

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2274
ANSWERED ON- 20/03/2025

RESURGENCE OF ANCIENT SECTS

2274. SMT. PHULO DEVI NETAM:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has observed a resurgence of ancient sects, particularly during events like the Kumbh Mela;
- (b) the factors contributing to this revival and its significance in contemporary Indian society; and
- (c) the steps being taken to support and preserve the traditions of these sects while promoting inclusivity and cultural diversity?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) The Kumbh Mela is a significant Hindu pilgrimage festival and one of the largest religious gatherings in the world, where millions of devotees converge to bathe in sacred rivers. During this event, many ancient sects, spiritual organizations, and religious leaders come together, often showcasing rituals, traditions and practices that have been passed down through centuries.

(b) The resurgence of ancient sects in India is driven by factors such as a growing interest in cultural and spiritual heritage coupled with the search for deeper meaning amid modern religious challenges. Social media and religious tourism have also played a role in spreading awareness of these sects. This revival is significant in contemporary society as it helps to preserve traditional practices, offers an alternative to materialism, fosters social cohesion and strengthens national pride in India's cultural roots.

(c) The government supports events like Kumbh Mela, which preserves the traditions of ancient sects while promoting inclusivity and cultural diversity of India. Ministry of Culture also organizes/ supports a number of cultural festivals/ programmes like Kashi Tamil Sangamam, MadhavpurGhed, Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam, Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsavs etc. where all types of audiences including the ancient sects participate ensuring inclusivity and cultural diversity.
