

# Akhara System in KumbhMela: An Epitome of Hindu Mythology

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## **ABSTRACT:**

Every 12<sup>th</sup> year and for next 48 days the mankind witnesses the largest gathering of faith from all around the globe in the holiest KUMBH MELA. Worshippers traveling for miles and waiting for years attain their sacredness after taking bath in the holy river of the epic age. Four locations as mentioned in the epic sagas are chosen for the auspicious occasion namely, Haridwar on the Ganges river, Ujjain on the Shipra river, Nashik on the Godavari river and Prayagraj on the confluence of the Ganga, the Yamuna and the Saraswati. Kumbh Mela holds its significance in the form of Akharas which in the initial days were meant to be training halls. Epic like the Mahabharata also highlights the prevalence of Jarasandha's Akhara. Later in the age Adi Shankaracharya established categories of the akharas grouped into Astradhari and Shastradhari.

**Keywords:** akhara, epic, kumbh, asceticism.

**Objective:** The spirit behind the genesis of the research paper was conceived during countrywide lockdown due to COVID – 19 when a disturbing event of mob lynching of two Hindu Sadhus of Juna Akhara in the Palghar district of Maharashtra happened on 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2020. This led to the purpose of uncovering the origin of Akhara system developed in the ancient age which is losing its shine in the present age. Hence, a systematic approach in tracing the genesis, differentiation, need, rituals, ceremony, contribution and role in society, culture and economy of the Akhara System in India. In addition, their relevance in the present age is the core of the research paper.

## **EXPLORATION OF KUMBH MELA AND AKHARA SYSTEM**

Dating back to 2000 years in the annals of the glorious and rich heritage of Bharata, Kumbh Mela was mentioned for the very first time in the eternal Bhagvata Gita and also in the chronicles of Huein Tsang dated 643 CE during the rule of the Great Harsh Vardhana. KumbhMela is the oldest sacred gathering of mankind from all parts of the world. Kumbh which is listed in the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage derives its origin from the Sanskrit term KUMBHA which means pitcher while the word MELA stands for uniting of people hence, celebrating the sacred pot of immortality. Moreover, the significance KUMBH MELA is also highlighted in the rich texts of Vedas i.e. Rigveda, Yajurveda, Atharveda and Samveda. Chronicles like Narasimha Purana mentioned the KumbhMela in Prayagraj since the Gupta regime.

The whole site of grandeur and elaborate celebrations leaves the pilgrims awestruck with holy men performing rituals of Vedic age with hymns, mantras and drumbeats. The divine belief of soaking

in the pure water will wash away the sins of the past is the core of the mela attracting the worldwide attraction.

The mighty Puranas have mentioned the sacred festival tracing back to times of 1000 years. Those were the days when the Devtas (God) and the Asuras (demons) resided together. The Demons with enormous powers brought tyranny. Destruction was the only action caused by them which the Devtas were witnessing. Although, they wanted to bring an end to the despotism yet they were not able to do so because of the curse of Sage Durvasa. Days passed and they had no option other than waiting for the appropriate time.

On one fine day, Lord Brahma, the creator of the world wished to bring an end to the days of destruction caused by the Asuras. He came up with a solution and suggested the Asuras about the drink of immortality. This made the asuras curious about the milky ocean residing in the cosmos. The asuras decided to come together with the Devtas to yield the ultimate nectar of immortality : AMRITA. For the next 1000 years every day was worked in order to churn out the nectar. Finally, the day of the era came when Dhanvantri appeared with pot of Amrita in her hands and handed over to the Devtas. Lord Brahaspati, Shani, Surya and Chandra decided to not share the pot of Amrita with the asuras. When the asuras realized the intentions of the Devtas the chase of the Amrita began.

For the next 12 days the Devtas performed every possible act to protect the pot of amrita from the asuras and during this chase some drops fell on the soil of Haridwar, Ujjain, Prayagraj and Nashik. The 12 days were translated into 12 years and the locations became the legend of the Kumbh Mela for 48 days in the present time. Four locations as mentioned in the epic sagas are chosen for the auspicious occasion namely, Haridwar on the Ganges river, Ujjain on the Shipra river, Nashik on the Godavari river and Prayagraj on the confluence of the Ganga, the Yamuna and the Saraswati. Getting into further extent Kumbh Mela is classified into categories described below

- ❖ MAHA KUMBH MELA : It is organized in the Prayagraj in every 144 years or after 12 PurnaKumbhMela.
- ❖ PURNA KUMBH MELA :it is organized in every 12<sup>th</sup> year with 4 locations Haridwar, Ujjain, Prayagraj and Nashik.
- ❖ ARDH KUMBH MELA : It happens in every 6<sup>th</sup> year at Haridwar and Prayagraj.
- ❖ MAGH KUMBH MELA : It is an annual Kumbh Mela in the month of Magh at Prayagraj.

## GENESIS OF AKHARA SYSTEM

Kumbh Mela every time witnesses a gathering of millions of people but the confluence of the Ganga, the Yamuna and the Saraswati is mesmerized by the Akharas which are the core of the ritual. The reference of Akharas in the past was related to the training halls. Although, epic like the Mahabharata highlights the prevalence of Jarasandha's Akhara.

The term "Akhara" means "akhand" denoting an organization or a wrestling area which came into practice since 8<sup>th</sup> century A.D. by Adi Shankaracharya, a philosopher born on the soil of Kerala who has a heavy influence on Advaita Vedanta. His ideas discussing the union of Atman and Nirguna Brahmana labeled as "brahmana without attributes" and vocalized against the Mimansa school of Indian Philosophy. The mould to create the Akhara system was to lead and formulate a warrior class to hold the flag of Hinduism high in the sky against the invasions of foreign intruders and also preserve the ancient age religion of Hinduism against the newly grown religion namely Jainism and Buddhism.

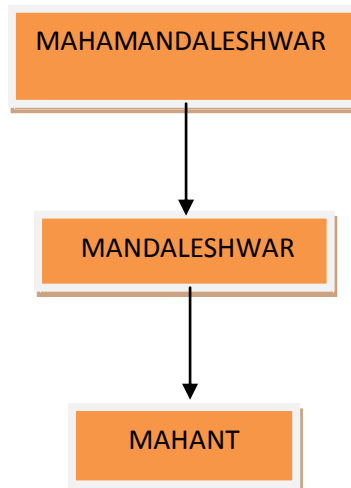
The earliest historical piece of knowledge illustrating akhara system lies in the world of “Harshcharita” scripted by Banbhatta which mentioned two ascetics namely Patalasvamin and Karnatala as the security force of king Pushyahuti. Prominent work of Kabir in “Bijak” also poured information about yogis. Abulfazal also mentioned the war between two groups of ascetics namely “Puri” and “Kur” armed with swords, stones at a pilgrimage set in Thanesar witnessed by Akbar.

The soul of the Akhara system lies in the breath of the monks which are desired to leave all the materialistic luxuries behind even the warmth of family in order to preserve the order of Hinduism which is embodied by the sacred 16 sanskara of the Hindu mythology which are as follows Garbhadhan, Punsavan, Simantonayan, Jatkarma, Naamkaran, Nishkramana, Annprashan, Chaul, Vudyarambh, Karnavedh, Upnayan, Vedarambha, KeshaniSamskar, Samavartan, Vivah, Antyesthi.

### AKHARA SYSTEM AND RITUALS

The voyage of the sacred path to attain the status of monk begins with the renunciation of one’s present caste, identity as well family. A new identity as per the sect is moulded for the monk in the rite of renunciation. The Dasnami sect conducts the Samnyasa rite starting with Panc Guru Samskar when the monk acquires five gurus followed by Viraja Homa ritual which is performed at Kumbh Mela. In the Viraja Homa ritual the monk performs his own funeral rites along with performing a ceremony to become a naga in akhara. On the other hand the Ramanada sect enlists Panc Guru Samskar followed by Tyagi and concluded by becoming a naga. Interestingly, when they die they are buried and not cremated because cremation is conducted in the Hindu ritual so that the soul can be detached by the body but they have already detached while becoming a sadhu hence, they are cremated.

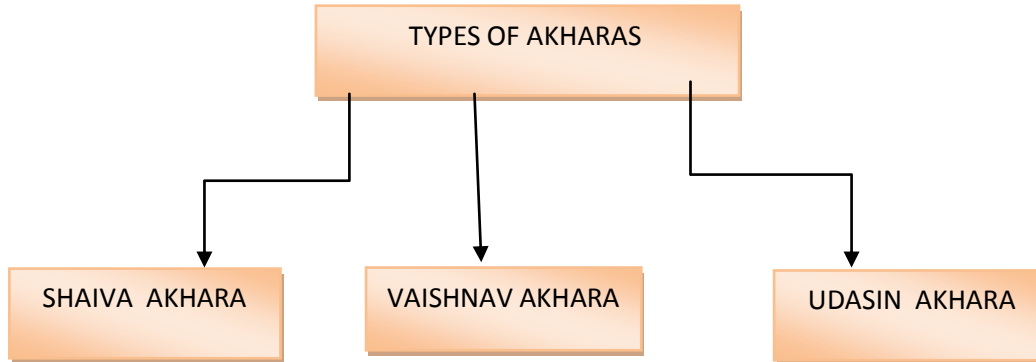
### AKHARA SYSTEM AND HIERARCHY



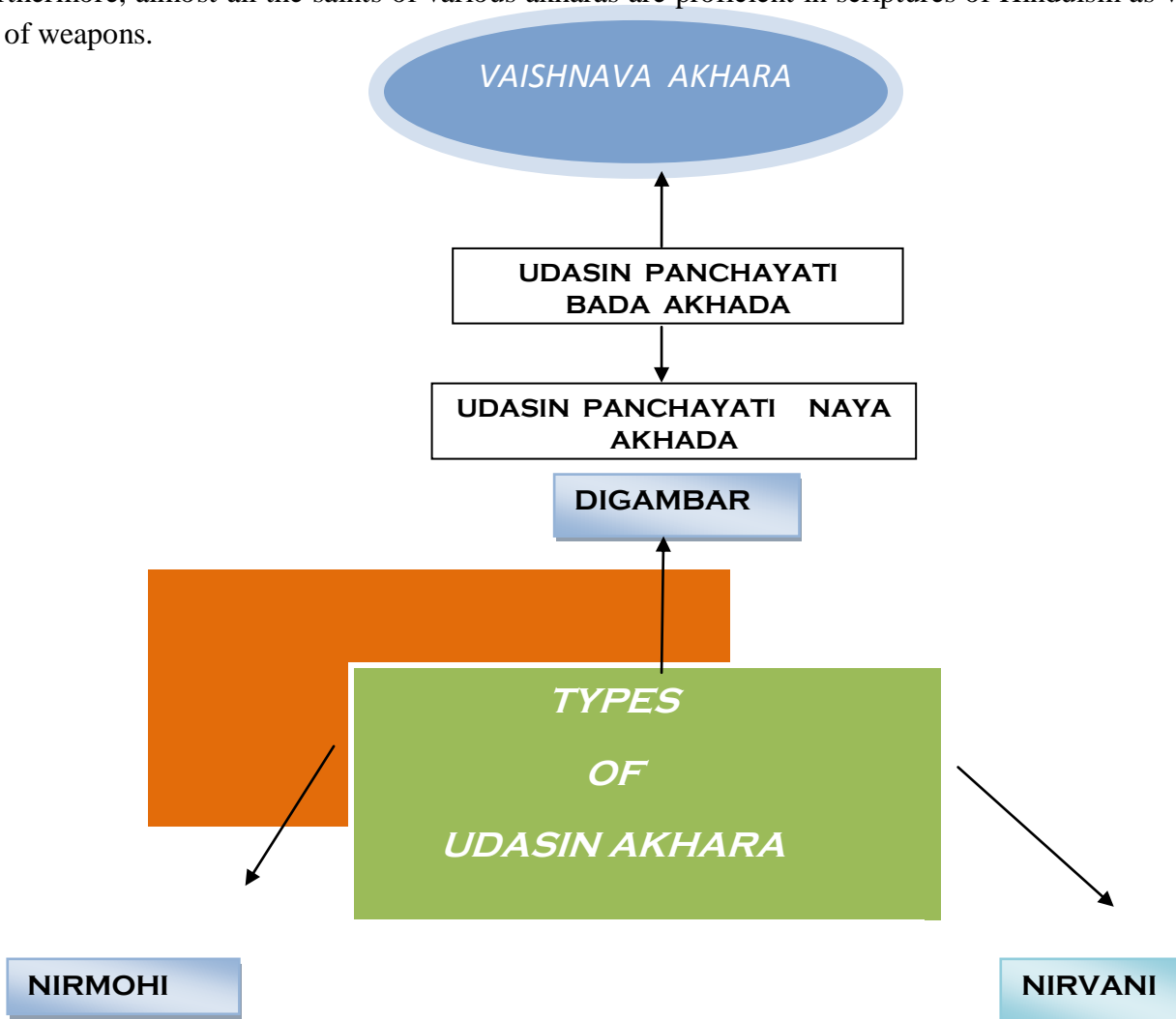
Each akhara has a hierarchy starting with Mahamandaleshwara who lives in their respective maths. All akharas has an administrative body namely Panc with Sabhapati acting as President. Akharas and their General called as Mahamandaleshwara enter with their procession it is called as PARVESHHA. After Mahamandaleshwar lie Mandaleshwar and Mahant beyond him in the hierarchy of the Akharas. The renunciants must have atleast a minimum 12 years of practice. There is no minimum age of the saint also in various instances children have also appointed as mahant. The position of an ascetic in an Akhara depends on his spiritual strength irrespective of any basis such as caste. Severe punishments are ordered if the rules of Akharas are not followed by the ascetics. A puja is performed by each one of them and

their respective flags are unfurled. In addition a hierarchy lies beneath the Mahant such as Karbaris, Thanapati, Sacvis, Pujaris, Kotvals and Kotharis which are elected in Kumbh mela along with all other major ongoing rituals.

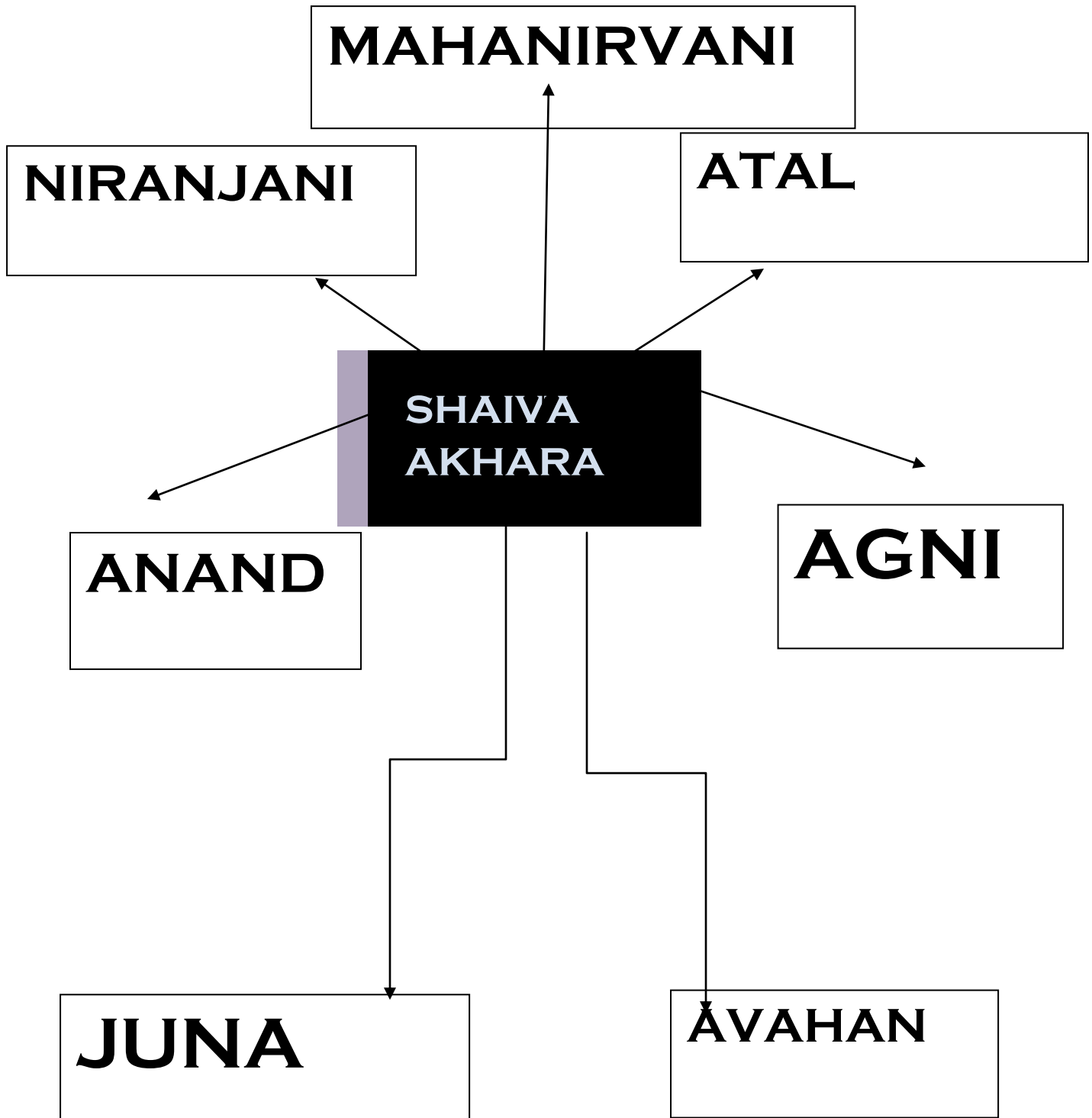
**AKHARA SYSTEM AND ITS SEGREGATION**



The Akhara system was founded with four akharas initially which grew into 13 official akharas of the modern age with different belief system. The 13 Akharas encompassing the region from Himalayas in the North to River Godavari in the south are divided into Shaiva, Vaishnava and Udasin Akhara. Furthermore, almost all the saints of various akharas are proficient in scriptures of Hinduism as well the art of weapons.



The Shaiva Akhara is grouped into Mahanirvana, Atal, Niranjani, Anand, Juna, Avahan, Agni while the Vaishnava sect is grouped into Digambara, Nirmohi, Nirvani. On the other hand, Udasin Panchayati Bada Akhara and Udasin Panchayati Naya Akhara together form the Udasin Akhara. Also, the Nirmal Akhara which was established on the virtues propagated by Guru Gobind Singh also comes under Udasin Akhara.



### **NEED FOR AKHARA SYSTEM**

To repulse the oppression of the aggressors of the Islamic age the Dashnami and Naga sect formed an alliance to fight against the miseries on Hindus. In 1666 A.D. the reign of Aurangzeb is a testimony of attacks on the saints in the Kumbh Mela held at Haridwar. Later, in the age of 1748 A.D. and 1757 A.D. again the ascetics were attacked by the forces of Ahmad Shah Abdali. Another scar on the motherland was tainted by the attacks of Ahmed Khan of Farrukhabad when 4000 women of high caste were abducted by him. The sacred Triveni Sangam saw the rise of 6000 Naga Sadhus who challenged the mighty forces and also successfully released the abducted women. Hence, the rigorous training of usage of weapons and reading sacred scriptures along with leaving behind the pleasures of life led the casting of mould of the Akhara system to preserve the religion by knowledge in scriptures and preserving the Dharma by the usage of weapons became the motto of the AKHARA SYSTEM.

### **CONCENTRATION OF AKHARA IN NORTHERN INDIA**

To bring it in broad daylight, all the akharas are founded in the North of Bharata. This primarily happened as the northern physiography of Bharata was under the threat of foreign intruders in all ages of history while the southern part of Bharata was comparatively safe from such intrusions. Hence, the physiography of Bharat and changing political dynamics laid an impact and cause to the foundation of the Akhara system on the soil of northern portion of Bharata.

### **AKHARA SYSTEM AND NATIONALISM**

Kumbh Mela and the various Akharas have also contributed in the struggle of Indian independence. The blueprint and strategy of the First War of Independence that is Revolt of 1857 was formulated by Swami Oumandji who was the Guru of Swami Dayanand Saraswati long with his Guru Puranandji in the Kumbh Mela of Haridwar in 1855 A.D. Also, the Kumbh Mela held at Prayag Raj in 1858 A.D. where heroes of Revolt of 1857 namely Tantiya Tope, Nanasaheb, Ajmullah Khan, Kunwar Singh took an oath in the presence of ascetics of Dashnami sect to eliminate the British Raj from the soil of Bharat symbolizing their Almighty lord. Drumbeats and mantras chanting along with langar behold the whole site for any pilgrim.

### **AKHARA PARISHAD AND VARIOUS AKHARAS**

With the purpose of organizing of the Kumbh Mela AKHIL BHARTIYA AKHARA PARISHAD was established in the year 1954 A.D. headquartered at Ayodhya. It is the highest independent body of saints and monks with its own set of rules. The most important aspect of the parishad is to organize the activities and co – ordination among the various akharas. The head of the parishad is elected by voting among the various akharas for the tenure of three to six years. Presently, MahnatRavindraGiri is the head of AKHIL BHARTIYA AKHARA PARISHAD.

An elaborate description of akharas are illustrated below :

- ❖ SHREE PANCH DASHNAAM JUNA AKHADA : It is the largest of all the 13 akharas which is headquartered at Varanasi. Juna under the DashnaamiSampraday is ShaiviteAkhara. With Om Namō Narayana as their greeting chant this akhara is established with the mutts of Adi Shankaracharya. They comprise of Ashtradhari as well as Shastrdhari seers with a rich tradition of Naga Sadhus.

- ❖ SHREE PANCHAYATI AKHADA NIRANJANI : It is headquartered at Daraganj, Prayagraj and act as the apex body of monastic order. As per the texts it is believed to have its origin in 904 AD and is an ardent follower of Lord Kartikeya. The 52 – foot high holy flag of the akhara signifies 52 houses of seers.
- ❖ SHREE SHAMBHU PANCHAYATI ATAL AKHADA : They are one of the oldest akhara in the history belonging to the Shaivite sect. They are responsible for conducting the ordination ceremony of the Naga Sadhus and are ardent followers of Lord Ganesha. Their center of activities lies in the heart of Varanasi.
- ❖ SHREE PANCHAYATI AKHADA MAHANIRVANI : They are ardent followers of Lord Surya and worship KapilmuniMaharaj. It has Prayagraj as its headquarters and belongs to the Shaivite sect. the year of 1825 marked the foundation of the akhara by seer Yogiraj Shree NirvandejiMaharaj.
- ❖ SHREE PANCHAYATI AKHARA NAYA UDASEEN : Mahant Sudhir Das founded the akhara in 1846 at Haridwar after a dispute with BadaUdasinAkhada. They follow the teachings of the saint Shri Chandra Bhagwan and have different rules set for them. No elaborate rituals are performed in comparison to the rest.
- ❖ SHREE PANCH NIRMOHI ANI AKHARA : They belong to the Vaishnavite sect and are ardent followers of Lord Hanumana.
- ❖ SHREE PANCH DIGAMBAR ANI AKHADA : It belongs to the Vaishnavite sect and adorn saffron clothing. They worship weapons and deliver the message of SANATAM DHARMA.
- ❖ SHREE PANCH NIRVANI ANI AKHADA : They worship Lord Hanumana and stand out by the tilak applied on their foreheads.
- ❖ SHREE PANCHAYATI AKHARA NIRMALA : It was founded by Durga Singh Maharaj in 1856 and is headquartered at Haridwar. They are in close association with the Khalsi Sikhs.
- ❖ SHRI SHAMBHU PANCHGANI AKHARA :It belongs to the Shaivite sect and are different from the other as they do not have Naga sadhus. They Brahmans of this akhara do not consume any form of intoxicant and also restrict from performing fire sacrifice called dhuni.
- ❖ SHREE PANCHDASHNAAM AAVAHAN AKHARA : They responded to the message of Adi Shankaracharya to be the propagator of SanatamDharam. It is headquartered in Haridwar and belongs to the Shaivite sect.
- ❖ TAPONIDHI SHRI ANAND AKHARA PANCHAYATI : It belongs to the Shaivite sect and is headquartered at Nasik, Maharashtra.
- ❖ PARI AKHARA : They belong to the SHRI SARESHWAR MAHADEVA VAIKUNTHDHAM MUKTIDWAR AKHARA in Prayagraj registered in 2013.

Interestingly, saint is a term which is indifferent to gender. However, women in the akhara system are often found as a missing link. To bridge this missing linkage MahantDevyagiri, the Chief Priest of Mankameshwar temple and the first womamMahant of India.raised the issue of gender inequality in the akhara system. She lauded the endeavours of the largest akhara system of India i.e. the Juna Akhara where diksha is given to both women and men. Hence, on the land of Sangam i.e. Allahabad women formed an All Female Group to break the stereotype of male dominance. According to MahantTrikalBhavanta this is the first woman akhara of India.





**H'ble Adityanath Ji, the 21<sup>st</sup> monk Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh ( Source : News18 )**

**H'BLE ADITYANATH JI, CHIEF MINISTER OF UTTAR PRADESH : CASE STUDY ON RELEVANCE OF MONK IN PRESENT AGE**

One such emerald carved from the genesis of Akhara system is H'ble Adityanath Ji, the 21<sup>st</sup> monk Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh serving since 2017 belongs to the Shaiva sect of the Nath Yogi. The distinguishable feature of the Nath Yogi is the earring worn by them in the thick of the ear which also labels them as Kanphata Yogi. Indeed, Gorakhnath is the home of Nath Yogis.

Yogi Adityanath who before becoming an ascetic was named Shri Ajay Singh Bisht was born in the land of abode namely Uttarakhand in the village of Panchur situated in the Yamkeshwar assembly seat of Pauri Garhwal. He lived in a beautiful and warm family of Kshatriya clan with three sisters and four brothers with his father Shri Anand Singh Bisht and mother Smt. Savitri Devi. In addition his dedication in academics and rationality can be analysed by his keen interest in Mathematics. He completed his graduation in mathematics with Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University, Uttarakhand as his alma mater.

**According to Radhika Jha, Senior IAS Officer, former District Magistrate of Royal District of Tehri ( 17.08.2010 to 23.8.2011 ) and present Secretary, Health Services and Medical Education, Government of Uttarakhand who recently completed her foreign assignment in London School of**



**Economics and Public Policy, United Kingdom under the most prestigious Commonwealth Fellowship ( September 2022 to June 2023 )** is a highly experienced and exemplary officer with demonstrated history of brilliant working in Government of India and Government of Uttarakhand known for her exceptional intellectual ability, spiritual awakening with her super power mind and also being a native of Allahabad elaborates that, “ the Akhara system is a unique realm of Hindu religion in various respect as a native of the holy city of Prayagraj since childhood. Indisputably the akhara system has generated a warrior class of champions skilled with the weapon of wisdom which is gained after decades of practice.



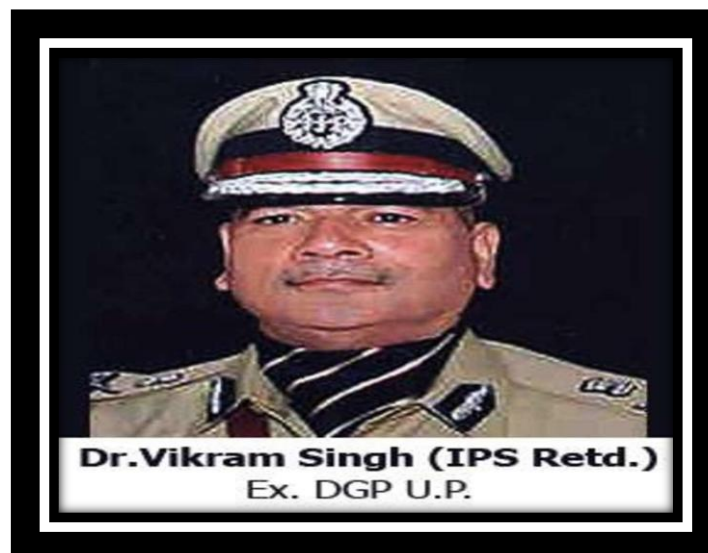
**Radhika Jha IAS, Secretary, Health and Medical Education, Government of Uttarakhand**

In the age 90s when the youth dwelled in the stepping age of technology and modernization Yogi Adityanath got his motive to serve for his motherland when the slogans of Jai Shree Ram were chanted in every corner of the street during the Ram temple movement set in the land of Lord Ram and Goddess Sita i.e. Ayodhya. His constant interaction, discussions and debate with his Guru MahantAvidyanath, the former Chief of Gorakhnath Math fueled the lamp of spirituality in his heart and mind which he realized long ago. Soon, he became the disciple of Guru MahantAvidyanath which acted as a foundation in the never ending relation between the conscience of Yogi Adityanath and Gorakhnath math.”

As per the ballads Gorakhpur is named after Gorakhnath. Oral history claims thatAsafudDaula, the Nawab of Awadh encountered Baba Roshan Ali Shah in the thick jungles immersed in his meditation. Such a beholding view surprised AsafudDaula who went hunting in the jungle. He offered him a huge tract of land to which Baba Roshan Ali Shah refused. Instead, he advised him to visit his friend Gorakhnath in the nearby area. This astonishing dedication made the Nawab to order the Gorakhpur territory to both Baba Roshan Ali Shah and his friend Gorakhnath. This lead to the formation of Nath monastery in the northern portion while Imambarā being constructed in the southern portion.

**Dr. Vikram Singh IPS ( Retd. ), Ph.D. , Ex. Director General of Police, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow** has been lauded by the citizens of India on many instances. One such occasion is when he acted as the synthesizer of goon free ecology in the anarchist state of Uttar Pradesh by uprooting the hotspots of terrorism in the Terai region when appointed as the Deputy Inspector General,

Moradabad Range, Uttar Pradesh Police. He is indeed the epitome of fearlessness and courage when he faced a severe bomb attack along with Kapil Dev IAS, District Magistrate, Kanpur, Government of Uttar Pradesh. His praises were sung in the state of Uttar Pradesh when he successfully controlled the communal riots within 24 hours because of his prompt actions and brilliant administrative spirit. His sincere and diligent measures in controlling prostitution is still instilled in the minds of the citizens. He is eulogized as the backbone of Indian Police Service and trouble shooter of the ecosystem of predators when he eradicated the dacoits in the state of Uttar Pradesh in the rebellious age of 1970s and 80s along with neighboring districts of Madhya Pradesh namely Chambal, Morena, Bhind. All his ballads of heroism, mettle, discipline, powerful motivational speaker, strong physical and mental well being and valor are recorded in the annals of India Police Service as the Supercop of Uttar Pradesh who led the largest police force of Asiawhen he was awarded by President's Police Medal for Gallantry, Bar to President's Police Medal for Gallantry, President's Police Medal for Gallantry, Bar to President's Police Medal for Gallantry, President's Police Medal for Long & Meritorious Service, Presidents's Police Medal for Distinguished Service, KathinSeva Medal and Bar to KathinSeva Medalare some feathers in his cap.



Source : Facebook

He pays his homage to the Akhara System as“ the annals of the Gorakhnath sect dwell in the history which is being cherished and celebrated by the indistinguishable and diligent endeavours by the 21<sup>st</sup> Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and also the First Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh to have a second term after completing his five year term( 2017 – 22 ).He stepped in the arena of Politics as a Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha with an impeccable tenure of five consecutive terms ( 1998 – 2017 ) with record votes from Gorakhpur constituency. It was the faith of our H'ble Prime Minister Shri NarendraDamodardasModi who entrusted the vision of Yogi Adityanath to command the leadership of Uttar Pradesh as its Chief Minister which was in chaos and anarchy.



( Source : India Today )

However, this uphill battle to bring down the dynastic succession in the politics of Uttar Pradesh was to be done by the hands of a Nath Yogi. Determination to bring welfare in the society by squashing corruption, murder, rape, theft, sexual harassment of women along with painting the picture of prosperity for the masses became the mission of Yogi Adityanath. Bulldozer Baba is the name he has been labeled by the common man as he was the first Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh who took the bold decision of demolishing all the illegal acquisition and settlement. Anti – Romeo Squad was deployed in the streets so that the security of the women is never compromised. He is the sole reason to lead the genesis of Commissionary system in Police starting with districts such as Noida, Gaziabad, Lucknow, Kanpur and Allahbad. Therefore, he can be cherished as the reformer of Police regime in one of the largest states of India i.e. Uttar Pradesh. He ordered closing of illegal meat shops throughout the state and a complete ban on cow slaughter are some master strokes achieved by him which were never concerned by any Chief Minister before. Furthermore, he is the first Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh who took a bold decision for the benefit of the masses instructing that no truck will be parked on National Highway due to overloading or mechanical defect causing traffic jams on the highways. Moreover, strict guidelines were issued by him to make sure not by any means the rule is broken ensuring **Jam Free Roads along with widening of Highways**. In a nutshell, all his measures will be recorded in the annals of Uttar Pradesh for speedy reforms.”

Yogi Adityanath is indeed a farmers’ friend by providing benefits and assistance to them under schemes like Soil Health Card and Pradhan Mantri Samman Nidhi. Also, on 15<sup>th</sup> of every month Nikshaya Diwas is celebrated to fight the disease of Tuberculosis. Under his instructions 166 CBNAAT and 486 TRUENAT, 16 laboratories, 46 Drug Resistant TB centers are entrusted to work on the mission

of TB Free India. Furthermore, he understood the sensitivity of the issue hence, organized a massive program on “ TB FREE LUCKNOW ” in November, 2018. The success of the program can be measured by the cure of 2,351 patients. Also, a monthly assistance of Rs. 500 is also provided to the patients. He also instructed to adopt a village or a slum area to fight against the battle of tuberculosis.

Global Investor Summit to revive the industrial sector, School Chalo Abhiyaan to scale up the literacy rate, increment in the seats of medical education, assistance under Ayushman Bharat scheme, setting up of GauShalas to protect the livestock wealth of the country residing in cows along with JANTA DARSHAN at Chief Minister residence are some round the clock tasks completed under his sensitive leadership making Uttar Pradesh the land of culture, prosperity and well being. Indeed the history of India will always cherish H'ble Adityanath Ji as **an individual whose soul lies in the Almighty and endeavours in bringing Ram Rajya in the society is the essence of the monk Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh by ensuring a corruption free society on the lines of Directive Principles of State Policy ( DPSP ) ensuring a welfare society.**

## CONCLUSION

The less than one percent of the most populous country of the world is held by the Sadhus of the Bharatvarsha which also contributes in balancing the growing population of the nation every second as they do not produce off springs. Undoubtedly, the saints have kept the lamp of spirituality ranging from 16 Sankars of Hinduism along with the sacred scriptures of the ancient land. They paint the true picture of Bharat binded with rituals, culture, hope and belief. Their knowledge along with the knowledge of weapons acts as an engine passing the knowledge beyond the texts worldwide. Also, they are the harbingers of environment and forest protection as they seek their shelter surrounding the vegetation of Himalayas and acting as a safety valve for the borders of our country. They are the ambassador of culture and spiritual awakening within the nation and all around the globe. They are one of the catalyst factors promoting tourism on international realm. Also, they are an essential contributor in the control of population of India. They act as a source of intelligence for the police and army. Hence, they are cherished as the champions of nationalism. In a nutshell, the Kumbh Mela which is the ultimate Sangam of the akharas , culture, rituals not only reflects the culture of Bharta but also contributes in economy of per nation by the means of revenue earned by it at national and international realm with the help tourism.

In the eyes of Europeans India is narrated as the land of Raja, Maharaja, snake charmers. Undoubtedly, what they forgot to record was the astonishing strength lying in the mind as well as in physical being by the monks of Bharatvarsha. The saints as well as the akhara system of Bharatvarsha provide a spiritual realm to our landscape in return we can assure an assistance program ensuring their well being. Indeed, they have sacrificed their soul and body but as a citizen of our country they do count under the Article 21 of the Indian Constitution ensuring their Right to Life providing necessary medical benefits and monetary assistance to the sadhus. On the same light a dedicated social security assistance program to this section of the society is the need of the hour covering benefits similar to the other vulnerable sections of the society. One such assistance program can be modeled on the Sadhu Pension / Nirashit Pension scheme which provide Rs. 500 as a monthly pension amount for all the sadhus who are 60 years of age and above is guaranteed by Yogi Adityanath the monk Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh in January 2019.

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