



Celebrating Tradition: Chhatrapati Shivaji Paramparik Krida Mahakumbh -2024

Dr. Vishwambhar Jadhav

(Senate Member,

&

Deksha Shetty

(M.P.Ed Scholar)

Asst. Prof University of Mumbai)

Abstract

This abstract introduces a comprehensive exploration of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Krida Mahakumbh which was a monumental sporting event that celebrates the spirit of athleticism and honors the legacy of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, one of the most esteemed historical figures in Indian history. This grand sporting extravaganza brings together participants from various corners of Maharashtra and beyond, embodying unity, competition, and cultural pride. The Mahakumbh features a variety of traditional games and sports, including kho-kho, kabaddi, mallakhamb, wrestling, and others, which were favored by Shivaji Maharaj himself. With its roots deeply embedded in the valor and ideals of Shivaji Maharaj, the Mahakumbh serves as a platform for athletes to showcase their talents across a multitude of sports and traditional games. It serves not only as a testament to physical bravery but also as a reflection of the rich sporting heritage of Maharashtra.

The event fosters a sense of camaraderie and sportsmanship, transcending barriers of age, gender, and background. Participants engage in a diverse array of sports, ranging from traditional martial arts like Mallakhamb to modern disciplines such as athletics, wrestling, and cricket. The Chhatrapati Shivaji Krida Mahakumbh not only promotes physical fitness and healthy competition but also instills values of discipline, perseverance, and leadership among its participants. It acts as a catalyst for social cohesion and community development, inspiring generations to embrace the legacy of Shivaji Maharaj and strive for excellence in all endeavors. As an embodiment of Maharashtra's cultural identity and sporting fervor, the Chhatrapati Shivaji Krida Mahakumbh stands as a symbol of resilience, determination, and the enduring spirit of sportsmanship, echoing the timeless ethos of Shivaji Maharaj himself, inspiring generations to come to embrace the noble pursuit of excellence in both sport and life.

Keywords- Traditional games, Cultural heritage, Sporting legacy, Youth empowerment, Community engagement.



i. Introduction

The introduction to such an event could emphasize its historical and cultural significance, highlighting Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's enduring legacy as a symbol of bravery, leadership, and resilience in Indian history. It may also underscore the importance of sports in fostering unity, discipline, and healthy competition among participants. Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais inaugurated the 24- day long 'Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Paramparik Krida Mahakumbh', a festival of traditional games by igniting a torch at Jamboree Maidan in Mumbai on Fri (26 Jan). The Governor witnessed a demonstration of fencing and Dandpatta on the occasion.

The Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Paramparik Krida Mahakumbh can indeed be seen as a similar initiative to the Khelo India program launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Both initiatives aim to promote sports and physical fitness among youth while also preserving and celebrating cultural heritage. The Maharashtra government's first initiative after the COVID-19 pandemic to organize this event was a significant step towards revitalizing cultural and sporting activities while adhering to necessary health and safety protocols. The decision to organize the Mahakumbh underscores the government's commitment to promoting traditional sports, preserving cultural heritage, and fostering community engagement despite the challenges posed by the pandemic.

The event served as a symbolic gesture of resilience and determination, signaling a return to normalcy and a revival of public gatherings following the easing of restrictions. By choosing to prioritize the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Paramparik Krida Mahakumbh as one of its first initiatives post-COVID, the Maharashtra government aimed to uplift spirits, promote physical fitness, and rekindle a sense of cultural pride among the people of Maharashtra. The Mahakumbh also provided a much-needed platform for athletes, coaches, and sports enthusiasts to reconnect with their passion for traditional sports and martial arts, which hold significant historical and cultural significance in the state. Additionally, the event likely contributed to stimulating local economies, supporting businesses, and generating employment opportunities, thus aiding in the state's overall recovery efforts.

ii. Definitions

- 1. Traditional Games-** Traditional games are activities that are part of folk culture and are passed down through generations.
 - 2. Cultural Heritage-** Cultural Heritage is a concept which offers a bridge between the past and the future with the application of particular approaches in the present. Due to its attached values for these groups or societies, cultural heritage is maintained in the present and bestowed for the benefit of future generations.
 - 3. Sporting Legacy-** A sporting legacy refers to the lasting impact and influence that sporting events, organizations, or individuals leave on society, culture, and future generations. It encompasses both tangible outcomes, like infrastructure improvements, and intangible effects, such as inspiring participation and promoting values like teamwork and perseverance.
 - 4. Youth empowerment-** Youth empowerment refers to the process of enabling young people to actively participate in decision-making and take control of their lives, fostering their skills, confidence, and opportunities to contribute meaningfully to society.
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5. **Community engagement-** Community engagement involves actively involving members of a community in decision-making processes and initiatives that affect their lives, fostering collaboration, communication, and mutual understanding to address shared concerns and enhance collective well-being.

❖ **History and evolution of Krida Mahakumbh**

The Chhatrapati Shivaji Krida Mahakumbh has a rich history and has evolved over the years into a significant sporting and cultural event in Maharashtra. Here is a general overview of its history and evolution:

Inception: The exact year of inception of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Krida Mahakumbh is not clear, but it is believed to have started several years ago to commemorate the legacy of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the founder of the Maratha Empire. The event was likely initiated to promote sports and physical fitness among the youth and to celebrate the martial traditions of Maharashtra.

Early Years: In its early years, the Mahakumbh may have been a relatively small-scale event, primarily focusing on traditional Indian sports like kho-kho, kabaddi, and wrestling. It would have been organized at a local or regional level, attracting participants from nearby areas.

Expansion and Growth: Over time, the Mahakumbh expanded in scope and scale, incorporating a wider range of sports and cultural activities. Modern sports such as cricket, football, athletics, and others may have been included to appeal to a broader audience and to reflect the changing sporting landscape.

Government Support: The Mahakumbh likely gained official recognition and support from the government of Maharashtra, which helped in its organization and promotion. Government agencies and sports authorities may have played a more active role in managing the event and ensuring its success.

Cultural Integration: Alongside sports, the Mahakumbh started integrating cultural events, performances, and exhibitions to showcase Maharashtra's rich cultural heritage. This helped in attracting a diverse audience and in promoting a sense of cultural pride and identity.

Modernization and Innovation: In recent years, the Mahakumbh may have undergone further modernization and innovation, incorporating new technologies, marketing strategies, and organizational practices to enhance its impact and reach. It may have also adapted to changing trends in sports and entertainment to remain relevant and engaging.

Continued Legacy: Today, the Chhatrapati Shivaji Krida Mahakumbh continues to be a prominent event in Maharashtra, attracting participants and spectators from across the state and beyond. It has become a symbol of sportsmanship, cultural heritage, and community spirit, carrying forward the legacy of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.



❖ **Traditional Games of each States**

SN	Traditional Indian Games	Originated/Popular In which state
1.	Gilli Danda /Lippa	Gujarat
2.	Satoliya/Pithoo/Lagori	Karnataka
3.	Kancha or Lakhoti	Bihar
4.	Kho Kho	Tamil Nadu
5.	Gutte	Tamil Nadu
6.	Hopscotch or Nondi	Tamil Nadu
7.	Lattoo	Several Indian Village
8.	Hide and Seek/Aankh Micholi	Played Pan India by kids
9.	Antakshri	The earlier start of Antakshri was from Srilankan Tamil Radio, further, it was adopted by Bombay-based Radio channels and TV anchors. Gradually, it started as a family pastime
10.	Chaupar/Pachisi	Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan
11.	Kabaddi	Tamil Nadu
12.	Pallankuli	South India



13.	Maram Pitti/Picchi Banti	Originated in in TN, is an Indian version of dodgeball. It is played with a rubber ball or tennis ball.
14.	Anchankal/Kallankal/5 Stones	Ancient Asia
15.	Ashtapada (8 squares)	It is an Indian board game that predates chess and was mentioned on the list of games that Gautama Buddha use to play.
16.	Chaturanga	Ancient India
17.	Snakes and Ladders	Ancient India
18.	Vish Amrit	Many parts of India
19.	Kokla chapaki/Ghoda badam	Punjab
20.	Posham pa	Rural India
21.	Dhopkel	Assam
22.	Carrom	Patiala, Punjab
23.	Raja-Mantri-Chor-Sipahi	Pan India
24.	Chain	Pan India



❖ **Contribution of Krida Mahakumbh**

This sporting event is not only a platform for showcasing traditional sports but also serves as a medium to instill the values and principles of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj among the youth. Here are some of its key contributions:

□ **Preservation of Traditional Sports:**

The Mahakumbh promotes and preserves traditional Indian sports that were once popular during the reign of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. These sports include mallakhamb, kusti (wrestling), kho kho, and others, helping to revive and sustain these cultural practices. Here are some ways in which the event contributes to the preservation of traditional sports:

- **Recognition and Promotion:** The Krida Mahakumbh brings attention to traditional sports by featuring them alongside modern sports events. This recognition helps in promoting these games and creating awareness among people about their cultural significance.
- **Participation:** By organizing competitions and tournaments for traditional sports, the event encourages people to actively participate in them. This not only keeps these games alive but also fosters a sense of pride and belonging among the participants.
- **Skill Development:** Traditional sports often require specific skills and techniques that are passed down through generations. By providing a platform for practicing and competing in these games, the Krida Mahakumbh helps in preserving and honing these skills.
- **Cultural Heritage:** Many traditional sports are deeply rooted in the culture and history of a region. By showcasing these games at a large-scale event like the Krida Mahakumbh, organizers help in preserving and celebrating the cultural heritage associated with them.

□ **Tribute to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj:**

As the event is named after the legendary Maratha king, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, it serves as a tribute to his bravery, leadership, and contributions to society. The Mahakumbh honors his legacy by commemorating his achievements and instilling his values of courage and integrity. The contribution of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Krida Mahakumbh lies in its ability to foster a sense of pride and unity among participants and spectators alike. By organizing such an event, organizers pay homage to Shivaji Maharaj's vision of a strong and prosperous Maharashtra, while also promoting physical fitness and sportsmanship among the youth. The Mahakumbh provides a platform for talented athletes and performers to showcase their skills and talents, thus encouraging the development of sports and cultural activities in the region. Overall, the event plays a significant role in preserving and promoting the legacy of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj for future generations to admire and emulate.



□ **Promotion of Physical Fitness and Health:**

By organizing various sporting events and competitions, the Mahakumbh encourages people to actively participate in physical activities, leading to improved fitness levels and overall well-being. One of the significant contributions of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Krida Mahakumbh is its role in raising awareness about the importance of regular exercise and physical activity in maintaining good health. Through the promotion of sports and games, the Mahakumbh inspires people to adopt a more active lifestyle, which can help prevent various illnesses and diseases associated with sedentary behavior.

Participating in sports and physical activities not only improves physical health but also contributes to mental and emotional well-being. It fosters teamwork, discipline, resilience, and self-confidence among participants, thereby promoting holistic development. Overall, the Chhatrapati Shivaji Krida Mahakumbh plays a crucial role in promoting specific physical fitness and health by encouraging people to engage in sports and physical activities, ultimately leading to a healthier and happier society.

□ **Cultural Revival and Heritage Promotion:**

The Mahakumbh serves as a platform to showcase Maharashtra's rich cultural heritage and traditions. It celebrates the legacy of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, encouraging pride and a sense of identity among participants and spectators.

- **Cultural Awareness:** Events like the Chhatrapati Shivaji Krida Mahakumbh help raise awareness about the rich cultural heritage of the region. Through various activities, performances, and exhibitions, people get to learn about traditional arts, crafts, music, dance forms, and folklore, fostering a sense of pride and appreciation for their cultural roots.
- **Heritage Preservation:** By showcasing traditional sports and games, the Mahakumbh encourages the preservation of indigenous practices that might otherwise be forgotten or overlooked in modern times. This helps in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and promotes the continuation of age-old traditions.
- **Educational Value:** Cultural events offer educational opportunities for both locals and visitors. Through workshops, demonstrations, and interactive sessions, participants can learn about traditional skills, craftsmanship, and cultural practices, contributing to the transmission of knowledge from one generation to another.

□ **Promotion of Recreation:**

Sporting events provide opportunities for individuals to engage in recreational activities. The Mahakumbh, with its diverse range of sports competitions, encourages people to participate actively in recreational pursuits. It promotes physical activity, healthy competition, and leisure among participants and spectators alike.



- **Encouragement of Physical Activity:** By organizing sports events and competitions across different categories, the Mahakumbh encourages people to engage in physical activities. This not only promotes physical fitness but also helps in reducing lifestyle-related health issues.
 - **Development of Sporting Talent:** The Mahakumbh provides a platform for budding athletes and sports enthusiasts to showcase their talent. This can lead to the discovery and nurturing of sporting talent at various levels, from grassroots to professional.
 - **Inspiration and Aspiration:** The Mahakumbh serves as a source of inspiration for young individuals to pursue their sporting dreams. Witnessing the dedication and achievements of fellow athletes can instill a sense of aspiration and motivate others to strive for excellence in their chosen sports.
- **Youth Empowerment and Leadership Development:**

Through participation in the Mahakumbh, youth are inspired by the life and principles of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. The event aims to instill qualities of leadership, courage, and determination, preparing them to face life's challenges with resilience.

- **Encouraging participation:** The Mahakumbh encourages youth from various backgrounds to participate in sports competitions, fostering a sense of inclusion and belonging among participants. This not only promotes physical fitness but also instills a sense of confidence and self-esteem in the youth.
- **Fostering leadership skills:** Through organizing and participating in sports events, young individuals have the opportunity to develop leadership skills such as teamwork, communication, decision-making, and problem-solving. These skills are essential for personal and professional growth and are highly valued in all aspects of life.
- **Promoting healthy competition:** The Mahakumbh promotes healthy competition among youth, teaching them the importance of striving for excellence while also respecting their opponents. This competitive spirit encourages individuals to push their limits and achieve their full potential.
- **Providing mentorship and guidance:** The Mahakumbh often involves experienced coaches, mentors, and leaders who provide guidance and support to young participants. These mentors serve as role models and inspire youth to pursue their goals with dedication and determination.
- **Celebrating success and achievements:** By recognizing and celebrating the achievements of young athletes and leaders, the Mahakumbh motivates other youth to strive for success and excellence in their chosen fields. This creates a positive reinforcement loop that encourages continuous growth and development.



□ **Community Building and Social Cohesion:**

The Mahakumbh brings together people from diverse backgrounds, uniting them in the spirit of sportsmanship and cultural exchange. It fosters a sense of community and social cohesion, echoing the inclusive vision of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's reign.

- **Inclusivity:** Events like these often bring together people from diverse backgrounds, including different castes, religions, and socio-economic statuses. By providing a platform for interaction and mutual celebration, the Mahakumbh promotes inclusivity and breaks down barriers between communities.
- **Sportsmanship:** As a sports event, the Mahakumbh promotes values like teamwork, discipline, and fair play. Participants learn to respect each other despite differences and to work together towards common goals, fostering a sense of unity and camaraderie.

□ **Tourism and Economic Boost:**

The event attracts tourists and visitors, boosting local businesses and the economy. It generates employment opportunities and contributes to the overall development of the region where it is held.

Tourism Boost: Hosting such a large-scale event attracts participants, spectators, and media attention from all over the country and sometimes internationally. This influx of people can lead to increased tourism as visitors explore not just the event itself but also the surrounding areas, leading to higher hotel bookings, restaurant visits, and local attraction visits.

Infrastructure Development: Often, hosting such events requires significant investments in infrastructure, including sports facilities, transportation networks, and accommodation options. These investments can have long-term benefits for the region by improving its attractiveness to tourists and businesses even after the event ends.

Local Businesses and Employment: The increased economic activity generated by the event can benefit local businesses such as hotels, restaurants, shops, and tour operators. This, in turn, can create job opportunities and boost income levels in the region.

Overall, the Chhatrapati Shivaji Paramparik Krida Mahakumbh is not just a sporting event but a celebration of heritage, culture, and the indomitable spirit of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, leaving a lasting impact on all those who participate and witness its grandeur.



❖ **Conclusion**

The Chhatrapati Shivaji Krida Mahakumbh stands as more than just a sporting event; it embodies the spirit of unity, athleticism, and progress. Its impact extends far beyond the confines of stadiums, resonating deeply within the local community and reverberating throughout the region's economic landscape. As a beacon of sporting excellence and cultural celebration, it not only elevates the host city onto the global stage but also inspires generations to pursue their passions and strive for greatness. As the Mahakumbh continues to evolve and expand its reach, it reinforces the values of inclusivity, determination, and excellence. It is not just a sporting event; it is a celebration of the human spirit and a testament to what can be achieved when individuals and communities come together with a shared passion.

The Mahakumbh serves as a platform for promoting local talent, encourages community engagement, and showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the region. This not only enhances the socio-cultural fabric but also generates employment opportunities and encourages entrepreneurship, thus fueling economic development. It is not only a celebration of sports and culture but also a catalyst for tourism growth and economic prosperity, making it a significant event with wide-ranging benefits for the host city and its residents.

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