Hon’ble Union Minister for Culture and Tourism Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat Flags Off ‘Yuva Somnath Yatra’ from New Delhi

Over 1,100 students embark on a special train journey to Somnath under Somnath Swabhiman Parv

More than 35,000 devotees have visited Somnath under the initiative

Yatra to connect young people with India's historical and spiritual legacy

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The ‘Yuva Somnath Yatra’, organised under the Somnath Swabhiman Parv, was flagged off by Union Minister of Culture and Tourism Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat from Safdarjung Railway Station, New Delhi. More than 1,100 students from various colleges and institutions have embarked on this special train journey to Somnath, Gujarat.

Addressing the gathering, Union Minister Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said that despite repeated attacks over a thousand years, the Somnath Temple continues to stand as a symbol of India's enduring cultural heritage. He highlighted how earlier generations protected not only their faith but also the country's rich traditions and heritage. He said that the history of Somnath reflects India's faith, resilience and cultural continuity.

Addressing the young participants, the Minister said that this is not an ordinary journey but an opportunity to understand India's history of struggle and resilience, and to carry forward its glorious legacy. He encouraged the students to take pride in India's intellectual wealth, architectural heritage and cultural achievements, which have influenced the world and continue to do so.

Under the Somnath Swabhiman Parv, more than 35,000 devotees have so far had the opportunity to visit Somnath Mahadev. The initiative highlights the historical and cultural significance of the Somnath Temple and its enduring place in India's heritage.

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Shri Samar Nanda said, “Under the Somnath Swabhiman Parv, devotees from 17 states have visited Somnath Mahadev. The 75th anniversary of the reconstruction of the Somnath Temple was also commemorated on 11

May 2026 in the presence of the Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The Yuva Somnath Yatra is an important initiative to connect the younger generation with Somnath and its rich historical and spiritual significance.”

Before the departure of the train, Sadho Band presented devotional musical performances at the railway station, creating a spiritual and enthusiastic atmosphere. The devotional performances filled the young participants with enthusiasm and added to the spirit of the occasion.

A ceremonial Guard of Honour was also presented by NCC women cadets, adding to the significance of the occasion.

The initiative aims to connect the younger generation with India's rich cultural heritage and historical legacy, while creating greater awareness about the historical significance of Somnath.

Scheduled from 20 to 25 November 2026, the special train will travel from Safdarjung Railway Station, New Delhi, to Veraval Junction in Gujarat. From there, the students will proceed to Somnath to experience the historical and spiritual significance of the revered temple.















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