

**THE SUPREME PONTIFF OF HINDUISM (SPH)
JAGAT GURU MAHASANNIDHANAM (JGM)
HIS DIVINE HOLINESS (HDH)**

**BHAGAVAN SRI NITHYANANDA
PARAMASHIVAM**

**AS THE SPIRITUAL LEADER AND GUIDE
FOR MILLIONS WORLDWIDE**

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The SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam and the Worldwide Adi Shaiva Aboriginal Indigenous Agricultural Tribes (AIAT)

The SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam is the current spiritual leader of Adi Shaivism, the oldest spiritual tradition in the world, dating back to the Indus Valley Civilization, and beyond. With 1.2 billion followers worldwide, Hinduism is the 3rd largest religion in the world. The SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam belongs to the ethnic subsect of Hinduism - the Adi Shaiva Aboriginal Indigenous Agricultural Tribes (Adishaiva AIAT/ASMT), which has **735 million followers** worldwide. This document is an attempt to present the verifiable statistics of His following, backed by documented evidence.

The followers of the SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam fall broadly within the following demographic distribution:

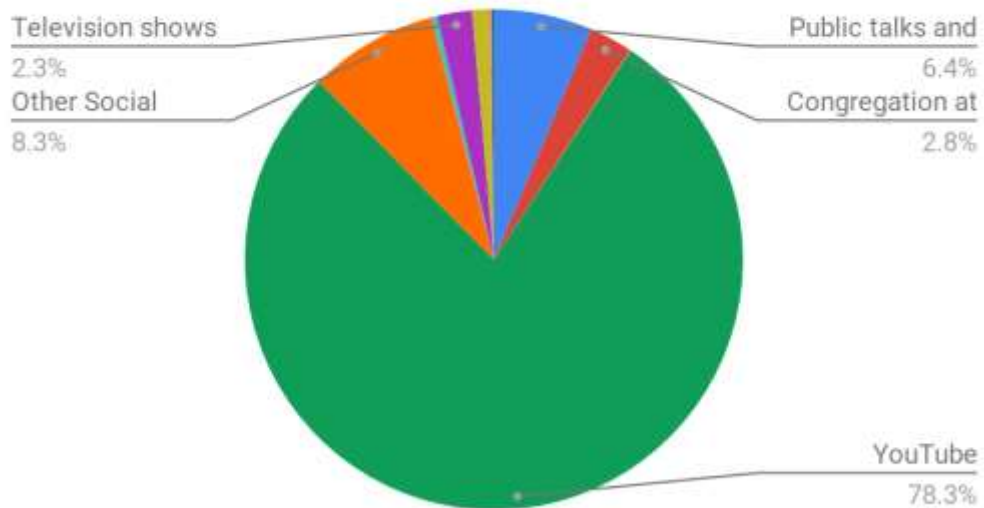
- Nithyananda 'Sangha' (Community) - **625 million followers**
 - Followers of the SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam who attended and benefited from His meditation, yoga, spiritual and ritual-oriented programs
 - The worldwide online following through websites, YouTube, Facebook, other social media platforms, television shows, magazine subscribers and online students of Nithyananda Hindu University (NHU).
- Various spiritual services and religious congregations - **41.6 million followers**
- Various ancient ASMT monasteries and followers of the monasteries who revere the SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam as The Avatar (incarnation as per Hinduism) and as their spiritual Guru - **68.4 million followers**.

Worldwide and Digital Online Following

S.No	Worldwide followers (millions)	Number of followers (Millions)	Total (millions)
1	Following at Public satsangs (spiritual talks) - over 2,000 programs and over	40	

	17,000 hours		
2	Congregation at key traditional events of the ASMT Community	18	
3	Nithyananda Hindu University (NHU) student enrollment	0.27	
4	YouTube viewers	490	
5	Viewers of Television shows	14	
6	Readers of Books	7	
7	Readers of Magazines	1.78	
8	Following at Other Social media platforms	52.2	
9	Followers of Websites	2.5	
TOTAL NUMBER OF FOLLOWERS			625

Physical and Online Followers of His Divine



Public Talks and Discourses

The SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam has delivered over 18,000 hours of talks in the last 18 years which over 40 million followers have attended.



3-day Mass Satsang in Bengaluru, South India by the SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam - 20 to 22 Dec 2007

Below are photographs from the "Ananda Ula" - blissful tour of the State of Tamilnadu, South India in 2004



13 Oct 2004 - Ananda Ula - Kanchipuram



14 Oct 2004 - Ananda Ula - Chennai



3 Nov 2004 -Ananda Ula - Karaikudi



Top left: 6 Jul 2005-Discourse at Petrobras, Brazil. Top right: 17 Nov 2005 - Ananda Ula, Chennai, South India.



19 Nov 2005 - Ananda Ula, Vellore



4,5 November 2006
Ananda Spurana Program
Rajapalayam



12 February 2006
Pattanam Inaguration - Pattanam



17 September 2006
Nithyananda Spurana Program
Paavai College, Namakkal



14 to 17 December 2006
Nithyananda Spurana
Program Chennai



16 to 18 July 2006
Sapthayagam - Salem



24 November 2006 - Arogya
Spurana Program & Satsang
- Vellore



Mass meditation programs in Engineering colleges in South India. 1008 people participate simultaneously in a homa (ritualistic fire worship)



'Shiva Sutras' - Series of talks by the SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam on the sacred scriptures, 2008 USA Tour



Various healing and meditation programs in 2009



Programs conducted in 2010



Programs conducted in 2011 - Mass satsangs (talks) in State of Tamilnadu, South India



Programs conducted in 2012 - Tiruvannamalai Aadheenam, South India - Full Moon night celebrations



2013 - San Jose, USA - Participants enraptured with the magnetic Divine aura of the SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam



Programs conducted in 2014



Programs conducted in 2015



Shivaratri Mahasatsang - Guided mass meditation session in 2015



Programs conducted in 2016

Gatherings at the main traditional events of the ASMT community

The ASMT community is a vibrant cultural one with its ideology lived as a festive celebration of Existence and Oneness with the Divine. Traditional festivals and huge social gatherings are the hallmark of the ASMT community. Four major 'Brahmotsavams' or 10-day celebrations on the auspicious occasions of traditional festivals during the year comprise huge congregations, where ASMT members from all over the world come together to celebrate their culture.



Rudrabhishekam (Holy ablutions offering to the sacred Shiva Linga) and Pada Puja (ritualistic offering to the sacred feet of the Guru) performed once a week



16 February 2007
Shivaratri Bidadi



22 July 2009
1008 Homa (Worship), Chennai



02 July 2009
Gurupournima-Bidadi

16 Feb 2007, Shivaratri
celebrations
Bengaluru Aadheenam



15 September 2009
Women
Empowerment -
Chennai



26 November 2009
Inaguration-
Taramangalam Center



**Dec 2010, Jayanti (Anniversary day of incarnating) celebrations - Tiruvannamalai,
South India**





Guru Purnima celebrations - July 22nd, 2013 at the Bengaluru Aadheenam, headquarters in Karnataka, South India



Mahashivaratri celebrations - 17th Feb, 2015

Nithyananda University Student Enrollment

Number of followers: 0.27 million

Over the centuries, multiple barbaric invasions led to the destruction of our ancient knowledge transmission centres - the Gurukuls and traditional universities, which were epicentres of learning, storage of ancient wisdom, and a place for the cultivation of scriptural expertise. These centres cannot be equated with what we call as Universities today. A knowledge transmission centre is one where a certain understanding and experience is received by the student through a direct download from the Cosmos itself. It is a mystical science which is being revived today by the SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam. Nithyananda

Hindu University was established with this intention, to make an ancient way of learning available to humanity once more. It was conceived in 2001 and established legitimately as a University in the United States in 2007.

Today Nithyananda Hindu University is the largest Hindu University in the world with the following facilities:

- 2,70,000 + enrollments (based on registrations in the Nithyananda University CRM)
- 5660 + courses
- 1600 + faculty
- 195 + nations
- 463 + campuses and centers worldwide
- World's largest Hindu scriptures library

Nithyananda University (NU) is recreating the same ways of learning as ancient knowledge transmission centres of the past such as Nalanda and Takshashila. The higher cognitions about life are imparted here through the study of sacred Hindu scriptures such as the Vedas, Agamas and Upanishads. Teaching the science of enlightenment and enriching the masses becomes a natural lifestyle for those enrolled in the Hindu method of education. Nithyananda University is a space to inspire, educate and empower people to live the Vedic truths through the course offerings, workshops, training programs, and scientific research. Nithyananda Hindu University works to:

- Establish and occupy Hindu seats in global universities and academia
- Give the masses an experiential understanding of the Science of Adi Shaivism
- Establish research institutes.
- Demystify and make available yogic powers for humanity

Social media - YouTube

In social media, Youtube is one of the most popular platforms for learning and exploring spirituality and Hinduism today. The SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam has a strong presence on Youtube, with a majority of His followers discovering the authentic Hindu teachings

delivered by Him through Youtube. The SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam has made all of His discourses, programs, Satsangs, Yoga classes and other sessions available on Youtube for free and accessible to millions of people worldwide.

Number of followers in YouTube : 490 million

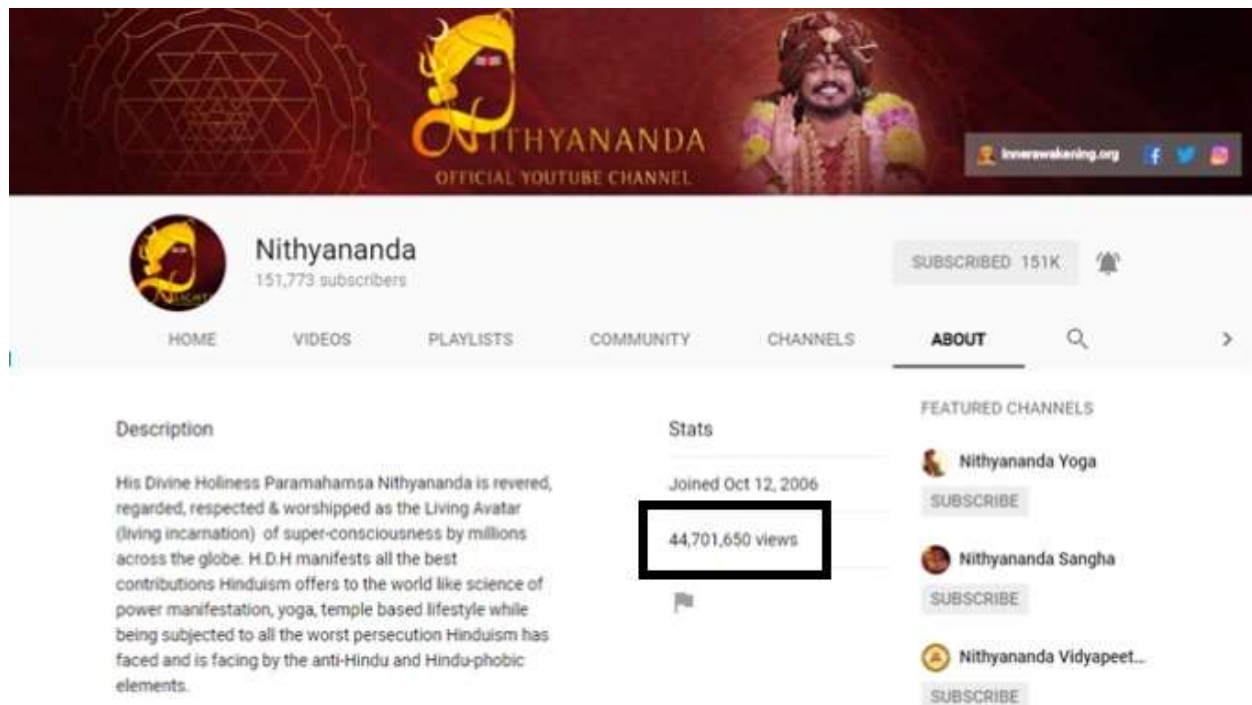


The teachings of the SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam have been shared with the world using the Youtube medium through multiple channels. As the spiritual leader of the ASMT community, He has trained several disciples and monastic members of the community as social media ambassadors, who also share the sacred Science of Enlightenment with millions of seekers all over the globe in their native languages.

The YouTube viewership comprises the YouTube channels of the SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam, Nithyananda sangha and all the related and affiliate channels.

When examining the YouTube videos containing hate speech or defamatory material against the SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam, we can see that only 5% of the views on these videos result in likes. 95% of the views are of those followers of the SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam who watch these videos out of concern regarding the false information or hate speech propagated about their spiritual leader.

**Viewership of the official YouTube channel as can be seen below -
44,701,650 (44,70,165 million)**



The image is a screenshot of the Nithyananda YouTube channel page. At the top is a banner with a Sri Yantra, a golden profile of Nithyananda, and a photo of him in traditional attire. Below the banner is the channel's profile section, which includes the channel name 'Nithyananda', a subscriber count of 151,773, and a 'SUBSCRIBED 151K' button. The navigation menu includes 'HOME', 'VIDEOS', 'PLAYLISTS', 'COMMUNITY', 'CHANNELS', and 'ABOUT'. The 'ABOUT' tab is selected, showing the channel's description, stats, and featured channels. The description states that Nithyananda is revered as the Living Avatar. The stats section shows the channel was joined on Oct 12, 2006, and has 44,701,650 views, with the view count highlighted by a black box. The featured channels section lists 'Nithyananda Yoga', 'Nithyananda Sangha', and 'Nithyananda Vidyapeet...' with 'SUBSCRIBE' buttons for each.

Description

His Divine Holiness Paramahansa Nithyananda is revered, regarded, respected & worshipped as the Living Avatar (living incarnation) of super-consciousness by millions across the globe. H.D.H manifests all the best contributions Hinduism offers to the world like science of power manifestation, yoga, temple based lifestyle while being subjected to all the worst persecution Hinduism has faced and is facing by the anti-Hindu and Hindu-phobic elements.

Stats

Joined Oct 12, 2006

44,701,650 views

FEATURED CHANNELS

- Nithyananda Yoga
SUBSCRIBE
- Nithyananda Sangha
SUBSCRIBE
- Nithyananda Vidyapeet...
SUBSCRIBE

Other YouTube pages of the SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam



272231 Views





Social Media Brand Ambassadors in Facebook

[illegible]

MA NITHYA
SWARUPAPRIYANANDA

The screenshot shows the YouTube channel page for 'Ma Nithya Swarasapnayanda'. The channel has 10,712 subscribers. The video player shows a video titled 'Dussehra' with a duration of 7:13. The video description mentions 'Dussehra' and 'Dussehra'.

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

Other Digital Platforms - Facebook

The SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam has a huge online presence on Facebook and other social media platforms. Social media has been an invaluable tool in reaching out to millions of people in an extremely easy and user-friendly way. We live in a world where many third world countries suffer with a lack of basic communities, but can still access Facebook. The SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam has been able to spread His science of powerful cognitions to millions just through social media.

Not just through His official Facebook page, but also through those of His social media ambassadors, the SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam has been able to reach **52.2 million** who watch His discourses videos and teachings and experience His divine presence and personal guidance on a day-to-day basis. Millions have experienced spiritual hope, healing, powerful cognitions and Divine Presence by staying linked through Facebook, giving themselves a breakthrough path of “enlightened living” just by listening and internalizing His teachings.

View of the Paramahansa Nithyananda Facebook page



Performance > METRICS FOR ALL YOUR VIDEOS FROM 11/17 - 11/19 COMPARED TO THE PREVIOUS 733 DAYS

12.2M
Minutes Viewed

7.9M
3-Second Video Views

The following metrics have incomplete data for the date range you selected:

- Minutes Viewed data is available starting from 11/17/2016.
- 3-Second Video Views data is available starting from 11/17/2016.

Nov 17, 2016 - Nov 19, 2018

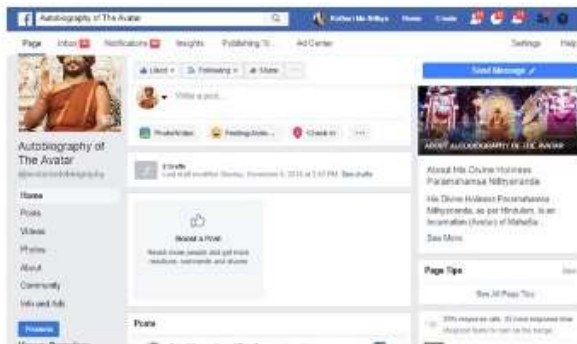
7,917,711 3s Video Views 0 Previous Period

Breakdowns: None



7.9 M views over two years in Paramahansa Nithyananda

Some of the other pages of the SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam on Facebook



AutoBioGraphy Of The Avatar
2,90,149

The Avatar Clicks
70,000



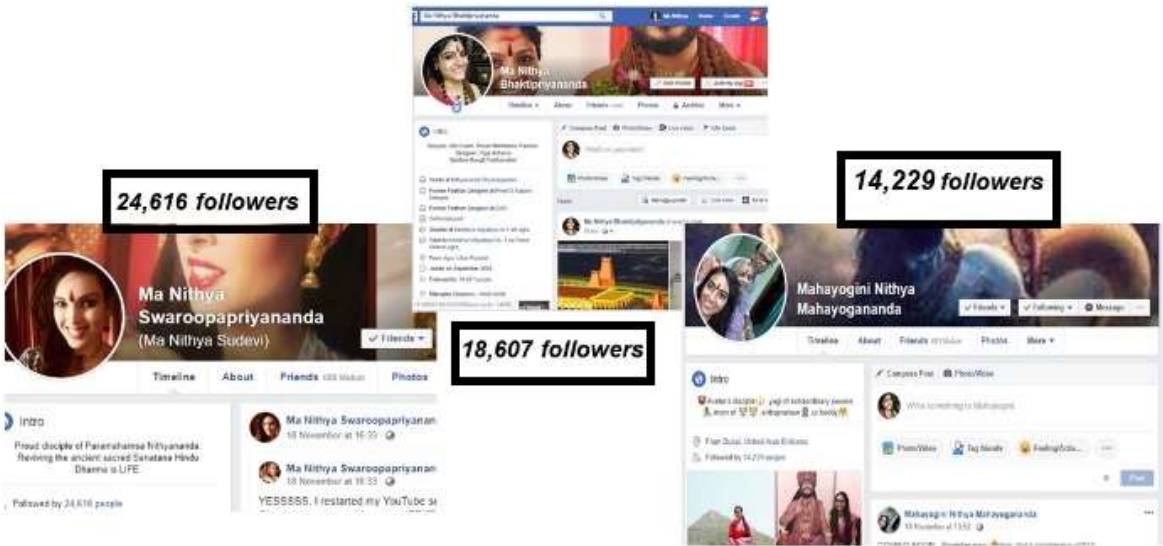


Nithyananda Yoga
49,184

**Third Eye Awakening By Paramahansa
Nithyananda**
40,772



Social Media Brand Ambassadors on Facebook



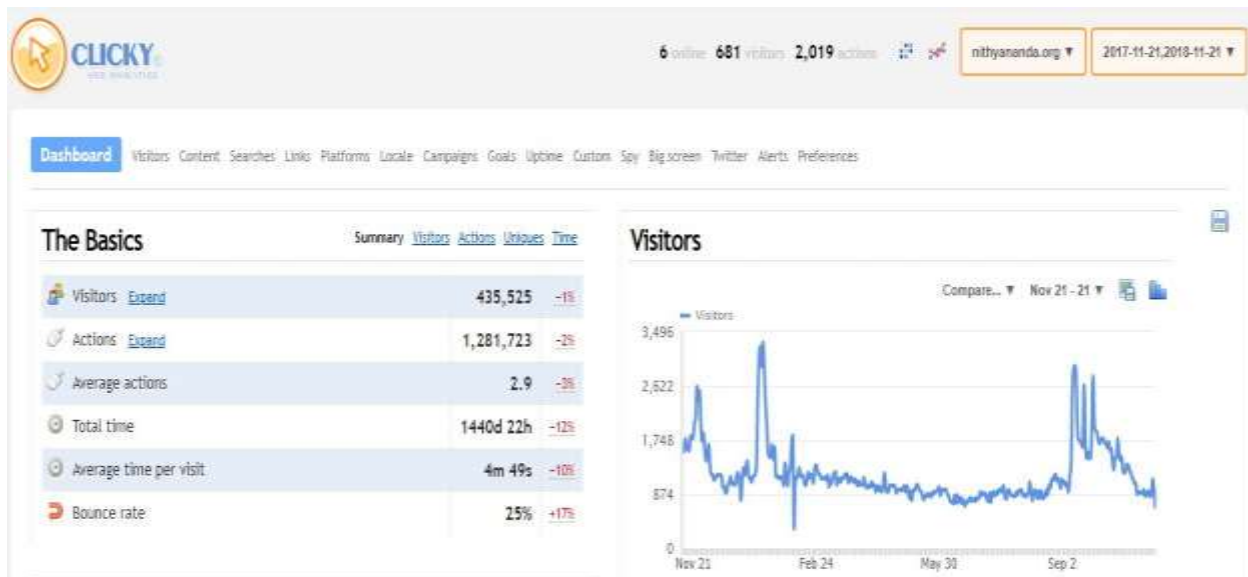
Websites

Followers: 2.5 M

The websites of the SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam are knowledge repositories and have solutions from birth to death targeting children, women, social and health issues through the Science of Power Manifestation and Science of holding Powerful Cognitions. These teachings are shared through a number of official websites. Analytics on these websites showed that the SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam has 2.5M visitors and followers for His website.

Analytics of nithyananda.org

Over 1 year - 435K visitors



Over 3 years- 803K users

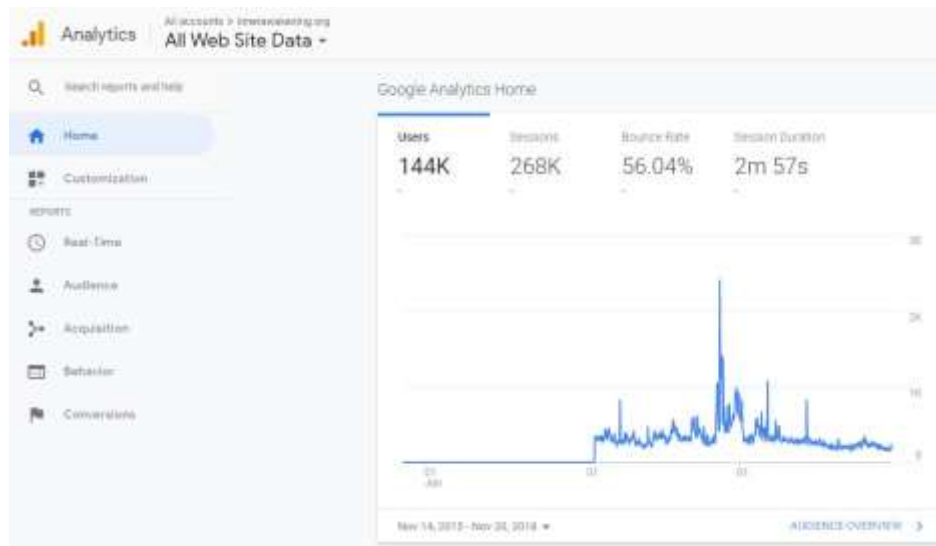


Analytics of innerawakening.org

Over one year - 119K visitors



Over three years - 144K users

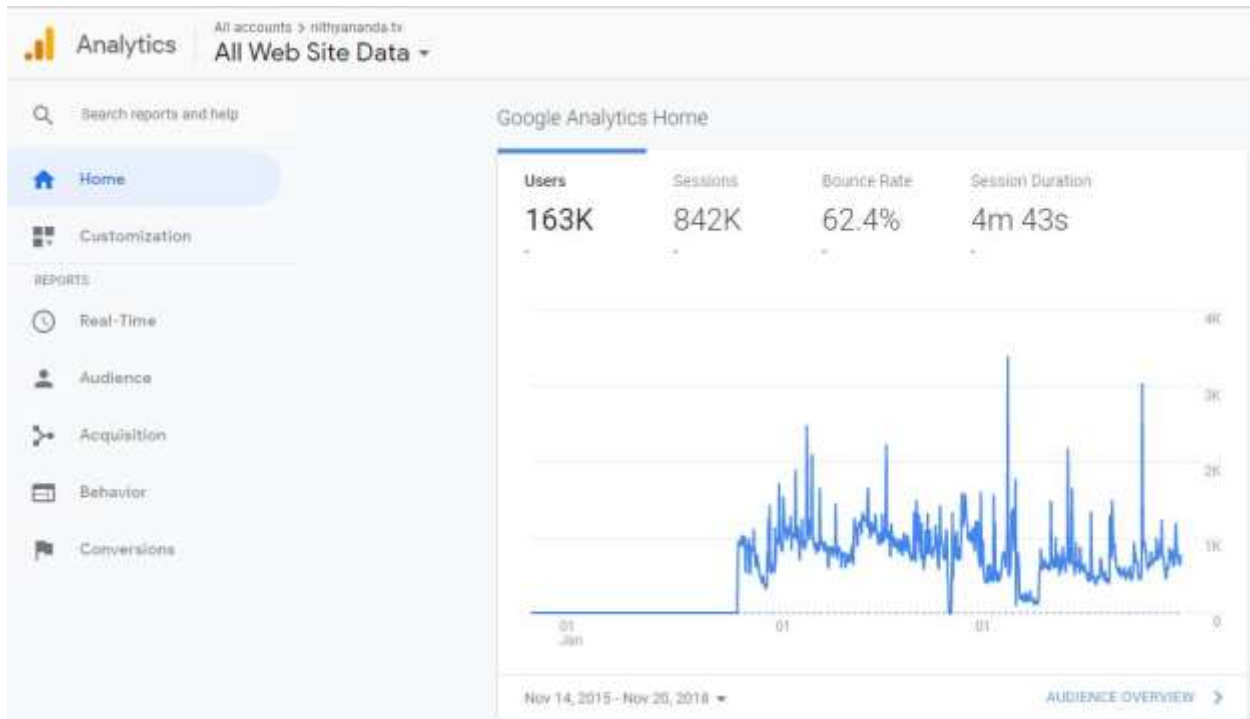


Analytics of nithyananda.tv

Over 1 year- 32.6K visitors



Over 3 years- 163K users



Analytics of hinduismnow.org

1 year - 96K Visitors



Television Shows

The SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam Himself has appeared on numerous episodes of the Tamil Television show 'Nithya Dharmam' in 2013 on Thanthi Satellite Television Channel which drew upto 25,000 viewers on television and 28,000 views online per episode. Apart from this, many of His monastic members feature on regular shows on television, reaching out to viewers through dial-in segments, as well as through answering their questions live.



Nithya Dharmam was a segment broadcasted to lakhs of people on a popular Tamil Television channel called Thanthi TV. The SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam Himself hosted the show, speaking with and solving the problems of guests on the show.

Nithya Dharmam series was spread over eleven episodes over the course of a few months.



Lotus tv வாழ்க்கை வாழ்வதற்கே 17th june 2013 night satsang

1,340 views

18

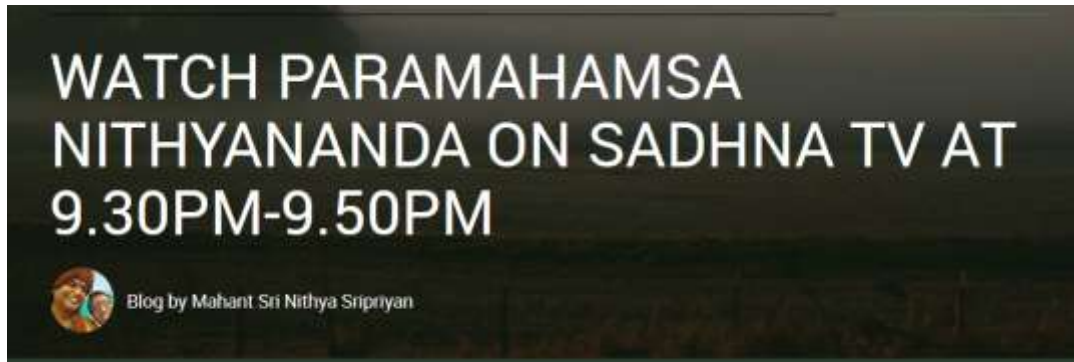
0

SHARE

SAVE

...

The SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam speaking on Lotus Television on 17th June 2013



WATCH PARAMAHAMSA NITHYANANDA ON SADHNA TV
AT 9.30PM-9.50PM IST TITLED SCIENCE OF LIFE ON
SUN/MON/TUE/THU/SAT

www.nithyananda.org

Nithyanandam,

The spiritual discourses of The SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam were telecasted on Sadhna Television and Ishwar Television, National Satellite Television channels.



Gurukul Kids Talk-Show in Lotus Tv on 09.08.2013

647 views

👍 5 💬 1 ➦ SHARE ⚙️ SAVE ...

Balasanths (young saints) of the Nithyananda Gurukul (traditional residential school) host the spiritual show on Lotus Television

LIVE

08027279999

முன்றாவது கண்
இரகசியம்

ஆன்மீக அழைப்பு மையம்

Give Missed Call : 7200003311 / 7200003322

The banner features a cosmic background with a large, bright flame in the upper center. Four individuals are seated in the foreground: a man on the left in a red robe and turban holding a white board, a person in the center wearing a yellow robe and a black blindfold, a young child in a yellow robe to the right of the blindfolded person, and a woman on the far right in a yellow and red sari. The text is in Tamil, with a phone number at the top left, a title in the top right, and contact information at the bottom.

WhatsApp/SMS 7259017848

ARRA 07:26 AM

தியான அனுபவ முகாமிற்கு "அனைவரும் வருக."

Give a Missed Call : 7200003311, 7200003322

Live : 08027 279999

ஜூலை மாதம் 16 முதல் 19 வரை ஆகிய நான்கு

நித்ய சத்சங்கத்தின் சாரம் - தொடர்புக்கு :08027279999

Posted by Kalpataru - Tamil World

254 Views

•LIVE•
08027279999

நித்ய சத்சங்கத்தின் சாரம்



Books and readership

The SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam has authored over 500 books in 26 languages, available in print and for free digital download. The SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam has always believed that knowledge is free, and every book authored by Him is available for download online. These books have been read by and benefited millions of seekers worldwide. These include bestsellers like 'Living Enlightenment' which had pre-sales bookings of 1 million, and 'Bhagavad Gita' where 1 million books were distributed worldwide in a month's time.

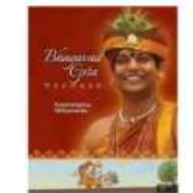
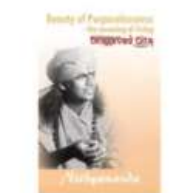
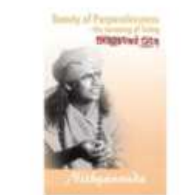
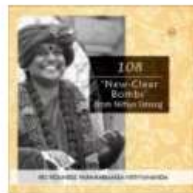
English, French, Spanish, German, Tamil and Hindi translated versions are available for free download at books.nithyananda.org as can be seen below:



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★★★★
Nityananda Times - February 14, 2010
The most amazing book ever written this far. D

★★★★
Ama - July 5, 2010



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The most amazing book ever written about the...

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Chinese (2)

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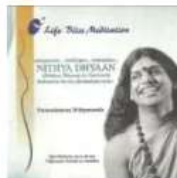
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2 REVIEWS FOR LIVING ENLIGHTENMENT

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Mishra's Time - February 10, 2010
The most amazing book ever written that I...

★★★★
Aarti - July 5, 2010



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Hindustan Times - February 14, 2016
The most amazing book ever written this far. It

★★★★★
Arun - July 5, 2016



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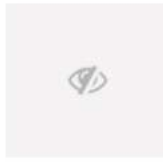
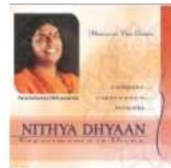
Best Sellers (5)
Language (160)
Chinese (2)



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★★★★★
Hinduism Today - February 16, 2015
The most amazing book ever written this far.

★★★★★
Arun - July 1, 2010

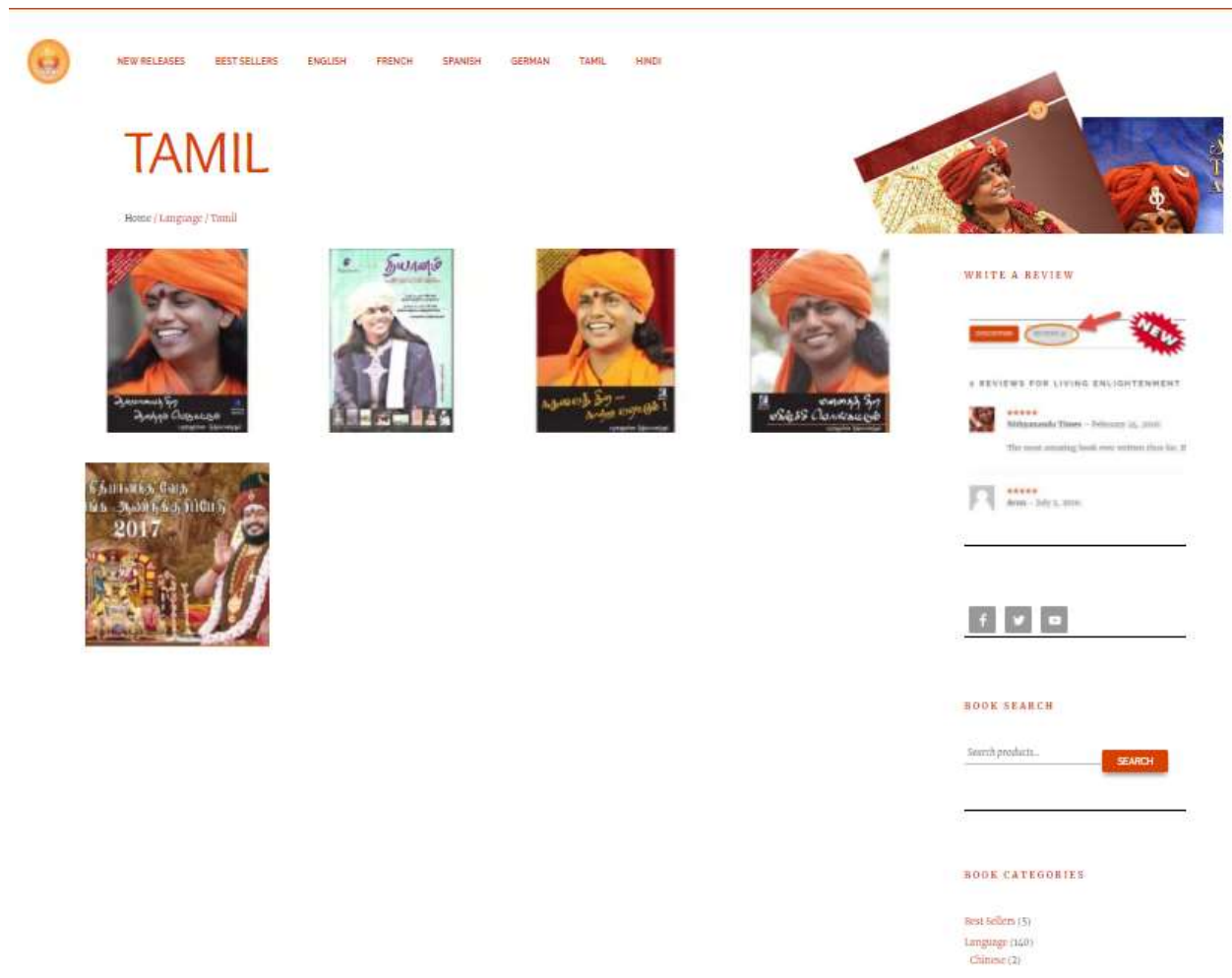


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Search products... **SEARCH**

BOOK CATEGORIES

[Best Sellers \(5\)](#)
[Language \(148\)](#)



Magazines

Over the years, multiple print and online magazines were circulated freely to reach the teachings of the SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam in various parts of India and worldwide.



Kumudam

Readership: 1M

The popular Tamil magazine Kumudam, with a Nation-wide print readership of 1 million plus its massive digital footprints across the Global Tamil speaking population which crossed over 66,000¹, carried a regular column of the SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam' article titled 'Kathavai thira kaatru varattum'.

¹

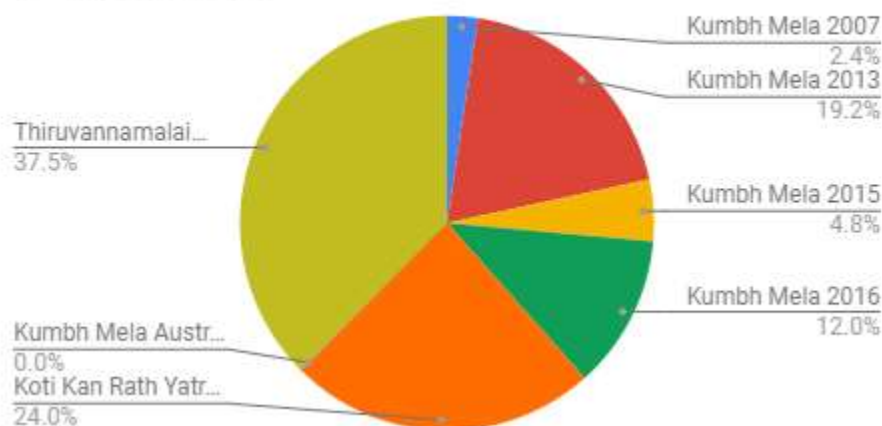
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kumudam?fbclid=IwAR1I34jAk5hkmtJHlIRDDrB4wvFMI8YLvKsetc6kJWj_oDUB0UfNVwJSyiw



Religious Congregation

	Year	Location	Number of followers (Millions)	Total (millions)
Kumbh Mela	2007	Prayag	1	
Kumbh Mela	2013	Allahabad	8	
Kumbh Mela	2015	Maharashtra	2	
Kumbh Mela	2016	Madhya Pradesh	5	
Koti Kan Rath Yatra	2009	Tamil nadu	10	
Kumbh Mela USA	2015	Los Angeles, USA	0.015	
Kumbh Mela Australia	2016	Melbourne, Australia	0.015	
Tiruvannamalai Annadhanam	2006-18	Tamilnadu	15.6	41.63

Followers of His Divine Holiness in Religious Congregations



Kumbh Mela

Kumbh mela is a powerful Hindu Happening, the largest gathering in the planet in the name of Faith. It takes place every third year in turns at Haridwar, Prayag (Allahabad), Nasik & Ujjain. An *Ardh Kumbh Mela* (1/2 Mela) is held at Haridwar & Allahabad every 6th year. Every 12 years is the Maha Kumbh, the last of which was held in 2013 in Prayag. The rivers at these four places are the Ganges at Haridwar, the confluence of Ganges, Yamuna & Saraswati @ Allahabad, the Godavari at Nashik and the Shipra at Ujjain.

All the Hindu organisations, monasteries, Hindu leaders, Gurus, their followers and followers of Hinduism in general, gather and set up the Kumbh Ghat (Huge open space officially allotted for the festival) and showcase the Hindu traditional practices and lifestyle for at least 45 days. All of their deities, they carry out in procession and energise them by immersing them in the sacred river flowing in the city.

It is organised by the Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad (All India Akhara Council - a conglomerate of 13 Akhadas (also called Akhara) or Hindu monastic organisations). The Akhara Parishad is the oldest apex body of Hinduism which has its seat in Haridwar, North

India. The SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam is the youngest Mahamandaleshwar (Pontiff) of the Mahanirvani Akhada (one of the thirteen akhadas).

Kumbh Mela 2007 in Prayag



Kumbh Mela in Prayag - 2013

More than 8 million followers of the SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam attended this Maha Kumbh Mela which happens once in 12 years.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kumbh_Mela

banks of a river, the **Ganges** (Ganga) at Haridwar; the confluence (**Sangam**) of the Ganges and the **Yamuna** and the invisible **Sarasvati** at Prayag; the **Godavari** at Nashik; and the **Shipra** at Ujjain. Bathing in these rivers is thought to cleanse a person of all their sins.^[1]

At any given place, the Kumbh Mela is held once in 12 years. There is a difference of around 3 years between the Kumbh Melas at Haridwar and Nashik; the fairs at Nashik and Ujjain are celebrated in the same year or one year apart. The exact date is determined, as per **Vikram Samvat** calendar and the principles of **Jyotisha**, according to a combination of **zodiac** positions of the Jupiter, the Sun and the Moon. At Nashik and Ujjain, the Mela may be held while a planet is in **Leo** (Simha in Hindu astrology); in this case, it is also known as **Simhasantha**. At Haridwar and Prayag, an **Ardha** ("Half") Kumbh Mela is held every sixth year; a **Maha** ("Great") Kumbh Mela occurs after 144 years.^[2]


The priests at other places have also claimed their local fairs to be Kumbh Melas. For example, the **Mahamaham** festival at **Kumbakonam**, held once in 12 years, is also portrayed as a Kumbh Mela.^[3]

The exact age of the festival is uncertain. According to medieval Hindu mythology, Lord **Vishnu** dropped drops of **Amrita** (the drink of immortality) at four places, while transporting it in a *kumbha* (pot). These four places are identified as the present-day sites of the Kumbh Mela. The name "Kumbh Mela" literally means "kumbha fair". It is known as "Kumbh" in Hindi (due to schwa deletion); in Sanskrit and some other Indian languages, it is more often known by its original name "Kumbha".^[4]

The festival is one of the **largest peaceful gatherings** in the world, and considered as the "world's largest congregation of religious pilgrims".^[5] There is no precise method of ascertaining the number of pilgrims, and the estimates of the number of pilgrims bathing on the most auspicious day may vary. **An estimated 120 million people visited Maha Kumbh Mela in 2013 in Prayag over a two-month period**,^[6] including over 30 million on a single day, on 10 February 2013 (the day of **Mauni Amavasya**).^{[7][8]} It has been inscribed on the **UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity**.^[9]

Pilgrims at the Haridwar Kumbh Mela in 2010

Country	India
Domains	Religious pilgrimage, rituals, social practices and festive events
Criteria	None
Reference	01258/9
Region	Asia and the Pacific
Inscription history	
Inscription	2017 (12th session)
List	Representative



Held alternately between Prayag, Haridwar, Nashik and Ujjain every three years.

View on Wikipedia for authors' updates






Kumbh Mela in Nashik - 2015

Not secure | zeenews.india.com/news/maharashtra/10-million-to-gather-for-2015-nashik-kumbh-mela_884065.html

News » State » Maharashtra

10 million to gather for 2015 Nashik Kumbh Mela

The Maharashtra government is gearing up to receive over 10 million pilgrims for the 2015 Kumbh Mela, scheduled after 12 years in the small temple towns of Nashik-Trimbakeshwar, around 175 km north of Mumbai.

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Updated:
Oct 18, 2013, 14:06 PM IST

Source:
IANS

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Mumbai: The Maharashtra government is gearing up to receive over 10 million pilgrims for the 2015 Kumbh Mela, scheduled after 12 years in the small temple towns of Nashik-Trimbakeshwar, around 175 km north of Mumbai.

Preparations are in full swing to provide all type of infrastructure and amenities -- lodging and boarding, public toilets, water supply and sewage disposal, roads, bridges and transportation, and smooth arrangements for the Shahi Snaan -- for pilgrims, expected to gather from across the world.

Kumbh Mela in Ujjain - 2016

As per Government Intelligence, 25% of the population who attended the Kumbh Mela in Ujjain, came to the SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam' camp for His Darshan (a glimpse of Him).



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ujjain_Simhashta

In 1789, after a clash between Shaivite *sanyasis* and Vaishnavite *bairagis* at Trimbak, the Maratha Peshwa ordered the two groups to bathe at separate places. The Peshwa also imposed this rule on the next Ujjain *sanyasis* would bathe on the one side of the Shipra river, the *bairagis* on the other.^{[9][3]}

British era [edit]

During the British rule, the Ujjain Simhashta was the only Kumbh Mela organized in a princely state. While Haridwar, Prayag and Trimbak-Nashik were part of the territories directly ruled by the British, Ujjain was part ruled by the Scindia (Shinde) dynasty. During this time, the Scindias financed half of the event's expenses.^[1]

At the 1826 fair in Ujjain, a sectarian conflict took place between the Shaivite Gosains and the Vaishnavite Bairagis. The Gosains, who started the clash, were defeated.^[7] Their monasteries and temples were plundered who were assisted by the local Marathas.^[8]

The militarized sadhus were disarmed during the British era. An 1850 British account mentions that the administrators of Ujjain sought British military help to prevent violence between Gosains and Bairagis. In response, the Gwalior Infantry were deployed in Ujjain under the command of Captain Macpherson. A fenced barrier was constructed in the middle of the shallow river so that the two groups could bathe independently of each other, fighting over ceremonial precedence. One hundred Brahmins were positioned along the fence to assist the sadhus in their ablutions. Macpherson deployed his troops throughout the city, on the bathing ghats and in the river. He convinced the Shaivites to conclude their bathing rituals in morning, before the arrival of much larger and more powerful Vaishnavite group. As a precaution, he also deployed heavy guns along the river to curb a riot. There was a dispute between two Vaishnavite sub-groups, which was resolved by Macpherson without violence.^[8]

The 1921 Simhashta is notable for a historic debate in which the Ramanandi Sampradaya defeated the Ramanuja sampradaya (Shri Vaishnavas). The debate was to address the question whether the Shri Vaishnav Ramachandra. The Ramanuja sampradaya was defended by Swami Ramprapann Ramanujadas of the Totadri math. The Ramanandis were represented by Bhagavadacharya (alias Bhagvad Das). The jury declared the Ramanandis as the winner of the debate, and Ramanandis became independent of the Ramanuja sampradaya. However, some Ramanandis continued to regard themselves as part of the Ramanuja sampradaya, alleging that Bhagvad Das forged evidence used to win the debate and that the jury was biased. The Ramanujis were prohibited from participating in the subsequent 1932 Kumbh Mela at Ujjain.^{[9][2]}

Independent India [edit]

The 1992 Simhashta, which preceded the demolition of the Babri Masjid, is noted for Ram Janmabhoomi campaign. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Vijaya Raje Scindia was President of the fair's organizing committee. Over 10 million pilgrims visited Ujjain during 17 April - 16 May. During this time, annual sessions of Bajrang Dal and Durga Vahini's Madhya Bharat branch were held in Ujjain. Satyamitranand Giri "re-converted" some 100 tribals to Hinduism during the Durga Vahini session. A Sanskrit Sammelan presided over by Karan Singh attracted several Hindu nationalists. Avidyanath presided over a Sant Sammelan ("gathering of *sants*"), in which he declared that his sect was committed to the construction of a temple in Ayodhya. Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) leader Ashok Singhal requested all sadhus to spend the chaturmas (July–October) in Ayodhya in order to exert pressure on the government. Individuals, such as Swami Yogeshwar Videhi Hariji, objected to the politicization of the Mela, but were isolated.^[1]

The 2016 Ujjain Simhashta was organized between 22 April and 21 May. According to the state's Transport Minister Bhoopendra Singh, nearly 75 million people visited the fair during this one-month period.^[10]



English Daily, Times of India reports on the endless queue of people waiting for darshan of the SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam, almost obstructing the city traffic : “Swami Nithyananda brings City to Standstill”

Mahaniravani akhara takes out grandest peshwayi of all

Swami Nithyananda brings city to standstill

FP NEWS SERVICE
Ujjain

With every peshwayi, the grandeur of royal processions seems to be touching new heights and the rush of people from nearby areas is increasing too. According to the people who have seen all the peshwayis taken out so far, the royal procession of Mahanirvani akhara was, the most impressive.

The peshwayi displayed social messages during the procession as flowers were showered by a helicopter. The presence of Swami Nithyananda with huge chariot and troop of overseas followers brought the holy city to standstill. The peshwayi was so large that the one end of the peshwayi was touching the old part of city, while the other was still running through the city. Followers of Swami Nithyananda from more than 25 countries including Russia, USA, China, Mexico, Germany, France and Spain were the crowd pullers. The huge peshwayi made the peshwayi route virtually inaccessible from all directions.

The peshwayi started with traditional Khichari custom at Neelganga. It was given a rousing welcome by crowd similar to what was seen during the previous peshwayis taken out in the city. This peshwayi was attended by several important Maha Mandaleshwars



Grand peshwayi of Mahanirvani Akhara taken out. FP PHOTO

Maha Mandaleshwars participating in the royal procession. Acharya Mahamandleshwar Vishokananda Bharti was also part of the procession. A tableau of akhara deity Kapil Muni also accompanied the procession.

Swami Nithyananda and Datt Maharaj with their grand assets and displays made the procession a huge. Peshwayis' way was paved by district in-charge minister Bhupendra Singh, divisional commissioner Ravindra Pastor, and collector Kavindra Kiyawat who, as usual, were at the helm of affairs during the commencement of the peshwayi. Additional security arrangements were put in place and heavy traffic was totally prohibited on the



Naga saints accompanying the peshwayi.



Swami Nithyananda offers bananas to the devotees.

religious rituals, but also conveyed social messages varying from female foeticide to conservation of water. Several tableaux, conveying social messages, were part of the Peshwayi. A total of 40 musical bands from other states too lent the peshwayi a grand touch and people watched in awe the third religious procession ahead of the Shahi Snan of the Simhastha Mela on April 22.

But, the special attraction of the Peshwayi was evident only when the procession reached old city when a helicopter flying exactly over the route showered flowers. A tableau of Kapil Muni also drew attention of the spectators. The performance of bhangra

beats of Dhol enlivened the Peshwayi. Senior officials of the city also welcomed the procession. Formation of scout guides, muslim jamaats, women disciple of Maha Mandleshwars was present on the occasion. The huge procession was so big that blocked the traffic of the whole city most of the traffic was diverted by the police. Mandleshwars including Santosh Puri, Shivchaitnya Bharti, Vishverananda Giri, Prem-ananda Giri, Atmananda Puri, Kamlananda Giri, Divyananda Giri, Yogananda Saraswati, Rameshwarananda Saraswati, Vishwatmananda Giri, Shri Mahant Prakash Puri, Ganga Sagar Bharti, Kailash Puri, Daya Puri and Anandesh Datta were

A local Hindi Daily, reports on the everyday count of people inside the camp of the SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam waiting for darshan: "Everyday, there are more than 1 lakh gathered here". In the 40 days that the SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam stayed in the camp, more than 40 lakh people received darshan.

A local Hindi Daily reports on the unprecedented crowds gathering everyday at the camp of the SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam: "The SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam Broke all the Records of Devotees Gathering and waiting for His Darshan"



A local Hindi Daily covers with pictures, the SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam at the Kumbh Mela and reports on the overwhelming gathering in the camp of the SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam: “Over 1 million devotees from 71 Countries followed the SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam for the Shahi Snan (Royal Bath) and had a Sacred Dip”

***Another local Hindi Daily reports again on the overwhelming gathering at the event:
"From 71 Countries Devotees Gathered to Attend Kumbh Mela - 2016 in Nithyananda
Peetham"***

English Daily Deccan Chronicle reports on the SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam' camp being the center of center of attraction of the entire Kumbh Mela event: "Simhasth's (meaning the maha kumbh mela that happens once every twelve years specifically in

Ujjain) center of attraction “Nithyananda Peetham”

Local Hindi Daily in Ujjain reports: “1 Million Local Ujjain Devotees and other Followers of the SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam joined the Peshwai Procession (Grand entry in the form of a procession, of the participating Monastic organisations into the city of Ujjain)”



Hindi daily headlines all over North India pleasantly announce: "Swami Nityananda's disciples bring pride to Karnataka at the Kumbh Mela, Ujjain"



"In this unique peshwai (inaugural) procession of the Kumbh Mela seeing the grandeur and dazzle of Swami Nityananda, eyes just popped out!"



Millions of Devotees waiting for darshan of the SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam



ABOVE: Mahanirvani Akhada Sadhus (monks) participated in a Bandara - traditional feast - organized by the SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam

Grand Procession carrying deities in Ujjain City and Shahi Snan (Royal Bath) procession



Grand procession of deities



Lines of people waiting for darshan of Swami Nityananda at his camp and outside



First shahi snan dip

The ASMT community in USA celebrating the Kumbh Mela -2016



The ASMT community in Australia celebrating the Kumbh mela - 2016



MASSIVE DISASTER RELIEF SERVICES AND FREE RELIGIOUS FOOD SERVICES

Thane cyclone relief work for the Puducherry following in
Tamilnadu

- Religious food offering and Medical services for a huge following
of people

Religious food offering: Free food was cooked and served to victims of the THANE cyclone in Puducherry. Raising a huge relief work area from bare ground, the SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam personally stood and served the people who sought Him out for relief from the damage caused to their life and property.

Vegetarian, sattvic food was cooked and offered first to the Divine and then to the lakhs of people 24x7.



Undaunted food, religious and spiritual services to the large following in Tiruvannamalai, South India

In the Tiruvannamalai Aadheenam (temple monastery complex) in Tamilnadu, South India, three free meals is cooked and served by the Sanyasis (monks) everyday to the local villagers and visitors visiting Tiruvannamalai. Further, every month, thousands of people are fed every full moon night while they circumambulate the sacred Arunachala Hill. The devotees circumambulating the hill, stop over at the Tiruvannamalai Aadheenam for food and blessings every month. The Tiruvannamalai Aadheenam is located in the mountain path and in the entire circumambulation circle of hill of 14 km, it is only here in the Aadheenam of the SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam that food and shelter is provided untiringly round the clock to the lakhs of devotees who converge for the full moon night. Till date, over 15 million people have been fed in Tiruvannamalai alone. The people who partake the food, are also given various free religious and spiritual services for advancement in their journey of enlightenment.



Tiruvannamalai - Anna daan (free food offering) on the Occasion of Pournami













Initiated Bala Sants (Child-saints) of the Nithyananda Gurukul (Traditional resident school) reveal akashic records from the cosmic archives to the individual devotees in response to their questions on their own life struggles. The revealed Truths give them alternate powerful cognitions with which they are bailed out of their life struggles and move forward to the next level.



Devotees offer ritualistic worship in the form of abhisheka (sacred bath) to the Shiva Linga and rid themselves of their karmas (unfulfilled actions and incomplete cognitions from their past), and resume life afresh.

Spiritual and Administrative Head of Various Traditional Monasteries

Shaivism² is the source of all further sub sects of Hinduism over the millenia and arguably all other major religions of the world. The SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam is seen by every Hindu leader today as their possible successor to carry forward their sect or lineage at the end of their term. The SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam has already been named as the lawful successor of various traditional monasteries.

- 2001 - He was named as the successor to Thondai Mandala Aadheenam, an ancient Shaivite monastery in the state of Tamil Nadu in Southern India.
- 2005 - He was named successor of Sri Kolada Mutt Mahasamsthana, which has followers of the Lingayat community, comprising 17% of the population of the state of Karnataka, South India
- 2007 - The SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam was appointed as the Mahamandaleshwar (roughly translates to country head) of the Mahanirvani Akhada, the most ancient apex body of Hinduism.
- 2012 - He was coronated as successor to the oldest, and most Ancient traditional Shaivite monastery in the world - the Madurai Adheenam in Tamilnadu South India. Tamil Nadu with a population of 70 million people is predominantly Shaivite. The communities collectively known as Saiva Vellalars (fundamentally agriculturists by profession who form more than 80 percent of any population in India) traditionally

² <https://www.yogapedia.com/definition/10022/siddha-shaivism>

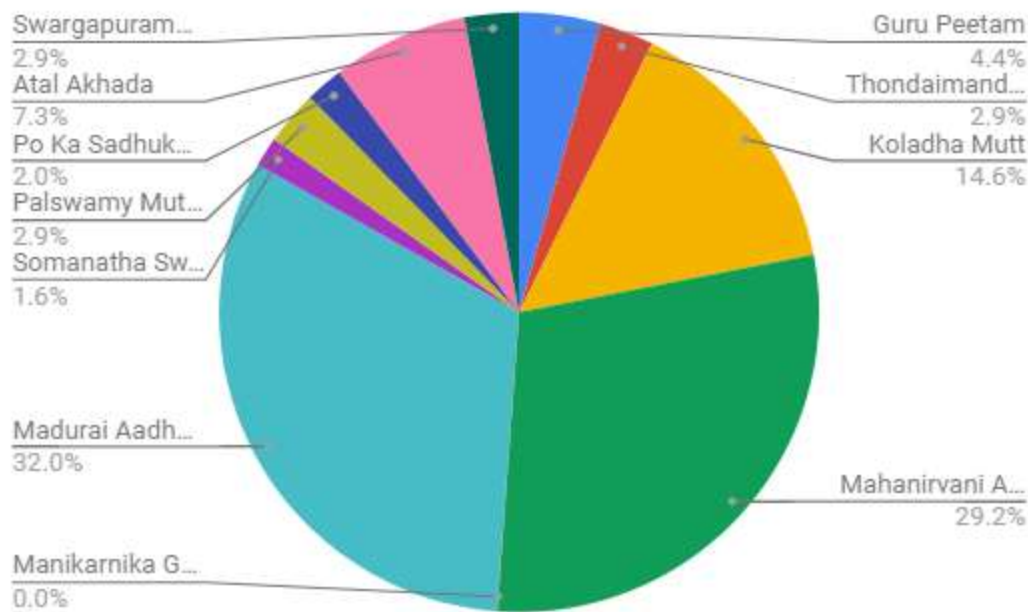
owe their allegiance and reverence to the two ancient Shaiva Aadheenams namely Thondaimandala Aadheenam and Madurai Aadheenam.

- 2014 - Appointed as the head of 5 mutts (traditional monasteries):
 - Sri Somanatha Swami Temple & Mutt, Thiruvavur
 - Sri Arunachala Gnandesikar Swami Temple & Mutt, Vedaranyam
 - Sri Po.Ka.Sathukal Madam, Vedaranyam
 - Sri Palsamy Mutt, Thanjavur
 - Sri Sankara Swami Mutt, Thanjavur
- 2016 - Appointed as the Acharya Mahamandaleshwar (global head) of the Atal Akhada. The Akhadas³ are the ancient "Apex bodies of Hinduism" and are the congregation each of hundreds of thousands of organizations. The Akhadas were established thousands of years ago by Sri Kapila, one of the earliest incarnations in Hinduism (the Divine in human form) and revived in 800 AD by another Hindu incarnation, Adi Shankara. The Atal Akhada is the oldest Akhada in the world and the Mahanirvani Akhada has the largest influence in the country and runs some of the most visited temples in India such as the Kashi Vishwanath Temple, the Mahakaleshwar temple in Ujjain and so on which each attract tens of millions of people from around the world every year.
- 2018 - Coronated as successor of Swargapuram Aadheenam, Kancheepuram, South India.

	Year	Location	Number of followers (Millions)	Total (millions)
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³ <http://www.uptourism.gov.in/site/writereaddata/siteContent/tourism-stats.pdf?cd=MwAwADcA>

)	
Spiritual and Administrative head of various monasteries				
Guru Peetam	1994	Tamil Nadu	3	
Thondaimandala Aadheenam	2001	Tamil Nadu	2	
Sri Kolada Mutt Mahasamsthana	2005	Karnataka	10	
Mahanirvani Akhada	2007	Uttar pradesh	20	
Manikarnika Ghat Sevashram Samstha	2008	Uttar pradesh	0.01	
Madurai Aadheenam	2012	Tamil Nadu	21.9	
Somanatha Swamy Temple, Thiruvarur	2014	Tamil Nadu	1.1	
Pal swamy Mutt, Thanjavur & Shankar Swamy Mutt, Thanjavur	2014	Tamil Nadu	2	
Po Ka Sadhukal Mutt, Vedaranyam & Arunachala Jnana Desiga Swamigal Panchanadi kulam	2014	Tamil Nadu	1.4	
Atal Akhada	2016	Uttar pradesh	5	
Swargapuram Aadheenam	2018	Tamil Nadu	2	
ASMT Monasteries				68.41



Many of the famous Sampradayas (Spiritual Sub Traditions) of Hinduism owe their origins to the Mahanirvani Akhada. Ramakrishna Paramahansa, who was the inspiration of the Ramakrishna Mission which is one of the largest service organizations of Hinduism with thousands of centers around the world, was initiated by the Saint Totapuri of the Mahanirvani Akhada. Likewise Gautam Buddha, the founder of the Buddhist religion hails from this very same Akhada⁴.

The Akhadas conduct the largest religious gathering in the world - the 'Kumbh Mela', that happens every 4 years and a major one once every 12 years. The Maha Kumbh Mela (that happens once in 12 years and is therefore most attended) that happened in 2013 in Prayag saw over 120 million visitors over the 2 month period of the celebrations⁵. The last Kumbh Mela in Ujjain that started the 12-year cycle all over again, saw close to 75 million⁶ people.

⁴ <http://akhada.org>

⁵ <http://kumbhmela.com>

⁶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ujjain_Simhastha

The SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam is not only the Guru for the ancient traditional mystical schools but also for the modern youth who are urgently seeking meaning in the ever-growing complex world and real solution to their complex problems of existence. He is the most watched Guru on Youtube and every day audiences across all age groups and religious affiliations from more than 120 countries tune in to watch His live webinars; which expound and reveal all aspects of human existence and Cosmic Truths. The Nithyananda Community runs more than 100 websites and numerous social media pages and various other social media platforms to reach out and spread the teachings of the SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam. The SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam has authored more than 500 books in 26 languages and all of these are freely available online for people looking for solutions to their problems. These constitute the largest repository of Hindu knowledge in the world⁷.

1.Guru Peetha

Number of followers: 30 lakh (3 Million)

Isakki Swamigal was a great Yogi and Siddha (mystic expressing Superconscious powers) from Tiruvannamalai, Tamilnadu South India (The Avatar's birthplace). Isakki Swamigal lived with almost no food, water or clothes all his life. He recognised the SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam at a young age and explored the Science of Vedanta with Him. He stayed at Panchamukham (the sacred spot from where the five faces of the Arunachala Hill in Tiruvannamalai can be seen) on the mountain path. Isakki Swamigal's great love and belief in Panchamukham - Five Peak Point inspired many of his devotees to develop their own special connection with this sacred spot. Isakki Swamigal initiated Mata Vibhutananda Puri

⁷ <http://youtube.com/nithyanandatv>

as His only disciple. Mata Vibhutannada Puri in turn initiated the SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam as her only disciple. After Isakki Swamigal and Mata Vibhutananda Puri left the body, the SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam became the inspiration for all the followers of the Guru Peetham (the sacred seat of the spiritual master).

Isakki Swamigal (left), Mata Vibhutananda Puri (top right) and the SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam (bottom right) in the same location - Panchamukham. The five peaks of the sacred Arunachala Hill can be seen in the background in all three photographs





On April 21, about 10 lakh people are expected to visit the town

Close to 10 lakh devotees are expected to throng Tiruvannamalai town on April.

திருவண்ணாமலை துணைமன்றையர் கோயிலில் சரிபாக மாலை 6 மணிக்கு மலர் உசரீயில் மகாநீயம் ஏற்றப்பட்டது. கோயிலில் இன்று அருளாளர் 4 மணிக் குழந்தை ஏற்றப்பட்டது. அகனி தாமரை விளக்குகிறது. திருவண்ணாமலை துணைமன்றையர் கோயில் இங்கு கூண்டுதொடும் கார்த்திகை நடத்திவரும் கோண்டியப்படுகிறது. அதன்படி, இத்தொடர் விழா கடந்த 13ம் தேதி கோம்பேற்றத்தின் தொடக்கி நடந்து வருகிறது.

இத்தொடர் 3 ஆம் ஆண்டு 3 ஆம் ஆண்டு கோண்டி கோயிலுள் கூயிரம் மீட்டர் நேரம் 3000 நினை நேரம் மணிக் குழந்தை ஏற்றப்பட்டது. இன்று அருளாளர் 11 நாட்கள் சரிபாக மகாநீயத்தை காண சுமார் 15 நாட்களாகும் ஏற்றப்படும் புகழ்மை திருவண்ணாமலையில் துவங்குகின்றனர். கோயிலுக்கு காணும் விழா புகழ்மை புகழ்மை புகழ்மை 10 ஆயிரம் கோயிலுள் ஏற்றிவைக்கப்பட்டுள்ளனர். கோயில் மற்றும் மலர்மலர் ஏற்றும் 5 அடுக்கு கோயிலுள் புகழ்மை புகழ்மை புகழ்மை. இன்று இங்கு புகழ்மை சரிபாகம் உட்கொண்டனர் புகழ்மை. இரவுமே சென்றிருந்தனர். இரவுமே புகழ்மை புகழ்மை கூட்டம் துவங்கியது.

The large following in Tiruvannamalai

2. Thondaimandalam Aadheenam

Number of followers - 2 Million

Thondaimandalam Aadheenam is one of the oldest living temple monastery complexes in the world, located in the northernmost part of Tamil Nadu. It was under the rule of Chola dynasty⁸, South India during the first century CE. The SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam supported the activities of Thondaimandalam Mutt (traditional monastery) right from the year 2003. The community of this Mutt reveres the SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam as their 'Kula Guru' (the spiritual master of the lineage) and worship Him.

Following are the total count of followers of the SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam from the demographic data as per the communities in South India belonging from the ASMT communities of this ancient aadheenam :

⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chola_dynasty

Census 2011							Home	States	District	Cities/Towns ▾	Religion	Data ▾	Google Custom Se
#	District	State	Population	Growth	Sex-Ratio	Literacy							
29	Chennai	Tamil Nadu	4,646,732	6.98 %	989	90.18							
57	Kancheepuram	Tamil Nadu	3,998,252	38.95 %	986	84.49							
63	Vellore	Tamil Nadu	3,936,331	13.20 %	1007	79.17							
70	Thiruvallur	Tamil Nadu	3,728,104	35.33 %	987	84.03							
90	Salem	Tamil Nadu	3,482,056	15.44 %	954	72.86							
92	Viluppuram	Tamil Nadu	3,458,873	16.84 %	987	71.88							
93	Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu	3,458,045	18.56 %	1000	83.98							
116	Tirunelveli	Tamil Nadu	3,077,233	12.97 %	1023	82.50							
119	Madurai	Tamil Nadu	3,038,252	17.84 %	990	83.45							
146	Tiruchirappalli	Tamil Nadu	2,722,290	12.57 %	1013	83.23							
157	Cuddalore	Tamil Nadu	2,605,914	14.02 %	987	78.04							
175	Tiruppur	Tamil Nadu	2,479,052	29.11 %	989	78.68							
177	Tiruvannamalai	Tamil Nadu	2,464,875	12.75 %	994	74.21							
185	Thanjavur	Tamil Nadu	2,405,890	8.56 %	1035	82.64							
200	Erode	Tamil Nadu	2,251,744	11.66 %	993	72.58							

Demographic data on ASMT communities in Thondaimandala mutt

3. Kolada Mutt

Number of followers: 10 Million

The Kolada Mutt is the age old traditional mutt, a spiritual hub for the f. The Mutt has its headquarters in the heart of the city of Bengaluru and houses the ancient Jalakanteshwara Shiva Linga, which is known to be thousands of years old. The Mutt has hosted the likes of great saints like Thiru Jnanasambandar.



**1 Nov 2014 - Akhila Karnataka Dharmika Santara Samaveesha Swamis Meet in the Bengaluru Aadheenam - spiritual headquarters in Bengaluru, Karnataka, South India.
(Bottom right) Kolada Mata Maha Swami Shanta Veerananda Swami with the SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam.**

4. Five Ancient Monasteries in South India

1. Sri Arunachala Jnandesikar Swamigal Temple & Mutt in Panchanathikulam, Vedaranyam
2. Sri Po.Ka. Sadhukal Mutt, Vedaranyam
3. Sri Palsamy Mutt, Thanjavur
4. Sri Sankara Swami Mutt, Thanjavur
5. Sri Somanatha Swami Mutt and Temple, Thiruvavarur

Number of followers: 4.5 Million

- Pal Swamy mutt is one of the ancient monastery complexes of the ASMT community, which is a heritage property of an 18th century Sage named Palswamy. He expressed extraordinary spiritual powers such as teleporting himself from place to place. He healed and enriched the people living in the surrounding community at that time.
- Shankara Mutt, one of Adi Shaivaite mutts in Tamilnadu.
- Vedaranyam is named after Vedaranyeswarar, the presiding deity of the Vedaranyeswarar Temple, a Hindu temple dedicated to Shiva.
- Panchanadi Kulam in Vedaranyam served as housing for devotees. It fed devotees who used to visit the temple of Vedaranyeshwar (temple dedicated to Shiva, located in the town of Vedaranyam in Tamil Nadu, India). The total number of followers of the SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam is from the demographic data as per the communities and is shown below.

and impact over the general population of Tamilnadu besides the ASMT community members.

The SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam is the 293rd Guru Maha Sannidhanam (spiritual head) of Madurai Aadheenam.

The total number of followers of the SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam is from the demographic data as per the communities and is shown below.

Census 2011	Home	States	District	Cities/Towns	Religion	Data	Google Custom
185	Thanjavur	Tamil Nadu	2,405,890	8.56 %	1035	82.64	
200	Erode	Tamil Nadu	2,251,744	11.66 %	995	72.58	
212	Orndipai	Tamil Nadu	2,193,775	12.31 %	999	76.26	
242	Verudhanagar	Tamil Nadu	1,942,288	10.91 %	1007	80.15	
251	Krishnagen	Tamil Nadu	1,875,809	20.41 %	958	71.46	
253	Kanniyakumari	Tamil Nadu	1,870,374	11.60 %	1019	91.75	
275	Thoothukudi	Tamil Nadu	1,790,176	11.32 %	1023	86.16	
280	Kumakkal	Tamil Nadu	1,726,601	15.6			
306	Pudukkottai	Tamil Nadu	1,518,343	10.8			
310	Nagapattinam	Tamil Nadu	1,516,450	8.57			
332	Dharmapuri	Tamil Nadu	1,506,843	16.9			
359	Ramanathapuram	Tamil Nadu	1,353,445	13.9			
362	Sivaganga	Tamil Nadu	1,335,101	15.9			
381	Thiruvannur	Tamil Nadu	1,264,277	8.11			
388	Thiruv	Tamil Nadu	1,245,899	13.8			
429	Karur	Tamil Nadu	1,064,483	13.7			
401	Arjaku	Tamil Nadu	754,994	8.54			

Census 2011	Home	States	District	Cities/Towns	Religion	Data	Google Custom
#	District	State	Population	Growth	Sex-Ratio	Literacy	
28	Chennai	Tamil Nadu	4,646,732	6.98 %	989	90.18	
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157	Cuddalore	Tamil Nadu	2,606,914	14.02 %	987	78.04	
175	Tiruppur	Tamil Nadu	2,476,052	25.11 %	989	78.68	
177	Tiruvannamalai	Tamil Nadu	2,464,875	12.75 %	994	74.21	
186	Thanjavur	Tamil Nadu	2,405,890	8.56 %	1035	82.64	
200	Erode	Tamil Nadu	2,251,744	11.66 %	995	72.58	

6. Mahanirvani Akhada (Sri Pancayati Akhada Mahanirvani)

Number of followers: 20 Million

The SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam formally accepted the title and responsibility as the 1008th 'Mahamandaleshwar' (spiritual head) of the renowned Mahanirvani Akhada⁹ (Sri Panchayati Akhada Mahanirvani), the most ancient apex body of Hinduism founded directly by Lord Paramashiva (super-consciousness personified divinity), the original source of all Hindu spiritual lineages.

It is Mahanirvani Akhada that organizes the most ancient 'Kumbh Mela'¹⁰, the largest spiritual human gathering on earth. As the direct successor of Lord Paramashiva, the SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam is the youngest elected spiritual head of Mahanirvani Akhada leading 20 million followers, including 1.2 M ASMT monks .

His coronation ceremony was held during the most auspicious Maha Kumbha Mela at Allahabad-Prayag, North India after a democratic election process, where all the 43 existing Mahamandaleshwar unanimously voted for the SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam.

⁹ <http://akhada.org/>

¹⁰ <http://kumbhmela.com>

Mahanirvani Akhada, with more than one lakh (100,000) ASMT temples and monasteries, revived by Mahamuni Kapila, the incarnation of Paramashiva and Vishnu (the Hindu Divinities). It was also revived by the great Hindu incarnation Adi Shankara during the 8th century, with the aim of strengthening and uniting the lineage of warrior ascetics, sages and saints belonging to the ASMT.



7. Atal Akhada

Number of followers: 5 Million

The Atal Akhada¹¹ is one of the oldest Akhadas, the apex body of Hinduism founded by Lord Paramashiva (the Ultimate Superconsciousness who is the original source of all apex bodies of Hinduism), which is part of the Adi Shaiva Minority tradition (ASMT). It is closely associated

¹¹ <http://akhada.org/swami-nithyananda-declared-atal-akhadas-next-acharya-mahamandaleshwar/>

with the Mahanirvani Akhada. There are seven Akhadas in Dashnami Sannyas¹² (the monastic tradition of ten names), of which one is 'Atal'.

The SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam has been reverentially declared and honored as the 'Acharya Mahamandaleshwar' (the head for all spiritual leaders) of the Atal Akhada, as the direct successor of Lord Paramashiva. He is taken the rare divine responsibility of guiding millions of Hindu monks, ascetics, sages, seers and the followers of ASMT through this prestigious ancient Akhada.

During the Kumbh Mela in 2013, 5 million Atal Akhada followers were recorded to enter the Akhada premise, all of whom are following the SPH Nithyananda Paramashivam as their Acharya Mahamandaleshwar.



¹² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dashanami_Sampradaya

