



International Gita Fest

Why in News?

Recently, the **11-day 'Gita Quiz,'** was launched as part of the [International Gita Mahotsav 2024 \(IGM\)](#) celebrations. The competition has daily five questions related to **the Gita, and Mahabharata.** **Odisha** is the **partner state for IGM 2024.**

Key Points

- **Objectives of the Gita Quiz:**
 - The quiz aims to **educate people,** especially the youth, about the **Gita and Mahabharata.**
 - Participants are encouraged to pick up the holy books and explore answers, fostering discussions and awareness.
 - The **quiz serves as an orientation course for devotees and pilgrims before the main mahotsav begins.**
- **Competition Format and Rewards:**
 - The quiz has two categories public and student.
 - Each day, 20 winners from each category will receive Rs 500 each.
 - At the end of the quiz, 25 winners from each category will receive Rs 1,000 each, with 10 winners from Haryana, 10 from other states, and 5 from Odisha, in the IGM 2024.
 - Top motivators will also be **awarded monetary prizes and certificates of excellence.**
- **Focus on School Students and Quality Questions:**
 - School-going children form a significant portion of participants.
 - The number of daily winners has been doubled to encourage participation, while the quality of questions is being improved.

International Gita Mahotsav 2024 (IGM)

- The celebration **fosters a moral and cultural resurgence,** offering relevance in today's challenging times.
- The **festival aims to enlighten people through the timeless teachings of the Bhagavad Gita,** often referred to as the "**song celestial.**"
- **History of the Festival:**
 - The Gita Mahotsav has been **celebrated in Kurukshetra, Haryana, since 1989,** under the joint efforts of the Haryana Government and the Kurukshetra Development Board.
- **International Recognition:**
 - **In 2016,** Haryana declared the celebration as the **International Gita Mahotsav, drawing over two million visitors to Kurukshetra.**
- **Highlights of Recent Celebrations:**
 - Participation of **international artists and craftsmen.**
 - **Large craft fairs and exhibitions** by religious and spiritual organizations.
 - Indian and foreign scholars attended a seminar on the Gita organized by Kurukshetra University.
 - **Global chanting of the Gita** by 18,000 students.
 - Gita Sobha Yatra, food stalls from various Indian regions, and a **grand craft mela.**
- **Cultural and Spiritual Impact:**

- The festival **promotes cultural exchange and spirituality, attracting global audiences** and enhancing its popularity each year.
- Through its diverse programs, the Gita Mahotsav unites people across regions and nations, celebrating the essence of the **Bhagavad Gita**.

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