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# SHRAM KO NAMAN

CENTRE FOR NEW ECONOMIC STUDIES



## PHOTO ESSAY

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Pune, India- A devotee dances in between physical distance markings during procession at Saint Tukaram Temple at Dehu village near Pune city on Friday, June 12, 2020.



# PHOTO ESSAY

## SHRAM KO NAMAN

Having grown up immersed in certain traditions and festivals, culture becomes an integral part of our lives and identity. They are more than just an occasion to express community spirit, our festivals and traditions are representatives of our heritage and cultural identities.

The *Ashadi 'palkhi'* procession, also known as *Wari* Procession, is a crucial part of Marathi culture. Under this 800-year old tradition, thousands of devotees undertake a pilgrimage on foot carrying *Palkhis* containing the footprints (*padukas*) of Saints Dnyaneshwar and Saint Tukaram.

Due to COVID-19, the procession was disrupted and cancelled. As per state orders, the footprints will be transported by air or road without the procession.

# Sacred Steps



Pune, India- Devotees dance in between physical distance markings during procession at Saint Tukaram Temple at Dehu village near Pune city on Friday, June 12, 2020.





Alandi, India- Warkaris gather at Saint Dyaneshwar temple at Alandi, Maharashtra, India on June 25, 2019. Around 3 lakh people from Maharashtra and other states arrived at Alandi temple to participate in Pandharpur Wari (Pilgrimage).



Alandi, India- Officials and Police at Saint Dyaneshwar Temple at Alandi amid Lockdown restrictions near Pune city on Saturday, June 13, 2020. The 800-year-old tradition of Ashadhi Wari remains cancelled and the Footprints will be carried by road or Air in Solapur district on June 30 amid rising cases of Corona Virus.





Pune, India- Minimum Devotees at Saint Tukaram Temple at Dehu village amid Lockdown restrictions near Pune city on Friday, June 12, 2020. The annual pilgrimage made by foot by lakhs of *warkaris* (devotees) to the temple town Pandharpur carrying Palkhi (Palanquins) bearing padukas (foot prints) of Saint Tukaram and Saint Dyaneshwar begins on Friday.



Dehugaon, India- Warkaris carry Palkhi (Palanquin) of Saint Tukaram at Dehu village temple on annual pilgrimage to Pandharpur on June 24, 2019. Around 2 lakh people from Maharashtra arrived at Dehugaon temple to participate in Pandharpur Wari or Annual Pilgrimage.



Alandi, India- Warkaris (Devotees) outside Saint Dyaneshwar Temple at Alandi amid Lockdown restrictions near Pune city on Saturday, June 13, 2020.



Alandi, India- A Police constable walks next to closed shops outside Saint Dyaneshwar Temple at Alandi amid Lockdown restrictions near Pune city on Saturday, June 13, 2020.

Pune, India- Police security at Indrayani river in premises of Saint Tukaram Temple at Dehu village near Pune city on Friday, June 12, 2020.







Pune, India- Police security at premises of Saint Tukaram Temple at Dehu village near Pune city on Friday, June 12, 2020.



Pune, India- Police security at premises of Saint Tukaram Temple at Dehu village near Pune city on Friday, June 12, 2020.





Alandi, India- A Devotee stands next to flower decoration at Saint Dyaneshwar Temple at Alandi amid Lockdown restrictions near Pune city on Saturday, June 13, 2020.



Pune, India- Devotees during procession at Saint Tukaram Temple at Dehu village near Pune city on Friday, June 12, 2020.





Pune, India- A Police officer touches Footprints at Saint Tukaram Temple at Dehu village near Pune city on Friday, June 12, 2020.



Alandi, India- A Police constable at Saint Dyaneshwar Temple at Alandi amid Lockdown restrictions near Pune city on Saturday, June 13, 2020.





Alandi, India- Warkaris (devotees) carry Foot Prints of Saint Dyaneshwar during the wari procession at Saint Dyaneshwar Temple at Alandi amid Lockdown restrictions near Pune city on Saturday, June 13, 2020.



Pune, India- A devotee Live streaming warkaris through mobile at Saint Tukaram Temple at Dehu village amid Lockdown restrictions near Pune city on Friday, June 12, 2020.





Alandi, India- A closed shop outside Saint Dyaneshwar Temple at Alandi amid Lockdown restrictions near Pune city on Saturday, June 13, 2020.

Traditions are associated with the idea of permanence; with the notion of standing through the trials of time. However, in reality, traditions evolve and adapt with time. The pandemic has caused us and our traditions to adapt to new circumstances. Even though the situation is nowhere near ideal, there are smiling faces behind those masks.

To learn, to grow, to face adversities has perhaps been as much of a legacy as these traditions and festivals. Keeping that tradition alive as well, the residents of Maharashtra followed their ancestors' sacred steps.



*JIGNESH MISTRY is a Pune-based freelance photojournalist. He has been in the field for over 10 years. He started his career as a nightshift news photographer at a daily tabloid during his graduation. Since then, his work has been published at multiple magazines, wire agencies and national newspapers. He is also involved in undertaking photography workshops for students in academic institutions. Currently, he is a regular contributor at The Hindu, The Press Trust of India and the International Wire Agencies.*



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