

Multi-Faith Celebrations – A New Chapter in Interfaith Harmony
Apr 5, 2025



Hyderabad, 5th April 2025: In a remarkable and heartwarming initiative that is gradually gaining momentum across India, a new tradition is blossoming—**Multi-Faith Celebrations**. These celebrations bring together people from different religious and cultural backgrounds to jointly celebrate the spirit of unity, understanding, and shared joy. The trend involves identifying festivals from different faiths occurring within a close timeframe and organizing joint celebrations on a mutually convenient day. These events aim not only to promote harmony but to foster youth engagement through a vibrant mix of activities.

Celebrating April Together

April 2025 is a particularly festive month, marked by a confluence of major festivals including **Ugadi, Eid Ul Fitr, Ram Navami, Mahavir Jayanti, Baisakhi, and Easter**. While Kolkata led the initiative with its celebrations on 3rd April, cities like **Delhi, Hyderabad, and Mumbai** followed suit on **5th April**. More cities—such as **Varanasi, Bengaluru, Ayodhya, Ahmedabad, Vijayawada, Pune, Patna, Raipur, Gulbarga, Bidar, and Lucknow**—are scheduled to host celebrations between **6th and 20th April**. Many more are expected to join the movement soon.

THE HINDU

Multi-faith festivities in Hyderabad
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HYDERABAD
[The Hindu Bureau](#)

Hyderabad celebrated unity in diversity on Saturday (April 5) by joining cities across India in a multi-faith celebration, bringing together festivals like Ugadi, Id-ul-Fitr, Ram Navami, Mahavir Jayanti, Baisakhi and Easter. The day began with a blood donation camp, inaugurated by leaders from five major religions, followed by a cultural showcase titled ‘The Stage Awaits Your Soul’, featuring performances by artists across faiths.

A youth panel, ‘My Ideas of Celebrating Festivals,’ emerged as the highlight, where participants reflected on the changing nature of celebrations in the digital age and called for a return to shared, meaningful festivities across communities.

A Celebration of Spirit and Solidarity

Multi-Faith Celebrations go beyond symbolic gestures. Cities are hosting a wide range of thoughtful and inclusive activities:

- **Multi-Faith Assemblies** with faith leaders and eminent personalities discussing the core values promoted by their festivals.
- **Blood Donation Camps** to express compassion and service.
- **Feasts for the Needy**, fostering care and community spirit.
- **Cultural and Literary Programs**, showcasing the richness of India's diverse heritage.
- **Sports and Games**, promoting healthy engagement.
- **Video Messages** by faith leaders, opinion makers, and social media influencers encouraging unity and mutual respect.

One of the central objectives is to bring these celebrations to the grassroots—encouraging families to invite neighbours from other communities to partake in their festivals. This personal interaction sows the seeds of genuine understanding and acceptance.

For further insights into the initiative, activities by faith leaders and youth, implementation strategies, event reports, video messages, and media coverage, readers are invited to visit the dedicated website: <https://jointcelebrations.covanetwork.org/>

Hyderabad Sets the Tone – 5th April 2025

The city of Hyderabad embraced this movement with warmth and enthusiasm. The day kicked off with



a **Blood Donation Camp**, inaugurated by representatives from five major faiths: **Vithal Rao Arya (Hindu)**, **Muneeruddin Mujahid (Muslim)**, **Sheel Kumar Jain (Jain)**, **Sardar Rachpal Singh Khalsa (Sikh)**, and **Sister Lizzy (Christian)**. Each expressed heartfelt appreciation for the youth who stepped forward to donate blood, transforming religious celebrations into acts of compassion and unity.

The cultural segment, titled “**The Stage Awaits Your Soul**”, was a soulful experience. **Aeina**, a pantheist and non-binary artist, captivated the audience with a dance performance brimming with spiritual energy. **Irfan**, a young Muslim poet, mesmerized attendees with his sensitive, thought-provoking poetry.

The evening also featured **Smt. Kalpana Surana** from the renowned Surana Group, who transported the gathering with melodious Jain Bhajans. **Ashu Bhajan Mandali** followed with traditional religious songs, adding to the rich cultural tapestry.

Youth Speak: A Panel of Fresh Perspectives

A highlight of the event was the **Youth Panel** titled “**My Ideas of Celebrating Festivals**”, where panelists under 25 shared personal reflections on how festivals are evolving. They pointed out that while technology has enabled virtual connections, it has also reduced physical and emotional closeness. The need to find new ways to maintain the warmth and spirit of celebration in this digital era was a key takeaway.

Panelists also lamented how festivals are increasingly being used as platforms for social display rather than genuine joy. The trend of taking selfies and curating festival content for social media, they noted, detracts from the true essence of these occasions. Even more concerning is the emerging divide, where different communities celebrate in isolation, sometimes leading to competition and conflict. Politics, they felt, has further complicated matters.

Their collective suggestion: **Celebrate Together**. Unite over shared joy rather than divided identities.

Youth Panel Members:

- **Rama** – Hindu woman
- **Shyna** – Agnostic, genderfluid
- **Shyam** – Christian male
- **Prashanth** – Jain man
- **Ramya** – Christian woman
- **Pranathi** – Hindu woman

Moderator: Imtiaz – Muslim woman

These young voices offered not just criticism but hope—suggesting that true change can come when celebrations are used as a tool for empathy, shared experiences, and collective healing.

A Vision for the Future

Multi-Faith Celebrations are not just about marking dates on a calendar—they represent a deeper cultural shift toward **mutual respect, interpersonal understanding, and social harmony**. As this movement grows, it carries the promise of transforming festivals into bridges of unity across the country.

In a world often divided by difference, this initiative reminds us that at the heart of every festival is a shared yearning for peace, love, and togetherness.

Telangana Today



Blood donation camp, cultural programme mark Hyderabad multi-faith celebrations

Youth Panel on My Ideas of Celebrating Festivals steals the show with participants sharing remarkable insights

By [Telangana Today](#)

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Hyderabad: Hyderabad multi-faith celebrations started with a blood donation camp with members of different communities donating blood.

The camp was inaugurated by Vithal Rao Arya, Muneeruddin Mujahid, Sheel Kumar Jain, Sardar Rachpal Singh Khalsa and Lizzy — representing five different faiths. This was followed by Cultural Expressions under the title ‘The Stage Awaits Your Soul!’

Aeina a Pantheist danced and Irfan recited his sensitive poetry that touched the soul. Kalpana Surana of the Surana Group transported the audience to a spiritual experience with Jain bhajans and Ashu Bhajan Mandali performed traditional religious bhajans, a press release said.

The Youth Panel on My Ideas of Celebrating Festivals stole the show with participants, below 25 years sharing remarkable insights about how technology changed the way they celebrate festivals with decreasing interpersonal contacts.

Another lament of the youth was that now festivals are not so much to enjoy but to show off and post selfies on social media. A more disturbing trend is that communities have started celebrating festivals separately leading to competitions and conflicts.

Youth Panel members Rama, Shyna, Shyam, Prashanth, Ramya, and Pranathi participated and the panel was moderated by Imtiaz.

Multi Faith Assembly

The Program concluded with the Multi Faith Assembly led by renowned Faith and Thought Leaders of Hyderabad and Secunderabad that included Br. Thomas Chakalaka, Dr. Ghisulal Jain, Harinarayan Tiwari, Omer Shafeeq, Sardar Sajjan Singh, Mehernosh Evarad Barucha and Vithal Rao Arya speaking why their festivals are celebrated and the values they promote. All were unanimous that it is time for Multifait Festivities to Celebrate across religions and cultures to facilitate better mutual understanding and secure harmony and peace in neighbourhoods and society



At Noon, Annadanam or meals were arranged and about 200 poor persons got a treat on the occasion of the Multi Festivities organised on the day. The day long Program was at Gandhi Gyan Mandir, Koti, Hyderabad.

Hyderabad Partners

Partner organisations who came together to make it all possible are: Arya Samaj, COVA Peace Network, Gandhi Gyan Mandir, Gurudwara Sri Akalsar Saheb, Hindu Muslim Ekta Committee, Institute of Preventive Medicine, Montfort Social Institute, Rubaroo, Sikh Heritage Foundation - Hyderabad Deccan, Tehreek Khair E Ummat and Youngistaan Foundation

Mumbai Celebrations- 5th April 2025

Mumbai and Delhi also organised Multi Faith Festivities on 5th April 2025 where prominent faith leaders and eminent personalities participated and addressed the values promoted by their festivals and the need and importance for Multi Faith Festivities to promote better understanding between different communities and secure harmony and peace in society.

Those who graced and addressed at the program were: Bharat Gaurav Shraddhey Shri Devendra Brahmachari, B.M.Jain, Ex President Terapanti Sabha Jain Samajh, Mumbai, Mr. Mansoor Khan, President, Sufi Board, Dr. Sunny, Koli Samaj President, Mr. Suhail Khandwani, Managing Trustee, Mahim Dargah Trust, Dr Amjad Khan Pathan, Convenor, Maharashtra for Serv Dharma Parishad, Shirish Ramtek, Buddhist Samaj, Kishan Depala, Abhishek Mishra, Kishor khabiya ji, Dr. Sabir sayed, Director Operations, Mahim Dargah.



Multi Faith Festivities at Mahim Darga- Mumbai

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