

**Sports4Peace Cricket Tournament Unites
Hyderabad Youth in Powerful Multi-Faith Celebrations
COVA hosts interfaith cricket match to mark Christmas,
Sankranti and Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti**

Telangana Today

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COVA hosts interfaith cricket match to mark Christmas, Sankranti and Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti

The COVA Peace Network organised a unique multi-faith cricket celebration in Hyderabad on January 11, bringing together people from diverse religions and states to mark Christmas, Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti, and Sankranti. Leaders from multiple faiths and community representatives attended, reinforcing the message of unity and harmony.

By [Telangana Today](#)

Hyderabad: People from different faiths came together in Cricket for Multi Faith Celebrations of Christmas, Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti and Sankranti organised by COVA Peace Network on Sunday, January 11 at Boys Town High School, Hyderabad. After matches between seven teams, two members from each team and six leaders from different faiths and police officers combined for 'Play for Peace Match' to celebrate the spirit of partnership, coexistence and harmony, a COVA press release said.

The teams also had representations from Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Kerala, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh along with members of different castes.

As part of Multi Faith Celebrations, Pandit Harinarayan Tiwari of Ayodhya explained the importance of Sankranti and why it is celebrated. Br. Edward Raj spoke about Christmas while Dr. Mazher Hussain spoke about the life and contributions of Guru Gobind Singh.

Qari Mustapha Soofiyan, Rev. Yedla Surya Prakash and Ateeq M. Oosman, Aerikonda Seethiah, Inspector of Police, Falaknuma, Br. Thomas Chakalaka, Secretary COVA and many others were present.



Hyderabad, January 11, 2026: In a stirring display of unity, harmony and shared humanity, Hindu, Muslim, Christian and Sikh youth of Hyderabad came together for the **Sports4Peace Cricket Tournament and Multi-Faith Celebrations**, organised by **COVA Peace Network** on **January 11, 2026**, at **Boys Town High School, Hyderabad**.

The event uniquely blended sport, spirituality and social responsibility, celebrating **Christmas, Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti and Sankranti** through cricket and dialogue, reaffirming the message that peace and coexistence are strongest when communities stand together.

Cricket as a Bridge for Peace and Brotherhood

The tournament witnessed enthusiastic participation from **seven teams**, comprising youth from diverse regions including **Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Kerala, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh**, and representing different castes and faiths. The matches reflected not just sporting skill but also camaraderie, mutual respect and inclusivity. After the league matches, a special highlight of the day was the **“Play for Peace Match”**, in which **two**

members from each team, along with **leaders of different faiths and police officers**, joined hands on the cricket field. This symbolic match celebrated the spirit of partnership, coexistence and harmony at a time when the world is grappling with unprecedented violence and conflict.



Multi-Faith Voices Highlight Shared Human Values

As part of the **Multi-Faith Celebrations**, religious leaders from different traditions addressed the gathering, underlining the common values of service, compassion and peace.

Pandit Harinarayan Tiwari from Ayodhya bowling to Police Inspector Aerikonda Seethiah

- **Pandit Harinarayan Tiwari of Ayodhya** explained the significance of **Sankranti**, highlighting its message of renewal, gratitude to nature and harmony with the cycles of life.
- **Brother Edward Raj** spoke about **Christmas** as a global celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, emphasizing family, sharing, compassion and spreading happiness among all.
- **Dr. Mazher Hussain** elaborated on the life and teachings of **Guru Gobind Singh Ji**, stressing the Sikh principles of courage, equality and selfless service to humanity, which continue to inspire millions.

Call for Respect, Coexistence and Peace

Faith leaders **Qari Mustapha Soofiyan**, **Rev. Yedla Surya Prakash** and **Ateeq M.**

Oosman strongly appreciated the concept of multi-faith celebrations, stating that respect for all religions and peaceful coexistence are essential, especially when societies across the world are facing rising intolerance and violence.

Police Applaud Novel Initiative for National Integration

Mr. Aerikonda Seethiah, Inspector of Police, Falaknuma, lauded the initiative as both novel and timely. He emphasized the need for continuous collective efforts to strengthen **social harmony, national integration and peace**, particularly by engaging youth in constructive and inclusive platforms.



Police Inspector Aerikonda Seethiah hitting a ball from Bro.Thomas, Secretary – COVA

COVA's Three-Decade Commitment to Peace

Brother Thomas Chakalaka, Secretary, COVA, highlighted COVA Peace Network's **30 years of work for peace**, from grassroots initiatives to global engagement. He invited young people from all backgrounds to partner with COVA in building a more just, peaceful and compassionate world.



Rev. Surya Prakash on strike!



Ateeq Oosman, High Court Advocate and Philanthropist enjoying the game!

Winners, Awards and Acknowledgements

- **Winners:** Brothers 11, GM Chowni
- **Runners-up:** Rahman C C, GM Chowni

Prizes and medals were distributed to the winning teams, while **mementos were presented to the guests of honour** in recognition of their contributions and support.

Hyderabad Mail

HYPERLOCAL NEWS HUB

Hyderabad Youth hold Multi-faith Cricket event for Harmony

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HYDERABAD: Youth from Hindu, Muslim, Christian and Sikh communities came together for a Sports4Peace cricket tournament and multi-faith celebrations organised by COVA Peace Network on January 11, 2026, at Boys Town High School.

Cricket brings youth across faiths together

The event marked Christmas, Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti and Sankranti through sport and dialogue. Seven teams participated in the tournament, with players representing Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Kerala, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh, as well as different castes.

After the league matches, two members from each team joined six leaders from different faiths and police officers for a "Play for Peace" match, aimed at promoting partnership, coexistence and harmony.

As part of the celebrations, Pandit Harinarayan Tiwari of Ayodhya spoke on the significance of Sankranti and its cultural importance. Brother Edward Raj explained Christmas as the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, observed worldwide with family gatherings and acts of sharing.

Dr Mazher Hussain spoke about the life and contributions of Guru Gobind Singh, highlighting Sikhism's core belief in service to humanity. Qari Mustapha Soofiyan, Rev Yedla Surya Prakash and Ateeq M. Oosman appreciated the concept of multi-faith celebrations and stressed the need for mutual respect and peaceful coexistence amid rising global violence.

Police, organisers stress harmony

Aerikonda Seethiah, inspector of police, Falaknuma police station, described the initiative as timely and said sustained efforts were needed to strengthen harmony, national integration and peace.

Brother Thomas Chakalaka, secretary of COVA, outlined the organisation's peace initiatives over the past 30 years and called on youth to partner with COVA at local and global levels.

Brothers 11, GM Chowni won the tournament, while Rahman C C, GM Chowni finished runners-up. Prizes and medals were distributed to the winners, and mementos were presented to guests of honour.

Raju Vedala, project coordinator, welcomed participants, while M.A. Kaleem, programmes coordinator, thanked teams and volunteers for their support.

G.Ramakrishna Goud was the Chief Umpire assisted by K.Srikanth and Manju Gowda Umpires. The programme began with a warm welcome by **Mr. Raju Vedala, Project Coordinator, COVA**, and concluded with a vote of thanks by **M. A. Kaleem, Programs Coordinator, COVA**, who expressed gratitude to all participants, leaders and partners for making the event a meaningful success.



ہوائی اسکول میں پلے فار پیس کرکٹ میاچ کا انعقاد COVA کے زیر اہتمام بقاء باہمی مقابلہ میں تمام مذاہب کے ارکان کی شرکت



حیدرآباد - 12 جنوری (پریس نوٹ) حیدرآباد کے ہندو، مسلم، سکھ اور عیسائی نوجوانوں نے 11 جنوری 2026 کو ہوائی اسکول، حیدرآباد میں COVA ٹیمس ورک کے زیر اہتمام کرکٹ، گرو گوند سنگھ چیتھی اور سکرائٹی کی کپتانی میں تمام مذاہب تقریبات کے موقع پر کرکٹ

کے بنیادی عقائد اور عمل کے بارے میں بتایا جو سکھ مذہب کی پہچان بن چکے ہیں۔ قاری مصطفیٰ صوفیانی، ریورنڈ بیلا سوریا پرکاش اور شتیق ایم عثمان نے کثیرالمد مذہب تقریبات کے تصور اور تمام مذاہب کے احترام کی اہمیت اور اس وقت پر اس بقاء باہمی کی ضرورت کو سراہا جب دنیا بھر میں تشدد کی لہر پھیل رہی ہے۔ ایریکونڈا سیتھیا، اسپیکر آف پولیس، فلک نمائے اس سنے اقدام کو سراہا اور ہم آہنگی، قومی یکجہتی اور معاشرے میں امن کیلئے مسلسل کوشش کرنے کی ضرورت پر زور دیا۔ برادر تھامس سیکرٹری COVA نے کزشتہ 30 سالوں میں مقامی سے عالمی سطح تک امن کیلئے COVA کے رول پر روشنی ڈالی اور تمام نوجوانوں کو ایک بہتر معاشرہ کی تشکیل کیلئے COVA کے ساتھ شراکت کی دعوت دی۔ چیتھے والوں میں انعامات اور تحفے تقسیم کیے گئے اور مہمانوں میں یادگاری نشانہات بھی تقسیم کیے گئے۔

میاچ کا انعقاد قبل میں لایا۔ 7 ٹیموں کے درمیان میچوں کے بعد ہر ٹیم کے 2 کھلاڑیوں اور مختلف عقائد کے چھ رہنما اور پولیس عہدیداروں نے اس میں حصہ لیا۔ بقاء باہمی اور ہم آہنگی کے جذبے کو فروغ دینے پلے فار پیس میاچ کیلئے سب عقائد کے لوگ جمع ہوئے!! ٹیموں میں مختلف مذاہب کے ارکان کے ساتھ ٹیگنڈ، آندھرا پردیش، مہاراشٹرا، کیرالا، پنجاب اور اتر پردیش کی نمائندگی بھی کی گئی تھی۔ کثیرالمد تقریبات کے ایک حصے کے طور پر، ایوڈھیا کے چنڈت ہرینارائن تیواری نے سکرائٹی کی اہمیت اور اسے کیوں منایا جاتا ہے اس کی وضاحت کی۔ برادر ایڈورڈ راج نے کرکٹ کے بارے میں دنیا بھر میں بیسویں صدی کی پیدائش کے جشن کے طور پر خاندان اور دوستوں کے ساتھ کرکٹ کی بات و آواز مظہر حسین نے گرو گوند سنگھ جی کی زندگی اور ان کی خدمات اور انسانیت کی خدمت

A Strong Message from Hyderabad

The Sports4Peace Cricket Tournament and Multi-Faith Celebrations sent out a powerful message from Hyderabad: **diversity is strength, dialogue is essential, and peace is possible when communities come together with respect and shared purpose.**

Team COVA Peace Network

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