January 2024- Boys Town High School, Hyderabad.

Br. Yesu Prabhakaran bowled and Sardar Sajjan Singh hit the ball
To inaugurate the Cricket Tournament!

The Highlight of the Event was the **"Game for Peace:"** A five over cricket match in the evening where 12 players from all teams mixed along religion, caste and locality lines. 10 Guests of Honour of the Program also participated to make two teams of Harmony to **Play for Peace!**

The Teams had representations from Hindus, Muslims, Christians and Sikhs with members from Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. Most castes also participated with a sizable number from the Lambadi community.

DECCAN
Chronicle
COVA holds interfaith
cricket match for peace

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 13

Team COVA Peace Network organised a five over cricket match for Sankranti, Christmas and Guru Govind Singh Jayanti at the Boys Town High School in Hyderabad on Monday. It had teams with representations from Hindus, Muslims, Christians and Sikhs faiths from Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Kerala and Uttar Pradesh.

Participants were there from most castes but a sizable number were from the Lambada community. Ten guests of honour of the programme also participated as two teams played for harmony and peace.

Dr Mazher Hussain, executive director of COVA (Confederation of

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Voluntary Organisations spoke about the concepts of sports for peace and multi faith celebrations and thanked all for their active partnership in making the programme a success.

The teams had players chosen from all religions, caste and locality lines. Zhenis from Kazakhstan spoke about the sports culture in his country and explained how faiths coexist. As part of multi faith celebrations, Brother

Prabhakaran spoke about how Christmas is celebrated across the world. Sardar Sajjan Singh explained about the life and contributions of Guru Gobind Singh and reminded that service to humanity is the hallmark of Sikhism.

Pandit Harinarayan Tiwari from Ayodhya explained the importance of Sankranti and why it is celebrated. Qari Mustafa Scofiyani appreciated the concept of multi faith celebrations and the importance of respect for all faiths and the need for peaceful coexistence when the world is gripped by unprecedented violence.

Prizes and medals were distributed to the winners and mementos were given to the guests of honour.



International flavour was added to the occasion with Mr. Zhenis Telemossov of Kazakhstan who spoke about the sports in his country and how many faiths coexist. As part of Multi Faith Celebrations, Br. Prabhakaran shared his Greetings for Christmas and said that every time someone in need is helped, he thinks of the helper as God and so a God is born in the hearts of

Hyderabad: 'Game for Peace' by COVA on Jan 13

Being organised by COVA Peace Network, the cricket match will have 12 players of all religion, caste and locality lines

BY TELANGANA TODAY
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Hyderabad: Sports4Peace Cricket Tournament & Multi-Faith Celebrations will be held for Christmas, Guru Govind Singh Jayanti and Sankranti at Boys Town School Jahanuma, Hyderabad, on January 13 from 9 am to 5.30 pm.

Being organised by COVA Peace Network, the 'Game for Peace' will have a five-over match from 3.30 pm to 4.15 pm where 12 players from all teams will be mixed along religion, caste and locality lines. Ten guests will also participate in making two teams of Harmony to play for peace, a press release said.

people every day! Sardar Sajjan Singh spoke about the life and contributions of Guru Gobind Singh Ji and that the core beliefs and practice of service to humanity that is the hall mark of Sikhism.

Pandit Harinarayan Tiwari of Ayodhya explained the importance of Sankranti and why it is celebrated. Qari Mustapha Sufiyan appreciated the concept of Multi Faith Celebrations and the importance of respect for all faiths and need for peaceful coexistence when the world is gripped

by unprecedented violence.



Team of Nayak Nagar were the Winners and Bharat Nagar we the Runner Up!

Prizes and medals were distributed to all Teams and mementos to the guests of honour, Umpires and coaches. Speaking at the Valedictory Mr. Adi Reddy, Inspector of Police of Falaknuma appreciated the program of the cricket tournament and Multi Faith Celebrations together. He stressed that sports can be a good character builder and urged youth to utilise these opportunities. Dr. Munawar Kamal of Chicago, USA felt more such programs should be organised across the country and urged youth to prepare themselves to lead the country in future. Mr. Munawar Khalid Saudagar, a banker from USA spoke about the different programs that COVA is very successfully taking up for upliftment of society and he is happy to partner with the organisation.

Mr. Shyam Lal and Mr. Ashfaq Hussain narrated their joint contribution to prevention of communal violence in Sultan Shahi area that became a model for other sensitive localities of Hyderabad and contributed to cessation of riots in the city. Mr. Saheer of Indialogue Foundation, Mr. Kammela Sai Baba of Sports Coaching Foundation and Mr Saleem, commentator from Hyderabad Cricket Association also spoke.

Syed Jafar Hussain Quadri was the Master of Ceremonies and Mr. M. A. Kaleem and Mr. Ashfaq Hussain of COVA proposed the Vote of thanks.

Team COVA Peace Network

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Diwali- Mahavir Nirvana - Guru Nanak Jayanti Festivities In Hyderabad as Multi Faith Celebration 3rd November, 2024

Children-Youth- Men and Women of Different Religions and Castes Participated at Urdu Ghar, Hyderabad on 3rd November 2024 for a Joint Program for Multi Faith Celebrations by COVA Community Centers of Kurmaguda and Jangammet

Sri Hari Narayan Tiwari, Hindu Pandith of Allahabad speaking on this occasion said Diwali is the festival of prosperity. We must light diyas of knowledge to remove the darkness of ignorance. Shubh Laabh are the achievements: first shubh i.e. goodness and then prosperity Laabh

Sardar Sajjan Singh, Member, SGPC Amritsar spoke about the virtues and values taught by Guru Nanak. The path of truth, patience, brotherhood and respect for all religions. He emphasized that spreading peace and exchange of basic ideas of every religion is the need of the hour.



Br. Yesu Prabhakaran, Director Boys Town Group of Institutions and **Dr. Mazher Hussain of COVA** narrated the importance of Mahavir Nirvana and explained that it is a celebration for the final release or liberation of Lord Mahavir's Soul, the 24th or last Jain Tirthankara. It is celebrated at the same time as the Hindu Festival of Diwali. They also said that after his Nirvana, a group of followers established Jainism.

The Vows of Jainism

1. Nonviolence
2. Always speak the truth
3. Do not steal
4. Show sexual restraint (with celibacy as an ideal), and
5. Do not become attached to worldly things

Presiding over the Program, **Br. Thomas Chakalakala, Secretary COVA**, conveyed his Greetings on the Festive Occasion and appealed for understanding of all faiths and their practices.

Others who shared their Greetings and messages included **Sufi Nizam Pasha, Muneeruddin Mujahid, Anita Yadav, Syed Jafer Hussain, Ms. Maimoona and Ms. Noor Jahan Siddiqui**. Sports material and sketching kits were presented by the guests to children and youth as Festival Gifts.

Mr. Bharatesh Kidambi, Project Coordinator of COVA shared a PPT showing different Multi Faith Celebrations involving 7 religions organised by COVA. He also explained that the

core objective of Multi Faith Celebrations is to invite families in our neighborhood to promote better understanding. He appealed to all to pledge to invite their neighbors from other communities for all festivals to come.

All participants appreciated the Multi Faith Celebrations Program and promised to invite their neighbors for all their festivals to promote better understanding and social harmony. The speakers asserted that religions cannot and should not be used for hatred and violence and youth to be protected from getting corrupted by the social media.



Sone Papdi and Laddus added sweetness to the Festivities!!

The Program started with Rangoli and lighting of Diyas and concluded with the National Anthem

Ganesh Chaturthi and Milad un Nabi Festivities In Hyderabad as Multi Faith Celebrations 11th September, 2024

Girls-Boys-Youth Men & Women of Different Religions & Castes Participated in Jangammet and Kurmaguda Wards. **Sri NCV Narasimha Charyulu of Vedantha Pandith Parishad** explained the importance and values promoted by Ganesh Chaturthi. He further explained that it comes during the month of Bhadrapada, where diseases increase and the leaves used in pooja of this time are of medicinal value and protect us from diseases. He also emphasised that the big ears of Lord Ganesha teach us to listen more and the small eyes to concentrate better, Hence this is a Festival of Gaining Knowledge.



Mr Omar Shafeeq, Tamir E Millat, Informed Milad un Nabi, the Birthday of Prophet Mohammed, is an occasion to learn the great values propagated and practiced by him. He narrated many incidences from the life of Prophet Mohammad that show his spirit of forgiveness, kindness, respect towards women, behaviour with practitioners of other faiths and concern for the weak and the environment.

Mr. Muniruddin Mujahid, Founder Member of COVA lamented how people of different religions used to live together in Hyderabad in the past and now separate neighbourhoods are being formed leading to misunderstandings and hatred that could again lead to violence and riots. He also detailed the efforts by COVA in restoring peace in the old city.



Dr. Mazher Hussain of COVA, shared that the core objective of Multi Faith Celebrations is to invite families in our neighbourhood to promote better understanding. He appealed to all to pledge to invite their neighbors from other communities for the upcoming festivals and for all festivals to come.

All participants appreciated the Multi Faith Celebrations Program and promised to invite their neighbours for all their festivals to promote better understanding and social harmony. The speakers asserted that religions cannot and should not be used for hatred and violence and youth to be protected from getting corrupted by the social media.

The Program ended with Milad Kheer and Ganesh Laddu.

Raksha Bandhan as Multi Faith Celebration
Venues: Kurmaguda and Jangammet COVA Community Centers
19st August, 2024



Girls-Boys-Youth Men & Women of different Religions, Castes participated in large numbers in Jangammet and Kurmaguda Wards to tie Rakhis, Share Sweets Exchange Gifts and Pledged to Establish and Respect Bonds of Kinship to Promote Harmony & Peace in Society

Multi Faith Celebrations



Number of Multi Faith Celebration Events Organised: 7

Festivals Celebrated: Ugadi-Gudi Padwa- Navratri- Eid-Ul-Adha (Ramadan) - Baisakhi- Chaitraoba - Ram Navami--Mahavir Jayanti –Parsi New Year Day -Bakrid-Raksha Bandhan- Ganesh Chaturthi and Milad un Nabi - Diwali - Mahavir Nirvana - Guru Nanak Jayanti

Multi Faith Celebrations of Mahavir Jayanti- Ram Navami- Ramazan- Baisakhi- Establishment of Khalsa Pant **21st April 2024**



Girls-Boys-Youth Men & Women of different Religions, Castes participated in the program on this occasion where faith Leaders spoke about the Life and Message of Bhagwan Mahaveer; Celebration of Birth, Life and Example of Lord Ram as Ram Navami; Values inculcated by Ramazan and the Social Benefits of Zakat and Celebration of Baisakhi as a harvest Festival that marks the New Year and is also the day on which Guru Gobind Singh ji, the Tenth Guru, established the Khalsa Pant.

Members from different religions and communities felt the Magical Spell of Multi faith Celebrations that could provide the opportunity to understand teachings of other faiths and interact with members of different Communities that helped address some ill informed biases to promote a Harmonious and Peaceful Society.