

Day 8

Date: 24th February 2022 to 15th March 2022

Venue: Youtube

Link: [Maha Utsav -Great Poet of Maharashtra -Day8 | EBSB VESIT](#)

Day 8 of the event was conducted on the 3rd March 2022. Neeraj Chawla (D7B) provided some information about the Great Poet of Maharashtra - Sant Tukaram Maharaj.

The event began with the introduction of Sant Tukaram Maharaj. He was a 17th-century Marathi poet, Hindu sant (saint) and a great devotee of Lord Shri Vitthal (Krishna - Almighty), popularly known as Tuka, Tuko Baraya, Tukoba in Maharashtra. He was a Sant of Varkari sampradaya (Marathi-Vaishnav tradition) in Maharashtra, India. Sant Tukaram Maharaj is best known for his devotional poetry called Abhanga and community-oriented worship with spiritual songs known as kirtans.

Then, the speaker gave information about Sant Tukaram Maharaj's Original name and Birth Place. Sant Tukaram was born in modern-day Maharashtra state of India. His complete name was Tukaram Bolhoba Ambile. The year of birth and death of sant Tukaram has been a subject of research and dispute among 20th-century scholars. He was either born in the year 1598 or 1608 in a village named Dehu, near Pune in Maharashtra, India. After that, Speaker explained about Philosophy of Sant Tukaram Maharaj i.e. his work in Vedanta, Kirtan and Social reforms

In Vedanta, the speaker explained about the work of Abhangas, four persons who had a primary influence on Sant Tukaram Maharaj's spiritual development, namely the earlier Bhakti Sants Namdev, Dnyaneshwar, Kabir and Eknath. In kirtan he explained that what kirtan means to Sant Tukaram Maharaj. Sant Tukaram encouraged kirtan as a music imbued, community-oriented group singing and dancing form of bhakti. He considered kirtan not just a means to learn about Bhakti, but Bhakti itself.

Speaker also gave information about their Social reforms - Sant Tukaram accepted disciples and devotees without discriminating gender. One of his celebrated devotees was Bahina Bai, a

Brahmin woman, who faced anger and abuse of her husband when she chose Bhakti marga and Sant Tukaram as her guru. Further, speaker explained about authenticity of Sant Tukaram Maharaj that is about Tukaram Gatha, which is a Marathi language compilation of his works, likely composed between year 1632 to 1650. Also called Abhanga Gatha, the Indian tradition believes it includes some 4,500 Abhangas.

The poems are considered authentic, covers a wide range of human emotions and life experiences, some autobiographical, and places them in a spiritual context. Later he gave information about Legacies of Sant Tukaram Maharaj in Maharashtra, among Mahatma Gandhi and places related to Sant Tukaram Maharaj. Sant Tukaram's abhangs are very popular in Maharashtra. It became part of the culture of the state. Varkaris, poets and people study his poems.

Mahatma Gandhi, while under arrest in Yerwada Central Jail by the British colonial government for his non-violent movement, read and translated Sant Tukaram's poetry along with Upanishads, Bhagavad Gita and poems by other Bhakti movement poet-sants.

Places associated with Tukaram: Tukaram Maharaj Janm Sthan Temple, Sant Tukaram Vaikunthstan Temple and Sant Tukaram Maharaj Gatha Mandir, Dehu

At the end, the speaker gave information about books and movies made on Sant Tukaram Maharaj. Some authors which the speaker explained about were Arun Kolatkar, Dilip Chitre, Chandrakant Kaluram Mhatre, Mahipati. The Movies made on Sant Tukaram were: Tukaram (1921) by Ganpat Shinde. Sant Tukaram (1921) by Kalanidhi Pictures. Sant Tukaram (1936), Thukkaram (1938) in Tamil by B. N. Rao

Overall, the session shed light on the Life, works and abhangas and kirtans of Sant Tukaram Maharaj and was concluded with the vote of thanks given by Gaurang Desai (D10A).

Speaker: **Neeraj Chawla(D7B)**