

ECHOES OF AHILYABAI

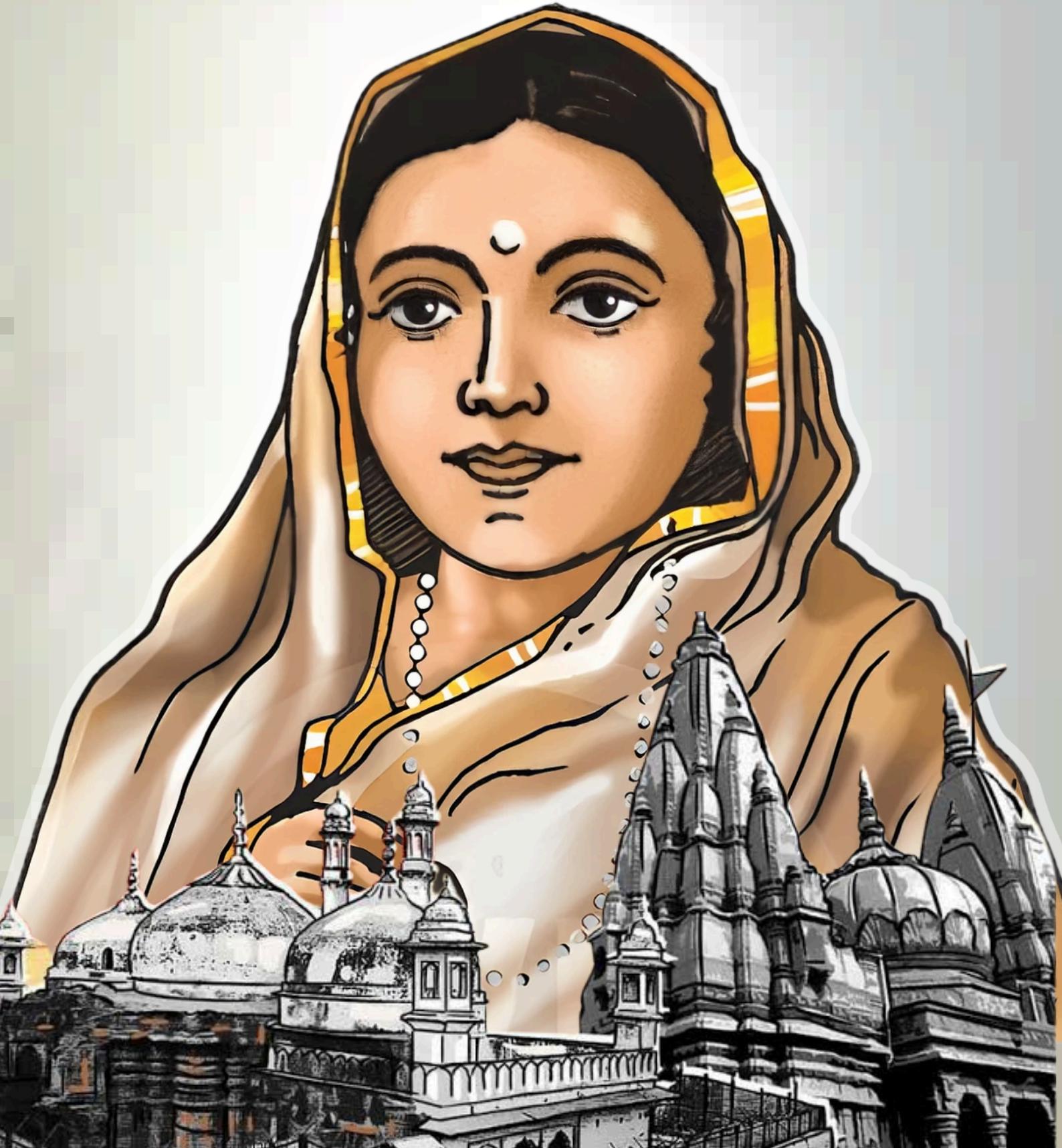
TERCENTENARY BIRTH CELEBRATIONS OF WARRIOR QUEEN

at

MALLA REDDY COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

on

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TERCENTENARY BIRTH CELEBRATIONS OF WARRIOR QUEEN



**LOKAMATA DEVI
AHILYABAI HOLKAR**

1725-1795

Rajamata Ahilyabai Holkar's Vision Aligned with Global Sustainability Goals



Ahilyabai Holkar Tercentenary Day Celebration was organized to commemorate the 300th birth anniversary of Rajamata Ahilyabai Holkar and to highlight her exemplary leadership, ethical governance, and commitment to social welfare. The program aimed to inculcate values of justice, integrity, women empowerment, and responsible citizenship among students. Through speeches, discussions, and cultural reflections, the celebration emphasized the relevance of her contributions to nation-building and inclusive development. The event aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 4 (Quality Education) by promoting value-based learning, SDG 5 (Gender Equality) by showcasing women leadership, SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) through her model of righteous administration, SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) reflecting her contributions to infrastructure and public welfare, and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) by fostering collective participation of students, faculty, and the institution.

INTRODUCTION

Ahilya Bai Holkar, a name that shines brightly in the annals of Indian history, was an extraordinary ruler, a compassionate administrator, and a visionary leader whose legacy continues to inspire generations. Born in 1725 in the small village of Chondi, Maharashtra, she was destined for greatness. At a time when women had limited roles in governance, she defied societal norms and emerged as one of the most remarkable leaders of her era. Her story is one of strength, perseverance, and devotion, making her a revered figure in Indian history. Ahilya Bai's journey to power was shaped by both fate and determination. She was married to Khanderao Holkar, son of Malhar Rao Holkar, the great general of the Maratha Empire. However, tragedy struck when Khanderao was killed in battle. Instead of retreating into grief, Ahilya Bai stood firm. After the passing of her father-in-law, she took on the mantle of leadership, ruling the Holkar kingdom with wisdom, courage, and a deep sense of responsibility. Her reign from 1767 to 1795 was marked by an era of prosperity, justice, and development. She established Indore as a well-planned and thriving city, ensuring that her subjects lived in peace and security. Ahilya Bai prioritized good governance, fair administration, and economic stability. She created policies that promoted trade, agriculture, and industry, ensuring that her kingdom flourished. Unlike many rulers of her time, she was deeply connected to the welfare of her people. She personally listened to their grievances, provided assistance to the needy, and worked tirelessly to uphold justice. One of her most lasting contributions was her patronage of architecture and religious sites. She is credited with restoring and constructing numerous temples, ghats, dharmashalas, and public facilities across India. Her devotion to preserving Indian heritage is evident in the grand temples she built, including the restoration of the Kashi Vishwanath Temple in Varanasi, the Somnath Temple in Gujarat, and several others in Mathura, Ayodhya, and Haridwar. These contributions were not just acts of religious devotion but also efforts to preserve cultural and spiritual landmarks that hold deep significance for millions. Ahilya Bai was known for her just and fair administration. She believed in equal justice for all, irrespective of caste, class, or gender. Her governance model was ahead of its time, incorporating welfare policies that ensured protection for the poor and marginalized sections of society. She promoted education, supported artisans and traders, and encouraged the construction of public welfare institutions. The impact of her rule was so profound that even today, she is remembered as a benevolent ruler who ruled with both strength and kindness.

Commemorating 300 Years of Ahilya Bai Holkar

In honor of the 300th birth anniversary of Ahilya Bai Holkar, this book serves as a tribute to her unparalleled contributions to Indian society. To mark this grand occasion, a 300-hour program was conducted across various colleges, celebrating her life and legacy through lectures, discussions, exhibitions, cultural programs, and academic sessions. This initiative brought together scholars, historians, students, and enthusiasts who explored her governance, policies, and impact on Indian society. This book documents these historic celebrations and also includes a brief listing of the institutions that participated in this event. Additionally, it provides a detailed account of Ahilya Bai Holkar's life—her rise to power, her leadership, her administrative brilliance, her devotion to the people, and her lasting influence on India's social and cultural landscape. Through this compilation, we hope to honor her memory and keep her legacy alive. Her story is not just a historical account but a source of inspiration for generations to come. Her ideals of justice, compassion, resilience, and selfless service remain relevant even today. As we celebrate her 300th birth anniversary, let us draw lessons from her life and strive to follow in her footsteps by upholding the values she cherished.

May the legacy of Maharani Ahilya Bai Holkar continue to guide and inspire us for centuries to come.





ABRMS

AKHIL BHARTIYA RASHTRIYA SHAIKSHIK MAHASANGH

Akhil Bhartiya Rashtriya Shaikshik Mahasangh (ABRSM) is a national organization established in 1988, dedicated to promoting cultural nationalism within the educational sphere of India. Its mission encompasses both the advocacy for teachers' rights—including aspects like salaries, allowances, and service conditions—and the advancement of societal and educational development. ABRSM represents educators from pre-primary to university levels who are committed to nationalistic ideals and Indian philosophy. As of now, the organization has expanded its reach across the country, with 35 state-level and over 50 university-level affiliated bodies operating in 24 states. The organization was officially registered in 1993 under the registration number S/25125/1993. Its headquarters are situated in New Delhi, housed in its own building. ABRSM's guiding vision is encapsulated in the motto: "Rashtra Ke Hit Mein Shiksha, Shiksha Ke Hit Mein Shikshak, Shikshak Ke Hit Mein Samaj," which translates to "Education in the interest of the nation, teachers in the interest of education, and society in the interest of teachers. In addition to its core activities, ABRSM organizes various programs aimed at social welfare and educational enhancement. One notable initiative is the annual 'Shiksha Bhushan Samman,' an award conferred upon distinguished educationists who have made significant contributions to education and social welfare. For instance, in 2023, the award honored three luminaries: Prof. Meenakshi Jain from Delhi, Prof. Kuldeep Chand Agnihotri from Himachal Pradesh, and Dr. Sanjeevani Kelkar from Maharashtra. The award ceremony was held at the Dr. Hedgewar Smarak Samiti in Nagpur, with prominent figures like RSS Sarkaryavah Dattatreya Hosabale and Swami Chidananda Muni of Parmarth Ashram, Rishikesh, in attendance. Through its unwavering commitment to integrating cultural values into education and advocating for the rights and development of educators, ABRSM continues to play a pivotal role in shaping India's educational landscape.

MRGI

MALLA REDDY GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS

The Malla Reddy Group of Institutions (MRGI) has established itself as a premier educational organization committed to academic excellence, innovation, and holistic development. With a strong presence in Telangana and beyond, the group encompasses a wide range of institutions offering programs in engineering, management, pharmacy, nursing, and sciences, catering to thousands of students each year.

MRGI is dedicated to providing world-class education, blending modern teaching methodologies with ethical values and practical learning. The institutions under the group emphasize research, innovation, and skill development, ensuring that students are well-equipped to meet the challenges of a rapidly evolving global environment.

The group also places significant importance on cultural, social, and co-curricular activities, creating a vibrant campus life that fosters creativity, leadership, and social responsibility among students. With state-of-the-art infrastructure, experienced faculty, and a student-centric approach, MRGI has consistently nurtured professionals who excel not only academically but also as responsible citizens.

MRCE

MALLA REDDY COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Malla Reddy College of Engineering (MRCE), formerly known as CM Engineering College, was established in the year 2005 under the aegis of the renowned Malla Reddy Group of Institutions. The foundation of this institution is deeply rooted in the vision and commitment of its founder, Sri Ch. Malla Reddy, a stalwart in the field of education with over four decades of dedicated service. His unwavering belief in providing accessible, value-driven, and quality education has played a pivotal role in shaping numerous academic institutions ranging from schools to professional colleges and universities.

Sri Ch. Malla Reddy's educational empire exemplifies excellence, discipline, and inclusivity. With more than 40 years of involvement in shaping the future of thousands of students, he has created a legacy of institutions that emphasize not only academic rigor but also character building, societal responsibility, and professional competence. His vision to empower learners across all socio-economic backgrounds has transformed the educational landscape of Telangana and beyond.

Welcoming the Chief Guest

Malla Reddy College of Engineering accorded a warm and respectful welcome to all the esteemed dignitaries and guests on the occasion of the celebration of Punyashlok Ahilyabai Holkar's 300th Birth Anniversary. The program commenced in an atmosphere of reverence and cultural pride, setting a dignified tone for the event.

The institution was honored by the gracious presence of Dr. M. Ashok, Principal, Malla Reddy College of Engineering, who extended his support and encouragement to the event. The gathering was further enriched by the presence of the Chief Guest, Sri Guntha Laxman Ji, Joint Secretary, ABRSM, whose participation added great value and significance to the occasion. The Deans, Heads of Departments, and faculty members of various departments also graced the event, reflecting the collective commitment of the institution toward cultural and academic initiatives.

Following the arrival of the dignitaries, the program formally began with a prayer to Lord Ganesha, offered by the Chief Guest, invoking blessings for wisdom, success, and the smooth conduct of the event. This auspicious beginning symbolized the removal of obstacles and the pursuit of knowledge and righteousness.

The dignitaries were then warmly welcomed by the students of Malla Reddy College of Engineering, who were dressed in traditional attire, showcasing India's rich cultural heritage. The students' participation added grace and vibrancy to the ceremony, reflecting respect, discipline, and cultural pride. The traditional welcome created a memorable and respectful ambiance, highlighting the institution's emphasis on blending modern education with cultural values.



VISUAL PRESENTATION ON THE LIFE JOURNEY OF AHILYABAI HOLKAR

As part of the 300th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Punyashlok Ahilyabai Holkar, Malla Reddy College of Engineering organized a Foam Board Exhibition that showcased the creativity, research, and artistic talent of its students. The exhibition provided a unique platform for students to visually present their understanding of Ahilyabai Holkar's life, values, and remarkable contributions to society.

The foam boards highlighted various facets of her journey, including her early life, visionary governance, commitment to justice, public welfare initiatives, temple restoration efforts, and cultural patronage. Through a combination of illustrations, timelines, quotations, and symbolic artwork, students transformed historical facts into engaging visual narratives that were both educational and inspiring.

The exhibition was visited by dignitaries, faculty members, and guests, who interacted with the students and appreciated their efforts. The students confidently explained the themes and messages of their displays, reflecting a deep understanding of Ahilyabai Holkar's legacy and her relevance to contemporary leadership and societal values. The event not only highlighted artistic creativity but also emphasized critical thinking, research, teamwork, and effective communication skills among the participants.

Overall, the Foam Board Exhibition was a vibrant and meaningful component of the celebration, bringing history to life and reinforcing the college's focus on holistic learning, cultural awareness, and academic excellence. It stood as a testament to the students' dedication and imagination while inspiring all participants to draw lessons from the exemplary life of Punyashlok Ahilyabai Holkar.



CLASSICAL DANCE

The event organized in our college began on an auspicious note with a classical dance performance as a welcome to the dignitaries and audience. The graceful performance was presented by the students Reshma and Yeshwanthi of II year - Dept of CSE, who captivated the audience with their expressive movements and traditional choreography. Their performance set a positive and respectful tone for the event and reflected the rich cultural heritage of classical dance. The welcome dance was well appreciated by everyone present and added elegance and charm to the inauguration of the program.



LIGHTING OF LAMP

The program proceeded with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by the dignitaries, symbolizing knowledge, wisdom, and the triumph of light over darkness. This traditional ritual marked the formal inauguration of the event and reflected the institution's commitment to learning and enlightenment. The moment created a dignified and auspicious atmosphere, setting a positive tone for the smooth conduct of the program.



Book Launch on the Life and Legacy of Ahilyabai Holka

Malla Reddy College of Engineering proudly marked a significant moment by launching a unique and inspiring book on the life of Punyashlok Ahilyabai Holkar, one of India's most revered and visionary rulers. This publication stands out as the shortest book that encapsulates the entire life journey of Ahilyabai Holkar, presenting her remarkable story in a concise, accessible, and impactful format. The book traces Ahilyabai Holkar's life from her early years to her rise as a powerful and just ruler, highlighting her exceptional qualities of wisdom, courage, compassion, and unwavering commitment to public welfare. Despite being brief in length, the book effectively captures her achievements in governance, justice administration, infrastructure development, temple restoration, and cultural preservation. It reflects how her leadership was rooted in ethical values, inclusivity, and service to the people.

The launch of this book by Malla Reddy College of Engineering reflects the institution's commitment to promoting cultural awareness, historical understanding, and value-based education among students. Designed especially for young readers, the book enables students to quickly understand the essence of Ahilyabai Holkar's life and leadership without losing the depth and significance of her contributions. Its concise format makes it an ideal resource for students, educators, and readers seeking inspiration from history in a time-efficient manner. This book launch is not merely a literary event but an educational initiative aimed at connecting the youth with India's rich heritage and exemplary leaders. By presenting Ahilyabai Holkar's life story in its shortest yet complete form, the institution has taken an innovative step toward preserving history while making it relevant and engaging for the present generation. The launch event was received with great enthusiasm and appreciation from faculty, students, and guests, reaffirming that Ahilyabai Holkar's legacy continues to inspire ethical leadership, social responsibility, and cultural pride. Through this initiative, Malla Reddy College of Engineering has contributed meaningfully to ensuring that the ideals and values of Punyashlok Ahilyabai Holkar continue to guide future generations.



ADRESSING BY HOD - H&S

Dr. Sneha Joshi delivered the introduction of the Chief Guest, Shri Guntha Laxman Ji. She highlighted that he is a prominent figure in Indian student and teacher organizations and currently serves as the All India Joint Organizing Secretary of ABRSM (Akhil Bharatiya Rashtriya Shaikshik Mahasangh), an organization dedicated to promoting nationalistic values in education. She also mentioned his earlier role as a key leader in the ABVP (Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad). Dr. Sneha Joshi emphasized his strong advocacy for value-based, India-centric, and employment-oriented education. She further spoke about his active involvement in national development initiatives, educational reforms such as the National Education Policy (NEP), student welfare activities, and his contributions through organizing national conferences and participating in rescue operations for Indian citizens abroad.



ADRESSING BY HOD - CSE

Dr. Manjunath Gadiparthi, Head of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Malla Reddy College of Engineering, addressed the gathering on the occasion of the 300th birth anniversary of Punyashlok Ahilyabai Holkar. In his address, he highlighted Ahilyabai Holkar's exemplary leadership, emphasizing her values of justice, compassion, and commitment to public welfare. He remarked that her life continues to inspire ethical leadership and social responsibility, especially among students who will shape the future through technology and innovation. He also appreciated the efforts of the students and faculty for successfully organizing the event and encouraged everyone to draw inspiration from Ahilyabai Holkar's ideals to become responsible and socially conscious professionals.



ADDRESSING BY DEAN ACEDAMICS

Dr. Sandhya Rani delivered a speech about **Rani Ahilyabai Holkar** (1725–1795), the revered and visionary queen of the Malwa kingdom, which was part of the Maratha Confederacy. She elaborated on Ahilyabai's remarkable three-decade reign (1767–1795), which is celebrated as a golden age of peace, prosperity, and just governance. Dr. Sandhya Rani highlighted Ahilyabai's exceptional leadership, administrative skills, and dedication to the welfare of her people, inspiring the audience with her wisdom, resilience, and lasting legacy.



ADDRESSING BY PRINCIPAL

Our Principal, Dr. Ashok Maram, delivered an insightful and inspiring speech to the audience, highlighting the significance of the event. He began by introducing the Chief Guest, Shri Guntha Laxman Ji, and elaborated on his remarkable contributions to Indian student and teacher organizations. Dr. Maram emphasized Shri Laxman Ji's role as the All India Joint Organizing Secretary of ABRSM (Akhil Bharatiya Rashtriya Shaikshik Mahasangh), an organization committed to promoting value-based, India-centric, and employment-oriented education. He also spoke about Shri Laxman Ji's previous leadership in the ABVP (Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad) and his dedication to student welfare, national development, and educational reforms such as the National Education Policy (NEP).

Continuing his address, Dr. Maram spoke about the life and legacy of Rani Ahilyabai Holkar, the revered queen of the Malwa kingdom, whose three-decade reign is celebrated as a golden era of peace, prosperity, and just governance. He highlighted her exemplary leadership, unwavering dedication to her people, and the enduring impact of her contributions on society, inspiring the students to learn from her resilience and wisdom.

Finally, Dr. Maram emphasized the importance of the event itself, explaining how such programs not only celebrate cultural heritage and historical figures but also motivate students to excel academically, socially, and morally. He underlined that events like these provide a platform for learning, encourage participation, foster creativity, and instill values of discipline, teamwork, and leadership among the students. His speech set a thoughtful and motivating tone for the rest of the program, leaving a lasting impression on everyone present.



ADDRESSING BY CHEIF GUEST

Sri Guntha Laxman Ji, Joint Secretary of ABRSM, addressed the gathering and provided an overview of the organization. He explained that ABRSM (Akhil Bharatiya Rashtriya Shaikshik Mahasangh) is a national-level educational organization committed to strengthening the education system by promoting Indian cultural values, ethical leadership, and social responsibility among students and educators. He highlighted ABRSM's role in organizing various academic and cultural initiatives aimed at integrating traditional values with contemporary education.

In his address, he spoke at length about the life and legacy of Punyashlok Ahilyabai Holkar, describing her as one of the most visionary and just rulers in Indian history. He emphasized her dedication to justice, public welfare, and inclusive governance, noting that her administration was marked by fairness, compassion, and accessibility to the common people. He also highlighted her significant contributions to cultural and spiritual preservation, particularly her efforts in restoring temples and developing public infrastructure across the country, which helped preserve India's rich heritage.

Sri Guntha Laxman Ji further stressed the importance of observing Ahilyabai Holkar's birth anniversary in educational institutions. He stated that such commemorations help create awareness among students about great leaders who shaped the nation through ethical governance and selfless service. He concluded by appreciating the initiative taken by the institution and encouraged students to draw inspiration from Ahilyabai Holkar's life and apply her values in their academic, professional, and personal lives.



FELICITATION OF CHIEF GUEST

As part of the 300th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Punyashlok Ahilyabai Holkar, Malla Reddy College of Engineering felicitated Sri Guntha Laxman Ji, Joint Secretary of ABRSM, with great respect. Dr. M. Ashok, Principal, presented a memento on behalf of the college, acknowledging his presence and contributions to the event.

The felicitation was witnessed by Deans, HODs, faculty members, and students, highlighting the college's tradition of honoring distinguished guests. Sri Guntha Laxman Ji, in his address, expressed gratitude and encouraged students to imbibe the values of leadership, integrity, and social responsibility exemplified by Ahilyabai Holkar. The ceremony reflected the college's commitment to cultural pride, ethical values, and academic excellence.



OUTREACH PROGRAM ON

AHILYABAI HOLKAR'S LIFE AND LEGACY

As part of the 300th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Punyashlok Ahilyabai Holkar, the leadership team of Malla Reddy College of Engineering conducted an outreach program to promote awareness about her life, achievements, and inspiring values among students of neighboring colleges. This initiative aimed to educate and motivate students by sharing Ahilyabai Holkar's exemplary leadership, dedication to social welfare, and ethical principles.

Dr. Ashok Maram, Principal - MRCE; Dr. Sandhya Rani, Dean Academics ; Dr. Sampath Kumar, HOD-ECE ; Dr. Sneha Joshi, HOD-H&S, visited different colleges individually to conduct interactive sessions and awareness programs. During these sessions, they highlighted Ahilyabai Holkar's contributions to society, her leadership qualities, and her commitment to justice, education, and community welfare.



CONCLUSION :

The 300th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Punyashlok Ahilyabai Holkar at Malla Reddy College of Engineering concluded with great enthusiasm and a sense of accomplishment. The event successfully blended cultural heritage, historical education, and student creativity, providing a meaningful platform for students and faculty to engage with the life and values of one of India's most exemplary leaders.

Through a variety of activities—including speeches by esteemed dignitaries, the launch of a concise book on Ahilyabai Holkar, the interactive Foam Board Exhibition, and the felicitation of the Chief Guest—participants gained a deeper understanding of her visionary governance, unwavering commitment to justice, public welfare initiatives, and efforts in cultural preservation. The active participation of students in these initiatives showcased not only their creativity but also their ability to critically engage with history and connect it to contemporary leadership and social responsibility.

The presence and guidance of dignitaries such as Sri Guntha Laxman Ji, Joint Secretary of ABRSM, and Dr. M. Ashok, Principal of Malla Reddy College of Engineering, along with the support of Deans, HODs, and faculty members, added significant value and inspiration to the event. Their interactions with students highlighted the importance of learning from historical figures and applying those lessons in modern life.

Overall, the celebration reaffirmed Malla Reddy College of Engineering's commitment to promoting ethical values, holistic learning, cultural awareness, and academic excellence. It inspired students to imbibe the ideals of selfless leadership, integrity, and service exemplified by Punyashlok Ahilyabai Holkar, ensuring that her legacy continues to guide and motivate future generations.



Women Protection Cell

Women Protection Cell is active in the institution and works for the safety, welfare, and well-being of students and faculty members. The Cell aims to create a secure, respectful, and supportive environment, enabling women to pursue academic and professional excellence without fear or discrimination.

The Cell functions through awareness programs, guest lectures, seminars, counseling sessions, and welfare activities focusing on women's rights, safety, and legal protections. It also provides a platform for women to share their experiences, concerns, and views regarding their safety, dignity, and status in society, ensuring their voices are heard and addressed effectively.

On the occasion of Ahilyabai Holkar's 300th Birth Anniversary, the Women Protection Cell took the initiative to organize a Cultural Showcase by Students, encouraging participants to wear the traditional attire of different states of India. This initiative aimed to celebrate India's rich cultural diversity while honoring the legacy of Ahilyabai Holkar as a symbol of strength, leadership, and women's empowerment.

Through this cultural presentation, students showcased the heritage, values, and unity of the nation, fostering respect for tradition and promoting confidence, identity, and inclusivity among women.





THE QUEEN WHOSE 30 YEARS RULE OF INDORE IS CONSIDERED TO BE LEGENDARY





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